

REBECCA RECOMMENDS

Inspirational destinations & properties of excellence



Aldourie Castle Embarks on a New Chapter

Dear Friends,

Tucked away in the Scottish Highlands on the shore of Loch Ness, a resplendent, 300-year-old Baronial castle has found its groove once again. Rising regally from lush lawns and lovingly tended landscapes, [Aldourie Castle](#) glows from the inside out. Guests, both returning and new, will find an exclusive-use estate emanating the grandeur of a palace with all the comforts of home. It is a truly special place imbued with timeless pleasures.

Eight years ago, Anders Holch Povlsen and his wife, Anne, took over the castle with an exciting vision. Their dream - now realized - was to completely restore the castle and its expansive grounds to reinvigorate the property with the luxury and idyllic Scottish estate ambience for which it had long been known. The intention is for guests to feel like family, for them to explore the castle, grounds, and surrounding countryside as if it were their own. Within the estate, there are countless places to call one's own, with 500 acres of gardens, woodland, and wildflower-strewn meadows to explore at leisure. The welcoming Castle is the posh backdrop for Highland adventures, whether that's **touring the immaculate gardens with Elliott, the Head Gardener**, to scrambling up a nearby mountain to bag one's first Munro.

To return the estate to its former glory, the Povlsens made the bold decision to close Aldourie Castle for a five-year period of renovation, including the farmsteads, the boathouse, the walled garden, and many of its hospitality areas. Today, the 12-bedroom, exclusive-hire Castle is once again open to discerning guests seeking the perfect blend of classical Scottish country house and modern comforts, with a touch of Danish influence. (While the castle renovation is complete, the cottage renovations will finish in spring 2024.)

REBECCA RECOMMENDS

Inspirational destinations & properties of excellence



REBECCA RECOMMENDS

Inspirational destinations & properties of excellence



Just 5 miles from Inverness, the Aldourie Castle is fully staffed by its own full-time team of 25, including 7 gardeners and 3 chefs. It's ideal as a stay combined with a visit to Edinburgh (3.5 hours away), the perfect blend of urban culture and Scottish Highlands peacefulness.

The richly layered nuances of the transformed Aldourie Castle speak to nature, conservation, and a genteel guest experience. Far from simply a physical reimagining, the Aldourie renovation has created stays that showcase 500 acres of wilderness interlaced with exceptional craftsmanship and experiential moments that the guest can get lost in ... in the best possible way. From touring the tranquil gardens with Elliott, the Head Gardener, to wild swimming in Loch Ness, to cozying up in one's sumptuous guest room, Aldourie is a state of mind.

REBECCA RECOMMENDS

Inspirational destinations & properties of excellence



The Journey

The Aldourie Castle reimaging was as much about the conservation and restoration of the surrounding land, as it was about the actual structure and interiors. With every guest stay, the essential nature of the Scottish Highlands is being protected. The renovation project focused on sustaining a beautiful, natural feel keeping with the period of the castle, as well as repopulating Scottish pine trees. Read more about the property's affiliation with [WildLand](#) here, which owns 12 estates throughout the Scotland WildLand umbrella.

REBECCA RECOMMENDS

Inspirational destinations & properties of excellence



Among the renovations and recreations of existing space, guests will now find:

- A delightful lounge area in the Great Hall
- A new library and conservatory
- A 24-guest Main Dining Room
- Beautiful kitchens within the Castle open to guests for cooking demonstrations
- A boot room and billiards room
- A gorgeous walled garden
- A hull-shaped [boat house](#) on Loch Ness offering light lunch and afternoon teas, and a RIB boat for lake excursions
- The Orangery for dining within the walled garden
- An entertainment space crafted from historic farmstead buildings, including a dance hall, bar, dining spaces, a yoga room, whisky tasting rooms, and more

For interior design, the Povlsens worked with Charlotte Freemantle and her husband, Will Fisher, owners of the prestigious Jamb shop, known for its fireplaces, antique furnishings, and lighting. “The key element was honouring Aldourie Castle being a Scottish country house,” says Charlotte, “but for Anne and me it was getting away from dark wood and tartan, to the feeling of a house at ease with the wide skies and the changing colours of the loch and hills.”

The result has been a near-perfect blend of mahogany four-poster beds with hand-dyed antique linen, 18th-century four-panel Dutch leather screens, William Morris wallpaper, Grade I-listed fireplaces, and antique brass beds adorned with checkered blankets.

REBECCA RECOMMENDS

Inspirational destinations & properties of excellence



Known for its beautiful gardens, the Castle's green spaces were not overlooked during the property's transformation. The team re-established the walled garden and greenhouses and worked with garden designer Tom Stuart Smith to establish beautiful gardens, meadows, and woodland across the estate.



REBECCA RECOMMENDS

Inspirational destinations & properties of excellence

A Home-Away-from-Home

The Aldourie Castle renovation has attentively created a place where guests feel entirely at home, soaking up Scottish hospitality. The Castle's 12 bedrooms come in a variety of floor plans and all are ensuite (3 of the bedrooms offer twin beds). Each light-filled room has a story to tell and invites lingering in an informal, yet elegant country house ambience.

The Castle also maintains a number of cottages, two of which have been recently renovated, with the other two being refreshed this winter. A new four-bedroom cottage has been added, with a superior location overlooking the estate. Exclusive-hire guests can stay both in the Castle and in the cottages.

Overall, the Castle allows for dining for a maximum of 24 guests. Depending on the group size, guests may choose to dine in the main Dining Room, the Lairds Room (mainly used as a breakfast room for smaller groups or a more casual dining space for dinner), or the outdoor castle terrace overlooking Loch Ness. Light lunch may also be served in the Walled Garden Orangery or Boathouse for a particularly relaxing and atmospheric experience.



REBECCA RECOMMENDS

Inspirational destinations & properties of excellence



Throughout their stay, guests are involved in menu planning, whether that's dining in-house or while out and about in the local area. Bespoke menus and picnics can be arranged, weather-dependent. Light lunches and dinner are served each day.

REBECCA RECOMMENDS

Inspirational destinations & properties of excellence



Experiencing the Highlands

To stay at Aldourie is to relish the Loch Ness region in all its natural splendor and to accumulate timeless experiences that have a lasting imprint on each guest. The Castle has gone to great lengths to arrange activities that celebrate its sense of place and show off the sheer beauty and breadth of the Highlands. Just to name a few:

- Loch Ness boat trips right from the boat house
- Falconry
- Clay shooting
- Visiting Urquhart Castle
- Archery
- Electric bikes
- Ranger service
- Mountain biking
- Hikes and walks on and off the estate
- Mini Highland games
- Golf courses within a 20-minute drive (close to Inverness and Royal Nair)
- Cooking with the chef and cookery demonstrations using local ingredients
- Helicopter rides over Loch Ness

REBECCA RECOMMENDS

Inspirational destinations & properties of excellence



The Finer Points

Aldourie Castle requires a minimum two-night stay during the winter and a minimum three-night stay during the summer. They're open year-round and rarely see snow, so outdoor activities are quite varied and always available in some manner.

Typical guests include multigenerational families who visit for five to seven nights, often combining a trip to Edinburgh with Aldourie Castle. Children of all ages are welcome. Babysitting service is available.

Easily accessible, yet discrete, Aldourie Castle is just a 20-minute drive from Inverness Airport. The entrance is on a side road, with the automatic gates of the Gate Lodge acting as its own mini castle before entering the formal estate. The estate is just over three hours north of Edinburgh and Glasgow.

REBECCA RECOMMENDS

Inspirational destinations & properties of excellence

For more information about Aldourie Castle and how it might match your clients' tastes and interests, please see the property's profile on the [Rebecca Recommends website](#). If you have questions, please reach out. We'd love to put you in touch with the excellent Aldourie Castle team.

Fondly,

Rebecca

