



TTKS VISITS SAVOY PARK HOTEL

It's little wonder Savoy Park Hotel in Ayr feels so homely: it's been under the stewardship of the same family for over 50 years. *Nicola Smith* settled in to its welcoming surroundings...

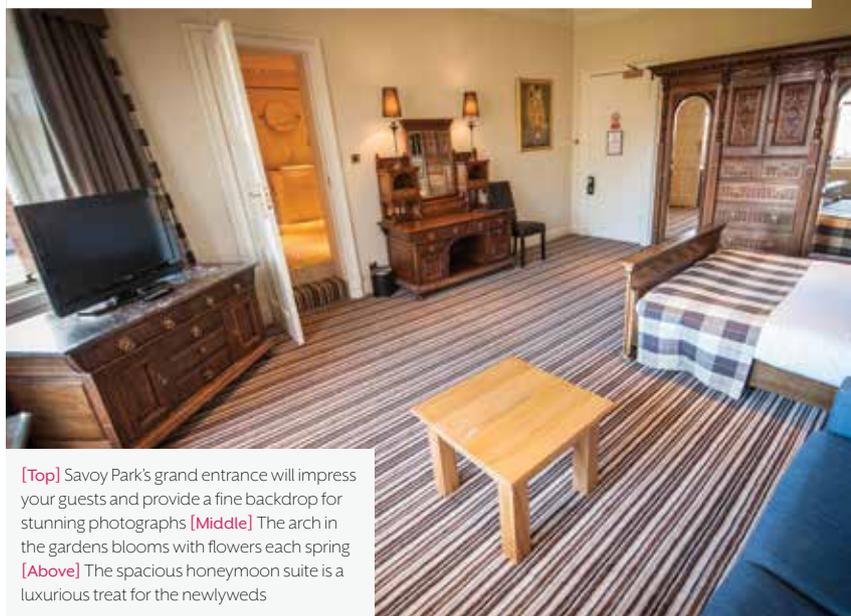
On a trip away, there's nothing I like better than a crackling log fire, comfortable interiors and delicious, hearty food – so I couldn't believe my luck when I was invited to spend a night at the Savoy Park

Hotel in Ayr. It was my first visit to the splendid wedding venue, but as I stepped through the front door into the warm-hearted and cosy atmosphere, I felt like I had come home.

YOU HAD ME AT HELLO

It had been 20 years since I'd last been in Ayr. My family and I used to come to the town for fish and chips wrapped in vinegar-soaked newspaper, before braving a windy walk along the front. In the interval, I've outgrown play parks and scarcely frequent a beach without guaranteed sunshine. But I was really happy to be back – and that was largely thanks to the Savoy Park Hotel.

The smiling hellos of receptionist Barbara and co-owner



[Top] Savoy Park's grand entrance will impress your guests and provide a fine backdrop for stunning photographs [Middle] The arch in the gardens blooms with flowers each spring [Above] The spacious honeymoon suite is a luxurious treat for the newlyweds



[Top] Tie the knot in the hotel's gardens. Guests can sit around the arch for a fully immersive experience
[Below] The flexible layout of the interior means there's scope for gatherings both large and small



NEED TO KNOW

This converted mansion has all the comforts guests would expect with plenty of luxurious touches

► THE NUMBERS

Weddings are held on the ground floor of the hotel. Up to 120 guests can witness your vows, before enjoying drinks outside in the garden if the sun is on your side. There is capacity for a further 80 to join in the fun later in the evening. You also have the option of taking over the entire venue, so you'll feel as if the place is all yours for your special day.

► THE ACCOMMODATION

The hotel can sleep 30 guests in total, so you can catch up with loved ones over a tasty breakfast the following day. The newlyweds will have the honour of staying in the spacious honeymoon suite.

► THE PACKAGE

Whether you're looking for your whole day to be taken care of, or a last-minute w-day deal, or just the basics because you've organised the rest, the Ayrshire venue has five different packages on offer, with as much or as little as you need to make your day a success. Take your pick from the Complete Wedding Wish, Four Seasons, Boutique, Twilight and Last Minute.Hitched – and bear in mind that all five can be tweaked to suit your requirements.

► FOOD AND DRINK

The hotel prides itself on its food – and it's not difficult to see why. You'll experience genuine hospitality, friendly professional service and excellent freshly prepared food from an extensive menu based on Scottish ingredients. Brides and grooms rave about the hotel's buffet menu, and if it tastes anything like my dinner, your guests will devour every mouthful.

Savoy Park Hotel,
Racecourse Road, Ayr
www.savoypark.com

Ann Marie were warm and genuine. I felt enveloped in the kind of glow you only get from a real fire – and, to my delight, there actually is one here, by the bar and dining room. I made a mental note to find a spot next to it later on.

Ann Marie led me to my room for the night – the stylishly decorated honeymoon suite. Equipped with a massive bed, classic furnishings and a huge en-suite bathroom, it overlooks lush gardens that would make a picturesque setting for summer nuptials.

ALL FOR YOU

When I finally managed to tear myself away from the honeymoon suite, Ann Marie showed me around the rest of the charming hotel, encouraging me to have a nosey at several of the tastefully designed bedrooms, a treat for special guests staying the night after a wedding. We then made our way downstairs to the main area where the celebrations take place. Thanks to an adaptable L-shaped layout that can be

partitioned up in a variety of configurations, the space is completely customisable. It means that whether you have a few close pals joining you, or you're inviting a small army of 120, the room will be exactly the right size.

Attention to detail is the hallmark of a Savoy Park Hotel wedding, and there are multiple package options on offer, all of which can be personalised. The Complete Wedding Wish package is particularly popular with busy brides and grooms: not only is the ceremony room hire, catering and venue décor included in the deal, but flowers, cake, entertainment and even kilts – plus much more – come as standard.

After my tour, it was time for dinner. The food here is unpretentious and yummy: I tucked into steak pie, followed by some delectable ice-cream. A relaxing hour lounging by the fire set me up for a good night's kip in my amazing honeymoon suite.

I even managed to indulge in a full Scottish breakfast the next morning – a sure sign I've found a home away from home. ♥

