

On course for a taste of luxury

Fabulous food and great golf at top country hotel

ALONE golfer walks up the 18th hole, the sun setting on both his round and the stunning Perthshire countryside. We sit sipping our pre-dinner drinks on the hill overlooking the Murrays-hall golf course, relaxing after what has been an action-packed day.

We will soon take our leave for one of the hotel's two restaurants. Tonight we dine in the Lynedoch Brasserie where a Scotch Beef Wellington has my name on it, and the meal will feel well-earned after our pursuits.

Less than a year after reopening, Murrays-hall is celebrating its 2021 Travellers' Choice Award from TripAdvisor and it's easy to understand why.

A 40-bedroom country house hotel, estate and golf course, near Scone, it has something on offer for everyone.

For those who enjoy their history, it was built in 1664 and owned by Sir Andrew Murray. That it offers much for the sport lover should perhaps come as no surprise then.

Nearby is the Tay where one can indulge in stand-up paddle boarding, canoeing or kayaking on the river or a purpose-built lagoon, all

under the watchful eye of expert instructors.

For us, it had to be stand-up paddle boarding, although there was as much falling in as standing up. It's fair to say that our next pursuit was influenced by the need to be sitting down more, so we took one of the guided tours by boat through the heart of Perth.

On land, you could try your hand at target archery, bushcraft or raft building, sample a mini-beast safari or hire a bike for a ride along

the riverbank. After our time on the water, we headed back to the hotel to soak in the sunset.

The hotel itself is proudly Scottish in its decor but is more modern than twee and the Brasserie enjoys glorious views.

The staff were a highlight for us, friendly but not intrusive.

We enjoyed the menu on offer (£30 per head walk-in price), which relied heavily on local, seasonal produce. The coronation chicken terrine was fresh and light for a

starter, as was the pea and broad bean tartlet.

For main, the £17 supplement on the Scotch Beef Wellington was certainly worth the admission price. A pineapple 'green curry' sounded perhaps a little too adventurous but after our derring-do on the water, it seemed only right to plunge straight in.

Caramelised pineapple, lemongrass, ginger, coriander, syrup and coconut ice cream... it worked! The next day we decided to take

Sports day: Murrayshall's golf course, left. Above, lagoon is a short distance from the hotel

to the fairways. How do you persuade your wife to accompany you for a round, given she is not a golfer? Hiring a golf cart was the clincher and she happily sat in the vehicle, sipping a cocktail or two, occasionally commenting on how many shots it was taking me to put the ball in the hole...

As we made our way up the 18th, I almost convinced myself those sitting outside with their drinks were there to watch me finish my round. The lack of applause as I sank my final putt was disappointing but nothing could take the shine off a marvellous weekend.

STEVEN DONN

TRAVEL FACTS

Dinner, bed and breakfast at Murrayshall from £250 for two people sharing a room. Visit www.murrayshall.co.uk



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