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DUN ALUINN: MODERN SCOTTISH LUXURY

Morning light spills across Dun Aluinn's terrace, revealing panoramic views of the Tay Valley and the tranquil landscape surrounding this exclusive-use Highland retreat

PHOTO BY FRAN MART PHOTOGRAPHY



PHOTO COURTESY OF DUN ALUINN

Architect and designer Susie Whyte at The Lodge, located on the estate of Dun Aluinn, in the Scottish Highlands

There is no better place to escape and to find yourself than at the Dun Aluinn Hotel

WRITTEN BY MARC CASTALDO

Perched high above the town of Aberfeldy in Perthshire, Scotland, Dun Aluinn is not just a destination — it's an experience of the country in its truest form. Set on 22 acres of pristine hillside, this design-led exclusive-use estate has redefined modern Scottish hospitality. Marrying Edwardian heritage with bold contemporary design, Dun Aluinn invites guests to embrace both serenity and sophistication in one of Scotland's most breathtaking settings.

The main house, originally built in 1909, has been reimagined by owner and interior designer Susie Whyte with an eye for understated elegance and timeless comfort. Natural materials, bespoke

furnishings and curated art pieces complement the sweeping Highland views, creating a space that feels both luxurious and deeply grounded. With nine ensuite bedrooms accommodating up to 18 guests, the home effortlessly balances intimacy and grandeur — ideal for family gatherings, corporate retreats, or private celebrations.

"Dun Aluinn is more than a place to stay — it's an experience of Scotland at its most authentic and elevated," says founder John Burke. "Guests come here for privacy, but also for connection — to the land, to local culture and to one another."

At Dun Aluinn, hospitality is an art form. Guests don't merely rent a house, they step into

Set within 22 acres overlooking Aberfeldy, Dun Aluinn's design-led spaces and immersive hospitality redefine the essence of a private Highland escape



a fully curated experience. From the moment of booking, a dedicated Guest Experience Manager begins tailoring every aspect of the stay, crafting itineraries that reflect each guest's interests and desires. A private butler, daily housekeeping, and evening turndown ensure effortless comfort, while beautifully prepared breakfasts and afternoon teas with homemade cakes add a personal, indulgent touch.

Fresh seasonal flowers, hand-picked for each room, enhance the sense of natural beauty throughout the estate. Every moment is designed to feel seamless, refined, and personal — an embodiment of Scotland's growing reputation for "slow luxury," where time moves more slowly and every detail feels thoughtfully considered.

For those seeking adventure, Dun Aluinn offers a collection of exclusive experiences that connect guests to the soul of Scotland.

The Call of the Wild begins with coffee at Hamish & Libby's small hilltop farm, or stading, followed by a guided walk through an ancient Caledonian pine forest. Along the way, guests meet Rue, the resident owl, and learn about sustainable living amid the raw beauty of the Tay Valley. The

experience culminates with a rustic, farm-sourced lunch enjoyed outdoors or in a cozy bothy (rustic cabin) — a journey that is as spiritual as it is scenic.

Another standout offering is Wild Swimming, where guests are led through hidden swimming spots across Aberfeldy and Glen Lyon, an experience that blends Gaelic folklore with the rejuvenating power of cold-water immersion and offers not just a physical thrill but also a profound connection to Scotland's ancient landscapes and traditions.

Guests can also indulge in a private evening at Castle Menzies, the historic seat of Clan Menzies. Lit by candlelight and filled with stories of ghosts and legends, the evening ends with dinner in the Great Hall — a magical immersion into Scottish history.

Nearby, the Scottish Crannog Centre provides vivid storytelling and reconstructed Bronze Age dwellings on Loch Tay. Visitors gain insight into Scotland's earliest communities and their enduring spirit.

Guests can gather around the 5.5-metre bronze dining table for long, laughter-filled dinners, unwind in stylish lounges, or enjoy a film in the

private cinema room. Outdoors, the estate's terraces, firepit, and wood-fired hot tub create moments of warmth and connection against the Highland backdrop.

For those seeking a slightly different rhythm, The Lodge at Dun Aluinn offers an equally elegant experience. Its open-plan kitchen and dining space, anchored by a striking feature fireplace, invites guests to cook, dine, and share stories while enjoying views of the surrounding wildflower meadows. Whether guests are self-catering or enjoying the services of a private chef, the Lodge blends comfort with creative freedom.

Only a short walk from the vibrant town of Aberfeldy, home to local artisans, weavers and the famed Aberfeldy Distillery, Dun Aluinn is both accessible and remote, worldly and wild. Its proximity to Tay Forest Park, Gleneagles and St Andrews offers endless possibilities, from hiking to championship golf.

What defines Dun Aluinn is a sense of peace, but it's the rugged beauty of Scotland that makes it worth calling home.

www.dunaluinn.com
 @dun_aluinn

PHOTOS COURTESY OF DUN ALUINN



Experience the magic of the Scottish Highlands — rugged peaks, tranquil lochs, rich clan history and the joy of excellent cuisine

