







## THE K CLUB

### Experience the highest standards of luxury

The origins of Straffan House go back to the year 550 A.D. After the Anglo – Norman invasion of Ireland, Straffan was granted by Strongbow to Maurice Fitzgerald, whose eldest son passed it to his younger brother General, an ancestor of the Dukes of Leinster. This grant was subsequently confirmed by Richard the Lionheart's brother, who later became King John of England and signed the Magna Carta in 1066.

Ownership of the property was held by prominent titled families. In the 16th century the lands were forfeited by the De Penkiston family when they were implicated in a rebellion. The lands were disposed of to the Gaydon family in the early 17th Century and, in Cromwellian times, were forfeited again and granted to Thomas Bewley. The Gaydon family, declared innocent of the charges by which the property was seized from them, were eventually granted back the 700 acres, which they later sold to Richard Talbot in 1679 for the sum of £700.

In 1831 the property was purchased by Hugh Barton, who had extensive vineyards in France. Barton, forced out of France during the infamous Reign of Terror, ploughed his fortune into Straffan House and other lands in Ireland. The house remained in the Barton family until 1949, it was purchased by the Smurfit Group in 1988 and opened as a hotel in July 1991.

#### LOCATION

From Dublin City Centre on the N7 going South, 27 kms. 30 minutes driving, or from Dublin Airport, 37kms. 30 minutes driving time.

#### GRADING

The recent winner of Ireland's AA Hotel of the Year, The K Club has also been awarded AA 5 Red Star status since its opening in 1991. Voted Hotel of the Year by Egon Ronay in 1997. R.A.C 5 star Blue Ribbon, Irish Tourist Board 5 star. A member of Preferred Hotels and Resorts worldwide.

The K Club was home to 13 European Opens, the venue of the 2006 Ryder Cup and proud recipient of the AA Five Red Star since 1994 consecutively.



Condé Nast European Resort of the year 2006



Winner of Ireland's AA Hotel of the Year 2010/2011





## OUR HISTORY

Hugh Barton was a man with a taste for the finer things in life. His family had settled in Bordeaux 100 years previously and his grandfather, Thomas, had become a legendary winemaker. Hugh showed a real flair for the business of wine as well, and managed to surpass his family's lofty achievements with the purchase of another pair of Chateaux in 1821 & 1826. Straffan House was modelled on these very Chateaux and built in 1832.

Nestled in 550 acres of pristine Kildare Estate and boasting two Championship-level golf courses and a private stretch of the River Liffey, this property endures as a remarkable legacy to Barton while continuing to sculpt it's own history each passing day.

Respectfully converted into a luxury hotel in 1991, every guest departs with a little piece of our history tied to their own memories.

The design of the new house, which is now the east wing of the hotel, was based on that of a great chateau at Louveciennes, to the west of Paris. For Hugh Barton and his wife Ann, Straffan became a haven of peace and contentment after the turmoil's of France. Long after the house was built, Hugh Barton added a final touch, the Italian style campanile tower, still there today.

Hugh Barton died on May 25th 1854 aged eighty-nine and is buried in the Church of Ireland graveyard in Straffan, where his wife is also buried. The House remained in the Barton family until 1949, since which time it has had five owners including Steven O'Flaherty, Kevin Mc Clory, an Iranian General, Patrick Gallagher and the Ferguson family.

The Jefferson Smurfit Group then purchased it in 1988.





## INTERIORS

From the moment you drive down the private lane to The K Club you are surrounded by beauty; ancient trees stretch their arms high above you, welcoming you to what truly is a very special place. Just 30 minutes from Ireland's capital Dublin city and Dublin international airport, the atmosphere is opulent yet relaxed, classical surroundings reflect elements of Ireland's history and reveal the best of luxury accommodation and self catering villas in the country side of Kildare.

At this 5 Star Hotel you are assured of the warmest of welcomes from the most discretely helpful hotel personal you are likely to meet.





## ACCOMMODATION

The original house, Straffan House has been sympathetically restored to its former glory and now boasts 69 bedrooms and suites which are individually appointed to the highest standard. No two bedrooms are alike and feature original art work, antiques and state of the art Bang & Olufsen entertainment equipment, many of the rooms too enjoy views to the verdant gardens or the river.

Accommodation is sumptuous and truly luxurious, each bedroom has been individually designed and feature original paintings and antiques, while the bathrooms feature individual hand painted murals.

TOTAL ROOMS	69
Superior Rooms	22
Deluxe Rooms	34
River Rooms	4
Hotel Suites	5
Presidential Suites	2
The Imperial Suite	1
The Viceroy Suite	1

Photo Left, A River Room





## DINING AT THE K CLUB

At The K Club, our cuisine spans home-grown flavours and foreign influences, all prepared masterfully with an appetite for perfection. If you prefer more casual surrounds then why not try the Legends Brasserie in the Arnold Palmer Clubhouse, overlooking the dramatic 18th hole.







## THE K SPA

The very first thing that you notice when you step inside the award winning K Spa, the Resort Spa at the K Club, is the wonderful aroma and scent of essential oils. The delicate smells of jasmine, lavender and exotic flowers fill the air, setting the tone for pure relaxation and physical and spiritual rejuvenation.

Covering 20,000 sq ft, seven luxurious treatment rooms and two private suites The K Spa is ideal for couples or groups. K Spa is a wonderful place to while away a few hours, an oasis of calm and tranquillity the treatments, the facilities and the highly trained therapists all aim to relax and rejuvenate the mind and body.





## SET THE SCENE

Your special day deserves a special venue and Ireland's AA Hotel of the Year 2010/2011 really has it all. Located in the pretty village of Straffan, Co. Kildare and on the banks of the River Liffey the hotel is surrounded by 550 acres of mature woods, parkland and magnificent formal gardens-perfect for your wedding photographs.

From the moment you drive down the private lane to The K Club you are surrounded by beauty; ancient trees stretch their arms high above you, welcoming you to what truly is a very special place. At every stop and every turn your eye is drawn to something new; a little boat moored on a crystal lake, delicate summer flowers framed by a white picket fence or old fashioned roses which fill the air with their sweet summer scent.







## RELIVE THE DRAMA

In September 2006 The K Club hosted the 36th Ryder Cup. Anyone witnessing the event or who has played the spectacular Arnold Palmer designed layout will know that it was purposely built, if not destined, for an event of this magnitude.

The extraordinary success of the 2006 Ryder Cup - providing a truly memorable event for all golfing enthusiasts worldwide - has confirmed the K Club's Palmer Ryder Cup Course. The Palmer Ryder Cup Course as one of the world's top courses and a 'must' for any golfer keen to enjoy the a exhilarating golfing experience.





**Above:**  
The Palmer Clubhouse from the 18th Fairway

**Left:**  
The 16th hole on The Palmer Ryder Cup course with its famous island green on Inis More in the River Liffey

**Right:**  
The 18th hole on The Palmer Ryder Cup course

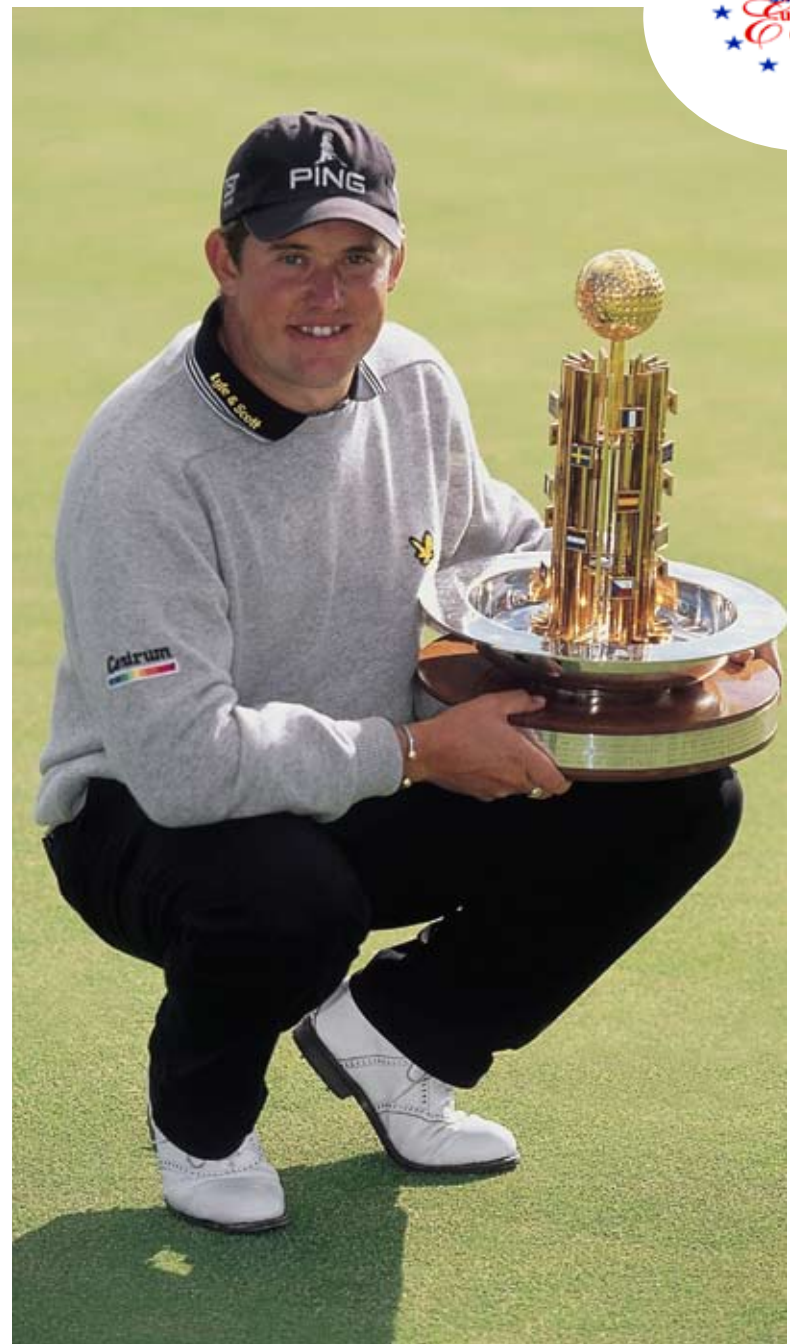


## THE PALMER RYDER CUP COURSE

The Palmer Ryder Cup Course is, quite simply, one of Europe's most spectacular courses. It charms, it entices and invariably, brings out the very best in your game. It is unlikely that you will be asked to tackle the course from the championship tees, but this should in no way diminish the excitement of pitting your wits against Arnold Palmer, for, in a sense, this is precisely what you are about to do.

Ranked regularly in the top 3 parkland golf courses in Ireland, this Palmer designed golf haven is a must play 'badge of honour' that has hosted the top golf players in the world. The Ryder Cup in 2006 and 11 European Opens testify the importance of The Palmer Ryder Cup Course to European Golf.





# THE PALMER SMURFIT COURSE

Two competitive siblings, separated by a beautiful geological landmark, have grown to become recognised as the most impressive examples of their type. While The Palmer Ryder Cup Course is an intimidating parkland, rewarding accuracy in your long game; The Palmer Smurfit Course is a surprising links-style course forcing players to think on their feet.

The fairways ebb and flow like the babbling River Liffey alongside, providing spectacular natural vantage points for spectators, and there have been spectators. This course was the home to The Smurfit European Open, and walking the course on a sunny spring day, it's easy to see why.





 ACTIVITIES  
FOR ALL  
THE FAMILY



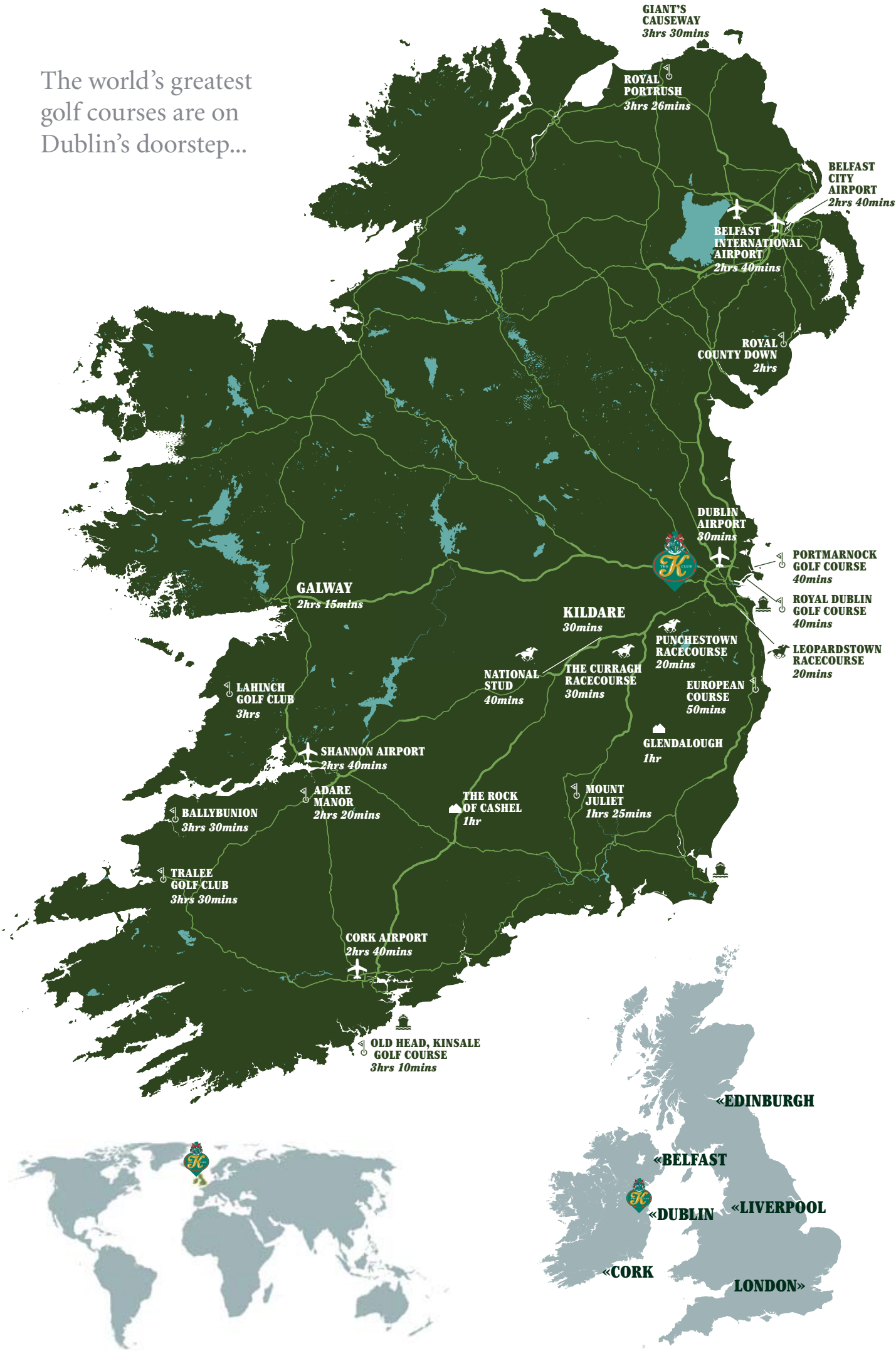




# MAGNIFICENT SETTING

It's impossible to imagine Ireland without horse racing, golf & great times.

The world's greatest golf courses are on Dublin's doorstep...







FIRSTLIGHT  
THE K CLUB



## This is your estate. Create your own legend.

Firstlight International, the leading private residence brand, is offering you a once in a lifetime chance to claim something truly magnificent. This is the first time fractional ownership residences have been offered at The K Club and we are presenting this exciting opportunity to you.

Firstlight homes at the K Club are luxuriously furnished, spacious apartments and villas. They are ready for you to use and enjoy today. As an owner, you will be part of an elite club: you will have dedicated family golf & spa membership to the K Club as well as membership to an international exchange program offering premier destinations around the world.





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