

Some Frequently Asked Questions

Exclusive Use & How It Works

What's different to other Exclusive Use Venues and Hotels?

- Our location – less than 5 minutes from Ireland's premier tourist town, Kinsale, and 20 minutes from Cork International Airport.
- We are secluded – but not isolated
- We are only ever Totally Private – nobody else ever shares the property with you
- Our onsite event management expertise – we are event managers, not hoteliers
- We are unique – Individually styled rooms with a twist
- The Best of Old and New – 250 year old property but completely renovated inside with flat screen TVs, WIFI, etc
- Modern Approach to Gourmet Food – Michelin Star trained chef David Rice does restaurant quality wedding food
- Our Staff – just read our testimonials – they care, are personable, fun and experienced
- And that little bit of X Factor thrown in!

How many people can sleep on the property?

We have 22 ensuite bedrooms – so that's 44 people. But we have some large rooms so you could have up to 54 people stay – if you wish – for a small additional supplement to cover the cost of breakfast, linen and housekeeping.

How many people can be seated for dinner?

Our Garden Room seats up to 130 people, and our Ballroom seats up to 50 people. So combined it is 180 people. These two rooms are side-by-side with a large opening between so when you do your speeches in the centre, all the guests can see. And then the Ballroom turns into the dance floor. Perfect!

How do I compare the pricing of Exclusive Use Venues – you're all different.

You need to take the nightly rate and then divide by the number of people that can stay. That will give you a per person rate. And then compare what is included at each venue.

How do I compare you with a hotel?

With hotels and some other venues, they will sell any unused rooms to other guests. Or some venues have part of the property open to the public. So that means these properties are NOT 'Private'. What you are getting here is an entire private estate, all for the price of a hotel room. And everything is setup to your requirements. And a very long list of other items!

So do I have to pay for the Exclusive Use myself before the wedding?

Not at all. You just fill in our spread sheet that lists all the rooms in the house, who is staying in each one and how much they are paying. And then when your guests leave they just checkout like they would from a hotel. You decide where they stay and how much they pay. And you pay the difference if any.

What is the Ballinacurra Inclusivity Fee?

This is a once-off all-inclusive fee for a long list of inclusions. If we were to individually price out what you get, it is a value of thousands. But all we charge is €499 per booking year round or €999 for 2+ day weddings from June to September.

Civil Ceremonies

Can we have a Civil Ceremony onsite?

Absolutely – either inside or outside. There are various locations. We cover everything from staff time to do the setup, chairs, tables, etc. (see pricing sheet for costs) Or there are plenty of churches within minutes. They obviously have their own Charges which you will have to evaluate.

I thought we could only have a civil ceremony Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm?

Let us explain – the HSE Registrars operate under normal government employee hours, which are these times. But there are plenty of other government approved Solemnisers who can do it on a weekend at any time. We have a document which explains all the options and how it works.

Wedding Planning and Management

I'm sick of hotel weddings – I want something different. What can I do?

A wedding in a private country estate has a very different vibe. All your favourite people are together under one roof – with nobody else around. So now the venue is sorted, what else do you want? Maybe it's a formal tasting menu without choices – maybe you want a more casual family sharing platters – or a recovery day with cocktails and a Mexican Burrito Bar – or you want your overseas guests to stay longer and enjoy all that Kinsale has to offer? Talk to us.

Do we need a Wedding Planner to help?

Once you book, you are then assigned your personal Wedding Co-ordinator who will be with you every step of the way – right up to your wedding. We provide you with a comprehensive Wedding Planning Kit which walks you through the steps, our wedding supplier contacts, seating plans, rooming lists and timelines. And after each of your two planning meetings, your Wedding Co-ordinator will update the timeline and budgets for you. So with a little work on your side, you can do it yourself. Obviously if you wish to employ a wedding planner then that's totally fine as well.

Do we have to book 2 nights or is 1 night an option?

We do one day weddings depending on our calendar. Just ask for availability. But we strongly recommend a 2 day event to get the full Ballinacurra Experience.

We've booked our wedding with you, and now our guests want to come a day earlier or stay a day longer. What do we do?

Easy – talk to us. If we are available either side of your booking we can look at it, based on the number of people.

Food and Drink

Do you do Wedding Packages?

No because then every wedding would be the same! We believe every wedding couple is different and have their own priorities and tastes – so every wedding should be different to reflect the couple. Hotels do packages because that's what suits them to sell. We don't have any other guests – so what you want is up to you.

Many venues have minimum numbers for dining. What's your policy?

Most other venues ask for minimum numbers of over 130 people when you book. We don't do that. The only minimums we put in place is for the peak months (June to September), Friday and Saturday nights and our minimums are 75 people. You let us know 2 weeks before your wedding what your exact dining numbers are. And if you are adding on an arrival day or recovery day, all we ask is that you eat here – it would be a shame not to! And our Casual Dining Menus start at a very reasonable price of only €25 per person.

Do you have a minimum spend?

No – you decide what you want and we price it out for you. You pay for what you get – for the numbers that you have. We think that's the fairest way.

We find it odd you don't include tea/coffee at the table in your menus?

But we do include tea and coffee served all night long with your Wedding Cake in our Red Room. So when we say 4 courses – it's 4 courses of food. When everybody else says 4 courses – it's 3 courses of food and then tea and coffee! If you want additional tea and coffee served at the table – then that's no problem. There will just be a small supplement to cover it.

How many courses do I have to have?

Whatever you want – 3, 4, 5 or 6. You can have choices or do set menus. The choice is yours.

Do you do Food Tastings?

No we go one better - we do Tasting Events. We assign a number of dates every year when we setup the property for a wedding, you get to meet all the key staff, have a wine tasting, wander all the rooms and then go to a cookery demonstration and taste the food. And you get to discuss your menu with David Rice, our Head Chef. These are the days we recommend you bring family, friends or any of your own suppliers to view the property.

What about dietary requirements?

Don't worry – we'll look after them. If you can give us an indication of how many and preferably where they are seated, we will look after them with a 'silent' choice.

What time is breakfast?

There are no other guests – so it's your choice. Just choose a 2-hour window. On check out days breakfast time is 8 am – 10 am

Do you do corkage?

Yes, if you insist! We have an excellent, competitively priced wine list which we have curated by a professional sommelier.

Couples who wish to bring their own wine will be charged a handling and service charge. This charge is to cover the following costs:

- Delivery, & handling
- Correct Storage/Chilling of wine
- Staff for Polishing of glasses and serving wines
- Disposal of bottles
- Breakages of glassware

Corkage charges for 75cl bottles - €15 for wine, €30 for Bubbles. Corkage of wine or bubbles is only permitted for the Wedding day meal.

What should I do about a Toast Drink?

Whatever you want – do a wine topup, a glass of bubbles or offer a drink of choice.

What time does the bar close?

It closes at 2:00am so that the non-residents can get taxis or shuttles home. Then we reopen the bar to residents.

Kids**What about feeding and entertaining children?**

We offer very cost effective children's menus to choose from. But think carefully if you really need to have them seated with the adults for dinner. We find little ones would rather be out playing!

Can you organise babysitters?

Yes with advance notice.

Dogs**Do you allow dogs to stay?**

We are dog lovers – we have our own onsite. We can discuss this on a case by case basis.

And Some Other Important Bits**What happens if I need to change my date?**

Once the Booking Confirmation Deposit is paid which has secured your date, unfortunately it is non-refundable in the event of a cancellation. If you absolutely must change your date, talk to us. See our T&Cs for full details.

Do you charge a service charge or VAT?

No – all our prices include everything at the current rate of publishing. But gratuities are greatly appreciated!

What's the checkin and checkout times?

Checkin is 2:00pm and checkout is 11:00am. Please make sure your guests know as we cannot let your guests in before the agreed time as we will be setting up the house to your requirements.

Are 'afters guests' allowed?

Yes, if you really want to have a minimal amount. In our experience, very few usually turn up. Why not invite them to your recovery day party instead?

When do we need to make payments?

You pay the Booking Confirmation Deposit when you book your date, a part payment is calculated 3 weeks before your wedding and part payment is paid into our account 2 weeks before, and then any balance on checkout.

Can we items delivered to Ballinacurra House?

Wedding items can be delivered Mon-Friday between 9 am – 5pm, all items must be clearly labelled and dated. Ballinacurra House does not take responsibility of any items lost, broken or damaged

We are thinking of doing Wedding favours for our guests, are there any restrictions?

No problem at all! The only stipulations we have in place is:

Alcoholic favours are not permitted
Sparklers are not allowed on tables

This is just a summary of the most common questions we get asked. Please email us if you have any other specific questions and we will be happy to answer them. See also Terms & Conditions – they are available on our website at www.ballinacurra.com