



[Lismore Castle, Ireland](#)



[The Hall at Bolton Abbey, UK](#)

Dear Friends,

Please join us in welcoming our newest additions to the [Rebecca Recommends portfolio](#): [Lismore Castle](#) and [The Hall at Bolton Abbey](#). Is there anything more dreamy than hiding away in a private-use estate in the countryside, living out regal fantasies and playing Duke and Duchess of the manor for a week ... or even two? Rebecca Recommends' two newest properties, Lismore Castle in Ireland and The Hall at Bolton Abbey offer exclusive-use options for guests seeking an idyllic setting for a family-and-friends vacation. Imagine a Great Gatsby-themed evening in an Irish castle, cocktails in the garden around a bonfire after the visiting public has left for the day, or dining and dancing by candlelight in a great hall's vaulted dining room, as if you owned the place.

Fairytale moments are within reach at these historic properties, where guests feel regal, yet without pomp and circumstance. Instead, it's about quiet elegance, a warm family welcome, ancestral appointments and the park-like surroundings that make life-long memories. Whether or not guests are celebrating a special occasion, a stay at Lismore Castle or The Hall at Bolton Abbey is a pinch-me moment.

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[Lismore Castle](#)

Sitting above the River Blackwater in a truly exceptional setting in Waterford County, Ireland, [Lismore Castle](#) dates back to 1170. The estate has been in the Duke of Devonshire's family since 1753 and has welcomed guests from Fred Astaire and Lucian Freud to John F. Kennedy. Offering a distinctively personal feeling, while losing none of its grandeur, the private-rental estate continues to be a private home yet is now open to guests for exclusive use. With its spectacular collection of world-class art collected over centuries, along with an outstanding collection of Pugin furnishings, your stay will be filled with a never-ending array of artistry to view and enjoy.



Guests are warmly welcomed by staff who have worked for the Duke and his family for decades, always eager to impart their expertise and wisdom about the castle's history, art and gardens. Described by Vogue magazine as 'ultra-romantic,' Lismore Castle's seven acres of gardens are open to the public by day but exclusively yours come early evening. Among the meadows and daisy-filled orchards you'll find a greenhouse designed by Sir Joseph Paxton, and [Lismore Castle Arts](#), a gallery hosting internationally-renowned exhibitions. Private tours and talks by the curator can also be arranged offering a truly enriched cultural experience during your castle break.

Up to 27 guests can sleep in 15 bedrooms, no two of which are alike – some have roll-top baths and tapestries, some have fireplaces and forest views, and all have personal family touches throughout.



The entrance hall of Lismore Castle



One of the lovely bedrooms in the Castle.



Enjoy afternoon tea in the comfort of the Castle's drawing room.

The castle has been the site of all manner of celebrations for generations, from birthdays and weddings to anniversaries and other special occasions. Pugin Hall, which is a historic treasure in its own right, provides the ultimate backdrop for such milestone moments, with impeccable service provided by

the family's private staff and butlers. The finishing touch? The Castle can arrange for a festive fireworks display at the end of any special evening.



Enjoy a gourmet meal in a historic treasure that is Pugin Hall.



Fresh produce is integral to the chef's preparations each day.

Throughout your stay wholesome meals are carefully planned by the head chef who prepares everything from scratch - including jams and chutneys made with produce from the castle's 17th-century kitchen garden.



Stroll the walled garden filled with delights around each bend.

The staff at Lismore Castle can arrange a wide range of excursions. Not to be missed during your stay is traditional Irish entertainment sure to delight families of all ages. The River Blackwater offers some of the finest salmon fishing in Ireland, as well as canoeing and kayaking, and the wider area offers horseback riding, cycling and trekking in the Knockmealdown Mountains. Enjoy nine holes of golf on the estate that Fred Astaire once described as "charming." Plan ahead with the assistance of Castle staff to enjoy a round of golf at Old Head golf links.



Enjoy the many activities available in and around Lismore Castle.



A view of Knockmealdown Mountains. Photo credit: Matthew Chadwick

Excursions to local historic homes can be set up, including some of Ireland's loveliest houses along the banks of the Blackwater River (often called the Irish Rhine). Robert O'Byrne is a favorite as a guide to Salterbridge House, Cappoquin House, Tourin House and Dromana House, where guests enjoy exclusive access to the private quarters, meet with owners, enjoy lunch with members of the historic Jameson family and return to the castle in time for tea. Also nearby: the Waterford Crystal Visitors Centre, the seaside village of Ardmore, Cork City, The Rock of Cashel and the medieval fishing port of Kinsale.

Available to book throughout the year, the castle is busiest from May through the end of September, as well as during the usual holiday and festive seasons. The castle is one hour from Cork airport, two hours from Shannon airport and three hours from Dublin airport.

[The Hall at Bolton Abbey](#)



A birds-eye-view of the expansive Hall at Bolton Abbey. Photo credit: Anna Batchelor

Set in gorgeous, manicured gardens with direct view to Bolton Abbey and its partial ruins, [The Hall at Bolton Abbey](#) is abundantly welcoming. The feeling is of staying in a well-loved family home as the guests of the Duke and Duchess of Devonshire. From their choice of books scattered throughout the property, to art depicting generations past, to the family photographs showcasing recent history, the home is meant to feel like one's own during their stay.



The detail and care in the many features of the Hall are lovely to behold. Photo credit: Anna Batchelor

The exceptional, exclusive-use retreat sits in the heart of the Yorkshire Dales on the River Wharfe and has only recently been made available for private use. Within the mullioned windows and original stained glass that speak to the history of the Hall, fortunate guests can make themselves at home in wood-paneled drawing rooms that remind one of the pre-dinner cocktail setting at Downton Abbey. A formal lounge with an open fireplace and double-aspect windows overlooks the gardens and the Abbey. The main dining room with a huge open fireplace lends itself well to a banquet-style experience.



Delectable meals prepared by the Hall's exclusive chef await guests. Photo credit: Anna Batchelor



The Burlington is one of 12 bedrooms offering guests a home away from home. Photo credit: Anna Batchelor

Throughout the Hall's 28,000 acres, guests may canoe or fly fish on the River Wharfe, visit the neighboring Chatsworth House, Ripley Castle, or Castle Howard, go wild swimming, or hike and bike in the acres of surrounding countryside, which as far as the eye can see belongs to the Duke and Duchess. Walk through the walled garden, just a short distance from the main house, and home to the array of flowers that are cut fresh each day to fill the Hall, as well as the kitchen garden from which Chef plucks the freshest ingredients for the day's menu. Residents can also take a cooking class with the chef, perhaps learning how to prepare their freshly caught trout. Spa treatments are available as well, in a private room to which therapists are brought in to administer a full selection of services.



Photo credit: Anna Batchelor



Meander through the walled gardens at leisure or by guide. Photo credit: Anna Batchelor

Of course, one must visit the adjacent Bolton Abbey (or Bolton Priory), open daily to the public. Guests of the Hall also have exclusive access and VIP after-hours visits available to them. In that vein, truly anything is possible when staying here. The full team is available to arrange all manner of requests, from catered picnics to hosted lunches at one of the numerous shooting lodges in the midst of the Yorkshire Dales. The Abbey itself is also available for small wedding ceremonies or vow renewals with prior notification.



Bolton Priory, the monastery founded in 1151 by Augustinian canons on the banks of the River Wharfe. Photo credit: Anna Batchelor

Guests are encouraged to venture into nearby Skipton, a delightful market town alongside the Thanet canal with a number of boutiques. The town is well serviced with direct trains from London taking three hours, or an onward direct train journey to Edinburgh taking a similar amount of time. The surrounding Yorkshire area is a culinary heaven with seven Michelin-star restaurants in the vicinity.

Available to rent in its entirety only, The Hall at Bolton Abbey offers a uniquely private experience and an unforgettable escape for families, groups, and friends traveling together. Exclusive-use parties of up to 22 people have 12 bedrooms to use, 10 of which were recently refurbished by interior designer Rita Konig. Many rooms boast beautiful views across the manicured gardens to the 12th-century Bolton Priory Church and ruins.

For more information and for introductions, please reach out to us at vip@r-recommends.com and we'll connect you with the team at either Lismore Castle or The Hall at Bolton Abbey.

Fondly,

Rebecca

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