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Craig Galloway

Perthshire suites are a star attraction

Refurbished hotel offers luxury rooms and excellent food, says **Craig Galloway**

KINLOCH RANNOCH was once best known as a bolthole for politicians including Winston Churchill and Margaret Thatcher – now it's making a name in film tourism.

Scenes from the Harry Potter films, Trainspotting and TV series Outlander were shot in the rugged landscape around the Perthshire village.

The claim to fame of our destination, the newly-refurbished Dunalastair Hotel Suites, is clear to see in the restaurant where Liam Neeson's kilted outfit from Rob Roy hangs in a frame. Neeson stayed at the hotel while

filming the 1995 movie and its locations – as well as those from Potter and Outlander – feature in a tour available through the hotel.

There's been a hotel or inn on the site at The Square in Kinloch Rannoch since 1788 but it was only after it

closed in 2012 that upmarket London property firm Henley Homes moved in and embarked on a multi-million pound refurbishment.

There are 32 suites, with most having views of either Loch Rannoch or Schiehallion. We were allocated a family suite, which had a large living room, a double bedroom (the mattress was fantastic) and a twin bedroom, as well as a luxury wet room.

The hotel only reopened less than a year ago and it is evident that little expense has been spared, right down to the incredibly fluffy towels sourced from a local supplier.

Edina's Kitchen restaurant overlooks a beautiful courtyard but first there were drinks in the lounge, grandly furnished in grey and burgundy. The colour scheme for the hotel was drawn from the building's original stained glass window which takes pride of place at the grand

staircase. Draught beer is in the pipeline but in the meantime there was a range of local and international offerings, as well as a full wine list.

The chef had opted for quality over quantity on the menu, which featured

a choice of five starters and five mains. Following an amuse-bouche (soup), forestiere mushrooms with toasted brioche served as an entree to the main event of roast highland rump of lamb, which was as well received as the chicken liver pate and salmon with prawn potatoes on the other side of the table.

The burger from the kids menu would have satisfied an adult and it followed 'the best tomato soup ever'.

Breakfast and lunch were also excellent so it was just as well there was plenty of walking to do in the area. Schiehallion is regarded as one of the easier Munros to climb but for the less adventurous, a network of well signposted paths takes visitors around the village, a field of stags along the way delighting the children.

The hotel offers activities including

stalking and Land Rover safaris through local partners. More rooms are planned and work is due to start on a spa featuring a rooftop hot tub.

Dunalastairhotel.com



Kilted-up: Neeson's Outfit



Idyllic: Clockwise from above, Dunalastair Hotel Suites in The Square in Kinloch Rannoch; the very comfortable bed in the suite; and the grand lounge area