

Press Release  
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## **NEW OWNER AND FAMILIAR NEW NAME FOR INVERNESS MARRIOTT HOTEL**

A famous Inverness hotel is going back to its roots in a £10million deal which will have significant spin offs for local businesses.

The Inverness Marriott Hotel is reverting to its former Kingsmills name following its purchase by Aberdeen-based independent Patio Hotels.

Patio Hotels' Managing Director, Tony Story said: "The hotel is regaining its identity. It has a fascinating and varied history, Inverness is an outstanding location, and the area is a booming tourist base. The acquisition was not just made for the fine hotel that the Kingsmills is today, but for its enormous potential.

"I believe that the business can only grow in a strong local economy and at the same time building strong local partnerships with suppliers and likeminded companies who are able to respond to a demand for quality service and produce."

The hotel's existing 77 staff have a wealth of experience between them – many are long-serving, and nine alone have a total of over 169 years service at the hotel – and are positive about the hotel's return to independent ownership following its seven year spell as part of the Marriott chain.

Bill Sloan, who has worked in guest relations at the hotel for nearly 20 years, said: "I am delighted the hotel is going back to its old name. The Kingsmills had a huge personality and a special atmosphere all of its own which meant a great deal to people in Inverness and across the Highlands.

"The character of the place changed when it became the Marriott and I think it will now get a new lease of life. Just from talking to local people I know they are really pleased about the hotel becoming the Kingsmills again."

The hotel, which has four dedicated conference and meeting rooms and three syndicate rooms, a dining conservatory, lounge and bar and an a la carte restaurant with 60 seats, with additional room to serve 20 more people, has an exciting future ahead of it.

General Manager Craig Ewan explained: "We have a good mix of business at the hotel; 45% is corporate, 35% is leisure and 20% comes from corporate or tourist groups. This year has been the best ever for conferencing, so we are looking to build on that, and we also want to work more closely with local tourism operators.

"We are extremely flexible and can cater for many different sizes of groups. Our head chef's kitchen team has been together for several years, which is unusual in an industry where people move around so much. And we're excited at the prospect of working with food producers in the Highlands, and bringing a high quality of fresh local produce to the table."

He added that the Kingsmills, which has 83 bedrooms including six two-bedroomed apartments, would continue to support college programmes and charity events as the Marriott had done.

The hotel's leisure club, which includes a 12 metre long pool, jacuzzi, sauna and steam room, is open from 6am to 11pm seven days a week and prices start from £34 a month. The Kingsmills also has a hairdressing salon and a beauticians.

The first house on the Kingsmill site was built over 200 years ago, and its structure has been incorporated into the current building. It was given the name Kingsmills House after the adjoining King's Mills, where meal was ground from the 12th century onwards.

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Further media information and photographs from Caroline Keith at the **Keith** consultancy on 01463 811000.