



## CALEDONIAN SLEEPER

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Journey of a night time

### **PRESS RELEASE: FOR IMMEDIATE USE**

**28 January 2019**

#### **Caledonian Sleeper Raises a Glass to Rabbie Burns with Guest Event**

Overnight rail service Caledonian Sleeper paid tribute to the Scottish Bard on Friday (25 January) by inviting guests to enjoy an evening of traditional Burns Night celebrations.

Arranged in partnership with Newrest, a tailor-made catering and food service company, the event saw guests welcomed on board the Inverness to London service by a piper before a selection of complimentary canapés, including miniature haggis from Dingwall based Cockburn & Son, were served in the Lounge Car where guests relaxed whilst they travelled through the night.

A nip of Tomatin 12 year old single malt Scotch was also offered, with glasses raised in celebration of Robert Burns and his much-loved work. Featured on the current Caledonian Sleeper drinks menu, Tomatin is an award-winning distillery local to Inverness with a rich history dating back to 1897 which can be discovered at the brand's visitor centre and gift shop in the Highlands.

Graham Kelly, Serco's Guest Experience Director at Caledonian Sleeper, commented: "Burns Night is a special evening in the Scottish calendar and so we wanted to provide our guests with a memorable experience that would allow them to toast the famous bard.

"Not only was this event a celebration of one of the country's most famous figures but also our traditions and great produce, with Newrest and Tomatin providing a mouth-watering sample of some of Scotland's finest food and drink."

The Burns Night celebration is the start of a calendar of on board events hosted by Caledonian Sleeper which will take place this year, including on the new trains which are due to be in operation by the end of May.

Registered Office: 1 Clarendon St, Inverness, Scotland IV1 1TR | Tel: 0800 000 0000  
Email: enquiry@sleeper.scot | Registered No. SC477821 | VAT No. 190 1594 08

Operated by **serco**

With kitchens in Edinburgh and London, Newrest, which is delivering all meals on board the current and new trains, will be at the centre of many of these events, offering guests a taste of Scotland as they travel across the border.

Peter Berkeley, Country Managing Director, UK, at Newrest, added: “We were very excited to kick start our relationship with Caledonian Sleeper with this great event. We’ve worked hard to create a menu of fresh produce with local suppliers which will be delivered on the current and new trains and the Burns Night event is a glimpse of this.

“We hope everyone on board enjoyed the evening and we look forward to creating more events for the coming months.”

To find out more about Caledonian Sleeper, visit [sleeper.scot](http://sleeper.scot).

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For further information, please contact:

Julie Brander 01224 806 601 / [jbrander@webershandwick.com](mailto:jbrander@webershandwick.com)

### **Notes to editors**

- The Caledonian Sleeper service is an overnight rail journey between Scotland and London which is operated by Serco on behalf of Transport Scotland.
- Scotland’s Caledonian Sleeper service has been hailed as one of Lonely Planet’s ‘Super Sleeper Trains’ and the London to Fort William service made the world’s best-selling travel guidebook’s top ten list.
- Every night, apart from Saturday, guests are transported both north and south between Inverness, Aberdeen, Fort William, Glasgow, Edinburgh and London Euston.
- Travel bookings can be made up to 12 months in advance on [www.sleeper.scot](http://www.sleeper.scot).
- The Caledonian Sleeper service currently offers a range of ways to travel - comfortable and affordable seated carriages, shared rooms and first-class private accommodation – with a dining car offering an extensive locally-sourced menu.
- Caledonian Sleeper is committed to supporting local communities and suppliers:
  - Scotland’s natural larder is showcased through an extensive food and drink menu, created by working with local suppliers wherever possible

- All guests are provided with a Sleep Kit which includes a sleep mask and ear plugs. First and Standard Class guests also receive Arran Aromatics toiletries.
- The Head Office and Guest Services Centre are located in Inverness employing around 30 people from the locality.
- Brand new trains will be launched in 2019, which will offer innovative ways to travel in comfort on the Caledonian Sleeper service with double and en-suite rooms as well as a redesigned Club Car for dining, serving the best of Scottish produce in the on board menu.