




  
**DROMOLAND  
CASTLE**  


**DROMOLAND CASTLE  
Fact File**

<b>HOTEL NAME:</b>	Dromoland Castle
<b>ADDRESS:</b>	Newmarket-on-Fergus County Clare Ireland
<b>WEBSITE:</b>	<a href="http://www.dromoland.ie">www.dromoland.ie</a>
<b>RESERVATIONS:</b>	<a href="mailto:sales@dromoland.ie">sales@dromoland.ie</a> Main: 011 353 (0)61 368 144 U.S. Free Phone: 1 800 346 7007 Irish Free Phone: 1 800 201 300 Fax: 011 353 (0)61 363 355 - Fax
<b>SOCIAL CHANNELS:</b>	   <a href="#">@dromolandcastlehotel</a> <a href="#">#DromolandCastle</a> <a href="#">#MyDromoland</a>
<b>OPENED:</b>	1963
<b>MOST RECENT RENOVATION:</b>	2018
<b>MANAGING DIRECTOR:</b>	Mark Nolan
<b>EXECUTIVE HEAD CHEF:</b>	David McCann
<b>OWNERSHIP:</b>	Dromoland Castle Holdings Ltd
<b>AFFILIATION:</b>	Preferred Hotels & Resorts AMEX Fine Hotels & Resorts Virtuoso; Signature; Altour

**ARCHITECTS:**

The Castle was redesigned and rebuilt from 1800 to 1836 by the Pain brothers, famous architects of that period.

**INTERIOR DESIGNERS:**

Dorothy Draper and her protégé, Carleton Varney Carole Roberts of Twelve Queen St. Design (Bath). Helen Casey of HCDA in Kerry and GDC in Dublin have been part of the teams involved in some of the most recent refurbishments and resortations.

**DESCRIPTION:**

Dromoland Castle is one of Ireland's finest castle hotels and was built in the 16<sup>th</sup> century. It is majestically set on the shores of Lough Dromoland and surrounded by over 450 acres of breathtaking scenery, including a championship parkland golf course and country club. Pass through the castle gates and enter the magical setting of this ancestral home of the O'Briens of Dromoland, royal descendants of Brian Boru, the High King of Ireland. The lavish interiors, fine food and superb wines complement the luxury accommodations of the Castle's 97 guest rooms and suites. An intimate full-service spa and traditional outdoor recreational opportunities including Falconry, fishing and tennis, ensure a unique guest experience. The gothic-styled grey stone walls of the Castle date from the early 1800s, while The Queen Anne Court, a charming quadrangle, was built in the early 1700s. The Moriarty Wing, named after a founding investor, was completed in 1998. For guests looking to experience old world Ireland with the convenience of modern day amenities, Dromoland Castle is an archetypal landmark of Irish tradition, culture, and class.

**HISTORY:**

Dromoland Castle is one of the most famous baronial castles in Ireland. It was the ancestral home of the O'Brien's, Barons of Inchiquin, one of the few native Gaelic families of royal blood. They are direct descendants of Brian Boroimhe (Boru), High King of Ireland in the 11<sup>th</sup> century, renowned for his defeat of the Danes in 1014. Originally a defensive stronghold, the structure was rebuilt in the 16<sup>th</sup> century, around the time that the Chief of the Clan O'Brien was forced to surrender his royalty to King Henry VIII and thus demoted to Baron of Inchiquin and First Earl of Thomond.

The present main building was rebuilt in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century. It was the birthplace and boyhood home of William Smith O'Brien, M.P., who fought for the rights of oppressed Irish Catholic peasant farmers and led the Young Irelanders rebellion against the British authorities in 1848. After the forced sale of the estate's tenanted farmlands, in 1921 the leaders of the Irish Republican Army in Dublin marked Dromoland Castle for destruction. Local IRA leaders succeeded in reversing that decision, arguing that the Inchiquin Lords had been fair and benevolent landlords to their tenant farmers. For more than 10 years, Dromoland was supported mainly by the personal wealth of the fifteenth baron's widow, whose portrait hangs near the staircase in the Castle's hall.

The sixteenth Baron of Inchiquin finally sold the Castle and some surrounding land to an American industrialist, Mr. Bernard McDonough, in 1962. (Conor O'Brien, the eighteenth Baron, continues to live in adjacent Thomond House, a Georgian-style structure built in 1962, and still farms.) The Castle and The

Queen Anne Court underwent major renovations in 1962 and 1963 and emerged as a luxury hotel, one that remarkably retains its stately, warm and cheerful baronial country house atmosphere.

**ARCHITECTURE & DESIGN:**

Dromoland Castle was described in 1837 as “a superb edifice in the castellated style...surrounded by an extensive and richly wooded demesne....” another admirer described it in 1855 as “built entirely of dark blue limestone, and in fine chiselled workmanship”. The cost of cutting and hauling its stone, although quarried on the estate itself, was enormous.

Little of the edifice has changed since then. After traversing a long, curving drive past the historic walled garden and the large lake, visitors behold the monumental Castle itself, with its four linked castellated turrets and gothic porch.

The interior public spaces boast classic baronial country house features, including panelled corridors graced with portraits of esteemed ancestors, sparkling chandeliers, tasselled drapes, gold cornices, substantial antique furniture and coats of armour. These impressive yet welcoming spaces, including the entrance gallery, lobby, drawing room, main lounge and dramatic highceilinged dining room, appear much as they did when Lord Inchiquin's family was in residence, although the Lord's octagonal-shaped study, under the round tower, is now a cocktail lounge, and his library comprises a portion of the dining room.

Tucked adjacent is The Queen Anne Court, a quadrangle that pre-dates the Castle, having been constructed in 1736 by Sir Edward O'Brien and rebuilt in 1963. Across the courtyard, brilliantly integrated into its historic setting, is the Moriarty Wing, added in 1998.

**LOCATION:**

Dromoland Castle is just 15 minutes from Shannon International Airport, and within easy reach of the wonderful Wild Atlantic Way, the Cliffs of Moher, the Burren and all the delights that County Clare and County Limerick have to offer. Its proximity to other major cities in the south and west of Ireland (such as Galway, Limerick, Ennis, Cork, Killarney) makes it an ideal location for touring.

**ACCOMMODATIONS:**

The estate includes 97 spacious guestrooms, including 14 suites. With sumptuous furnishings, exquisite bathrooms, relaxing colour schemes, inviting beds and beautiful views, each meticulously refurbished room celebrates our Irish heritage while exceeding your sense of expectation.

**AMENITIES:**

- Recently refurbished bathrooms with deep-soaking tub
- Complimentary WiFi Internet
- 32-inch LCD panel television
- DVD/CD Player
- In-room safe
- Plush bathrobes and slippers

- Comfortable seating area with corner couch or oversized chairs
- Mini-bar
- Hair dryer
- Iron and ironing board
- Rollaway bed and/or crib upon request
- Individually controlled air conditioning
- Bottled water, handmade chocolates & magazines
- Complimentary tea and nespresso coffee

#### **SERVICES:**

- Full-service Spa at Dromoland
- Fitness Centre: Indoor swimming pool, sauna, steam, Jacuzzi
- 24-hour in-room dining
- Twice daily housekeeping and turn-down service
- Babysitting service on request
- Business services
- Concierge
- Daily Newspaper
- Overnight complimentary shoe shine
- Dry cleaning and laundry
- Gift boutique
- Beauty Parlour
- Secure parking
- Chauffeur service (on request)
- Helipad
- Complimentary daily activities
- Complimentary Boating, cycling, karting, tennis, estate walk & jogging trails
- Archery, Falconry, fishing, horseback riding, clay target shooting, historical pony & trap rides

#### **DINING & DRINKING:**

**Earl of Thomond** is an award-winning restaurant of international renown. Elaborately decorated with oak wainscoting and other formal features it offers a relaxed but elegant dining experience featuring innovative cuisine served with tradition and a hint of creative flair. Every detail is attended to, from the use of locally sourced, quality-assured produce to customized wine recommendations from the sommeliers. A la carte, five-course table d'hôte and vegetarian menus are available.

**Fig Tree Restaurant** is located in the Golf & Country Club on the far side of the Castle's formal walled gardens. Its beamed ceiling and subtle lighting, feature a rich claret wallpaper etched with finely drawn images of architects' compasses and rulers in soft charcoal. This room is bright and sunny in the summer, yet warm and rich in the winter. A dynamic, informal venue, it includes a bright dining room graced with modern art, the wood-paneled Green Room Bar, and charming patio seating overlooking the gardens. Menu selections are intended to satisfy all palates and so range from the international – penne pasta with Cashel blue cheese, forest

mushrooms and garden peas -- to the traditional – the Fig Tree Irish Beef Burger and traditional fish and chips with tartar sauce.

**Afternoon Tea** is a long-standing tradition at the Dromoland Castle. Served between the hours of 1pm and 4pm daily, guests can enjoy a selection of piping hot teas with a delicious selection of freshly baked pastries and breads. Mrs Whites Afternoon Tea available February - November. During the Festive Season enjoy all the flavours of the festive season with our Festive Afternoon Tea.

**The Gallery** is a the perfect setting to relax, unwind and sink in the deep luxurious couches whilst in front of an open log fire. Guests may partake of a wide range of both classic and innovative snacks and light meals from luncheon through the evening. The Gallery offers a casual dining option at the Castle, it is the ideal venue for morning coffee and scones or a light snack.

**The Cocktail Bar** is an octagonal-shaped room that once served as Lord Inchiquin's study and offers spectacular views of the fairway alongside a gently burning fire. It is a restful haven for daytime refreshment and an atmospheric nook by night, occasionally enlivened by a few heartily-sung Irish ballad

#### **SPA & BEAUTY:**

Within the timelessness of these 16th century Castle walls, let yourself be drawn into a world of deep tranquillity. This intimate luxurious spa consists of six treatment rooms, two dedicated manicure and pedicure rooms and a gazebo covered outdoor Jacuzzi. The Spa has been designed to enhance the peaceful, relaxing ambience. Time will stand still while you are immersed in a cocoon of scented fresh flowers and candles, warm mood lighting and the resonating sounds of soft music. Leaving, you will feel calm, relaxed and most importantly, totally refreshed and invigorated.

#### **GOLF & ACADEMY:**

The castle grounds host an 18-hole championship golf course re-designed by Irish golfing legend J.B. Carr together with one of golf's great golf course architects, American Ron Kirby. The affiliated Golf Academy is a truly unique practice facility – one of the best in Ireland -- that includes 10 fully automated driving bays, putting greens, and a bunker. There is also a riveted-face-links-style bunker, modeled on the famous "Road Hole" bunker on the 17th at St. Andrews. As for the course itself, the views of the castle and landscaped demesne are breathtaking in their classic beauty.

#### **GUEST ACTIVITIES:**

*Pony & Trap:* Relaxing on an informative 30-minute ride with Sean on the estate's pony and trap provides a delightful introduction to the history of the Castle and estate.

*Falconry:* Guests have a rare opportunity to experience live birds of prey on an introductory "Hawk Walk". Instructors share their knowledge of the natural history of raptors, the role they play in the ecosystem and the environmental threats they face, as well as the basics of the ancient sport of falconry.

*Fishing:* Fishing can be arranged on Lake Dromoland, which is well-stocked with trout, perch and other coarse fish. Guests may fish from the banks or one of the estate boats. Expert assistance from the estate's ghillies is available by prior arrangement.

*Clay Shooting:* The estate has a dedicated shooting range.

*Archery:* The classic castle pursuit is available to guests.

*Horse-Back Riding:* Rraks through the estate and lessons are available at the nearby stables on the estate

*Walking and Jogging:* With over 450 acres of idyllic mature woodland and feral lakes, Dromoland has a number of pathways offering varied and interesting routes. Wildlife on the estate includes native red deer, pheasant, partridge and many other country fauna. The Castle has created two self-guided walks on the estate to introduce guests to the abundance of history visible while walking on the estate.

*Cycling:* The Castle offers mountain bikes on a complimentary basis for guests who wish to pursue the many laneways and byways of the estate.

## **MEETINGS & EVENTS:**

The 12,000 square foot Brian Boru Centre, with its graceful Gothic architecture, extends the elegance of Dromoland Castle to functions of almost any sort.

Conference facilities and private dining rooms can accommodate a maximum of 450 people. Features include The Great Hall, two syndicate rooms, extensive state-of-the-art equipment, five-star banqueting and a support team of dedicated professionals.

The Centre's facilities are designed to accommodate gatherings both large and small. Brian Boru Hall is an architectural masterpiece, with vaulted ceilings, minstrel balconies, and heraldic banners. This unique and elegant venue is ideal for events ranging from gala dinners, to product launches, to fashion shows. Thirtyfoot ceilings, adjustable-height staging, and freight-sized mahogany arch doors ensure that even the most unusual presentations can be smoothly accommodated.

In addition, the hall can be dressed in whatever theme is desired, transforming it from an elegant dining experience with an accompanying orchestra to the setting for an important formal announcement. State-of-the-art equipment is right at hand, including fiber optic telecommunications for international satellite linkups and a full range of audio and visual aids. For smaller or private break-out meetings, two syndicate rooms, the Celt Room and the Norse Room, are located adjacent to the hall, while in the castle proper the Drawing Room and the Terrace Room are available as well.

Served by its own fully-equipped kitchen, the Centre offers gourmet banqueting that defies conventional understandings of the concept. Offerings are customized according to the occasion and the desires of the client, and all menus are executed by the staff of Executive Chef David McCann, renowned for his award-winning offerings at Earl of Thomond restaurant in the castle. Every detail is attended to, from the use of locally sourced, quality assured produce to customized wine recommendations by the sommeliers. Table settings range from elegant to themed and formal to fun. All meeting rooms and public areas have wireless broadband connectivity (WiFi).

#### **WEDDINGS:**

Dromoland Castle offers you many beautiful settings for your wedding or civil service to make it truly yours. There is the wonderful walled garden with fabulous flowers, manicured lawns, and a lovely rose garden. Dromoland Castle is the backdrop as you walk up a green grass avenue with trees either side to the Mercury temple. The Brian Boru Wing houses the medieval Kincora Gallery which has a lovely patio area for a relaxing reception. Its impressive staircase is a great grand entrance for the bride and groom. The majestic Brian Boru Hall can be configured to personally suit your wedding plans. Its balcony is ideal for champagne and canapés and is also a fabulous vantage point to view of your personally decorated reception.

#### **KIDS' PROGRAM:**

From luxurious details to thoughtful surprises you'll find specially tailored menus, a bug hotel outdoors, junior bathrobes and slippers, board games, children's movies and decadent bath tubs for bubble bath fun. Activities include;

- Go karts and children's bicycles
- Swimming
- Falconry
- Archery
- Tennis
- Clay Pigeon Shooting
- Pony & Trap Rides
- Our Children's Club offers daily excitement too, from 12 noon to 6pm during school mid-term breaks and at specific times during Easter and Festive Holidays.

**AWARDS:****Condé Nast Traveller (UK)**

Gold List, Europe, 2018

Gold List, Europe, 2005 – 2014

**Condé Nast Traveler (USA)**

Gold List, 2018

**Travel + Leisure**

500 World's Best Hotels 2014, 2013, 2012, 2011, 2010, 2009

Top Resorts (40 Rooms or More) in Europe 2013, 2012, 2008

**Andrew Harper's Hideaway Report**

Readers' Choice, 2014

Top 20 Golf Resorts

**Fodor's Travel**

Fodor's 100, 2014

**Celebrated Living Magazine (American Airlines)**

Readers' Choice Platinum List, Top 20 Europe, 2013

**Irish Tatler Spa Awards**

Boutique Spa of the Year, 2013

Best Facial, 2013

**Green Fáilte Award**

Platinum Award 2013, 2012, 2011

**CIE**

Best Five Star Hotel, 2017



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## **DROMOLAND CASTLE LOCAL ATTRACTIONS**

The Shannon region offers a wealth of activities for the enjoyment of Dromoland Castle guests, from visiting nearby cities to exploring southwest Ireland's remarkable cultural and natural treasures.

Limerick City, 30 kilometers from the Castle, was granted its charter in 1197. Today this historic riverside city abounds with shopping, dining and nightlife options.

Arty, exciting and prosperous, Galway city, 77 kilometers distant, features winding streets that host pubs, cafes, restaurants, art galleries and boutiques. Arts, literature, jazz and oyster festivals, among others, pepper its calendar of events.

The Burren (from the Irish word meaning "Rocky Place"), the area's dominant geological feature, is a remarkable limestone plateau that spans 100 square miles. Majestic grey mountains and rolling green hills, over 2,500 sites of pre-historic tombs and monuments, and extraordinary flora and fauna delight walkers, nature enthusiasts, anthropologists and geologists alike.

Also within visiting distance are the Aran Islands, Europe's western-most point and the muse of artists and writers from time immemorial. Inis Mor, the largest of the three, is home to the Iron Age fortress of Dun Aengus, perched on the edge of a cliff more than 300 feet tall. Inis Oir, the smallest, was settled by monks in the 4<sup>th</sup> century A.D.

The limestone Cliffs of Moher, also nearby, ascend to 1,220 feet above the Atlantic Ocean, creating an awe-inspiring eight kilometers of scenery between O'Brien's Tower and Hag's Head.

## **MARK NOLAN**

### **MANAGING DIRECTOR, DROMOLAND CASTLE HOTEL**



**Newmarket-on-Fergus, IRE** - Mark Nolan, Managing Director of Dromoland Castle Hotel, personifies the dedication to contemporary excellence, artfully blended with bespoke tradition that together distinguish the hotel within the luxury hospitality sector.

Mr. Nolan began his career in 1981 with a diploma in Hotel Management from Galway-Mayo Institute of Technology. After a year at the Dunfey Hotels in New York, he accepted a duty management position at Ashford Castle, advancing quickly to Deputy General Manager. Eight years after earning his degree, he arrived at Dromoland Castle to assume the title of General Manager.

Mr. Nolan has served as Managing Director of Dromoland Castle since 1996, adding the post of Managing Director of The Dromoland Collection in 2009 where he undertook a four-year management contract with Castlemartyr Hotel & Resort in Co Cork. He works closely with the balance of the five-member Board to maintain Dromoland Castle's sterling reputation as one of Europe's finest resorts and, most recently, to welcome the Clare Inn Hotel now rebranded 'The Inn at Dromoland' to The Dromoland Collection.

Mr. Nolan's boundless energy extends also to Hallmark Management, a company he created to undertake small design and fit-out projects at other five-star hotels; he sits on the boards of the regional advisory board of Irish Business and Employers Confederation; the Atlantic Connectivity Alliance, and Shannon Chamber of Commerce. He also sat on the Board of Directors of the Shannon Airport Authority in 2010/2011.

An aficionado of art, boating and golf, Mr. Nolan is privileged to live on the Dromoland Estate, a mere sand iron's distance from the 14<sup>th</sup> fairway, with his wife Maria and their children Jessica, Andrea, Gillian and Marcus.

**DAVID MCCANN  
EXECUTIVE HEAD CHEF**



Executive Head Chef, David McCann has been a member of the Dromoland Team since 1995. David is a cornerstone of Dromoland Castle's international reputation for excellence.

David is from the east coast of Ireland and grew up in a traditional Irish family setting with strong west of Ireland influences. His College Chef training was with the national agency CERT.

He started his professional career in the Shelbourne Hotel, Dublin before moving to White's on the Green, one of Dublin's premier restaurants. David moved to London to advance his culinary experience which started in the Mirabelle restaurant under the guidance of Chef Herbert Berger. Next it was onto the world-renowned Connaught Hotel in Mayfair. During his time at the Connaught he worked on every section eventually achieving the position of Sous Chef to Executive Head Chef Michael Bourdin.

During his time in London David gained several notable awards;

- Award of Excellence by the Academe Culiniere de France 1991
- Finalist in the UK Chef of the Year 1992
- Winner of the UK Grand Prix Pierre Taittinger 1992
- Represented the UK at the GPPT International Competition in Paris 1993

Dromoland Castle recruited David as Executive Head Chef in 1995. David had a burning determination to build a team of his own and put Dromoland castle's 'Earl of Thomond Restaurant' on the culinary map! David is uncompromising in his approach to cooking and development of his supplier chain. The excellent local produce coupled with David's highly refined style result in dishes of intense, delicate & harmonious flavour. David has learned three principles in cooking, precision, restraint & simplicity. It is with this approach that 'The Earl of Thomond Restaurant' has earned many richly deserved accolades down through the years.

Dromoland Estate has developed over the years into an international resort destination which now includes many dining options from the Golf & Country Club to fairy tale weddings to Shannigans' Gastro Pub at 'The Inn at Dromoland'.

David has appeared many times on national TV and contributed to various print publications.

In 2014, for Dromoland's fiftieth anniversary as a hotel, David produced the 'Dromoland Castle Cook Book' featuring many classic dishes that can be reproduced at home.

David was awarded Chef of the Year in 2018 by Georgina Campbell Guides.