

PREMIUM *Choice*

No vacation in Scotland is complete without experiencing the comfortable surroundings, delicious food and warm hospitality for which the country is famous. Whether you are searching for urban luxury, an island retreat, exquisite cuisine, salmon fishing, a few rounds of golf or even your own castle, the Scottish Hotel Awards team will point you in the right direction.

1. THE DUNSTANE

Following a million-pound investment project that spanned six months, the new look of Dunstane House in Edinburgh's elegant West End was unveiled. The relaunch is part of a wider journey for the family-run Dunstane Houses, owned by Shirley and Derek Mowat, that is set to complete next year when the twin property, Hampton House, unveils further renovations.

Variouly occupied by merchants, musicians, doctors, distillers, bankers and newspapermen over the last 160 years, the Dunstane Houses have witnessed the evolution of modern-day Edinburgh.

In order to honour the owners' Orkney islands roots, while also highlighting the building's Victorian history, interior designer Hannah Lohan has created a contemporary urban sanctuary with an authentic Scottish soul. Subtly mixing the old and the new, the hotel's evocative interiors combine the Neoclassical design of New Town Edinburgh with a modern approach to pared-down luxury, creating the welcoming feel of a country house hotel that's close to the action but away from the bustle.

A new, carefully considered all-day dining menu is served in the lounge and offers residents and locals the finest Scottish produce. The new Ba Bar is decked out with a beautiful cabinet stocking over 70 malt whiskies, and tailored whisky and cheese tastings are available.

All considered, it must be said that The Dunstane has truly emerged as one of the capital's leading luxury hotels.

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www.thedunstane.com

2. DOUNESIDE HOUSE

Breakfast of the Year 2017 (North East)

The fabulous MacRobert family of Douneside House has a rich and inspirational history. Today carefully managed by the MacRobert Trust, this country house hotel has carefully been transformed with a multi-million pound refurbishment but has lost none of its charm and character.

The Trust and the 17 acres of carefully manicured lawns and grounds, recognised by the Royal Horticultural Society, provide training for students who create beautiful displays of flowers, vegetables and herbs. The views across the Scottish Highlands to the Grampian Mountains, many of which are visible from the rooms, are uninterrupted and unforgettable. The hotel has created 14 superb, classic-contemporary styled bedrooms. All are stylish and of the highest quality; utilising modern fabrics, antique

furniture and the most comfortable Hypnos beds. Within the grounds there are a number of cottages with an additional 16 bedrooms, including the impressive four-bedroomed Casa Memoria. Many have their own terraces and BBQ sets.

Douneside also offers the finest food and sources locally wherever possible, including vegetables and herbs from their own gardens. They offer a fabulous Taster Menu, with or without carefully selected paired wines, and a truly splendid table d'hôte menu.

The hotel is a great base from which guests can explore the Highlands or, alternatively, one may simply relax with a good book in front of one of the roaring log fires.

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www.dounesidehouse.co.uk

