

R H A P S O D Y

MAY 2014

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STEPS BEHIND
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JUST GETTING
STARTED



UNITED 

A STAR ALLIANCE MEMBER 

HOTEL SWEET HOME

Tennis star Andy Murray tries his hand at becoming a hotelier

REIGNING WIMBLEDON champ Andy Murray is joining the hospitality game after purchasing Cromlix, a 15th-century estate with a Victorian-era mansion a few miles from his hometown of Dunblane, Scotland. Renovating and reopening the property as a luxury hotel may seem an unlikely venture for the 26-year-old athlete, still in the prime of his career, but, he admits, "I've always liked the idea of owning my own hotel." He adds that the eight months a year he spends

on the road has given him "a good idea of what works and what doesn't." (Some of his favorite places to stay around the world are The Address Dubai Marina, Melbourne's Crown Towers and the One & Only Ocean Club in the Bahamas.) Thanks in part to Murray's notoriety, Cromlix had already been getting plenty of attention prior to its opening last month. Here are five reasons why the hotel is sure to hold the public's interest for years to come. —SHANA TING LIPTON



OVER HILL AND DALE

The 15-room hotel is nestled on 34 acres of woodlands, features a trout loch and is set up for helicopter arrivals. Its host village of Kinbuck lies in the Strathallan Valley, three miles north of Dunblane, which sits at the entrance to the Scottish Highlands.

WEDDING BELLS

The property has long been significant to the Murray clan. "My family visited the place a lot, and my brother married his wife there, so it was special to us," Murray says. It even has a chapel that is connected to the main house, making it perfect for a post-Wimbledon wedding.

CULINARY ROYALTY

The hotel restaurant is the latest Scottish branch of Albert Roux and son Michel Roux Jr.'s Chez Roux, here captained by Chef Darin Campbell. The elder Roux's Le Gavroche, in London, was famously the first restaurant in Britain to earn three Michelin stars.

MUSHROOM AND BOARD

Mushrooms will feature prominently, on a seasonally rotating basis, on the restaurant's menu. "The fields surrounding Cromlix are some of the richest in the world when it comes to mushrooms," says Albert Roux. "We employ locally based foragers to deliver to our door every day."

GOOD SPORTS

"The hotel isn't far from Gleneagles"—the location of September's Ryder Cup golf tournament—"so world-class golf and spa facilities are just around the corner," says Murray (20 minutes' drive, to be exact). And of course there will be tennis, with a court and practice wall on site.

→ BOARDING PASS

Beginning this month, for summer, United offers nonstop service to Edinburgh, the nearest international airport to Dunblane, Scotland, from our hub in Chicago, in addition to existing year-round service from our hub in New York/Newark. Or, you can catch the first French Open qualifiers in Paris this month with nonstop service from our hubs in Chicago, New York/Newark, San Francisco and Washington.

FLIGHT ACES

How pro tennis's perpetual nomads handle their travel schedules

UNLIKE IN most sports, the tennis season runs year-round and worldwide. Tennis pros typically play in 20 to 25 tournaments per season—including the French Open in Paris this month—meaning they can be on the road for 40 weeks a year. Flying ultimately becomes an integral part of their lives. So how do they handle such a heavy travel load? Here is their hard-won advice. —*MCCARTON ACKERMAN*

**◀ AGNIESZKA RADWANSKA
WORLD NO. 3***

"I try to take night flights if possible, so I can sleep on the plane. But for long flights, I fly business class, of course. For my back, to avoid injuries and in order to be ready to practice the next day, I think there's no other choice."

▶ DAVID FERRER WORLD NO. 4

"It's difficult if you live in Australia. It's easy for [January, the month of the Australian Open], but then players have to travel a lot afterwards. Because I live in Spain and there are so many tournaments here, I don't have that problem."

**◀ LIEZEL HUBER
FORMER DOUBLES WORLD NO. 1**

"Traveling on tour with my baby now, I'm all about planning and having a schedule. If babies travel enough, they get used to it. They know, 'OK, now we're on the plane so it's time to eat something.' Then I rock him for a little bit and it's time to sleep!"

**▶ LI NA 2011 FRENCH OPEN
CHAMPION, WORLD NO. 2**

"At my age, it's important to get to Australia four or five days [ahead of time] to get used to the time change and the weather. Maybe when I was younger I only needed two days, but I can't do that anymore."

**◀ JOHN ISNER AMERICAN NO. 1**

"Most tennis players make their money by being healthy and able to play year-round. That's why you see a lot of guys traveling with a trainer or physiotherapist. I had a back problem in college, so I decided to do whatever it took to take care of my body."