



CARTON HOUSE
A FAIRMONT MANAGED HOTEL

A WALK THROUGH CARTON HOUSE

800 years of History

DID YOU KNOW

Lady Emily Lennox was the daughter of the Duke of Richmond and great granddaughter of King Charles II. Because of this British connection, Carton House was almost burnt to the ground during the uprising, and it was down to the quick-thinking of the Lady of the House, who brought a portrait of Lord Edward to their attention, that saved Carton House. This portrait can still be seen in the Drawing Room.



Carton House

The name 'Carton' comes from the old Irish name 'Baile an Cairthe' or Land of the Pillar Stone. Carton is a 1,100 acre fully walled estate. The boundary wall is over 5.5 miles in length and the estate itself stretches over two counties, Kildare and Meath. The lands at Carton belonged to the Maynooth estate of the FitzGerald family from 1176. The FitzGeralds, who were part of Strongbow's invasion of Ireland, became Earls of Kildare in 1315 and went on to become one of the most influential families in Irish history over the next eight centuries. So much so that Maynooth

was actually the capital of Ireland for a short period.

In 1739, Earl FitzGerald

commissioned renowned architect Richard Castles to undertake the project of building Carton House. It cost a mere £26,000 to build at the time. Castles was also responsible for some other great Irish Houses including Westport House, Powerscourt House and, in 1745, Leinster House which he built for the FitzGeralds.

In 1747, James, the 20th Earl of Kildare (and from 1766, first Duke of Leinster) married Lady Emily Lennox. Lady Emily was the daughter of the Duke of Richmond and a sister of Lady Louisa Connolly of Castletown. The story of the life and times of the sisters, Emily and Louisa, was beautifully captured by the author Stella Tillyard and made into a mini series for the BBC, entitled "The Aristocrats" which was filmed on site here at Carton House.

DID YOU KNOW

It is said that the Rose Garden was designed by Lady Emily to provide a secret hideaway for her children so that when they were playing, they would not be seen.

The pillared entrance porch leads through swing doors to the impressive Entrance Hall which was renamed the Mallaghan Room after the renovations. There are two pairs of plain Doric columns and a fine marble fireplace. To the right of the Mallaghan Room as you walk through the old main door is the

Staircase Hall, with a fine staircase designed by Morrison and

DID YOU KNOW

The boat house was built to prepare for Queen Victoria's visit as she had a dream of being on a boat on the lake in Carton House.



a more modern glass elevator. A main centerpiece was removed from the roof to allow the elevator to be put in and this is now on display on the wall of the main lobby of the hotel beside reception.

Beyond the staircase is the Chinese Boudoir (pictured overleaf). It remains as it was in 1759, decorated with Chinese

paper and a Chinese Chippendale gilt wood over-mantle. There is a small anteroom adjoining. Queen Victoria is said to have stayed twice at Carton, the lake being created especially for her before her second visit, as she had a dream before she came that she was on a boat on a lake at Carton House. However no such lake existed, so the lake was man-made for her!

The Mallaghan Room also leads into the Drawing Room with a fine moulded ceiling. There is a beautiful view of the Rose Garden through the large windows, one of which has been converted to a patio-type door which leads out to the garden itself. To the right of the Drawing Room is the Library, with an elegant marble fireplace. There is a spiral staircase which leads up to a half-landing. The main door of the Library is cleverly camouflaged to look like a bookcase once inside. To the left of the Drawing room lies an impressive suite of rooms including the visually stunning Gold Salon.

DID YOU KNOW

The organ in the Gold Salon was hydraulically powered by a stream that used to flow under the old house. The mechanics are still there today and with a little work it could be fully functional again.



The Gold Salon

DID YOU KNOW

The stunning mirrors in the Gold Salon are all magnified and tilted. This clever feat of engineering meant that guests of the FitzGerald would not strain their necks while admiring the ceiling. All they had to do was look in each mirror instead.



Dating from about 1739, the room, which rises through two storeys, has been described as one of the most beautiful rooms in Ireland. The ceiling is deeply coved, featuring Baroque plasterwork by the Francini brothers and represents “the Courtship of the Gods”. The plasterwork, like the decoration on the walls, is picked out in gilt. At the East end of the room is an organ installed in 1857, its elaborate Baroque case designed by Lord Gerald FitzGerald, a son of the 3rd Duke. The door at this end of the Gold Salon leads,



by way of an anteroom, to a great dining room named the Morrison Room after the architect himself. It has a screen of Corinthian columns at each end and a barrel-vaulted ceiling covered in interlocking circles of oak and vine leaves.

The Chinese Boudoir

Lady Emily is responsible for much of the landscaping of the present estate. She created the Chinese Boudoir, which was the bedroom of Queen Victoria during her visits to Carton House in 1849 and 1897. Emily also decorated the

straight connecting links to obtain additional rooms including the famous Dining Room. At this time the entrance to the house was moved to the north side.

Carton remained in control of the FitzGerald's until the 1920s when the 7th Duke sold his birth right to a money lender called Sir Harry Mallaby Deeley in order to pay off gambling debts of £67,500. As he was third in line to succeed, he never dreamt that he would inherit the estate. However, one of his brothers died in the war and another of a brain tumor and so Carton was lost to the FitzGerald's. Lord Brockett purchased the house in 1949 and in 1977 his son David Nall-Cain sold the house to its present owners, the Mallaghan family.



famous Shell Cottage, on the estate, with shells from all around the world. Marian Faithful, 60s icon and one time girlfriend of rock star Mick Jagger, lived in Shell Cottage for seven years during the 90s. One of Emily's 23 children was the famous Irish patriot, Lord Edward FitzGerald, leader of the 1798 rebellion.

Carton remained unaltered until 1815, when the 3rd Duke decided to sell Leinster House to the R.D.S. and make Carton his principle residence. He employed Richard Morrison to enlarge and re-model the house. Morrison replaced the curved colonnades with



DID YOU KNOW

The canopy on the bed set aside for Queen Victoria was swept away into the bog of Allen while it was being transported to Galway.

DID YOU KNOW

The FitzGerald Coat of Arms is a silver shield with a red saltire. However the FitzGerald crest comprises a monkey with a collar around its middle. Legend has it that, when he was a baby, John FitzGerald, 1st Earl of Kildare, was trapped in a fire at Woodstock Castle. Miraculously he was rescued by a monkey.



Princess Grace of Monaco, Queen Victoria and Marianne Faithful were among a number of famous guests to visit Carton House over the years.



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