

# STOCKENBRIDGE

BREAKS



## Ballymaloe House, near Cork, Ireland

Sunday 26th September - Sunday 3rd October 2021

A fabulous autumn Bridge week with the Stockens in a gorgeous country house hotel with an award-winning restaurant

*from* £1476pp\* including: \* with 10% Loyalty Discount

7 nights' stay in this luxury 5-star country house hotel

Half board at the hotel's famous restaurant including:

- a feast of a breakfast with hot and cold options including full Irish, kippers and fresh fish
- refreshments available during bridge play including delicious home-made biscuits
- superb three-course dinner with 1/2 bottle per person of selected wines

Reception with aperitif and canapés on the first evening

Irish musical evening with Rory Allen and guest musicians

Transfers from Cork Airport for selected flights

All bridge tuition and course notes and prizes

*Very special bridge holidays*

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## Ballymaloe House

Ballymaloe House is a family-run country house hotel famous for its luxurious and comfortable interiors, outstanding hospitality and superb food. This 17th century house, built on a Norman keep, is nestled in a 400-acre estate in rural East Cork, just 20 miles from the historic city of Cork, and minutes from the breathtakingly beautiful south coast. Set deep within lush countryside accessible by tree-lined avenues, the property has walled gardens, parklands, a tennis court, a small golf course and a croquet lawn. It also has its own craft and kitchenware shop.



## Myrtle and Darina Allen

The original owner of Ballymaloe as it is today, Myrtle Allen, pioneered placing local, seasonal food to the fore, a philosophy now espoused by the world's top chefs. In doing so, she created the road map for Ireland's current status as a force to be reckoned with on the global culinary scene. Her daughter-in-law, Darina, Ireland's answer to Delia Smith and a household name, founded the world famous Ballymaloe cookery school nearby.

## Ballymaloe Restaurant

The restaurant serves locally sourced and home grown food from the walled garden and farm and freshly caught fish from the boats at Ballycotton.

The gardening team are central to the menus in the kitchen - fruit and vegetables are sent up every morning from the gar-



dens (*see herb garden, above*) and menus are often finalised at the last minute depending on availability. The restaurant has won many prestigious culinary awards and has had great press reviews. In previous visits, our guests have found the food totally delicious and irresistible and rated it excellent.

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## **MENU at BALLYMALOE HOUSE**

*Smoked goose breast with celeriac rémoulade & chestnut  
Crozier blue cheese with fino sherry, honey & walnuts  
Roast Ballycotton pollock with tarragon butter & shrimps  
Blood orange, red onion & oregano salad  
Ballyhoura mushrooms on home-made toast with cider & sage*

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*Grilled Ballycotton cod with scallops, parsley, chilli & garlic oil & artichoke purée  
Traditional roast goose with potato & apple stuffing, apple sauce & red cabbage  
Roast sirloin of East Cork beef with béarnaise sauce & shallots braised in red wine  
Gubbeen ham braised in St-Véran & served with Ballyhoura mushrooms  
Roast garden vegetables with turmeric dressing & bhatura*

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*A selection of delicious Ballymaloe desserts including raspberry meringue roulade,  
Normandy pear tart, blackcurrant fool with home-made shortbread biscuits, poached  
seasonal fruit, home-made praline icecream and fresh fruit from the garden*



### Please Note

This is a sample menu and will vary according to the season and availability of produce.

Dinner will be accompanied by half a bottle of house wine per person. There will be a choice of three starters and two main courses, ordered in advance, and for dessert there will be a choice of at least five items, changing daily - you can have a bit of everything! On Sunday, dinner will be in the form of a cold buffet, served by members of the Allen family.

Breakfast will be a fabulous buffet selection including a cooked Irish breakfast. Lunch can be ordered on the day from the main dining room or from the Ballymaloe cafe next door (*soup, sandwiches, quiche, salad etc. From 8€*). Any dietary requirements can be catered for.

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## Accommodation

The 29 bedrooms are spread out over the main house and courtyard of a lime-washed, rose-covered, farm building adjacent to the main house. The rooms are all individually decorated in a simple and elegant way and all have en-suite bathrooms. Some rooms are large and airy with beautiful views over the fields; some are cosier rooms at the top of the house in the eaves; and some are newer, light-filled garden rooms at the back of the house looking towards the river and horse chestnut trees beyond.

Bedrooms come with toiletries, telephone, hairdryer, radio and cd player. The hotel does not have a lift, but there are bedrooms on the ground floor in the courtyard suitable for those with mobility difficulties including a walk-in shower. Contact us for further details on rooms and accessibility. *Bedrooms are available from 2pm and check out is 12pm.*



|                           |   |
|---------------------------|---|
| Small standard rooms<br>♣ | Smallest in size and perfect for single occupancy. Small queen-sized bed or two small singles. Traditional bathroom, most having a bath with a shower over. |
| Standard rooms<br>♦       | Larger rooms with twin or queen-sized bed. Traditional bathroom, most having a bath with a shower over.   |
| Large rooms<br>♥          | Larger rooms than standard with twin or king-sized bed. More modern bathrooms, some having a separate shower. Bathrobes provided.                           |
| Superior rooms<br>♠       | The largest rooms with twin or king-sized bed. More modern bathrooms, some having a separate shower. Many have a private terrace. Bathrobes provided.       |

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## Bridge with Zeb & Claudia

Zeb Stocken has many years experience of teaching and hosting bridge events, and whether you come as a group, in a pair or on your own, you can be certain of an instructive and enjoyable game adapted to your level.



Claudia – Zeb’s sister – will be on hand to ensure the smooth running of your holiday and Dinah, their mother, will be supervising bridge sessions as well as teaching where needed. The bridge programme will be a mixture of teaching (*4 lessons*), supervised play, teams and duplicate – all played in a fun and friendly environment. The tuition sessions will use Compass Cards (*set deals*) and a fun topic tailored to the group.



All bridge sessions are optional and open to all standards of play although we can only accommodate complete beginners if booked as a group of four. Water, tea and coffee will be available during play. There will be a fun prize-giving at the end of the stay. Non-bridge playing partners are of course welcome.

It is important to stress that our holidays are not aimed at the type of player who likes a serious 24-board duplicate every night. Our ethos is that bridge should be a friendly and social game where you can meet like-minded people, and our holidays reflect that.

No partner is needed on a StockenBridge holiday.

## Bridge Schedule

### Every Day

|   |                 |
|---|-----------------|
| Bridge tuition or supervised play         | 10am – 12.30pm  |
| Teams or duplicate                        | 5.15pm - 7.30pm |
| After dinner supervised bridge or Chicago |                 |



Please note that the schedule may be subject to change particularly on excursion days.

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## Excursions and things to do in the area

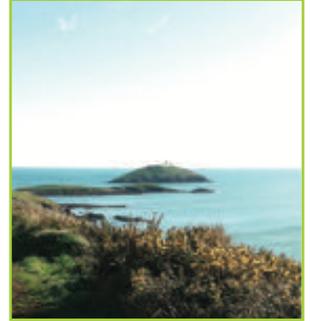
There will be two wonderful optional excursions and we will contact you nearer the time with details and prices to book these trips in advance:

### 1. Day trip to Cork and Blarney Castle

A guided tour of historic Cork will include the the famous ‘English Market’ and the Crawford Art Gallery. After lunch, visit Blarney Castle, kiss the magical Blarney Stone and explore the beautiful gardens.

### 2. Ballycotton

From the fishing village of Ballycotton, a boat will take you to Ballycotton Island (*right*) for a fascinating tour of the lighthouse. Then we will follow the scenic Ballycotton cliff path for an easy walk and a Ballymaloe picnic (*weather permitting*).



### Golf, tennis, cycling, walking, horse-riding and fishing

There is an informal 5-hole golf course and a tennis court on the premises (*clubs/rackets and balls available*); but for the more serious golfer there is a good choice of golf courses nearby at Castlemartyr Resort, Fota Island Resort and Harbour Point Golf Club. There are many lovely walks around the Ballymaloe gardens, woodlands and farm or take one of the hotel’s bicycles. Horse-riding can be booked through the Monatrea Equestrian Centre near Youghal. Fly fishing on the Blackwater River can also be organised.

### Cobh and other local towns

Visit Cobh (*right*) with its cathedral and heritage centre and the last stopping port of the Titanic; the picturesque town of Kinsale and Jameson Distillery tours at Midleton.



### Painting and flower-arranging classes

Join Ballymaloe’s resident artist, Gentian Lulani for an afternoon’s art class (70€).

It will also be possible to book a day’s flower-arranging class with Iona, the in-house florist who creates simple and effective floral designs naturally (120€).

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## Cookery demonstration

The internationally renowned Ballymaloe Cookery School is located on its own 100 acre organic farm and just two miles from Ballymaloe House. Subject to sufficient numbers (*if low numbers, guests can join the student demonstration*), we will be organising a private afternoon cookery demonstration which includes a tasting as well as a folder full of recipes.

Alternatively, try your hand at baking Irish soda bread for breakfast with the Ballymaloe bakers.



## Travel Details

Cork airport is the nearest airport, with a transfer time of 45 minutes. Aer Lingus operate a number of flights per day from London Heathrow; Ryanair fly from London Gatwick and Stansted. Shannon airport, Dublin airport and Rosslare Ferry are approximately 2.5 hours' drive away.

We will include transfers from Cork airport for selected flights to fit in with checking in and out, or for a minimum of 8 guests on a flight. Otherwise airport transfers cost from 8€ - 60€ per person each way (*depending on the number of passengers*).

Please contact us for full details.

If you wish to hire a car, there is a good choice of car hire companies at Cork airport.

**Ballymaloe House**, Shanagarry, County Cork, Ireland. Tel: +353 (0)21 4652531



website: [www.ballymaloe.ie](http://www.ballymaloe.ie)

Please note that it would be perfectly possible to extend your holiday at Ballymaloe House - please contact us for details and prices.

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| <b>PRICES</b><br>(*per person, based on 2 sharing) |  |  |  |  |
|--|---|---|---|--|
| Full Price*  | £1640   | £1810   | £1980   | £2160  |
| With 10% loyalty discount*                         | £1476   | £1629   | £1782   | £1944  |
| Single occupancy                                   | £1870   | £2060   | £2280   | £2510  |
| Single occupancy with discount                     | £1683   | £1854   | £2052   | £2259  |

## Lunch

We have not included lunch in the price of the holiday as many previous guests have found it too much with a huge breakfast, biscuits/cakes during the breaks and a 3-course dinner. Lunch can be ordered on the day from the main dining room or from the Ballymaloe cafe next door (*soup, sandwiches, quiche, salad etc. From 8€*).

## Loyalty Discount

We are offering a 10% 'loyalty' discount on the holiday price for guests who have already been on a StockenBridge holiday or weekend, provided that this holiday is booked before the 31st January 2021. If you would like to share a room with a friend, even if they are new to Stocken-bridge Breaks, the discount will apply to them too.

## How to Book...

To book your holiday, please fill out and submit the on-line booking form (contact us for the link or see the Ballymaloe holiday page of our website) together with the deposit of £250 per person by bank transfer or cheque - see below or the booking form for payment details. Alternatively we can email or send a booking form to you to print out and fill in. The full payment will be due by June 30th 2021. Please see our website for our Terms and Conditions or we can email them to you.

## Payment

- where possible an on-line transfer is preferable for a speedy transaction that is easy to track.

On-line Transfer: Account name: 'Stockens Ltd' Account Number: 27452468

Sort Code: 30-11-75. Please quote 'Ballymaloe 21' or your invoice number if you have one.

Cheque: Please make cheques payable to 'Stockens Ltd'

Financial Protection Your money paid to us is fully protected against the insolvency of StockenBridge Breaks, in compliance with the Package Travel Regulations 1992. In this unlikely event, you will receive a full refund of your money.

For more details:

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