



Exquisite escapes

Slow down this season with a trip to one of our most beautiful locales. From Connemara's wild beauty to West Cork's entrancing shores, these self-catering stays all come with the promise of interiors as special as the landscapes they sit within.

photography Clíodhna Prendergast words Sarah Gill

WITHIN THE VILLAGE Roundstone, Co Galway

The experience of leaving the city, traversing with sheep-strewn roads of the Connemara countryside, and arriving in the town of Roundstone is something akin to departing one dimension for another. It's a realm where peace is paramount and time ticks by at a slower, more leisurely pace, and that same tranquillity radiates from the new addition to the area: *Within the Village*.

It's a concept that's been more than a decade in the making and gained momentum when a cancelled birthday cruise led three childhood friends from

Galway past a hundred-year-old townhouse clad in a "for sale" sign. The wheels started turning in the summer of 2020.

"Having spent summers in Connemara in the 1980s, we had great memories of our youth, and it was lovely to relive it all over again together during the pandemic," Maria, one of the co-owners, tells me. "The one thing that puzzled us was how almost everything 'went to sleep' in the winter, when those of us from the west know it's the nicest time to enjoy the beaches, the food, the pubs and the turf fires."

Transforming the space into five luxury self-catering suites full of stone detailing and beautiful wood finishes, each with their own private outdoor terrace



CLOCKWISE FROM FAR LEFT The local landscape. Prints by Dorothy Cross in a dining area. Incredible views through the balcony. A warm, wood kitchen complements The Tweed Project cushions in this space. A stunning stone wall. A cosy spot for cooler days.



or balcony areas, Within the Village brings the natural beauty of the outside landscapes in. From the colour scheme and choice materials to the specially curated selection of local suppliers, artists and craftspeople, Within the Village is showcasing the beauty unique to the area in so many ways.

Curated by Aoibheann McNamara of Ard Bia and The Tweed Project, the “Crafts of Connemara” offering is a wonderful collection of design pieces found in the space, each with its own ties to the area and roots in slow fashion, sustainability, tradition and heritage. There’s not an element that doesn’t come with its own backstory. Pieces and products from local makers including Roundstone Ceramics, Joe Hogan, The Burren Perfumery, and Inish Living are found at every turn, and the space is truly a celebration of what makes the West of Ireland so special.

“With combined careers in hospitality, and sustainable and luxury travel management, the three of us invested in the property and set about establishing an amalgamation of all of the best places we’ve stayed in over the years,” Maria said. “We wanted to include all those little extras that made each visit special, predominantly good service, local knowledge and high-quality accommodation, art and design.”

Positioned in a central location right in the heart of Roundstone village, just an hour’s drive from Galway city, it’s the perfect base for returning to after dinner and drinks around the corner, or departing from for a sunrise swim the next morning. Escaping here conjures the casual comfort of spending a weekend at your (very fancy) friend’s home, but leaves you feeling utterly rejuvenated.

Sleeping 28 guests in total, the suites can be rented individually or as a whole, with an additional event space and garden area that’s perfect for larger groups of special, more intimate, events. On request, the team can create bespoke experiences through collaboration with local food and drink producers and tourism services to make sure that you get the absolute most out of your stay.

Appealing to the modern, more conscious traveller, Within the Village is all about fusing a total luxury feel with a local appeal like no other.

Prices start from €350 per night, minimum three-, four- or seven-night stays from April 1, 2024, but special opening rates available until March 31, 2024 with a two-night minimum stay. withinthevillage.ie

FROM TOP Some suites have private outdoor terraces. Craftsmanship is evident in every turn, such as details like this built-in bench. A bedroom with doors leading outside. A bunk bed room.

