

Solis Lough Eske Castle Hotel opened this weekend

€40million invested in new luxurious hotel for Donegal

A new, luxurious, hotel, the Solis Lough Eske Castle, nestled within a forest estate opened its doors in Donegal this weekend. This new hotel has put the North West of Ireland on the map as it is the first Solis hotel to open worldwide. Set on 43 acres on the shores of Lough Eske, this property is built to an exceptionally high 5 star standard and will redefine the meaning of luxury in the North West. The hotel boasts 96 beautifully appointed and spacious bedrooms, a 6000 ft spa, a gourmet restaurant and a 4,000 square-foot ballroom adjacent to the fully redeveloped Tudor-Baronial castle.

A number of high profile guests checked into the hotel on its opening weekend including 'I'm a Celebrity... Get Me Out of Here!' contestant Janice Dickinson and Irish singer Shayne Ward.

As well as offering Christmas Afternoon tea every day until Christmas the hotel will be also offering their signature Teddy Bear Children's Christmas Tea next Saturday following the success of the initiative this weekend. Santa will be at the hotel next Saturday with Teddy Bears to give as presents from 2:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. The hotel is also offering Christmas Day lunch and a 6 course dinner on New Years Eve.

Solis Lough Eske Castle will be managed by the US owned West Paces Hotel Group. The West Paces Hotel Group is creating new concepts in hotel and resort accommodations and service globally. Andrew Turner has been appointed as the general manager of the Solis Lough Eske Castle Hotel. He has had over 15 years of international hotel management experience in six international cities. Andrew commented: "I am very much looking forward to welcoming guests to Solis Lough Eske Castle and having the opportunity to provide the highest quality of service and facilities to the local community and the international tourists. The hotel has been bustling all weekend and we are really enjoying the festive season activities in the hotel."

The builders and owners of the property are Harcourt developments, one of the most successful privately owned property companies in Ireland. One of their other projects in Northern Ireland was the largest city centre regeneration scheme in Europe – the Titanic Quarter - which will transform Belfast's old Harland and Wolff shipyard into a new maritime quarter. Pat Doherty, the CEO, Chairman and Founder of Harcourt Development is a native of Donegal and still has a holiday home there on a nearby lake.

The latest statistics from Failte Ireland show that the number of visitors to the North West region is steadily increasing on an annual basis. In 2006, 1,358,000 tourists visited the North West, 460,000 of these coming from overseas. Of the five counties in the North West region: Cavan, Donegal, Leitrim, Monaghan and Sligo, more overseas visitors visited Donegal than any other county. 62% of people visiting this region come for holidays which is positive news for the tourism sector in the North West.

The picturesque area of Lough Eske is situated 5km to the North East of Donegal town and is surrounded by the Blue Stack Mountains, which form part of the outstanding natural beauty of the area. The property is about one hour and 20 minutes by car from Derry, Sligo and Donegal airports. It is 3 hours by car from Belfast and 4 hours by car from Dublin. Lough Eske (meaning Lake abounding in fish) is three miles long and one mile wide and is only one of four lakes in Ireland to hold char. Donegal has grown in popularity for surfers and there are many other activities available locally including golf, pony trekking, hill-walking and fishing.

The hotel is offering an introductory rate of €175 per room per night, with a complimentary breakfast, from 14th December 2007 – 31st March 2008.

See www.solislougheskecastle.ie for more details.

For more information:

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