

INTRODUCING NIRA CALEDONIA, EDINBURGH



Located on Gloucester Place, Edinburgh, amongst the cobbled streets of New Town, this romantic boutique property combines the luxury of a top five star hotel with the intimacy and peace of a cosy townhouse. Its location is without parallel: a broad, quiet terrace, flanked at both ends by Georgian crescents with picturesque private gardens; it is still just a short stroll to the shopping of Princes Street.

Once the home of John Wilson, a friend of Wordsworth and famous literary figure using Christopher North as pseudonym in early 19th century Edinburgh, the 28-bedroom hotel features stunning original cornicing and plasterwork. Lavish suites are all entirely unique, some boasting private garden terraces, views over the Botanical Gardens and vast in-room Jacuzzis.

A successful blend of Georgian period features and contemporary furnishings characterises the décor throughout the property and, together with a home-from-home ambiance, defines the very essence of Nira Caledonia. Warm, heartfelt service is of paramount importance here, from the 24-hour room service to personal Nespresso machines, free broadband to iPod docking stations.

Nira Caledonia occupies two buildings on Gloucester Place, one of the most exclusive addresses in Edinburgh. It has undergone a refurbishment since being acquired by Nira Hotels and Resorts in April 2011 and opened in January 2012.

Nira Hotels & Resorts is a London-based boutique hotel management company which was launched by renowned hotelier, MPS Puri, in March 2009. Nira Caledonia forms part of a portfolio, alongside the Nira Alpina in Silvaplana St. Moritz, the Nira Montana in La Thuile Aosta Valley, and the Shanti Maurice in Mauritius.

DESIGN AND ARCHITECTURE



Tucked away amongst the striking neo-classical architecture of New Town, Nira Caledonia occupies two buildings on Gloucester Place, one of the most exclusive addresses in Edinburgh. Formerly the home of John Wilson, a friend of Wordsworth and famous literary figure of early 19th century Scotland, the property is a classic example of the Georgian architecture that bestowed World Heritage Site status on this part of the city in 1995.

Gloucester Place is a broad cobbled street, flanked at both ends by picturesque private gardens. Royal Circus, just steps away, consists of two magnificent semi-circular crescents, both of which overlook the garden centrepiece. It was designed in 1823 by possibly the greatest of Edinburgh's neo-classical architects, William Playfair.

All the buildings retain their original, period features and Nira Caledonia is no exception. While every room in the hotel is different, they share many design characteristics. High ceilings, dado rails and Georgian sash windows are in each of the rooms, which also feature antique rugs, ornate gold mirrors and modish armchairs.

Our rooms have been completely modernised with vibrant splashes of colour, rich textures and luxurious fabrics whilst retaining the original character and charm of these Georgian Townhouses. Romance is nowhere more evident than in the restaurant, which features original folding shutters and sumptuous armchairs, large Venetian mirrors are illuminated by black-shaded wall lights.

NIRA CALEDONIA

FOOD & BEVERAGE



Owner MPS Puri's food and beverage expertise is evident in the menu at Blackwood's Bar & Grill at Nira Caledonia, one that focuses on fresh, organic Scottish produce and brings regional specialities to the fore. Previously Global F&B Consultant to Orient Express Hotels, Puri is a great advocate of local authenticity in his cuisine, and all three of his Nira properties take inspiration from this.

The menu at Blackwood's is overseen by Head Chef David Scott who has revamped regional favourites. In particular, the restaurant showcases the [Josper grill](#), a top-quality oven which imparts a distinctive charcoal flavour to all the handpicked ingredients cooked on its coals and ensures that their natural moisture and flavour remain intact.

All the ingredients used at Blackwood's are farmed, caught, raised or bred in Scotland. The menu's delicious dry aged beef has been raised according to the centenary traditions of the [Highland Drovers](#). Seafood comes from the Highland Lochs and the North Sea with smoked salmon sourced by a [Slow-Food-supporting supplier](#) in Dunkeld, on the banks of one of Scotland's most famous salmon rivers.

Providing guests with an opportunity to enhance their knowledge of Scottish whiskies, the bar stocks all the major malts available. Many, such as Glenkinchie and Caol-Ila have aged twelve years and sit alongside all the great names of the local industry: Glenmorangie, Macallan and Laphroaig. Niche Scottish beer is also well represented by 'Innis and Gunn' beer, famous for maturing over 77 days in a whisky cask, while Hendrick's Gin, distilled and bottled in Scotland, is infused with local juniper, coriander and rose petals.

With just 20 intimate covers, prevalent tones of gold and black give the restaurant an air of romance, while glass chandeliers and chrome hurricane lamps add soft lighting.

To commemorate the historical heritage of its building, Blackwood's Bar & Grill derives its name from Blackwood's Magazine, a renowned nineteenth-century publication founded in 1817. John Wilson, one of its key writers and Professor of Moral Philosophy at Edinburgh University took residence at 6 Gloucester Place, now the site of Nira Caledonia and Blackwood's Bar & Grill.

ROOMS AND SUITES



Each of the 28 rooms at Nira Caledonia is unique, as befits a period Georgian building with World Heritage Site status. Yet all strike an elegant balance between neo-classical period features and 21st century comforts.

Set against a backdrop of detailed cornicing and Georgian sash windows, you will find Nespresso machines and iPod docking stations. Original wooden floorboards are interspersed with granite tiles and sleek bathrooms, while some boast private garden terraces and panoramic views over Edinburgh's Botanical Gardens.

Nira Caledonia offers five room categories: Jacuzzi Suite, Suite, Executive Room, Petite Double and Single. Covering up to 41 square metres, the four Jacuzzi Suites exude opulence and romance, with sumptuous furnishings and stand-alone whirlpool baths. All suites feature king beds and original sash windows.

All the beds feature 2,000 pocket sprung mattresses and luxurious down toppers and pillows. Every room includes a flat-screen television, DVD player, iPod speaker, free high-speed broadband access, minibar and a Nespresso machine with *Grand Cru* premium range capsules. Complimentary still or sparkling water is provided.

Contemporary stone-tiled bathrooms feature an overhead waterfall or handheld shower and luxurious T-Plantation toiletries. Other room facilities include Oriental glass-topped work desks and oversized wardrobes with plenty of hanging space.

SUITES OF DISTINCTION

Room 610 – Gloucester Suite

Named after the Gloucester Place this lavish suite is the epitome of Georgian splendour. A vast chandelier hangs from the high ceiling, bedecked with original neo-classical cornicing. Two oversized

sash windows offer views of the Georgian architecture on the opposite side of the road. 21st century comforts are not forgotten either, with a flat screen television and multi-speed whirlpool bath.

Room 612 – Inverleith Suite

Named after the affluent inner suburb in the north of Edinburgh, this suite offers private access to a garden. The suite's bedroom has a queen size bed and offers a separate sitting area with a flat screen television.

Room 613 – Dean Suite

Named after a tranquil green oasis on the water of Leith this suite offers private access to a garden terrace this suite is the perfect choice for a relaxing stay, the bedroom has a queen size bed and the suite offers a separate sitting area with a flat screen television. The bathroom has a one person Jacuzzi.

Room 1005 – Fettes Jacuzzi Suite

With a vast in-room whirlpool bath, this lavish suite is a true romantic hideaway. Light pours in through three sash windows, which overlook the beautiful neo-classical architecture on the street opposite. The original, exposed wooden floorboards in the bedroom give way to solid granite tiles where a large Jacuzzi tub invites relaxation, while a separate stone bathroom features a large bath and waterfall shower.

Room 1003 – Stockbridge Suite

A large Jacuzzi tub with wooden seats and headrests, nestles amongst solid granite wall tiles, enhanced by an ornate Provencal mirror. With breath-taking views over the Botanical Gardens and Stockbridge, this is a great choice for an affordable romantic weekend break.

Room 1008 – Henderson Suite

This elegant suite is flooded with light through three large sash windows overlooking Gloucester Place. Contemporary touches include a bold, oversized headboard and striking contemporary art, while period features are maintained with original exposed floorboards, rich pelmets, luxurious chesterfield sofa and triple-depth corning.

Room 1009 – The Bellevue Jacuzzi Suite

A contender for Edinburgh's most romantic suite, this lavish four-room hideaway oozes decadence. A six-foot square Jacuzzi tub, encased in mahogany with twin headrests, takes centre stage in its own room, while a separate seating area features an additional flat-screen television, large sofa, full-size gilt mirror and elegant furniture and fittings.

Room 1010 – The New Town Suite

Named after the masterpiece of Edinburgh's city planning this large and light coloured suite with a wooden floor, two oversized sash windows offer views of the Georgian architecture on the opposite side of Gloucester Place. The suite features a king size bed and elegant furniture and fittings and a large sofa and a king-size bed.

Room 1012 – Nira Signature Suite

With private access to a garden terrace through an elegant wrought-iron gate, this suite is the perfect choice for lazy summer days. The room also features a lavish in-room Jacuzzi tub and separate seating area.

For families, this suite connects to room **1011** via an additional outer door, which can be locked giving uninterrupted access to both rooms. Room 1011 is an Executive Double which also benefits from a private garden terrace.

HISTORY



“John Wilson was, confessedly, the greatest magazine writer of his time. From the establishment of Blackwood’s Magazine to the autumn of 1852, his pen was almost exclusively employed upon that periodical... His genius was as abundant as his industry was tireless.” (R. Shelton-Mackenzie: Introduction to ‘Christopher North’ A Memoir of John Wilson)

At the height of Edinburgh’s golden age, a time of neo-classical splendour, high culture and lofty ideals, John Wilson, one of the literary lions of the era, took residence at 6 Gloucester Place, now the site of Nira Caledonia.

Edinburgh’s neo-classical monument of ‘New Town’ was constructed between 1767 and 1890, following the Age of Scottish Enlightenment. Gloucester Place is just steps away from Royal Circus, designed by William Henry Playfair in 1823 as part of the ‘Fourth’ New Town. Renowned as Edinburgh’s most famous neo-classical architect, Playfair took a more romantic approach to city planning, his buildings exploiting the contours of the landscape.

On the other side of Gloucester Place is the ‘Fifth’ New Town, built from 1822 on the lands of the Earl of Moray to designs by J Gillespie Graham. Only the finest materials were selected in the construction of these elegant buildings with ashlar facing used almost exclusively, instead of stucco.

This highly exclusive part of the city drew aristocrats and professional gentry from far and wide. As the reputation of Edinburgh grew as a centre of banking and insurance, science and philosophy, many of the most esteemed literary figures of the age took residence here, including John Wilson, who lived at Gloucester Place from 1826 until his death in 1854.

A flamboyant bon viveur and larger than life character, Wilson is perhaps best remembered for his searing reviews, poems and essays published in ‘Blackwood’s Magazine’ under the *nom de plume* Christopher North. In 1820 he was appointed Professor of Moral Philosophy at Edinburgh University, where his passionate and eloquent lectures attracted generations of students to the subject. A friend of William Wordsworth and Samuel Taylor Coleridge, Wilson became one of Edinburgh’s most important literary figures and befriended a number of the Romantic poets of the age – notably James Hogg and Sir Walter Scott. Together they became part of Edinburgh’s famous post-Enlightenment

literati and the reputation of the city grew as a centre of sophisticated writing and empirical philosophy.

As testament to his influence, a statue was erected to his memory in 1865 in Princes Street Gardens, between the Scott Monument and the Royal Scottish Academy.

On becoming a hotel, the building at 6 Gloucester Place was named the 'Christopher North Hotel' in memory of John Wilson. Directions to the Princes Street statue are provided. The hotel occupies two townhouses on Gloucester Place, Number 6 and Number 10. It was previously known as 'Number Ten Edinburgh' before being acquired by Shanti Hospitality in 2011.

THE LOCAL AREA



One of the greatest things about staying at Nira Caledonia is the short stroll through some of Edinburgh's most celebrated architecture to the centre of town at Princes Street. Go the other way, however, and you will be met by a charming selection of speciality shops, charity booksellers and bustling cafes and bars, many lining the picturesque riverbank in Stockbridge.

Herbie's, the delicatessen, is a Stockbridge institution, famed for its Portobello bacon, stone-baked bread and organic cider, while I.J. Mellis is regularly voted the best artisan cheese shop in Scotland. Scottish designers' must buys. From handmade suit kilts at [21st Century kilts](#), to cashmere of the highest quality at [Hawick](#) and cutting-edge jewellery designed by [Sheila Fleet](#) as well as accessories - all designed and manufactured in Scotland. A ten minute walk from Nira Caledonia, The Scran & Scallie gastro pub offers relaxed dining with menus showcasing great Scottish food served in a relaxed and cosy setting, nearby Rafael's Bistro serves authentic Spanish food and Lancers Brasserie prides itself on being Edinburgh's 'finest Bengali and North Indian restaurant'.

The water of Leith is a small river, bordered by a walkway and bicycle path, which meanders its way through the city past Stockbridge and the Royal Botanic Garden. A number of cafes and restaurants boast enviable locations at the water's edge providing a peaceful haven from the busy streets.

The bohemian vibe that Stockbridge is so famous for is still very much alive. Antique shops sit side by side and the Flaubert Gallery is well known for its eclectic mix of original art. On Sundays, Edinburgh residents descend on Stockbridge to take part in the famous weekly Farmers market.

Some of Edinburgh's most tucked-away secrets are within easy reach of the hotel and are recommended to guests by the Nira Caledonia Front Office Team, with have an unfaltering knowledge of the city. The Raeburn, for example, a bright and stylish bar and restaurant, welcoming all guests to its warm and sophisticated surroundings.

Nira Caledonia is also the perfect base from which to enjoy some of Edinburgh's finest attractions – the Castle, the Royal Mile, the Royal Botanic Gardens and Carlton Hill are all located close by, along with the Edinburgh Dungeon, The Scottish National Gallery and The Playhouse. The city's legendary

annual Festival, Fringe and Tattoo take place within walking distance, as does with the magnificent fireworks display at Hogmanay.

NIRA HOTELS AND RESORTS Brand Philosophy



In March 2009, MPS Puri formed Nira Hotels and Resorts with the aim of creating a new group of boutique, luxury properties with a particular emphasis on his three core values: service, value for money and relationships.

Few people can lay claim to a more in-depth knowledge of the luxury hotel industry. Over the course of a career that has spanned nearly four decades, Puri has held leadership positions with some of the world's most iconic brands. In addition to his role as Opening General Manager of The Setai, Miami, Puri has acted as Head of the Americas for GHM Hotels, Global F&B Consultant to Orient Express and Opening Chief Operating Officer for The Fullerton, Singapore.

A critic of bland, formulaic, hotel design and rigid formality, Nira underlines Puri's passion for genuine, heartfelt service and independence of spirit. Service is at the very heart of the Nira experience and the true driving force of the brand. Delivering it is, in Puri's opinion, a privilege, and it should be accompanied by attentiveness, enthusiasm and sincerity. In Puri's own words, "Guests arrive as residents; they leave as friends and return as family."

The Nira philosophy is based on the notion that today's traveller values attentiveness over formality and inspiration over instruction. "Nira Hotels & Resorts is a natural progression of my vision of a nomadic, bohemian-chic, hospitality brand. Here, luxury is about your way, a touch of our hand and the passion that binds the two," says Puri.

The celebrated launch of Shanti Maurice in June 2010, on the largely untouched South coast of Mauritius, marked the opening of Nira's first property and it was soon followed by the Nira Alpina (December 2011) and the Nira Caledonia (January 2012) and in December 2014 Nira Montana in the Italian Alps was opened. Puri has ambitious development plans for the brand and has already earmarked sites in The Seychelles, Vietnam and Sri Lanka.

A boutique lifestyle resort on a pristine horseshoe coral sand cove, **Shanti Maurice**, a member of Design Hotels, is designed to embrace a genuine Mauritian experience. 61 spacious suites and villas are spread across a 36-acre landscape of fragrant tropical gardens. All 17 villas are located on the beachfront overlooking the Indian Ocean and have a private pool, outdoor rain shower and dining pavilion. With 25 treatment rooms, the award-winning Nira Spa is built around an enchanting tea pavilion, surrounded by lily ponds, and is one of the largest and most comprehensive in the Indian Ocean.

The cutting-edge **Nira Alpina**, a member of Design Hotels, is situated at the upper end of the spectacular Engadine valley with panoramic views over the endless expanse of turquoise lakes that lie along the plateau. Elegant swathes of glass bring the outside world into almost every part of the building's interior, while the best skiing in the St Moritz region is easily accessible via a private walkway into the cable car building. Every room features a vast sun-drenched balcony or terrace and floor to ceiling windows overlooking Lake Silvaplana.

Tucked away on Gloucester Place amongst the cobbled streets and striking neo-classical architecture of New Town, Edinburgh, **Nira Caledonia**, a member of SLH Small Luxury Hotels of the World, combines the luxury of a top five-star hotel with the intimacy and peace of a cosy townhouse. Once the home of John Wilson, a friend of Wordsworth and hugely famous literary figure in early 19th Century Edinburgh, the 28-bedroom hotel features stunning original cornicing and plasterwork. Lavish suites are all entirely unique, many boasting vast original sash windows, private garden terraces and in-room Jacuzzis.

Lead in bed & breakfast rates start from £135 per room, per night.

For more information, visit www.niracaledonia.com or call 0131 225 2720

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