



THE *Airds* HOTEL & RESTAURANT



Autumn 2011



Welcome to our Autumn newsletter. It has been a year since sending out our last newsletter and I am pleased to report that a lot of positive and exciting things have happened since then. Last winter we decided to re-decorate all the halls, stairs and corridors as well as the reception area. Where guests used to come to a counter at reception they now walk in to a stylish (hopefully) seated area and the corridors have all been brought up to date with wallpapers that convey a more contemporary style without losing any of our tradition – that was the aim anyway and I will let you be the judge of it's success! Interestingly, whilst the decorators were in, the whole country became gridlocked by snow and yet North Argyll and particularly Port Appin, had virtually none! We have also re-built the polytunnel, much to the excitement of our gardener and this will give our chefs the opportunity to pick a lot more produce that can go from the garden to the table. Also, as

there are now no holes in the polytunnel we can get more of a year round growth! As many of you will already be aware Paul, Head Chef, left us in the spring with a view to gaining new culinary experiences and ideas about future business opportunities. We knew this day would come and it was with great sadness that we said goodbye whilst wishing Paul every success for the future. Paul and his wife are keen to stay on the West Coast however, which makes it easier to keep in touch; he was last spotted on Skye! We were extremely fortunate to find a new Head Chef very quickly and we welcomed Robert MacPherson to The Airds at the start of the season. Robert, like Paul, has had 3 rosettes for many years and is also a Fellow Master Chef of Great Britain and this convinced us of both his commitment and consistency, two key words for us! I am delighted to say that feedback on Robert's food has been excellent and he is producing some exciting flavours and new dishes which

are going down well! So what else have we been doing? – we seemed to have a constant struggle with Wi-Fi, I suspect largely due to the thickness of the walls in such an old inn! However we have just upgraded Wi-Fi throughout the hotel and having been round each and every room with Pawel (who knows what he is doing!) and my own laptop, I can confirm that Wi-Fi is available throughout the hotel! We also now provide a computer for guests who may wish to keep in contact with relatives and friends (hopefully not work!) but who do not wish to have to carry a laptop round with them on holiday. Also, we are now on Facebook so please do come and be a 'friend'. In terms of the restaurant we have expanded our breakfast menu to offer an even greater choice. We now have a wide selection of starters as well as a choice of five cooked dishes including our very own 'Airds' omelette. We have also introduced a new, more casual lunch menu with dishes such as 'Airds' salmon cakes, a steak sandwich and my favourite, fish and chips, not forgetting the haddock chowder. Again these seem to have gone down well with both guests and non residents. We have however, kept our traditional Sunday lunch as this has always proved popular. At the start of the season we were invited to join a new

organisation - 'Connoisseurs Scotland' which is a group of select luxury hotels in Scotland. It is a small marketing consortium (like Relais & Chateaux) but as the name suggests, focuses entirely on luxury hotels (and ships and trains) in Scotland. In August this year our Deputy General Manager, Graham, became a proud father to Emily and his wife and new daughter are doing splendidly! She really is a very bonny lass and when she visited the hotel recently everyone was reluctant to let her go. Emily is of course, now signed up to The Airds Management Training Programme! Finally, at the beginning of December we will again close for a short while as we have a new refurbishment plan to put in place. We are intending to re-decorate 4 of our bedrooms which are perhaps looking a little on the tired side and also one of the lounges amongst a number of other areas of the hotel – should be exciting! We are constantly re-investing in the hotel and upgrading areas so that we do not stand still. I hope that we will have the opportunity to welcome you back to the hotel either this year or next where my staff will do their utmost to ensure you have a memorable stay.



Special October Offer

As summer departs and the autumn colours arrive, why not join us in the Highlands for a 3 night break throughout October.

Enjoy culinary delights and relaxation in front of one of the log fires with rates from only £340 per person for the three night package, inclusive of dinner, full Scottish breakfast and an 'Airds' cream tea on a day of your choice.

During the day enjoy the Highland scenery and perhaps some walking trips.

This offer is only bookable direct with the hotel.



Gourmet Dinner - Saturday 29th October 2011



We are fortunate to have secured Peter Donnelly for our Gourmet Evening, who is an expert on and has a real passion for Burgundy wines.

He has represented the Pol Roger Portfolio (Winston Churchill's favourite Champagne) for many years and undertaken many trips to the Joseph Drouhin

winery. The evening will also give our new Chef Robert, a real opportunity to showcase his expertise.

We only host two Gourmet evenings a year as we like to keep them special! For more information please contact us at the hotel or visit the events page on our website.



2012 Easter Break

Next year Good Friday falls on Friday 6th April – ideal timing for a Spring break with winter behind us. Spring is always a nice time of year in Scotland and if you are able to join us at this time you will hopefully be rewarded by the sight of new born lambs in the fields and spring flowers blossoming in the gardens. Our 3 night package starts at £365 per person and includes dinner, full Scottish breakfast, early morning tea, complimentary newspaper and V.A.T., based on two guests sharing.

Easter is the time for all the tourist attractions to open again after the winter, whether it be the spectacular gardens, romantic castles, loch trips or one of the many other attractions in the area. Outdoor sporting activities also take off at this time of year as the weather warms up. The new Oban to Fort William coastal cycle path which runs through Appin will be starting it's first full season and should prove very popular.

WINTER SPECIAL OFFERS



We are pleased to announce that our special winter offer for stays of two or more nights is now available to book with availability from the 2nd November 2011 to the 29th March 2012.

Rates for a minimum 2 night stay start from £100.00 per person, per night and from only £95.00 per person, per night for a minimum 3 night stay.

Both these rates are inclusive of dinner, full Scottish breakfast, VAT, together with complimentary early morning tea/coffee and a newspaper of your choice. (We will be closed between the 27th November and the 8th December for internal redecoration – we are however open throughout January!)

For more detailed information please contact:

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