



# 10 BEST CHRISTMAS HIDEAWAYS

## Crocanoir, Co Tipperary ▶

Self-catering can make a lot of sense at Christmas.

Renting a private escape not only takes the pressure to cook and clean off mom and dad, it also offers a host of new walks, towns and countryside to explore.

Crocanoir ('crock of gold') is a 200-year-old farmhouse restored by John Bermingham and his family over several years in Mullinahone.

Its five bedrooms can sleep up to 12, and visitors from as far afield as Guatemala and Australia have used it to celebrate everything from 90th birthday parties to CD releases.

The end-of-bohareen bolthole is now a four-star self-catering gem – the kind of place you arrive as a guest and leave as a friend, as one recent visitor put it.



**Details:** €300 for a week's rental. Tel: 052 915 3117; crocanoir.com.

## Radisson Blu St Helen's Hotel, Co Dublin ▼

The Radisson Blu's setting in Stillorgan offers the best of both worlds – a country mansion in four acres of green space, and a city hotel just a short bus or car ride from the post-Christmas sales.

A two-night Christmas package includes B&B, sparkling wine and chocolates on arrival, a Christmas Eve dinner in Talavera and Christmas Day lunch in Le Ponto, the fine-dining restaurant.

The oldest parts of the hotel date from 1750, and modern additions extend to a fitness suite and beauty salon – for which Santa could surely be coaxed into buying a voucher in advance.

**Details:** From €200pp, Tel: 01-291 9000; radissonblu.ie/whistlerandst-helens



## David's Glen, Co Wicklow

Nowhere does *Narnia* quite like Wicklow in winter, so why not treat the family to a trip through the enchanted wardrobe this Christmas?

David's Glen is a five-star resort between the Wicklow Mountains and the eastern coastline, roughly a 40-minute drive south of Dublin.

Its three-night Christmas package includes B&B, Christmas Day lunch, a visit from Santa and evening buffet meals.

You can look forward to mulled wine and mince pies on arrival, and children under 12 share free B&B.

**Details:** From €200.00 per room per night, Tel: 01-297 0000; davidsglen.com

