



CASTLEMARTYR RESORT:

A Five-Star Retreat with a Storied Soul

Experience Ireland's past wrapped in modern luxury

It's not every day you're greeted at a resort by a concierge who could double as a historian, a guide, and the embodiment of Irish hospitality. But that's exactly how our stay at Castlemartyr Resort began: with Gerald, the best concierge we've ever encountered, who whisked us around the grand hotel before personally escorting us to what can only be described as the most sumptuous suite I have ever seen, The Presidential Suite.

Draped in rich fabrics and bathed in soft natural light, the suite is a masterclass in five-star living. The vast bedroom opens into an equally majestic bathroom, with a deep marble bathtub fit for royalty, and your very own private sauna. This very suite has hosted some of the world's most iconic names: Kim Kardashian and Kanye West, Bill Clinton, and Bruce Springsteen, to name just a few. The suite feels more like a luxurious private a, complete with a lounge area perfect

for relaxing, panoramic views over the front lawn and manicured grounds, and the most comfortable bed and pillows you can imagine.

The charm of Castlemartyr goes beyond celebrity glamour. The estate itself is steeped in history, dating back to the Knights Templar. The castle ruins on the grounds stand as a striking reminder of its storied past. Gerald, ever the knowledgeable guide, shared tales of medieval feasts and noble lineages as we zipped around in a golf buggy

on a private tour. His warmth and insight added layers to the experience that no brochure could replicate.

Beyond the grandeur of the old castle, the resort masterfully blends heritage with modern comfort. The newer wing of the hotel, seamlessly connected to the historical structure, houses luxurious rooms, the serene spa, and elegant dining areas.

The spa is a haven in itself. A glass-walled pool overlooks the gardens, inviting you to float while admiring nature. A cold plunge pool, Jacuzzi, and sauna await, making it the perfect reset.

In the morning, breakfast was another highlight. A glazed banana bowl with berries, alongside a traditional cooked Irish breakfast and a continental buffet filled with Irish favourites like soda bread and fresh local produce.

Dining options abound. Canopy offers elevated seasonal dishes with a creative edge, while just a short walk into the village leads you to The Hunted Hog, a characterful, traditional pub with beamed ceilings, roaring fireplace in cooler months, and sun-drenched beer garden in summer, it's a year-round haven for both locals and visitors.

The Hunted Hog serves up a hearty, locally sourced menu, with generously portioned favourites like chicken supreme, beer-battered fish and chips, and ever-changing seasonal specials that highlight the best of local produce. The atmosphere is lively yet laid-back, especially on live music nights



when the pub really comes into its own. Behind the bar, the staff are as warm and inviting as the setting itself.

Back in the hotel, evenings invite you to unwind in one of the elegant bar lounges, perhaps savoring a French Martini as we did in the Knights Bar, a unique space steeped in history. Once part of the old church when the building was a Catholic boarding school, the bar retains a sense of reverence and charm, with its vaulted ceilings, tall windows and soft lighting creating an intimate ambiance. Alternatively, you might choose to curl up in the quietude of the library with a good book, where a gentle serenity settles over the space, offering the perfect end to a day of exploration.

Outdoors, the resort unfolds in green, lush layers. Horses graze peacefully in paddocks, herons stalk gracefully along serene ponds, and birdsong provides a natural soundtrack

to the tranquil setting. The manicured fairways of the golf course stretch invitingly across the landscape, offering both challenge and beauty to enthusiasts. Adding a hint of glamour, it's not uncommon to see golfers descending by helicopter, arriving in style to enjoy a round amid such stunning surroundings. Here, nature is part of the magic, and every walk, whether through woodland trails or along the course, brings a new discovery to savour.

During our visit, the resort played host to a Gormley art exhibition, which included works from legends like Damien Hirst, Andy Warhol, and Bridget Riley. To be surrounded by both natural and artistic beauty was truly enriching.

Castlemartyr Resort offers more than just a luxurious escape; it offers a connection to history, to nature, and to Ireland itself. With impeccable service, remarkable settings, and that rare feeling of true welcome, it's a place that lingers in your memory long after you leave. Gerald, the Presidential Suite, and the echoes of the past all played their part in an unforgettable stay.

This resort is an ideal escape for anyone craving a blend of tranquility, luxury, and outdoor adventure. Whether you're a couple seeking a romantic hideaway, friends looking for a stylish and memorable weekend, or a family wanting space to explore and unwind, this place caters to all. With its stunning natural setting, elegant touches, and a wealth of activities, staying here means more than just a trip, it's a stay that leaves a lasting mark on your heart.

