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- The tapestries adorning the walls of the Kentian Room are about circa 250 years old. They're Aubusson tapestries from the French town of that name. Aubusson tapestries are particularly prized and often fetch five figure prices.

- The Van Stry Room derives its name from the beautiful wall panels painted by the famous Dutch artist Abraham Van Stry 1753 – 1826. The chimney pieces are the work of Sir Henry Cheere 1703 – 1781, a noted sculptor of statues and memorials who also specialised in the design of Rococo and Palladian style marble chimney pieces.

- The magnificent coiling in the Van Stry Room is the work of Jacob de Wit 1696 – 1754 who was the foremost Dutch ceiling painter of his day.

- The Grisaille Room was formerly the games room where backgammon, faro and other high-stake gambling games took place. The room contains an important series of grey and white panels in oil by Peter de Gree representing "Mercury Introducing the Arts and History to Hibernia". These were originally executed in 1788 for John Foster, the last Speaker of the Irish House of Commons.

- The Grisaille paintings are Trompe-l'oeil (French for "deceive the eye") an art technique that uses realistic imagery to create the optical illusion that the depicted objects exist in three dimensions.

- Dublin was the capital of the world for book binding between the late 18th century up to the early 20th century. As a result, The Library in Luttrellstown

Castle has over 900 books on display. Some are over 300 years old. One of these magnificent books is the Holy Bible which dates back to the 1600s.

- This (in)famous book is known as The Devil's Bible owing to a misprint in the section relating to ten commandments where it says "thou shalt commit adultery" leaving out the word "not."

- The Holy Bible that sits in the Luttrellstown Library dates back to 1782. It is over 236 years old.

- Over the fireplace in the Library sits a Jan Brueghel oil-on-copper painting. It's a garland painting popular in the Europe in the 17<sup>th</sup> century.

- Over the years, many famous people have passed through the doors of Luttrellstown Castle. The most famous of these guests was Queen Victoria, who visited in 1849 and again in 1900.

- Other distinguished visitors include the Grand Duke of Luxembourg, Prince Rainier and Princess Grace of Monaco, Fred Astaire, Douglas Fairbanks, Queen Margrethe II of Denmark, Paul Newman and Ronald Reagan.

- Luttrellstown Castle's media profile was raised further when Victoria and David Beckham were married here on the 4th of July 1999.

- Most recently, international superstar Ed Sheeran was our guest during his huge Irish tour. American singing sensation Kelly Clarkson and her band also made themselves at home in our home during her tour."

WHERE LUXURY REIGNS

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LUTTRELLSTOWN CASTLE  
RESORT



HISTORY  
BROCHURE



## A LITTLE HISTORY

1210-2018

Since Tower Castles - the oldest known structures on the estate - were built in 1429, Luttrellstown Castle has only had 6 owners. The most famous of these were the

Luttrells, who presided there for 589 years. This is a very simple overview of what we know about what happened in the 800 years since they first arrived in Ireland.



1204: Geoffrey Luttrell travels to Ireland on a mission for King John.

1210: Geoffrey Luttrell returns to Ireland in the company of the King and purchases the lands of Luttrellstown.

1429: King Henry IV offers a grant of £10 to

landowners to build fortified houses. One such house, later known as Tower Castles, is built. Still present today, this is the first signs of the modern-day Luttrellstown Castle.

1641: Simon Luttrell supports King Charles I in the Civil War against the Parliament Forces of Oliver Cromwell.

1660: Thomas Luttrell (Simon's son), is restored to his lands and estate following the fall of Cromwell and the restoration of the monarchy with the return of King Charles II.

1689: Simon and Henry Luttrell support King James II in his effort to retain his throne following its usurpation by William of Orange and his daughter Mary. Henry switches sides and becomes the owner of Luttrellstown and his brother Simon goes into exile in France.

1717: Simon (Henry's son) inherits the castle and estate and is raised to the peerage as 1st Earl of Carhampton.

1787: Henry Lawes Luttrell, the 2nd Earl of Carhampton, inherits his father's estate. As Adjutant General of the Land Forces in Ireland, he is responsible for provoking the 1798 Rebellion.

1799: The 2nd Earl of Carhampton sells Luttrellstown Castle and its demesne to Luke White, a very wealthy businessman from the Isle of Man.

1824: Luke White dies and his son, Henry White, inherits the castle.

1849: Henry White, entertains Queen Victoria in August when, while on an extended royal visit, she drops into Luttrellstown Castle for tea.

1915: Major E.C Hamilton purchases Luttrellstown Castle from Major Luke Henry White, the 4th Lord Annaly but dies three years later.

YEARS LATER: Aileen Guinness (descendent of Arthur Guinness) marries the Hon. Brinsley Plunket. On their return from honeymoon, her father asks her if she would like to take a drive to Luttrellstown as he is looking after the house for Mrs. Hamilton. On arrival at the door, he hands her the key. However, she returns it to him and replies "you are going to need it, you keep it, this is your home now". Aileen and Brinsley have three girls Neelia (which is Aileen in reverse), Doon and Maria, who unfortunately dies as a baby.

1940: The couple divorce. Brinsley, an airman, is killed during the war. Aileen, living in US, leases Luttrellstown to the Italian Embassy who use it as residence for the Italian Ambassador until 1948.

1958: Aileen's daughter Doon marries a cousin of Queen Elizabeth II and moves to the UK.

1983: Aileen Plunket sells Luttrellstown to the Primwest Group and goes to live in Connemara before settling in the UK where she dies in 1999.

1983: The castle is lovingly and extensively refurbished as a private retreat for Primwest Group owner Mr. Didier Primat.

2006: J.P McManus and John Magnier purchase Luttrellstown Castle Resort.



## THE INTERIOR DECORATION

The present castle is largely a late 18<sup>th</sup>-century reconstruction in a romantic Gothic revival style with strong elements of Tudor

revival. The result is a magnificent piece of architecture both beautiful and historic in appearance.



• The interior of the castle is largely the work of painters, plasterers, artists and decorators of the early to mid 20<sup>th</sup>-century, albeit with some gems reaching back to the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries.

• The driving force behind much of the work was Aileen Guinness, who had great taste and a purse to match. Her marvelous ideas were turned into reality by a great interior decorator named Felix Harbord, one of the tops in that profession.



• The entrance hall is the most recent extension and was built in 1878.

• The ceiling in the inner hall was painted by Sir James Thornhill (1675 – 1734). Thornhill's ceilings can also be seen in St. Paul's Cathedral, Blenheim Place and Greenwich Hospital.

• Over the marble chimney pieces hangs a full-length portrait of an armour-clad King Charles II, cloaked in the exclusive ermine robes of royalty.