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## WHAT'S OLD IS NEW

MODERN UPDATES DON'T COMPROMISE THE **OLD-WORLD GRANDEUR OF BLANTYRE** BY KIM-MARIE EVANS

**M**ove over Brooklyn and the Hamptons, there's a surprising spot where new money meets old—a historic mansion in the Berkshires. Built in 1902, the beloved Blantyre resort, one of the last remaining Belle Epoque estates in the region, was recently acquired and updated by investors from Silicon Valley.

But not to worry, hoodies are still frowned upon in the dining room, and you won't be forced to schedule your spa treatment by app. Lovers of the property will be pleased to know that the baronial touches (the estate was designed to look like a Scottish castle) remain: stained-glass windows, gold chandeliers, original fireplaces and all. The updates focused on the things that really needed updating. The dizzying décor of toile upon toile topped with fussy pillows and canopy beds is a thing of the past. The dried-flower bouquets and dressers piled with bric-a-brac have disappeared and the new décor is modern yet “has a respect for the past, with an eye to the future” says David Pupo, longtime staff member and director of



**top and above:** Twilight at Blantyre makes the grand exterior that much more majestic. • The music room is a relaxing space where, on most nights, a pianist entertains guests.

CHIP RIEGEL





**clockwise from above:** The Conservatory offers fine dining in a rustic chic setting. • The Main Hall staircase • A quiet retreat • A bedroom in the Carriage House



## New & Noteworthy

### SAME BUT DIFFERENT

- Though guests now tap an iPad for room service, orders are still delivered by butler.

- There are still deep soaking tubs, but there are also modern steam showers with fresh chrome and marble fixtures.

- The famous book collection—4,500 tomes in all—is still on-property, though many can be found in the Music Room, which really serves as a quiet retreat. Many more are spread throughout guest rooms and reading nooks.

### JOIN THE CLUB

If you've got a second home nearby, the Blantyre offers Club

memberships. For a reasonable annual fee, members have access to the resort amenities, including the pool and spa as well as discounts and preferential treatment when making reservations.

### BUBBLES

The Blantyre is home to the first Dom Pérignon Champagne Salon in the U.S. The Dom Salon stores over 10,000 bottles and serves exclusive specialty vintages, including Vintage Trinity, Dom Pérignon 2006, P2 Vintage 2000 and Rosé 2005. And a real rarity, guests can order Dom by the glass for \$45 and a half glass for \$25, but why would someone do that to themselves?

the new membership program.

The eight guest rooms in the Manor House have long been known by their names: The Laurel Suite, The Crimson Suite and so on. Though the names remain on the doors, the website has given them more mundane monikers such as “Standard King Manor.” But don't be fooled—no two suites are alike. Furnishings were individually chosen for each room, some sleek and some bright and cheery. The rooms feature original fireplaces, and most have soaking tubs. The Carriage House, with its eleven rooms, has also been completely reimagined as have the four stand-alone cottages, one of which was designed and decorated by Serena and Lily.

The spa is still in the “Potting Shed,” one of the original buildings that predates the Manor House, but is now a true luxury retreat. Guests

can treat themselves to an array of services, including a Vichy shower treatment, which is basically getting a massage from a team of high-powered shower heads while you unwind on a bed similar to a massage table. And the new poolscape has a Four Seasons quality and feel. Gone is the 1970s-looking cement pool, and surrounding the new oasis are sophisticated sun loungers with plush towels. And there is now food service from the brand new H2O café.

Though much has changed at Blantyre, much, too, remains the same. A drive up the gravel path reveals the grand estate that was the first to be given the coveted Relais & Châteaux membership status in the U.S.; a team of efficient footmen greet visitors, whisking luggage to rooms while guests are offered a glass of champagne; check-in is handled in the guest room, no waiting in a lobby line. Room rates start at \$435 per night, plus taxes and fees. Children under sixteen are not permitted. Savvy guests book through Virtuoso or Relais & Châteaux for room upgrades and amenities.