



STYLISH



Ballyfin Hotel, Ireland

DRAMATIC RESTORATION OF IRISH TRADITION

Ten years ago, this celestial conservatory was completely overrun with weeds. The adjoining house, ancestral home to some of Ireland's most famous aristocracy, was close to collapse and the 600 acre estate surrounding it was left abandoned. Thankfully, Ballyfin has been reborn, after a decade of painstaking remedial attention, as a new hotel in the grandest tradition. Forget bland, standardised 'design' hotels, here you will find each sumptuous room individually furnished with an astonishing collection of historic Irish art, antiques and tapestries gathered from around the world. Fine Irish mahogany and Thomas Chippendale mirrors now line the walls and ceilings are resplendent with stucco, hung with heavy French crystal chandeliers. The effect is a sense of majesty not so much restored as rescued from oblivion. We recommend the blue silk-lined Lady Caroline Coothe Room for all-out romantic opulence. Just remember to give quiet thanks that the roof above your head is still there at all.

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