

A MIDLANDS DELIGHT



TRAVEL

Dymphna Hade and her sister escape to The Midlands Park Hotel.

The Midlands Park hotel in Portlaoise town is just over an hour's journey from Dublin and a mere 40 minutes from Carlow. On arrival, you certainly know you are at a four-star hotel. It is very grand, modern with a classical style. Set in the heart of town, it's also near the train station, which is very handy if that is your preferred means of transport.

On checking in, the staff were professional and friendly and we experienced this level of great service throughout our stay. Everything runs so effortlessly here.

We got to our very spacious suite, which had everything we needed including shower room and separate bathroom. Feeling so relaxed we didn't want to leave, but then remembered our spa booking.

I had the Dermalogica Pro60 facial, which targets all your skincare needs and gives you instant results. My skin never looked and felt so good. All this followed by a décolletage and shoulder massage for ultimate relaxation. It was 55 minutes of pure bliss.

My sister, a very busy mum of three, opted for the Full Body Swedish Massage. If you have any kind of back discomfort caused by stress, this is the treatment for you. Her therapist asked what level of pressure she was happy with. It was so



The lobby



Pan Fried Atlantic Scallops

relaxing, my sister had to be woken up at the end.

All this pampering had us hungry and we were looking forward to an evening in Kelly's award-winning steakhouse. We had an apéritif at the hotel bar before our gourmet dining experience. The restaurant is beautifully laid out with comfortable booths and a warm atmosphere. The menu was incredible and so was the food. It covered all tastes from burgers to Kelly's Two Way Oysters.

My sister who loves lamb was spoilt for choice and enjoyed the Baked Rack of Wicklow Lamb for her main course and Pan Fried Atlantic Scallops for her starter. She was so impressed that she is already organising to get the family down in the near future.

I had Deep Fried Goat's Cheese Croquets with Poached Plumb & Rocket for my starter and Slow Braised Feather Blade Steak for my main course, finished with cheesecake and seasonal fruit for dessert. It was food heaven.



Kelly's Steakhouse



Midlands Park Spa & Beauty

After dinner it was back to our lovely suite where I had the best sleep of my life, which was great because we had an early start the next morning. As we expected we had a very tasty breakfast with all you could ask for from the buffet. Even though we only spent one night, we left feeling very rested and happy. WW



Junior Suite