

We are about to embark on our 14th season at Castlewood House Dingle, and my, how the time flies! It seems like only yesterday when we opened in May 2005, and since then have welcomed thousands of guests to our special part of the world, here on Ireland's Wild Atlantic Way.

And if last year is anything to go by this one is going to be amazing. It has been great source of joy to us, to see so many of our guests again and again, and hopefully we will see lots more of you this year.

We all know what a beautiful place Dingle is and how lucky we are to live here, but over the past 14 years we have seen Dingle really bloom, with more lovely restaurants and visitor experiences, such as Dingle Distillery, Dingle Electric bikes, to name a few. Why not browse through our blog and discover the 30 things to do in Dingle series. There is something to suit everyone there.

We are so proud to be part of the tourism experience here in Dingle. Even though at this early stage in our tourism season, things are relatively quiet, there is still lots to enjoy. Dingle has been firmly established as the Foodie Capital of Ireland, and boasts many lovely restaurants such as Global Village, The Chart House, Doyle's Seafood Restaurant, Ashe's Seafood Restaurant, Lord Bakers, The Half Door, Out Of The Blue and new additions in 2018 Mash and Solas Tapas Bar. We understand that there are some new restaurants planned for our town during 2019, so keep an eye on our blog to keep up to date. As always, in Dingle there is lots of choice available, and something to cater for every budget and palate.

The pubs in Dingle have always given a warm Dingle welcome to visitors and now are ever more listening, and adapting to customer's needs. They offer food mostly from opening time until 9pm, and those that offer traditional music (of which there are up to 15 venues nightly) are now adapting to visitors needs, and starting their music a little earlier, at 7 pm. It all adds to visitor experience here in Dingle and listening to customer's needs.

There are also lot of new tourism initiatives which will ensure the sustainability of our tourist product and will help us, and guests, to keep it as beautiful for the generations to

come. More about this and other initiatives in future blog posts.

Brian and I, always look forward to reopening for the season, it is a really exciting time of the year for us. We hope to see old friends coming back, and look forward to meeting lots of new ones over 2019.

Helen Heaton.