



SEE YOU THERE

July 2022

Another Irish castle gem:

Castlemartyr Resort offers luxury 5 Star hotel accommodation within easy reach of Cork Airport and is on the doorstep of Cork City. The magnificent Manor House from the 18th Century, painstakingly restored to its original grandeur, now forms the centerpiece of Castlemartyr Resort, where it lies adjacent to the ruins of an 800 year old castle originally built by The Knights Templar under Richard Earl de Clare, known as Strongbow.

This month I am featuring CASTLES because everyone would love to see or even stay in a castle to feel like a knight, princess or to be in a rich part of history.



One of the favorites...

Modeled on the tradition of the Irish County House, Ballyfin is designed for those who want to enjoy a few days of absolute peace and to experience the noble tradition of Irish hospitality. From the enormous Saloon at the heart of the house, to the eighty-foot Library which runs the length of its south façade, the State Rooms make for a glorious backdrop to a stay in the house. The Library is perfect for whiling away a few hours with plenty of quiet corners for conversation. Alternatively guests may enjoy the elegance of the Gold Drawing Room, with its French inspired decoration and beautiful ceiling of rich stucco work, the grandeur of the Saloon, or the informality of the sun-filled Conservatory, reached through a secret door hidden in a bookshelf of the Library.

Ballyfin offers a wide choice of dining experiences in delightfully elegant surroundings. From a customized breakfast to a delicious lunch of your choice and onwards into the evening with a bespoke dinner.



A lot of their fruit and vegetables are from the Walled Garden, eggs from the free-range hens and honey from the busy bees. Guests hiking, biking or simply relaxing may opt for a traditional, gourmet picnic hamper to enjoy in any location across the grounds, or select an al fresco meal on the terrace of the main house. The cocktail hour is back at Ballyfin, ushering in dinner where you can enjoy the grandeur of the State Dining Room or the intimacy of the Van Der Hagen Dining Room, or indeed enjoy something more simple to be served in the



The Resort is nestled in 220 acres of mature landscape with meandering streams, parklands and a tranquil lake that is abundant with wildlife and gardens including a reconstruction of the historical, classical parterre beds.



New
&
noteworthy

Travel entry requirements
changed for entering into the
US.

As of 12:01AM ET on June 12, 2022, CDC will no longer require air passengers traveling from a foreign country to the United States to show a negative COVID-19 viral test or documentation of recovery from COVID-19 before they board their flight. Please keep up to date with the latest requirements when traveling. This is a valuable resource: [CDC](https://www.cdc.gov)

There are still countries and airlines with restrictions so it is always best to do your homework before you travel. Another thing still catching travelers is that requirements vary depending on your mode of transportation. Air requirements are different to cruising and driving for example.



Professional Development

Next month I am attending one of the best and most exciting travel conferences of the year.

Virtuoso Travel Week brings together thousands of top luxury travel professionals and providers from over one hundred countries. During one-on-one appointments, professional development, and compelling events, this event fosters authentic engagement that drives business in a powerful way.

Remember when you checked into your hotel and there was that hand written note and amenity? Yup, that was me working with my partners to spoil you!

That fabulous upgrade I arranged... it's because I am on a first name basis with the people who count. We all work together because we rely on each other as we all have a passion for servicing our special clients. My goal is to build trust and a long lasting relationship. Virtuoso is one of the fabulous organizations that I utilize in my bag of tricks. The travel industry is ever changing and evolving and I am always learning to maintain my A game.



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Continuing on
...castles



There are castles scattered all over the world, famous for various reasons. Here are a few:

Fairmont Le Château Frontenac: This heritage urban resort will seduce you with its breathtaking views of the St. Lawrence River and the architecture of the Old fortified City, designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Old Québec is the most intact fortified town north of Mexico, retaining its colonial architecture for over 400 years. It is the historic and cultural heart of Québec City, and the birthplace of French North America.

Wander through Petit-Champlain, one of the oldest shopping streets in North America, and discover the historic gems found inside the walls, including the fortified walls and ramparts. Explore the shops and marina of Old Port, and soak in the atmosphere of the Plains of Abraham and Parliament Hill.

Neuschwanstein Castle: Perched atop a forested mount with the majestic Bavarian Alps behind it, Neuschwanstein Castle in Bavaria looks as if it has just emerged from a book of children's fairytales. Only completed in 1886, the castle's delightful design draws from both romanticism architecture and Ludwig II's love and appreciation for the operas of Richard Wagner.

Fittingly, the photogenic palace, with its beautiful towers and glorious entrance, actually served as the inspiration for the Sleeping Beauty castle in Disneyland. Full of incredible artworks and precious paintings, the interior of the castle is no less exceptional. Visitors can take a tour around its luxurious halls and chambers. One of the most popular tourist attractions in Germany, Neuschwanstein Castle is widely considered to be one of the most beautiful castles in the world thanks to its fabulous design and breathtaking setting.

Château de Mirambeau: Between Cognac and Bordeaux, two renowned wine-growing regions, this Renaissance-style château enjoys a commanding position in the heart of a superb eight-hectare park overlooking the Gironde estuary. You lose all sense of time in this residence which boasts a past which is rich in art and history, with its exquisite fabrics, antique furniture and crystal chandeliers. Château de Mirambeau, which expresses a French art de vivre that is sophisticated yet unpretentious, offers delightful gourmet cuisine. When evening comes, one of the most fascinating rooms in the château, the "Cognathèque", is the ideal place if you want to taste wine and the best cognacs.

Castel Monastero: Beautifully restored medieval village and monastery, just 23 km from Siena. It is a refined and secluded retreat surrounded by Chianti vineyards, corn fields, chestnut forests, long rows of Cypress trees and the rolling forested hills of the Italian Tuscan countryside.



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