



DRAGSHOLM SLOT



Dragsholm Castle

For about 800 years there has been a building on the islet by the "drag" oozing power and splendour. From the original palace over the medieval castle to the current baroque style, Dragsholm castle has had an influence on and been influenced by changing times and the surrounding community.

Today, Dragsholm Castle has a gourmet restaurant and hotel facilities that provide public and private visitors with a historic framework for meetings, conferences and parties. The ambition is to welcome guests so that they may enjoy a coherent and unique experience of history, culture, gourmet food and other activities. The trick is to maintain and convey the historic authenticity and at the same time provide the castle with the functionality, luxury and aesthetics of the 21st century.

The name Dragsholm is based on history. Prior to the damming of Lammefjorden, Odsherred was connected to the rest of Zealand by a narrow stretch. A "draugh" or "drag" means a small stretch of land which in this case connected Odsherred to the rest of Zealand. The stretch of land was located east of Dragsholm where the mill, Dragsmølle, lies today. In the Viking Age, "drag" meant that you could drag the ships across the land and thereby avoid the dangerous waters

north of Zealand. The islet on which Dragsholm Castle was built is surrounded by lakes and meadows just south of the border moraine deposit which ends at Vejrhøj (123 m) to the north. Consequently, Dragsholm means the islet by the "drag".

History

Dragsholm Slot is one of the oldest secular buildings in Denmark. The original Dragsholm Castle was built around 1215 by the Bishop in Roskilde. During the middle ages, the building was modified from the original palace to a fortified castle, and during the Count's Feud (Grevens Fejde) it was so strong that it was the only castle on Zealand to withstand the armies of Count Christoffer.

In connection with the Reformation, Dragsholm was passed on to the Crown. As Crownland during the period from 1536 to 1664, Dragsholm Castle was used as a prison for noble and ecclesiastical prisoners. In the large tower at the northeast corner of the medieval castle, prison cells were made and equipped with toilets and windows depending on the prisoner's crimes, behaviour and the seriousness of his insults towards his Majesty, the King.

Some of the most well-known prisoners at Dragsholm Castle include the last catholic Bishop in Roskilde, the former owner of the castle, Joachim Rønnow, the 4th husband of Mary Stewart - the Scottish Earl of Bothwell - and the seemingly raving mad squire, Ejler Brockenhuus.

During the wars against the Swedish King, Karl Gustav, an attempt was made to blow up Dragsholm Castle, and the place was a ruin until the castle was given to the grocer Heinrich Müller by the King as part payment of his outstanding debts, and he started the restoration. In 1694, Dragsholm Castle was sold to the nobleman Frederik Christian Adeler and finally rebuilt as the baroque castle we see today.

Several owners from that family have made a lasting imprint on the development, including G. F. O. Zytphen Adeler, who took the initiative to reclaim Lammefjorden. The family line became extinct in 1932, and Dragsholm Castle passed over to the Central Land Board which sold the place to J.F. Bøttger, but only with the land belonging to the main estate.

Today, the baroque style of the castle still remains intact, but the interior of the Castle has been subject to restorations and modernisations over the years. The most recent major restoration took place in 1919, where the Baron aimed for a Late Romantic Style which still prevails in the salons and ballrooms.

In recent years, the Bøttger family has managed the running of the castle after a number of minor restorations which in addition to general conservation of the building has had the purpose of raising the level of quality of the castle as a hotel, restaurant and attraction. The hotel rooms at the castle have been refurbished and modernised, and more rooms have been added in the porter's lodge on the other side of the moat.

The former restaurant in the old castle kitchen has been restored based on an architectural idea that puts the old castle walls in focus and make them the decorative element of the rooms.

The surrounding land and water

Dragsholm Slot is surrounded by the beautiful and hilly, glacial landscape in Odsherred at the edge of Lammefjorden in northeast Zealand, about one hour's drive from Copenhagen. To the west, the bay called Sejerøbugten opens to the sea with its beautiful coastline alternating between attractive beaches and tall banksides.

The area is well known and loved by many people, including a number of the best artists of all times, due to the intense light that characterises the area. We can thank the sea for that. Odsherred is surrounded by inlets and bays and the sun's reflection on the water gives the area a light the equal of which is only found in very few places in Denmark. In addition to the art, Odsherred is known for the beautiful nature, the fantastic carrots grown there and for Dragsholm Castle which over the years has influenced the development of the area and not least the shape of the land on the map.

The undulating landscape was created during the Ice Age. Enormous amounts of ice formed the changing and hilly landscape, which is in sharp contrast to the flat, reclaimed land of Lammefjorden. Baron Zytphen Adeler of Dragsholm Castle was the instigator of reclaiming the land in the middle of the 19th century. Today, Lammefjorden may be the best "vegetable garden" in Denmark dedicated to the cultivation of many types of vegetables, including the well known and very popular Lammefjord carrots.

History is brought into the kitchen

Dragsholm Castle has two restaurants – a gourmet restaurant The Castle Kitchen and an eatery Eatery of the Lammefjord. In the castle kitchens the philosophy is quality, and the kitchen staff uses the local produce of the Barons reclaimed land and Odsherred with ambition and innovation. In close collaboration with competent farmers raw materials are selected for the menus of the month.

Our wish is that Dragsholm Slot's history and location should be both seen and tasted. Our ambition is for the castle's cuisine to belong to Scandinavia's gastronomical elite now and in the future.

Dragsholm Slot's cuisine in The Castle Kitchen is innovative and gourmet. Our starting point is the castle's history and the season's ingredients from Lammefjorden and the rest of Odsherred with strong roots in Danish and Scandinavian cuisine. When you visit the castle restaurant, you will experience high quality gastronomic art created with due reference to the history and location of the castle. The castle walls aesthetically reveal the turbulent history of the castle and of Denmark. The menus served have reference to the Baron's Lammefjord and all the way back to the time of the Bishop through the use of herbs from the park and forest around the castle. The local focus is supplemented by inspirations from the rest of the world, e.g. the wines from the wine cellar of the castle.

The cuisine in the Eatery is simple and informal. Here we confirm for our guests that “old love dies hard” by serving simple country dishes made with fresh ingredients from Lammefjorden and our herb garden.

Visit Dragsholm Castle

Dragsholm Castle and the surrounding nature provide many opportunities for visitors. The forest and the fields offer visitors superior nature and hunting experiences. The castle park has one of the oldest rhododendron gardens in Denmark to the benefit of the guests of the castle. At the end of Dragsholm Alley there is a first class sandy beach called Sanddobberne with a view to the islands, Sejerø and Nekselø.

Just north of the castle, at Dragsholm Golf Club, you can enjoy the fabulous nature in combination with a sports challenge.

Behind the thick walls of the castle, you can enjoy work or leisure activities undisturbed and in a quiet environment.

The experiences blend together. History, the noble house, culture, nature and the food create synergy and harmony.



En suite



The Hunters Room