

NATIONAL TRUST FOR SCOTLAND MEDIA RELEASE

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Inverewe named 'UK Garden of the Year'

2017 has got off to an exciting start at the National Trust for Scotland's Inverewe – it has just been named 'UK Garden of the Year' in the prestigious BBC Countryfile Magazine Awards.

Inverewe was nominated by Joe Swift, BBC Gardeners' World presenter who said: "It's a fabulous garden that proves determination and hard work can overcome a difficult site. The curved walled garden faces south with stunning views over Loch Ewe."

The site has been in the care of the charity that conserves and promotes Scotland's heritage since 1952.

The award winner was chosen by an online vote which closed on 28 February. Inverewe was the only Scottish garden to feature in the poll.

Property Manager Kevin Frediani said:

"This award is a fantastic achievement of the Inverewe Garden team and their hard work over many years. It is great to see this recognised and endorsed through both peer selection and the public vote.

"This award recognises that the National Trust for Scotland have maintained the original spirit of Inverewe and have ensured that it thrives in a time of great change.

"What a great start to a season that is shaping up to be the best yet! We have a full events programme ahead, all aimed at sharing and celebrating the living and cultural heritage through the house, garden and wider wildlife-rich estate. We'll also be focused on telling the story of our founders and the place that they left in Trust for us all to enjoy today. We hope you will join us."

Created out of bare rock and a few scrub willows by the revolutionary and showman Osgood Mackenzie, the gardens at Inverewe have been sculpted carefully and thoughtfully over time. Visitors can move effortlessly between South Africa, Japan, New Zealand, Chile and many other far-flung places which inspired this amazing garden, with planting still in existence and thriving today. A generation of gardeners have pushed the boundaries of what can be planted

and what can grow within this unique climate, and visitors can explore the rich, riot of colour and captivating landscape, discovering many species seen nowhere else in the UK.

In 2016, Inverewe House and The Sawyer Gallery opened to visitors for the first time. Set in the heart of the garden, its restored rooms take visitors are taken on an interactive and immersive journey through time to discover the inspiring story behind Inverewe and learn more about its colourful creators.

For more information and to plan a visit, go to www.nts.org.uk.

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Editor's Notes:

Images:

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