



# DORNOCH

## WHISKY FESTIVAL

| 2023 |



FRIDAY 27TH - SUNDAY 29TH  
OCTOBER

# Dornoch Whisky Festival: 2023

## Welcome to this year's Dornoch Whisky Festival!

We are thrilled to welcome you back to the Dornoch Whisky Festival this year! We offer a full-on weekend of fun whisky-related activities in our beautiful Highland town of Dornoch.

After a successful return to large events following the pandemic last year, we are delighted to be back to welcome guests from all over the world. This year has already proven to be our most popular Grand Tasting yet, with tickets selling out in record time. The event will once again showcase a range of distilleries, independent bottlers, and independent distilleries. Several new brands will be joining us, and we are excited to introduce them to you—especially if you haven't had the chance to try any of their products before. You can find more information about the brands joining us on pages 13 and 14. You'll also find pages for tasting notes at the back of this program so you won't forget any of your favourite finds. Speaking of drams and perhaps purchasing them, this year's Grand Tasting will be even more special, as for the first time, our exhibitors will be selling their own products from their tables.

Outside of the Grand Tasting, we strive to offer a blend of tried-and-true events alongside exciting newcomers. This year, we are particularly enthusiastic about welcoming the Dornoch Station Hotel into the Dornoch Whisky Festival family. They will host a phenomenal 5-course dinner with Lochlea Distillery in their

# Dornoch Whisky Festival: 2023

newly renovated hotel on Saturday night—an event not to be missed. In addition to that dinner, we have more scrumptious dining options available at the Dornoch Castle Hotel, Links House at Royal Dornoch, and the Royal Golf Hotel—you will certainly be spoilt for choice.

Let's not forget about the brand tastings held at the Eagle Hotel, the Royal Dornoch Golf Club, and a selection of independently run specialist tastings from the Thompson Bro's at Dornoch Distillery and the Carnegie Whisky Cellars.

So, whether you're taking your first sips into the world of whisky or have cultivated a refined palate over time, we have something for everyone at our festival.

We hope you'll have a wonderful with us this year.

## Sláinte



# The Dornoch Whisky Festival Official Bottling 2023

## Teaninich | 2010 | 13 Years

We are thrilled to announce our partnership once again with the Thompson Bros and Carnegie Whisky Cellars for this year's official Dornoch Whisky Festival bottling.

After the tremendous success of last year's Speyside 2009 release, we can't wait to introduce you to another 13-year-old gem, this time a little closer to home – Teaninich!

This exclusive Teaninich bottling will only be available at the Carnegie Whisky Cellars, ensuring that Dornoch Whisky Festival attendees are the first to have the chance to purchase a bottle. You'll also be able to have a taste of this dram the night before in our local venues.

What's more exciting is that £5 from every bottle sold will be reinvested directly into the Dornoch Whisky Festival, ensuring an even better event next year.

So, here's to raising a glass of this Teaninich and enjoying this year's Dornoch Whisky Festival.

### **Dornoch Whisky Festival Bottle Details:**

Teaninich 2010  
13 YO  
Hogshead/21 Months in a Dechar/Rechar Barrel  
50% ABV  
Bottles: 142

To be launched: 11am on Saturday 28th October at the Carnegie Whisky Cellars.



# Explore the Dornoch Whisky Festival

## The Venues

### Dornoch Castle Hotel



### Eagle Hotel



### Station Hotel



### Dornoch Distillery



### Royal Golf Hotel



### Royal Dornoch Golf Club



### Carnegie Whisky Cellars



### Links House At Royal Dornoch



# Carnegie Whisky Cellars

Award-winning specialist drinks retailer.

Located in The Carnegie Courthouse in the centre of Dornoch and opened in June 2016.

With multiple award wins under their belt the Carnegie Whisky Cellars - a curated range of a vast collection of whisky, gin and rare bottles await you at their shop. Speak to their friendly and knowledgeable team to find the correct whisky for you. If you're not sure what you like, they will happily showcase the different flavour profiles to ensure you get the correct spirit for your palate.

Their Vaultroom offers the perfect atmosphere for enjoying a few drams, which is ideal, as a range of Dornoch Whisky Festival events will be held here over the weekend including the Morrison Distillers

**Old Perth 'Sum of Its Parts' Tasting.**

## Dornoch Castle

Steeped in history, whisky & heritage.

A lot has changed at the Dornoch Castle Hotel which is believed to date back to the 15th Century. Currently, you can enjoy a dram from their famous Whisky Bar – which continues to achieve critical international acclaim – whilst sitting in front of the original Castle's fireplace. Chat to the talented bar team, browse the menu or just gaze at the shelves as you find the perfect dram for you.

The restaurant also produces locally sourced and seasonal menus all year long.

You can also enjoy private events in the intimate Vault, located in the 15th century dungeons. This year they will be hosting a mainstay favourite, the **SMWS Dinner**. With 5 courses and exquisitely paired whiskies, you won't be disappointed.

# Dornoch Distillery

## Home of the Thompson Bros.

Dornoch Distillery, founded by Simon and Philip Thompson in 2016, began with a successful crowdfunding campaign and a vision to create older whisky styles. They initially released independent bottlings of rum and whisky, followed by organic gin and two well-received blended Scotch whiskies. Limited releases of Dornoch Single Malt Scotch Whisky gained widespread acclaim, and with much more spirit in cask maturing, there is much more to come in the future. In September 2023, they secured planning permission for expansion, aiming to cement Dornoch as a Scottish distilling hub. Be sure not to miss their **Old & Rare Tasting** to delve into those older whisky styles the Thompsons adore.

## Dornoch Station

### New destination in the Scottish Highlands

Dornoch Station is a wild and welcoming haven, just steps away from the first hole of Royal Dornoch's Championship Course. The guest rooms, lobby areas, restaurant, and bar have all been recently refurbished, and they are filled with the essence of Dornoch's storied past. They feature a blend of thoughtful and inventive designs that pay homage to the town's rich history. As you step onto their grounds, you embark on a journey where history, nature, and elegance seamlessly converge. Allow the allure of Dornoch Station to envelop you as you prepare to discover the timeless beauty of this magnificent corner of Scotland while enjoying their **Whisky Pairing Dinner with Lochlea Distillery**.

# Eagle Hotel

Relax, indulge & unwind.

Centrally located on Castle Street, the Eagle Hotel proudly stands as Dornoch's first and only bar with rooms. It boasts an impressive array of real ales and craft lagers, an extensive collection of Scottish gin, and a remarkable selection of over one hundred and fifty whiskies - including locally crafted gems. Additionally, their remarkable assortment of rum adds a noteworthy dimension to the experience.

The Eagle excels not only in hospitality, food, and atmosphere but also in their deep knowledge and close ties to local distilleries. This makes them the ideal venue to host the **Glenmorangie Tasting**, where whisky enthusiasts and newcomers alike can savour a specially curated selection of Glenmorangie drams.

## Links House at Royal Dornoch

Luxury, elegance, grace and poise.

Originally constructed as the manse to the Dornoch Free Church in 1843, Links House is referred to as the UK's most northerly Luxury destination and described as the "*Star of the North*" by Scottish Field magazine. Adjacent to the 1st tee at Royal Dornoch Golf Club Links House brings modern fine dining from their award-winning team at MARA restaurant.

This year Head Chef, Kevin Baber is pairing up with MasterChef Finalist, Sarah Rankin, to impress festival goers with a **Four Hands Dinner**. An 8 Course tasting menu where both Chefs contribute 4 courses, with 4 hands! All this will be married with delectable drams from G&M Director of Prestige, Stephen Rankin.

# Royal Dornoch Hotel

## Charming & contemporary.

Dating back to 1885 when it was first built as a family home for Robert Thomas Hamilton-Bruce, the beautiful building was designed by Inverness-born architect James Robert Rhind. Fast forward to today, and the Royal Golf Hotel is now a proud member of the Highland Coast Hotels Collection, a growing collection of independent-spirited hotels along the North Coast 500 route.

The hotel's restaurant, Crenshaw's, named in honour of Ben Crenshaw, is expertly helmed by the talented Sam Mavilmada. His flair and eclectic understanding of cuisine can be experienced at the **G&M Whisky Paired Dinner**, making it a delightful culinary destination for both history and contemporary epicurean experiences.

## Royal Dornoch Golf Club

### One of the finest championship courses.

Dornoch and golf, they are inseparable. Golf in Dornoch has a history dating all the way back to 1616, just as the link to whisky does. Over 200 years later, in 1886, Old Tom Morris—legendary course designer and pioneer of professional golf—remodelled and extended the original 9-hole course. The newly created 13th hole was named 'Morangie' due to its view of Morangie Farm and the distillery across the Firth. Every year on the Championship Course, we host the **David Urquhart Memorial Golf Trophy** in memory of David Urquhart, the former joint managing director of Gordon & MacPhail and a legendary figure in the whisky industry.



## **Old Perth 'Sum of Its Parts' Tasting Carnegie Whisky Cellars**

Join Maree Chisholm as she takes you through a range of individual cask samples, the single malts which make up our carefully crafted Old Perth blended malt. You will also get to taste the finished products from our Old Perth range in this tasting.

Day: Friday | Time: 3pm | Price: £85

## **G&M Tasting Eagle Hotel**

Explore a superb range of Gordon & MacPhail's Connoisseur Cask bottlings with the expert guidance of Anne Duguid, G&M's Area Sales Executive. Delve into the rich flavors and unique character of these exceptional casks during this extraordinary whisky journey.

Day: Friday | Time: 4pm | Price: £25

## **Royal Dornoch Golf Club**

Returning in 2023, don't miss the opportunity to test your palate by sampling 3 gins and 3 whiskies, followed by the exciting challenge of identifying each one. You'll receive a handy tasting sheet to assist you in making your selections, making it a fun and engaging experience for all.

Day: Friday | Time: 5:30pm | Price: £30

## **Regional Cask Strength Tasting Carnegie Whisky Cellars**

Join David in the Carnegie Whisky Cellars for this regional cask strength tasting.

This tasting will consist of 6 single malts from each of the 6 whisky regions of Scotland.

Day: Friday | Time: 6pm | Price: £50

## **Old & Rare Tasting Dornoch Distillery Warehouse**

Old & Rare bottle tasting hosted by Phil & Simon, carefully selected bottles that inspired their passion to build Dornoch Distillery and craft their own whisky.

Consisting of 8 drams.

Day: Friday | Time: 6pm | Price: £95



### **Four Hands Whisky Dinner** **Links House at Royal Dornoch**

Our annual degustation dinner at Links House, with a twist. We are inviting a special guest Chef, Sarah Rankin, Masterchef Finalist 2022 to join Chef Kevin and his brigade in the Kitchen at MARA to conjure up an 8 Course, 'Four Hands' tasting menu!  
Day: Friday | Time: 7pm | Price: £250

### **G&M Paired Dinner** **Royal Golf Hotel**

Join us at the Royal Golf for an amazing four-course dinner specially designed for the occasion by our executive chef, Saminda Mavilmada. Our host will guide you through the whiskies paired with each course.  
Day: Friday | Time: 7:30pm | Price: £89

### **SMWS Paired Dinner** **Dornoch Castle Hotel**

We are delighted to be bringing back the Scottish Malt Whisky Society dinner at the Dornoch Castle Hotel. This will be a 5 course dinner with SMWS whisky match per course and hosted by Logan, Malt Whisky Ambassador at SMWS  
Day: Friday | Time: 7:30pm | Price: £80

### **Glenmorangie Limited Editions Tasting** **Eagle Hotel**

Join Eric, landlord of The Eagle Hotel and whisky aficionado, as he hosts a wonderful Glenmorangie Limited Editions tasting. Indulge in limited editions of one of our local distilleries whilst Eric shares his expertise and passion.  
Day: Saturday | Time: 11am | Price: £30

### **Thompson Bros Indy Tasting** **Dornoch Distillery Warehouse**

A Thompson Brothers and Dornoch Distillery tasting: Phil and Simon delved into the archives of Thompson Brothers' bottlings, featuring cask samples of Dornoch Distillery Whisky.  
Consisting of 8 drams (6 TB & 2DD)  
Day: Saturday | Time: 11:30am | Price: £50

## **Dornoch Whisky Festival Grand Tasting**

### **Dornoch Whisky Festival Marquee**

The 2023 Dornoch Whisky Festival's Grand Tasting is back, featuring a curated selection of over 20 exhibitors.

This year's line-up includes established distilleries and exciting new brands, offering a blend of familiar classics and innovative expressions.

Whether you're a seasoned connoisseur or a curious newcomer, this event caters to all. Meet experts, engage with fellow whisky enthusiasts, and explore a wide range of drams, from timeless malts to limited editions.

It's an opportunity to celebrate and dive into the world of whisky, discovering your new favourite dram.

So join us for a memorable journey as we raise a glass to the 'water of life' at this year's Dornoch Whisky Festival's Grand Tasting.

Day: Saturday | Time: 1pm | Price: £35

## **Four Hands Whisky Dinner**

### **Links House at Royal Dornoch**

Our annual degustation dinner at Links House, with a twist.

We are inviting a special guest Chef, Sarah Rankin, Masterchef Finalist 2022 to join Chef Kevin and his brigade in the Kitchen at MARA to conjure up an 8 Course, 'Four Hands' tasting menu!

Day: Saturday | Time: 7pm | Price: £250

## **Whisky Pairing Dinner with Lochlea Distillery**

### **Dornoch Station**

Enjoy the newly renovated Dornoch Station. Taste your way through five delicious courses, each expertly paired with five outstanding drams. Discover the unique story of Lochlea, one of Scotland's rare distilleries that grows its own barley.

Day: Saturday | Time: 7pm | Price: £120

## **David Urquhart Memorial Trophy**

### **Royal Dornoch Golf Club**

Join us once again for the highly anticipated David Urquhart Memorial Trophy, our yearly golfing competition held in conjunction with the Dornoch Whisky Festival. Showcase your skills on the RDGC Championship course, in a thrilling Stableford format.

Day: Sunday | Time: 10am | Price: Varies

### **Ice Cream & Whisky Pairing** **Carnegie Whisky Cellars**

Join us for this interactive Ice Cream Pairing to help cool the heads after a busy Saturday. This tasting will include 2 liqueurs/3 whiskies and will be paired with a selection of our frozen favourites, from local ice cream maker, Capaldis of Brora

Day: Sunday | Time: 11am | Price: £40

### **Private Collection Tasting** **Eagle Hotel**

Join Eric, the enthusiastic whisky collector and landlord of The Eagle Hotel, as he unveils drams from his personal collection in this tasting. These whiskies have been carefully amassed by Eric so it will sure to be a delightful evening of whisky appreciation!

Day: Sunday | Time: 12pm | Price: £30

### **Afternoon Delight - With G&M** **Links House at Royal Dornoch**

Settle in on Sunday afternoon at Links House for our signature and seasonal Afternoon Tea infused with a little 'water of life', combined with 'tea hot toddies' and 'whisky cocktails'. For those not into whisky, we have Joseph Perrier Champagne on Standby!

Day: Sunday | Time: 12:30am | Price: £55

### **Decades of Whisky** **Carnegie Whisky Cellars**

Join David on a captivating journey as he walks you through the decades, beginning with the iconic 1960s.

Follow the course of time, exploring each decade's evolution, and savouring a carefully selected whisky from every era, concluding with the present day.

Day: Sunday | Time: 2pm | Price: £40

### **Independent Bottling Masterclass** **Carnegie Whisky Cellars**

Several of the independent bottlers exhibitors are invited to put a bottle forward that showcases their companies core values and cask selection. A description for each whisky & company is given by Michael as he looks to highlight each company unique features.

Day: Sunday | Time: 5pm | Price: £60

# Dornoch Whisky Festival Grand Tasting

## Brands



THE CARNEGIE  
WHISKY CELLARS



THE  
GLENALLACHIE







JOHNNIE  WALKER

# CLYNELISH™

THE HIGHLAND HOME OF JOHNNIE WALKER



DECADENT  
DRINKS

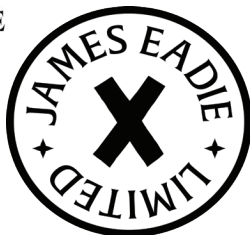


# SPEY

ADELPHI  
*Selection*  
SINGLE MALT SCOTCH WHISKY



ICE & FIRE  
DISTILLERY



# Tasting Notes

For all your notes.

Distillery/Company:

Region

Age/Brand:

Tasting Note:

Score 1-10:

ABV:

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Distillery/Company:

Region

Age/Brand:

Tasting Note:

Score 1-10:

ABV:

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Distillery/Company:

Region

Age/Brand:

Tasting Note:

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ABV:

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Distillery/Company:

Region

Age/Brand:

Tasting Note:

Score 1-10:

ABV:



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ABV:

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Tasting Note:

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Distillery/Company:

Score 1-10:

Region

ABV:

Age/Brand:

Tasting Note:

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Distillery/Company:

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Region

ABV:

Age/Brand:

Tasting Note:

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Distillery/Company:

Score 1-10:

Region

ABV:

Age/Brand:

Tasting Note:

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Distillery/Company:

Score 1-10:

Region

ABV:

Age/Brand:

Tasting Note:

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Distillery/Company:

Score 1-10:

Region

ABV:

Age/Brand:

Tasting Note:

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Distillery/Company:

Score 1-10:

Region

ABV:

Age/Brand:

Tasting Note:

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Distillery/Company:

Score 1-10:

Region

ABV:

Age/Brand:

Tasting Note:

# Thank You

## For joining us for a dram.

We want to extend our heartfelt thanks to the amazing people who make the Dornoch Whisky Festival the event it is. It's the unwavering support of our local community, the incredible exhibitors who join us, the collaboration with our fantastic local businesses, and, of course, all of you, our wonderful attendees, that contribute to the success of this festival.

This year, we will have hosted over 20 fantastic events, showcased the talents of over 20 exhibitors, and welcomed over 200 guests to our Grand Tasting. We've introduced some exciting new events while retaining the beloved classics. It's been a joy to make new friends and reunite with some old ones.

We're constantly amazed by the passion and enthusiasm our festival-goers bring. Your love for whisky inspires us to raise the bar year after year. We can't wait to continue this tradition with you, creating more memories, savouring great whiskies, and simply having a great time.

Your support, contributions, and valuable feedback motivate us to do our very best. We genuinely could not do it without all of you.

We're already looking forward to having you back next year, with the dates to mark on your calendar being from Friday, October 25th, to Sunday, October 27th.

**Until next time, whisky lovers.**



**THANK YOU**  
**FOR JOINING US**  
**FOR A DRAM**



**JOIN US NEXT YEAR:**  
**FRIDAY 25TH - SUNDAY 27TH OCTOBER 2023**