

Down to a tee

This month's reviewers packed the clubs and practiced their swing at some of the country's swankiest golf hotels



Murrayshall Country House Hotel & Golf Club

By Stuart and Sarah Buchanan-Smith from Edinburgh

Set on a hillside a few miles north of Perth, Murrayshall is just over an hour's drive from Edinburgh. The main baronial house was built over 350 years ago for an aristocratic Scottish family and is surrounded by 365 acres of glorious Perthshire countryside. My wife and I stayed in a superior family suite set slightly away from the main house. The spacious, comfortable accommodation would suit couples wanting a bit more space or families, as there was a sofa-bed, a kitchenette, a dining area, and it had great wifi. Our room was also dog-friendly.

We ate dinner in the Lynedoch Brasserie which offered a good range of locally sourced, seasonal dishes along with a reasonable wine list that would suit most tastes and budgets. There was a good choice at breakfast, and we enjoyed a very pleasant lunch from the bar menu on the terrace outside the clubhouse.

But Murrayshall is all about the golf. There is an 18-hole championship course as well as a separate 9-hole course and driving range. Sarah is a non-golfer, so I was joined by my friend Dickie to play the main parkland course, set on the hillside around the hotel with sloping fairways and mostly spacious greens.

The view from the second fairway was stunning, taking in Glenshee and Little Glenshee with the conical Schiehallion a joy to behold in the distance. Mature trees on and around the course require careful navigation, with guile rather than brute strength being the order of the day. The course was in very good condition, and the greens were true. Hospitality has clearly been through a torrid time with Covid-19. I was impressed by the staff's overall cheerfulness, friendliness, and humour.



Murrayshall Road, Scone, Perth PH2 7PH
www.murrayshall.co.uk

Prices from £99 per person per night for dinner, bed and breakfast.



SCHLOSS Roxburghe Hotel & Golf Course

By Marilyn and Dennis Stickley from Grantown on Spey

The country house hotel has long been one of Scotland's popular resort options. Now, this legacy of history and natural beauty has been combined with modern comforts and pursuits. The SCHLOSS Roxburghe Hotel & Golf Course offers the best of both worlds. Located in the Borders, it is just over an hour from Edinburgh. Set in beautifully manicured parkland, there are thirteen rooms in the main building with another seven in an adjacent courtyard lodge. Construction of additional rooms and a spa will be completed in mid-summer 2022.

The interior has been tastefully decorated in a classic tartan theme. The well-appointed lounges provide space to meet friends and make new acquaintances. Our deluxe room had a view of the grounds that included the garden patio. A fountain provided the soundtrack for a comfortable and refreshing slumber.

The attentiveness of staff and quality of food equalled the décor. Whether in the hotel or at the clubhouse, the staff were personable and very efficient. Set and à la carte menus were available. Selections included beautifully prepared appetisers, main dishes and tempting desserts. Among locals, the hotel is renowned for its afternoon tea. Breakfast was taken in the bar-library. With its antique bookshelves and turn-of-the-century paintings, this became our favourite spot.

The 18-hole championship course challenged our golfing skills. Both fairways and greens reflected the Borders' undulating character and were in top condition. Known as the 'Viaduct', the 14th provides a stunning view across the River Teviot. A stop at the 19th gave us a final chance to absorb the experience of playing at such an incredible course.



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Prices from £225 for two people, inc. breakfast.

SCHLOSS ROXBURGHE