



Blackaddie House Hotel, Sanquhar

Reviewed by Burton & Lisa Millar from Crieff



Blue skies and warm sunshine heralded our morning arrival at Blackaddie House Hotel, which was good news considering I had booked a day's fishing on the River Nith, just yards from the hotel grounds. My permit, organised over the phone, awaited my arrival and we were served coffee while being knowledgeably briefed by chef patron, Ian McAndrew, who is a keen fisherman. There are 11 miles of fishing available on the one permit, and access to the best pools is easily walkable though we drove down the farm track beside the hotel to transport our gear. The water level was slightly high and coloured, but was still good. The three pools I fished were all good for fly fishing and I tried a blue charm, a shrimp fly and a stoat's tail, but to no avail. The hotel catch records show most fish are caught July to the end of the season on November 30, so my excuse is that I was just too early! Blackaddie's public rooms are comfortable, with an open fire in the bar and a small, cosy library stocked with books. The hotel is family-run and our hosts were very much in evidence, speaking with guests and making us (and our dogs) feel welcome. Our room was clean but small and the bathroom needed refurbished, but the quality white towels, Arran Aromatics toiletries and large bed provided ample comfort. The real bonus was the absolutely spectacular dinner whose highlights included a melt-in-the-mouth rabbit roulade and a 28-day aged fillet. Disappointment with our lack of catch paled into insignificance in the face of such culinary expertise and we vowed we would come back, not necessarily to fish, just to eat!