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**W**E ALL need to escape from time to time. From the city, from work, from everyday living. A short break usually recharges the batteries, but for some serious R&R, nothing beats retreating to the Scottish countryside.

Located in the rolling hills of Perthshire and nestled on the edge of picturesque Loch Tay lies Mains of Taymouth, a 120-acre country estate that blends luxury with absolute relaxation and as little - or as much - activity as you like. With a range of four and five star self-catering holiday cottages, Highland lodges and contemporary mews-style houses - all framed by spectacular scenery with mountains, lochs and glens - the estate is the perfect holiday destination for families, friends or couples.

#### BUDGET OR BOUTIQUE?

This is a seriously luxurious home from home experience. We stayed in The Maxwell, a state of the art two-bed villa with open-plan living in a neutral colour palette of creams and browns. Features included solid oak flooring with underfloor heating and dramatic patio doors that lead on to a private terrace. Both of the spacious bedrooms had high, vaulted ceilings and their own bathrooms, and our master room featured French doors out to our own balcony - perfect for soaking up those stunning views.

#### ROOM SERVICE

Kitted out to the highest standard, our weekend retreat was like something in a glossy interiors magazine. The impressive fitted kitchen, worthy of a show-home, featured granite working surfaces with top of the range, integrated appliances including dishwasher, fridge freezer, stainless steel oven, hob and extractor. Here cooking for the family would be a joy - it was in a different league to our kitchen back home. With sumptuous furnishings, flat-screen TVs throughout, a multi-channel system to all rooms and private balconies, these five star holiday homes have everything you could possibly need.

#### WINING AND DINING

As well as a nine-hole golf course, riding stables, trekking centre, delicatessen and gift shop, Mains of Taymouth is also home to the Courtyard Bar and Restaurant. With a cosy, open-plan fire and extensive sun deck area, this establishment offers friendly dining and an extensive menu from morning until evening. Dishes use fresh, local produce including the award-winning Kenmore Bakery biscuits and oatcakes, Remony Estate venison and Kinnighallen lamb naturally reared at "Ewetopia" near Fortingall. Waiting staff are extremely attentive and helpful, making dining here relaxed and



informal for all the family. The restaurant also offers a takeaway menu.

#### WORTH GETTING OUT OF BED FOR

Mains of Taymouth offers luxury holidaying with the benefits of countryside living. If you can drag yourself from your new home, then make the most of the water sports on Loch Tay, with rowing boats, canoes and kayaks all available for hire. Other outdoor activities include golf, horse riding and Highland safaris. Spa treatments are available within the comfort of your holiday home.

#### LITTLE EXTRAS

We loved the complimentary Highland Aromatic products in the bathrooms. Up to two dogs per house are permitted at a daily charge of £5 each and by prior arrangement only.

#### GUEST BOOK COMMENTS

The decor is so ravishing you will probably leave wanting to entirely make over your own home. □

Sarah Johnston

Prices from £400 for a three-night stay in the one-bed Maxwells. Mains of Taymouth are also offering 10% off any booking in any house with a minimum of a three-night stay, to be taken before the end of August, subject to availability and for new bookings only. To book, call 01887 830 226 and quote Ref MOT2015. Mains of Taymouth Country Estate & Golf Course, Kenmore, Near Aberfeldy, Perthshire PH15 2HN. [www.taymouth.co.uk](http://www.taymouth.co.uk)