



DORNOCH WHISKY FESTIVAL | 2024 |



FRIDAY 25TH - SUNDAY 27TH
OCTOBER

Dornoch Whisky Festival: 2024

Welcome to Dornoch Whisky Festival

A warm welcome to all, whether you're joining us for the first time or returning!

We have a weekend packed with exciting whisky-related activities here in our beautiful Highland town of Dornoch.

After last year's success, we are delighted to see so many new faces and returning guests from around the world. This year's line-up is our most diverse yet, featuring both familiar favourites and exciting new additions.

Our Grand Tasting is more popular than ever, with two sessions showcasing a wide range of distilleries and independent bottlers. You'll find exhibitors offering the chance to purchase directly from their tables, and don't forget to check the tasting notes section at the back of this programme to keep track of your favourite drams.

We're also thrilled to introduce some fantastic dining experiences this year. Links House and Gordon & MacPhail will once again host an exquisite whisky dinner with Stephen Rankin and chef Theo Creton, featuring an 8-course tasting menu paired with whiskies aged 30 years or more. For more culinary delights, Dornoch Castle Hotel will offer a whisky pairing dinner with Adelphi and Ardnamurchan on Friday night.

Our whisky tastings will include festival favourites and some new surprises. The Eagle

Dornoch Whisky Festival: 2024

Join us for a dram

Hotel will host experts like Anne Duguid from Gordon & MacPhail, while the Blind Whisky & Gin Tasting at Royal Dornoch Golf Club offers a fun challenge. Carnegie Whisky Cellars returns with the ever-popular Cask Strength and Lovers of Peat & Smoke sessions. Dornoch Distillery returns with their popular Old & Rare tasting, featuring a selection of 8 drams.

Golfers can once again compete for the David Urquhart Memorial Trophy at Royal Dornoch Golf Club, celebrating whisky and golf together. For those interested in whisky history, the Whisky Eras: Mists of Time tastings are not to be missed, or try something unique with the Peatza Tasting—pairing whisky with pizza for a peaty treat!

Be sure to explore our town during your visit, with Dornoch's rich heritage offering the perfect backdrop to the festival.

And don't forget to share your experiences with us on Social Media, so we can celebrate your favourite moments with you!

Whether you're a whisky enthusiast or simply here for the food and fun, we have something for everyone.

Enjoy the festival!

Sláinte

The Dornoch Whisky Festival Official Bottling 2024

Speyside Blended Malt

We are pleased to announce we have teamed up with the Carnegie Whisky Cellars again for this year's official Dornoch Whisky Festival bottling!

We are excited to introduce this year's offering: a Samaroli Speyside Blended Malt, with only 100 bottles available.

This exclusive bottling will be launched on Saturday, 26th October, at the Carnegie Whisky Cellars, giving Dornoch Whisky Festival attendees the first opportunity to purchase a bottle. You'll also have the chance to taste this dram the night before at our Dornoch Whisky Festival venues.

We are delighted that the tradition of reinvesting £5 from every bottle sold directly into the Dornoch Whisky Festival is continuing, helping to ensure an even better event next year.

Bottled exclusively for the Carnegie Whisky Cellars & Dornoch Whisky Festival, this Samaroli Speyside Blended Malt embodies the spirit of exploration and individuality. Known for their unorthodox approach, Samaroli offers a whisky that surprises and delights.

Dornoch Whisky Festival Bottle Details:

Samaroli
Speyside Blended Malt
45% ABV
Bottles: 100

To be launched: on Saturday 26th October at the Carnegie Whisky Cellars.

Explore the Dornoch Whisky Festival

Our Venues

Carnegie Whisky Cellars



Dornoch Castle Hotel



Dornoch Distillery



Our Dornoch Whisky Festival venues are special places at the heart of the festival. Each location brings its own unique atmosphere to create the perfect experience.

Eagle Hotel



Links House At Royal Dornoch



Royal Dornoch Golf Club



Royal Golf Hotel



Carnegie Whisky Cellars

Located in the Carnegie Courthouse in the heart of Dornoch, the Carnegie Whisky Cellars opened in June 2016 and has quickly earned a reputation for outstanding service and product knowledge. Their commitment to quality ensures that each visitor receives a warm welcome and expert guidance.

If you're unsure what to choose, they will gladly guide you through various flavour profiles to ensure you find the right match.

Their inviting Vaultroom is ideal for enjoying a dram, making it a fitting venue for Dornoch Whisky Festival events, including the **Regional Cask Strength Tasting**, where you will explore bold and diverse expressions from across the regions.

Dornoch Castle Hotel

Much has changed at the Dornoch Castle Hotel, which is thought to date back to the 15th Century.

Guests can enjoy a dram from their renowned Whisky Bar while relaxing by the original fireplace, immersing themselves in the hotel's rich history. Feel free to chat with the knowledgeable bar team, browse the enticing menu, or admire the shelves in search of the perfect dram.

Their 2024 menu highlights local produce, showcasing dishes crafted from ingredients sourced from Dornoch Distillery, Bogrow Farm, Tain Fine Cheese, and Cromarty Brewery. Be sure to attend the **Paired Whisky Dinner: Adelphi X Ardnamurchan**, featuring a superb five-course meal paired with exceptional whiskies.

Dornoch Distillery

Dornoch Distillery, founded by Simon and Philip Thompson in 2016, started with a successful crowdfunding campaign aimed at creating older whisky styles. They initially released independent bottlings of rum and whisky, followed by organic gin and blended Scotch whiskies. Limited releases of Dornoch Single Malt Scotch Whisky have garnered widespread acclaim.

As of 2024, the distillery is advancing with expansion plans, having secured building warrant work with various firms for engineering and archaeological surveys. They remain committed to maintaining momentum and getting their new distillery off the ground.

Don't miss their **Old & Rare Tasting** to explore the whisky styles they cherish.



Eagle Hotel

Centrally located on Castle Street, the Eagle Hotel stands as Dornoch's first and only bar with rooms. It offers an impressive selection of real ales, craft lagers, and a vast collection of Scottish gin, alongside over one hundred and fifty whiskies, including locally crafted gems. Their assortment of rum further enhances the experience.

The Eagle is renowned for its hospitality, delicious food, and inviting atmosphere, as well as its deep connections with local distilleries. This year, join Eric, the enthusiastic landlord and whisky collector, for a **Private Collection Tasting**, where he'll unveil drams from his personal collection, promising an enjoyable event of whisky appreciation.

Links House at Royal Dornoch

Originally built in 1843 as the manse for Dornoch Free Church, Links House has evolved into a premier luxury destination in the Highlands, frequently hailed as the "*Star of the North*" by Scottish Field magazine.

Just steps from Royal Dornoch Golf Club, the hotel offers a blend of traditional charm and modern elegance. Its restaurant, MARA, showcases Scotland's rich natural larder with seasonal, locally sourced dishes that celebrate Highland ingredients.

This year, don't miss **Links House & Gordon MacPhail: An Evening with Stephen Rankin & Theo Creton**, a special event pairing fine food and whisky in a truly stunning setting.

The Royal Golf Hotel

The Royal Golf Hotel in Dornoch, established in 1885 as a family residence for Robert Thomas Hamilton-Bruce, stands as a remarkable historical landmark. Designed by the renowned architect James Robert Rhind from Inverness, this elegant hotel is now part of the Highland Coast Hotels Collection and is ideally situated along the scenic North Coast 500 route.

Guests at the Royal Golf Hotel can savour delightful dining experiences at Crenshaw's Brasserie, which is currently helmed by the talented head chef Shaun Andrews.

During the Dornoch Whisky Festival, the hotel will offer lunch and dinner, inviting visitors to immerse themselves in both its rich heritage and the stunning Highland scenery that surrounds it.

Royal Dornoch Golf Club

Royal Dornoch's Championship Course has a rich golfing heritage dating back to 1616. In 1886, legendary course designer Old Tom Morris reshaped it, making it one of the world's top-rated links courses, consistently ranked among the top five globally.

The 13th hole, aptly named 'Morangie,' offers spectacular views over Morangie Farm and the nearby distillery.

Each year, the Championship Course hosts 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.

Regional Cask Strength Tasting

Join David Cowie for this tasting which will be an explosion of flavours as you explore the natural cask strengths that some of these great distilleries produce.

(Warning Hazardous Liquid).

Day: Friday | Time: 3pm | Price: £60

G&M Whisky Tasting Eagle Hotel

Join us for an exclusive tasting with Anne Duguid, a seasoned professional from G&M and an expert in the whisky industry. Anne will guide you through a carefully curated selection of whiskies, showcasing rich flavours.

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

Royal Dornoch Golf Club

Join us for the return of an absolute festival favourite, where you can put your senses to the test by sampling three gins and three whiskies. Challenge yourself to identify each one, with the help of a tasting sheet to guide you. Trust your instincts—or rather, your palate—as you match each spirit to its tasting notes.

Day: Friday | Time: 5:30pm | Price: £35

Old & Rare Tasting Dornoch Distillery Warehouse

Join Dornoch Distillery for their popular Old & Rare tasting. With a selection of carefully selected bottles that inspired the Thompson Bros' passion to build Dornoch Distillery and craft their own whisky. Consisting of 8 drams.

Day: Friday | Time: 5:30pm | Price: £95

Paired Whisky Dinner: Adelphi X Ardnamurchan Dornoch Castle Hotel

Join us at the world famous Dornoch Castle Hotel for a five-course whisky dinner featuring a wonderful selection from Adelphi and Ardnamurchan. Enjoy a carefully curated menu where each dish is perfectly paired with exceptional whiskies from both brands.

Day: Friday | Time: 7pm | Price: £85

Glenmorangie Limited Editions Tasting Eagle Hotel

Join Eric, landlord of The Eagle Hotel and whisky aficionado, as he hosts a wonderful Glenmorangie tasting. Indulge in the delights of one of our local distilleries whilst their expertise and passion for the famous brand is explored.

Day: Saturday | Time: 11am | Price: £35

Thompson Bros Indy Tasting Dornoch Distillery Warehouse

This incredibly popular tasting is back! You'll get to enjoy a TB Indy/ Dornoch Tasting, with four Dornoch Single Malts, three Indy Releases and a special surprise!

Day: Saturday | Time: 11am | Price: £40

Dornoch Whisky Festival Grand Tasting Dornoch Whisky Festival Marquee

Whether you're a long-time whisky fan or just starting to explore, the 2024 Grand Tasting is the perfect opportunity to dive into a wide range of fantastic whiskies. This year, we're doing things a bit differently by offering two sessions—one in the morning and another in the afternoon.

With over 20 incredible exhibitors lined up, you'll have the chance to try both beloved classics and exciting new releases from across Scotland. Some of the exhibitors you can look forward to include: Ardnamurchan; Dornoch Distillery; Carnegie Whisky Cellars; Gordon & MacPhail; Nc'Nea; Raasay & Wolfburn and plenty more (full list on website). Glencairn glass included.

Our festival is about more than just tasting great whisky—it's about celebrating the community, learning more about the rich heritage of whisky, and sharing stories over a dram. So, why not join us for a day to remember?

Day: Saturday | Time: 11:30am & 3:30pm | Price: £35

Whisky Eras: The Mists of Time Dornoch Castle Vault

Learn about four of the main eras in the development of the Scottish whisky industry, looking into the history, key developments and the current era. Using four current whiskies you'll explore history through the whisky.

Day: Saturday | Time: 1:30pm | Price: £25

Thompson Bros Indy Tasting Dornoch Distillery Warehouse

This incredibly popular tasting is back! You'll get to enjoy a TB Indy/ Dornoch Tasting, with four Dornoch Single Malts, three Indy Releases and a special surprise!

Day: Saturday | Time: 3pm | Price: £40

Whisky Eras: The Mists of Time Dornoch Castle Vault

Learn about four of the main eras in the development of the Scottish whisky industry, looking into the history, key developments and the current era. Using four current whiskies you'll explore history through the whisky.

Day: Saturday | Time: 5pm | Price: £25

An Evening with Stephen Rankin & Theo Creton Links House at Royal Dornoch

Gordon MacPhail & Links House team up for their annual whisky extravaganza!

Hosted by Stephen Rankin with returning Head Chef, Theo Creton, guests will be delighted by drams from the G&M Private Collection Series (Minimum age 30 years old and above!!) and a sumptuous 8 Course Tasting menu.

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

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 us. Showcase your skills on the RDGC Championship course, teeing off from the yellow and red tees in a thrilling Stableford format.

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

Whisky Flights & Conversations Carnegie Whisky Cellars

Looking to unwind with great company? Join us at the Carnegie Whisky Cellars tasting vault for a whisky flight and some like-minded conversation—no politics allowed.

Day: Sunday | Between: 11am - 1pm | Price: £25

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 time full of whisky appreciation!

Day: Sunday | Time: 12pm | Price: £35

Peatza Tasting **Dornoch Castle Vault**

Join Jamie for an exclusive whisky and pizza pairing tasting – with, you guessed it, an essence of peat! Jamie will guide you through a selection of Dornoch Castle's exclusive bottlings, expertly paired with the rich, smoky flavours of Dornoch Castle's finest pizzas.

Day: Sunday | Time: 1:30pm | Price: £35

Lovers of Peat & Smoke **Carnegie Whisky Cellars**

A regional taste of peat and smoke. Join us as we explore lightly smoked whiskies to peat monsters from all regions of Scotland.

Day: Sunday | Time: 3pm | Price: £60

Glenmorangie Limited Editions Tasting **Eagle Hotel**

Join Eric, landlord of The Eagle Hotel and whisky aficionado, as he hosts a wonderful Glenmorangie tasting. Indulge in the delights of one of our local distilleries whilst their expertise and passion for the famous brand is explored.

Day: Sunday | Time: 3pm | Price: £35

Whisky Unveiled Quiz **Dornoch Castle Vault**

Join us for a unique and interactive whisky tasting that puts your palate to the test! Featuring 6 different whiskies, each one comes with a multiple-choice question designed to test your whisky knowledge – or feel free to take a guess! It's playful approach makes this tasting ideal for all levels.

Day: Sunday | Time: 6pm | Price: £35

Dornoch Whisky Festival Grand Tasting

Our Exhibitors



JOHNNIE  WALKER

CLYNELISH™

THE HIGHLAND HOME OF JOHNNIE WALKER

GORDON &
MACPHAIL
— ESTABLISHED 1895 —



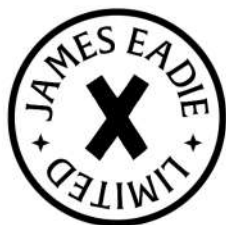
SPEY

*From
Speyside Distillery*



WOLFBURN

SINGLE MALT SCOTCH WHISKY





DORNOCH



CASTLE HOTEL



Tasting Notes

For all your notes.

Distillery/Company:

Score 1-10:

Region

ABV:

Age/Brand:

Tasting Note:

Distillery/Company:

Score 1-10:

Region

ABV:

Age/Brand:

Tasting Note:

Distillery/Company:

Score 1-10:

Region

ABV:

Age/Brand:

Tasting Note:

Distillery/Company:

Score 1-10:

Region

ABV:

Age/Brand:

Tasting Note:

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For all your notes.

Distillery/Company:

Score 1-10:

Region

ABV:

Age/Brand:

Tasting Note:

Distillery/Company:

Score 1-10:

Region

ABV:

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Tasting Note:

Distillery/Company:

Score 1-10:

Region

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Distillery/Company:

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Region

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Tasting Notes

For all your notes.

Distillery/Company:

Score 1-10:

Region

ABV:

Age/Brand:

Tasting Note:

Distillery/Company:

Score 1-10:

Region

ABV:

Age/Brand:

Tasting Note:

Distillery/Company:

Score 1-10:

Region

ABV:

Age/Brand:

Tasting Note:

Distillery/Company:

Score 1-10:

Region

ABV:

Age/Brand:

Tasting Note:

Thank You

For joining us for a dram.

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who made this year's Dornoch Whisky Festival such a memorable experience!

Thanks, as always, to our amazing local community, dedicated exhibitors, and fantastic local businesses.

The festival continues to grow from strength to strength. And, of course, to you—our wonderful attendees—your enthusiasm and passion drive us to make each year better than the last.

With over 20 events and more than 350 guests at the Grand Tasting, it's been an incredible celebration of whisky, community, and culture.

Whether you joined us for tastings, paired dinners, or the golf, we hope you've made unforgettable memories and discovered some new favourite drams along the way.

We're already planning for next year's festival, which will be extra special as we celebrate our 10th anniversary!

Mark your calendars for Friday, October 24th to Sunday, October 26th, 2025—we can't wait to welcome you back for even more whisky, fun, festivities, and a few surprises up our sleeves.

Until next time, whisky lovers.



THANK YOU

FOR JOINING US
FOR A DRAM



JOIN US AS WE CELEBRATE OUR 10 YEAR ANNIVERSARY:
FRIDAY 24TH - SUNDAY 26TH OCTOBER 2025