



THE  
ESCAPE  
*Bazaar*

*Dromoland Castle*

IRELAND'S  
REGAL RETREAT

*Indulge in historic luxury at Dromoland Castle*

BY ELÉONORE MARCHAND





Upon entering the property through a gold and cast-iron gate, a cortege of horses and hunting dogs leads the way through a curving path surrounded by vibrant green fields of grass and alleys of perfectly manicured bushes, spread over 450 acres. The grounds boast a flower garden, a vegetable garden, and an orchard, designed by one of the Palace of Versailles' landscape artists. Rowboats appear gliding over a scenic lake populated with rainbow trout, pike and perch, while the sound of traditional Irish bagpipers resonates from a distance. But the pièce de résistance is the astounding vision ahead of Dromoland Castle, a 114 square-foot, limestone Gothic revival structure that immediately leaps you back into time.

Historical parts of the castle date back to the 1500s and belonged to no less than the most powerful clan in Ireland, the O'Brien family, made famous by the High King of Ireland, regarded as one of the most successful and unifying monarchs of medieval Ireland. "Game of Thrones has nothing on the O'Brien clan," says local historian Jane O'Brien (descendant of the castle's ancestral clan), of the family and its lineage who survived the Great Famine, multiple plagues and many wars throughout the centuries. Politics, battles and family feuds, interspersed with formal balls and constant entertaining, occupied the castle's everyday life—up until the 1960s, when the property was converted into a hotel. The Beatles were amongst its early visitors. John Lennon and George Harrison got a hold of swords displayed on suits of armor at the estate's reception and were photographed engaged in a playful game of fencing in front of the castle. The press and public heard of their whereabouts at the

*Top: John Lennon and George Harrison of The Beatles engaging in a playful sword fight in front of Dromoland Castle in 1964. Left: Outside view of Dromoland Castle.*



*Top: The  
Cocktail Bar  
at Dromoland  
Castle.*

*Top right:  
Guest Room  
at Dromoland  
Castle.*

*Right: The  
pathway to  
Dromoland's  
Walled Garden.*

height of Beatlemania, and the musicians had to be smuggled out of the estate in laundry baskets. Other notable guests include various heads of state such as Nelson Mandela, George W. Bush, and many more from the entertainment world, such as U2, John Travolta, Johnny Cash and Jack Nicholson.

The estate underwent an opulent \$20 million renovation in 2019, gaining recognition as one of the best-kept and most luxurious castles in Ireland—a noteworthy status in a country comprised of about 30,000 castles nationwide.

Crystal chandeliers, stained-glass windows, Venetian-silk wall coverings and ancestral oil paintings throughout the property reflect the estate's grandeur and elegance, while detailed, carved woodwork and cosy fireplaces render it warm and inviting.

The 97 uniquely designed rooms at Dromoland boast high ceilings that range up to 10 feet, decorated with antique furniture, canopied beds and brocade draperies. A contemporary colour palette, large and lavish Italian-marble bathrooms, and state-of-the-art technology bring in seamless modern comfort.

Along with the luxurious amenities of this five-star hotel—which includes an indoor swimming pool, a sauna, a spa and a gym—Dromoland offers various dining options at its flagship Earl of Thomond restaurant, at the warm and inviting Gallery at Dromoland, or at the intimate Cocktail

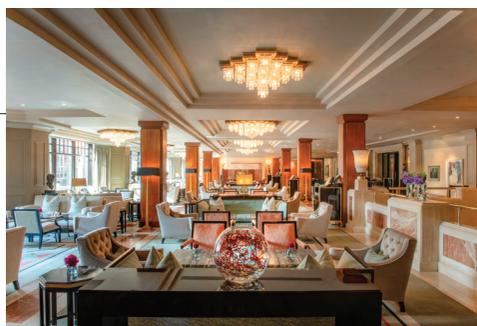




# THE WESTBURY, DUBLIN

*The ultimate stop at  
Dublin's leading hotel*

Part of The Leading Hotels of the World, The Westbury Hotel Dublin is ideally located at the epicenter of Dublin's cultural and social attractions. A short walk away from Trinity College and from the historic St. Stephen's Green



Park, The Westbury is also at the very footsteps of Dublin's shopping area and its Creative Quarter, a vibrant network of streets filled with galleries, restaurants and lively bars.

With its overarching art deco style and noteworthy art collection, the newly renovated rooms seamlessly combine modern comfort with luxurious opulence. Unique dining experiences include afternoon tea at The Gallery, cocktails at The Sidecar, and dinner at Wilde or Balfes restaurants.

*The Westbury Hotel; [www.doylecollection.com/hotels/the-westbury-hotel](http://www.doylecollection.com/hotels/the-westbury-hotel). Rooms range from about RM1,500 to RM11,680.*

# ESCAPE



*This page:  
Burren  
Perfumery*

Bar at Dromoland, an octagonal red-and-gold room that was once the O'Brien family's library. The property presents an inviting backdrop for golf (with an award-winning 18-hole course), tennis, fishing and horseback riding, but it also offers Old World leisure pursuits such as archery and falconry, with a School of Falconry on its very own grounds, home to an array of falcons, owls and hawks.

A short drive from Shannon Airport, Dromoland Castle is located in the scenic Irish countryside in County Clare, on the west coast of Ireland. The area displays spectacular contrasting views of rolling hills in vibrant greens, as well as dramatic coastal scenes, such

as famed UNESCO World Heritage Site the Cliffs of Moher. The encompassing Burren region, where a lunar landscape of limestone rock formations appear barren, hosts diverse and rare botany at the very foot of the Atlantic Ocean, where expert foragers collect edible wild root, fruits and nuts, as well as herbs and flowers used at the local Burren Perfumery for its own production.

With its appeal to all senses, and experiences where history, luxury and leisure collide, Dromoland promises to transport its visitors to a welcomed regal escape. *Dromoland Castle* (<https://www.dromoland.ie>; +353 61 368 144; room rates range from \$500 to \$3,000 per night)