



The sitting room at Mount Congreve gate lodge: self-catering sanctuary

Mount Congreve gate lodge now open for self-catering guests

BY TINA-MARIE O'NEILL

Visitors to Mount Congreve Gardens in Co Waterford can now linger a little longer as the Georgian gate lodge has been beautifully redeveloped to offer a two-bedroom, self-catering sanctuary in the middle of the estate's 70 acres of gardens.

Inside the detached, five-bay, single-storey gate lodge, which dates back to 1775, guests are treated to a stylish interior with plush velvets offering a warm luxe vibe and sumptuous tones of deep green, which create a seamless, biophilic transition between its bucolic surroundings and its lavish new interior.

The living space, striking a harmony between the old world and contemporary comfort, features an antique bioethanol stove, an 18th-century French day-bed accompanied by classic wing-back velvet armchairs,

a Frame Smart TV and a gin bar for guests to enjoy the Mount Congreve Woodland Gin.

In the luxurious two double bedrooms, original Louis XVI beds take centre stage.

A classic-style galley kitchen with bespoke marble countertops and Smeg appliances also offers direct access to a private secluded garden and a patio featuring a Bushbuck stone barbecue and garden furniture.

Gate Lodge guests can explore the entirety of Mount Congreve Gardens after hours, a pleasure which cannot be underestimated. Guests to the lodge can also take their four-legged friend to stay and enjoy access to the new wetlands walk on their doorstep, which is the dog-friendly route at Mount Congreve Gardens.

Also on the grounds is the new purpose-built visitor centre and Stable Café, which overlooks the magnolia treetops at the 18th-century manor house.

Mount Congreve has just undergone a €7 million re-development and the house is now open to visitors for the first time in its history; it was the last house in Ireland to employ liveried servants. It was built by the renowned Waterford architect, John Roberts, in 1760 and it is reported that this gate lodge – one of three – was built later, in 1775.

Mount Congreve has been lauded as a 'great garden of the world' and boasts 70 acres of woodland gardens and four acres of walled gardens within the 140-acre estate, located 10 minutes outside Waterford city.

The Mount Congreve Gate Lodge is available for adult-only bookings from mid-April onwards. Renovation of further estate cottages and apartments is also planned.

The house and gardens are open year-round (seven days a week in high season).

See: mountcongreve.com