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23 Mayfield, Edinburgh, Scotland: review

23 Mayfield Gardens, Edinburgh EH9 2BX. [Show on map](#)

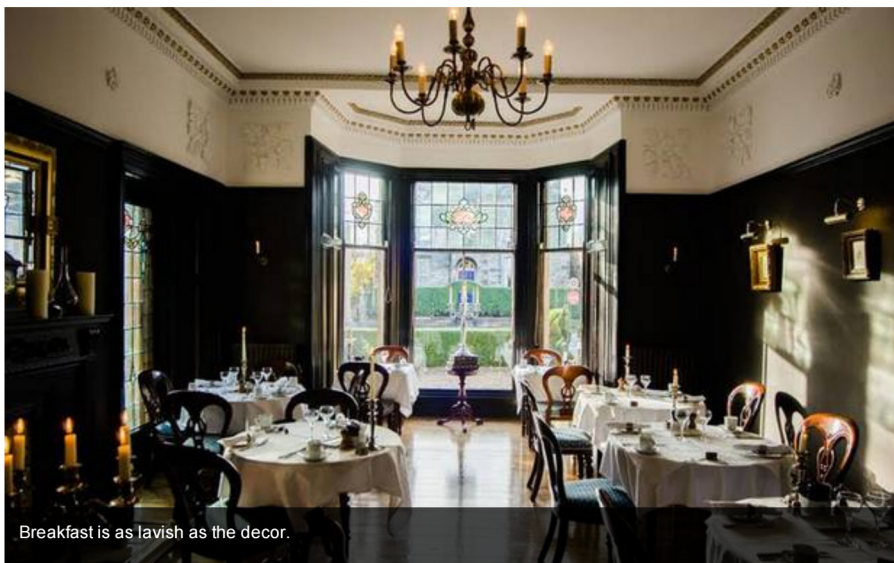
23 Mayfield is an Edinburgh B&B offering elaborate interiors, atmospheric decor, a well-stocked library, outdoor hot tub, rich furnishings and lavish breakfasts, near Arthur's Seat and the University Halls of Residence.

Expert Rating 9/10

Rooms from **£85**

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Breakfast is as lavish as the decor.

“



Linda Macdonald

Linda has known and loved Edinburgh for more than 30 years, spending the last eight years living, working and blogging in the city the poet John Betjeman described as, 'the most beautiful of all the capitals of Europe'. Always inspired by the fascinating, dramatic, yet comfortably intimate city she has made her home, she writes regularly for The Telegraph about Scotland and is the paper's Edinburgh expert.

Click on the right of the above image for more photographs.

In this beautifully kept, unassuming Victorian villa you will find candle-light, acres of mahogany panelling, stained glass and bespoke period furniture, with the occasional well-judged modern touch to stop it all straying into theme-park territory. There are belt-busting breakfasts, a 'club room' for relaxing in and a hot tub and gazebo in the garden. Unashamedly dramatic, this is a destination guesthouse that doesn't cost a fortune and is child-friendly, too.

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Location 7/10

On a busy road in Newington, a quick bus ride from the city centre (about 20 minutes' walk). Close to Arthur's Seat and the University Halls of Residence.

Style/character 9/10

This house is all about sustained drama and complete commitment - richness of colour and texture in polished and carved wood, elaborate plasterwork and sumptuous textiles. Particularly atmospheric in winter, when you can breakfast by candlelight.

Service/facilities 9/10

The aptly named club room lounge is cozily inviting, with leather sofas and wing chairs in front of the fire, a library of books old and new, as well as city information, honesty bar, Bose music system, chess board and over a hundred DVDs of old black and white films. In the garden there is outdoor seating, a hot tub (complete with iPod dock) and a well-furnished gazebo. Private tours of the city can be arranged and cycling tours - both guided and independent - as well. Private parking and secure storage for golf clubs.

Rooms 9/10

Bedrooms, like the rest of the house, are like stage sets - all Tudor mahogany panelling, rich furnishings and jewel-like colours. Every room has a writing desk, chairs or a small sofa and carefully chosen artwork (there's a great collection of old

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Punch cartoons). Bathrooms are polished travertine tile with heated mirrors and floors, rainfall showers and Penhaligon toiletries. As well as comfortable beds, bathrobes, LCD TVs, radio/alarms, hairdryers, fresh coffee and cafeterias on the hospitality trays and home made Scottish tablet, there's an xbox in every room, just in case you get bored with all the luxury.

Food & drink

Breakfast is as lavish as the decor: full on Scots with cloutie dumpling and tattie scones, smoked haddock or kippers, steamed porridge with whisky. Or go further afield with pancakes, Belgian waffles or brioche french toast and maple syrup. There's a special of the day too, or you can celebrate with a champagne breakfast.

Value for money

Double rooms from £85 in low season; rising to £185 in high. Breakfast included. Free Wi-Fi.

Access for guests with disabilities?

No accessible rooms.

Family-friendly?

Yes. Two family rooms, complete with Nintendo Wii. Ask for the observatory room - it has a telescope for budding stargazers.

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