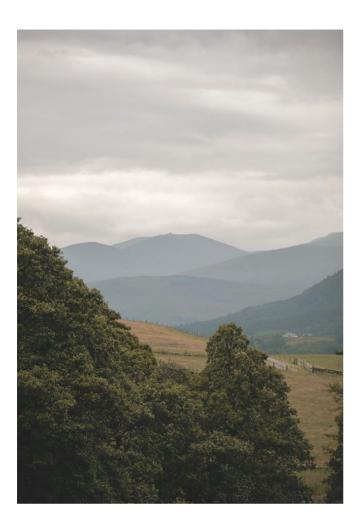


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FOR PARED-BACK STYL

THE LODGE AT DUN ALUINN, PERTHSHIRE

'Aberfeldy is the centre of the universe,' jokes Infinite Scotland guide Tim Willis halfway up nearby Kenmore Hill as the morning mist rolls away, revealing Schiehallion and Ben Lawers on the other side of Loch Tay. And he has a point: it is at the heart of Scotland, meaning almost everywhere else, from the Cairngorms National Park to Oban, the gateway to the isles off the west coast, is within a couple of hours' striking distance. On the edge of town, Dun Aluinn is a grand Victorian house, refreshingly filled with design finds, including a zingy orange Patricia Urquiola sofa and a sleek Italian Art Deco drinks cabinet, rather than the usual tartan and hunting trophies. Now The Lodge has been added, a minimalist four-bedroom cedar-clad cabin tucked away in its own wildflower-filled garden. It takes a similarly light-handed Scandi-Scot approach, with muted earthy textiles set against colour-pop sinks and simple leather sling chairs draped in sheepskin throws, all framed by huge picture windows. A decked terrace is cleverly covered so that the Tay Valley panorama can be enjoyed whatever the season - there's a rattan swing chair, picked up by owner John Burke and his architect wife Susie Whyte in Ibiza, and thick Johnstons of Elgin blankets are piled up by the back door just in case. But the real specialness here is in the deep connections that John and always-on-hand butler Alister Reid have in these parts, fixing anything from a kids' canoeing expedition with Wee Adventures to a time-travelling Iron Age evening at the Scottish Crannog Centre. Afterwards, head back for a sensational supper whipped up by chef Chris Rowley from nearby foodie mini-empire Ballintaggart Farm as dusk casts its magic light over the scene. FIONA KERR BOOK IT From £3,500 for three nights (sleeps eight). dunaluinn.com



