



DORNOCH WHISKY FESTIVAL | 2025 |



FRIDAY 24TH - SUNDAY 26TH
OCTOBER

Dornoch Whisky Festival: 2025

Welcome to Dornoch Whisky Festival

Ten years. Ten whole years of the Dornoch Whisky Festival. We could wax lyrical about "where has the time gone" and such, but for now we'll just say: welcome.

Welcome to our 10th annual Dornoch Whisky Festival. It has been a journey, and we are so happy you've decided to be a part of it! What began as a fantastic idea by the people of Dornoch has grown and grown, and continues to grow. This year we're welcoming more exhibitors than ever before, we're putting on more events than ever before, and we're welcoming more attendees than ever before. For that, we are so grateful.

We've got so much lined up for you with some truly phenomenal exhibitors, event hosts, venues, and of course, whisky. At the very heart of the weekend is our Grand Tasting, where over 20 distilleries and independent bottlers come together under one roof, a true celebration of whisky. Our mainstay events have proved so popular that they've become part of the very DNA of the festival. Alongside them, we've added new events, and our exhibitor-led tastings have increased too, giving you even more chances to learn from the experts.

With over 30 events to enjoy across the festival weekend, you're sure to find the perfect match for you. We hope you enjoy our wee festival, and thank you for being part of our 10th year.

Explore the Dornoch Whisky Festival

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.

Carnegie Whisky Cellars



Dornoch Castle Hotel



Dornoch Distillery



Dornoch



Dornoch Station



Eagle Hotel



Links House At Royal Dornoch



Royal Dornoch Golf Club



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 help you find the right match, whether that's a fine whisky or a perfectly paired bottle of wine. Their shelves are filled with carefully curated selections, showcasing local favourites alongside unique finds from further afield. The inviting Vaultroom is ideal for enjoying a dram and provides a fitting venue for Dornoch Whisky Festival events, including their seasonal special **Hocus Pocus, Local Focus**, which celebrates the incredible whiskies in our local area.

Dornoch Castle Hotel

Much has changed at the Dornoch Castle Hotel, which is believed to date back to the 15th century. Guests can settle in by the original fireplace in their renowned Whisky Bar, sip a dram, and soak up the hotel's rich history. The bar team are always happy to share their knowledge, whether you're browsing the shelves for something special or deciding what to try from the menu.

Their restaurant continues to celebrate the best of Highland produce, with dishes that showcase quality, seasonality, and creativity. Be sure to join them for their **Paired Whisky Dinner: Adelphi X Ardnamurchan**, featuring a carefully crafted menu matched with exceptional whiskies to create an unforgettable evening.

Dornoch Distillery

Dornoch Distillery, founded by brothers Simon and Philip Thompson in 2016, began with a successful crowdfunding campaign to bring back the character and flavour of older whisky styles. Since then, they've released a range of highly regarded independent bottlings, along with organic gin and blended Scotch whiskies. Their own Dornoch Single Malt releases continue to earn praise for quality and craftsmanship. This year marks an exciting new chapter as the Thompsons move forward with Struie, their planned new distillery just a short distance from the original site. Designed with sustainability and growth in mind, Struie will allow them to increase production while staying true to their traditional methods and experimental spirit.

Be sure to join their **Behind the Doors** to experience... well, behind those doors!



Dornoch Station Hotel

Dornoch Station is a beautifully restored Highland hotel that blends contemporary style with traditional charm. Reimagined in 2023, the hotel now features elegant rooms, inviting lounges and stunning views across the links and the Dornoch Firth.

Its restaurant, The Golden Gorse, celebrates local ingredients and seasonal produce, while Bar Ross offers a relaxed space to enjoy a dram, cocktail or glass of wine. The atmosphere is refined yet welcoming, making it an ideal addition to your visit. Surrounded by sea air, open skies and the sound of the links, it captures the calm and character that make Dornoch so special.

This year, join them for their **From Founding to Finish** tasting, exploring the evolution of the Scottish whisky industry.

Links House at Royal Dornoch

Nestled beside the first tee at Royal Dornoch, Links House is a boutique hotel offering luxury with a warm Highland welcome. Once a 19th-century manse, it now features beautifully styled rooms and elegant lounges.

At the heart of Links House is MARA, where local ingredients and Highland spirits take centre stage. Their team are passionate about pairings, guiding guests through whisky and wine flights and flavour experiences that showcase the best of the region.

This year, join them for their **Whisky Supper Club**, a beautifully crafted tasting menu paired with whiskies from Gordon & MacPhail, presented by guest Stephen Rankin.

The 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 more than one hundred and fifty whiskies, including locally crafted gems. Their range of rum further enhances the experience. The Eagle is renowned for its hospitality, delicious food, and inviting atmosphere, as well as its close connections with local distilleries. A favourite with both locals and visitors, the Eagle remains a true gathering place at the heart of Dornoch. This year, join Eric, the enthusiastic landlord and whisky collector, for his popular **Indy Bottling**, where he'll unveil drams from his personal collection - a relaxed evening of whisky appreciation and good company.

Royal Dornoch Golf Club

Royal Dornoch Golf Club has been part of the town's story for centuries, its origins tracing back to 1616. Known across the world for its Championship Course, the club continues to honour its rich heritage while looking to the future with the development of its new clubhouse. Set beside the Dornoch Firth, it remains a place where history, community and hospitality meet.

During the festival, the clubhouse will host **Whisky Bingo**, an evening filled with drams, laughter and friendly competition. It's the perfect opportunity to experience Royal Dornoch's warm welcome and enjoy a memorable night in one of Scotland's most iconic settings.

Whisky Flights & Conversation Carnegie Whisky Cellars

Looking to start the festival with some great whisky? Join us at the Carnegie Whisky Cellars tasting vault for a whisky flight and some like-minded conversation.

Day: Friday | Time: 1pm | Price: £25

From Founding to Finish Dornoch Station Hotel

To celebrate the founding of the Station Hotel in 1902 and its recent purchase by Marine & Lawn in 2022, this tasting will explore the evolution of the Scottish whisky industry through six carefully selected drams.

Day: Friday | Time: 3pm | Price: £85

Living Souls Tasting Carnegie Whisky Cellars

Living Souls have already made waves with releases that don't play by the usual rules. Their first whiskies landed in the UK late last year and have quickly spread across Europe and now they're joining us at the Dornoch Whisky Festival.

Day: Friday | Time: 3:30pm | Price: £30

G&M Whisky & Ice Cream Tasting The Eagle Hotel

We're delighted to welcome back Anne from Gordon & MacPhail for a fresh take on her much-loved tasting. This year, alongside a brilliant line-up of drams, we'll also be sampling a selection of ice creams specially chosen to complement the whiskies.

Day: Friday | Time: 4pm | Price: £30

Whisky Stories Dornoch Castle Hotel: The Vault

It's often said that Scots are great storytellers, but we believe it's less about the teller and more about the stories themselves. Every dram has a story to tell – and this Friday evening tasting will share some of the best.

Day: Friday | Time: 5pm | Price: £45

GlenWyvis Tasting Carnegie Whisky Cellars

As one of our local distilleries based just over the hill in Dingwall, this is a great chance to catch up with the team behind the spirit.

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

Old & Rare 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.

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

Blind Whisky & Gin Tasting 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.

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

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 fantastic line-up from Adelphi and Ardnamurchan. Welcomed with a glass of champagne, you'll then be taken through a menu where each course is perfectly paired with a dram

Day: Friday | Time: 7pm | Price: £90

Whisky Comedy Night Eagle Hotel

Join us at the Eagle Hotel for an evening of laughs, drams, and good company. A relaxed event where great whisky and sharp comedy go hand in hand. A new addition for this year's Dornoch Whisky Festival and we can't wait for you to enjoy it.

Day: Friday | Time: 9pm | Price: £30

Thompson Indy Tasting **Dornoch Distillery Warehouse**

This incredibly popular tasting is back! You'll get to enjoy a TB Indy/ Dornoch Tasting, with 4 Dornoch Single Malts, 3 Indy Releases and once again, you'll enjoy a special surprise!

Day: Saturday | Time: 11am & 3pm | Price: £40

Glenmorangie Tasting **The Eagle Hotel**

Join Eric, as he hosts a wonderful Glenmorangie tasting. Indulge in the best delights of one of our local distilleries whilst Eric shares his expertise and passion for the famous brand.

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

Dornoch Whisky Festival Grand Tasting **Dornoch Whisky Festival Marquee**

Whether you're a long-time whisky fan or just starting to explore, the 2025 Grand Tasting is the perfect chance to discover a wide range of fantastic whiskies. With over 20 incredible exhibitors lined up, you'll have the opportunity to sample beloved classics and exciting new releases.

This year's line-up brings together a diverse mix of distilleries and bottlers, from local favourites like Dornoch Distillery and Carnegie Whisky Cellars to loved long-term attendees including Gordon & MacPhail and Wolfburn, whilst also welcoming for the first time new exhibitors such as Springbank, Kilchoman, and international guest Kanosuke. For the full list of exhibitors, please see our website. Our festival is about more than just great whisky; it's about community, heritage, and sharing stories over a dram.

So why not join us for a dram to remember?

Day: Saturday | Time: 11:30am & 3:30pm | Price: £40

Whisky Wits **Dornoch Castle Vault**

Do you have your wits about you when enjoying a dram? Can you truly identify what you're drinking, or does the label do the talking? Join this tasting and let's find out.

Day: Saturday | Time: 1pm & 5pm | Price: £30

Whisky Bingo

Royal Dornoch Golf Club

Time for something a little different. Join us for a laid-back evening of bingo with whisky prizes up for grabs and plenty of laughs along the way. Nothing too serious, just good company, a bit of friendly competition, and a few drams in the mix.

Day: Saturday | Time: 6:30pm | Price: £15

Whisky Supper Club

Links House at Royal Dornoch

Join Links House at Royal Dornoch, where their monthly Supper Club takes over MARA restaurant for the Dornoch Whisky Festival! A beautifully crafted tasting menu with paired whisky from Gordon & MacPhail, selected and presented by Stephen Rankin.

Day: Saturday | Time: 6pm | Price: £200

The Last Dram

Dornoch Castle Hotel: The Vault

Twelve guests. Six mystery drams. One long-lost tasting note. You've been invited to Dornoch Castle Hotel to help solve a whisky mystery that's gone unsolved for over two centuries. Your task is to uncover the original tasting note and identify the true Last Dram.

Day: Saturday | Time: 3pm | Price: £50

David Urquhart Memorial Trophy

Royal Dornoch Golf Club

Join us for the 2025 David Urquhart Memorial Trophy, a balloted 18-hole Stableford competition held by the Royal Dornoch Golf Club as part of the Dornoch Whisky Festival. This event honours the memory of whisky legend David Urquhart, celebrating his lasting impact on the whisky world.

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

Behind The Doors

Dornoch Distillery Warehouse

A very rare opportunity to see behind the red doors of Dornoch Distillery on an exclusive tour and tasting hosted by the Dornoch Distillery team.

Day: Sunday | From: 11am | Price: £60

Whisky Sunday Lunch **Links House at Royal Dornoch**

Take a moment to unwind with a comforting Sunday lunch, with a whisky twist. After enjoying Saturday's Grand Tasting, it's the perfect way to relax with good food, great drams, and even better company as you ease into your Sunday.

Day: Sunday | Time: 12pm | Price: £45

Indy Bottling **The Eagle Hotel**

Join Eric, the eagle-eyed (sorry, we had to) whisky collector and landlord of The Eagle Hotel, as he digs into his personal stash for a tasting that's anything but ordinary. These drams have been hand-picked (and maybe sneakily squirreled away) just for this event.

Day: Sunday | Time: 12pm | Price: £30

Bar Managers Choice **Dornoch Castle Hotel: The Vault**

Join Jamie, the legendary bar manager of the equally iconic Dornoch Castle Whisky Bar again, for a tasting that keeps us on our toes. This year, he's keeping schtum on what he's planning, but if last year's anything to go by, it'll be well worth turning up for.

Day: Sunday | Time: 12:30pm | Price: £35

Glasgow Distillery Tasting **Carnegie Whisky Cellars**

Join us to explore the flavour-packed whiskies from Glasgow Distillery. Crafted with authenticity and a down-to-earth attitude, these approachable drams offer a true taste of Glasgow's spirit.

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

Kilkerran Tasting **Dornoch Whisky Festival Marquee**

Join us for a proper introduction to Kilkerran. They're proud to handle every step of the process themselves — from traditional floor maltings done at their sister distillery Springbank, to bottling every single edition right at their home in Campbeltown.

Day: Sunday | Time: 2:30pm | Price: £30

Signatory Vintage

Dornoch Castle Hotel: The Vault

Join us for an exciting and specially curated tasting featuring six carefully selected drams from the renowned Signatory Vintage portfolio. Expect pours that showcase a diverse range of flavours, with a special focus on their acclaimed 100 Proof and Cask Strength releases.

Day: Sunday | Time: 3pm | Price: £50

Hocus Pocus, Local Focus

Carnegie Whisky Cellars

Join us for a spooktacular Halloween-themed whisky tasting that will feature whisky treats from the distilleries in our area and just maybe some tricks too.

Day: Sunday | Time: 3:30pm | Price: £40

Vintage Springbank Tasting

Dornoch Distillery Warehouse

Join us for a rare opportunity to savour a selection of vintage Springbank whiskies, including Longrow, Hazelburn and Springbank itself. These exceptional drams have been thoughtfully curated by the Thompson Bros in partnership with the Dornoch Castle Hotel team.

Day: Sunday | Time: 5:30pm | Price: £60

Dornoch Whisky Festival: Closing Dinner

Dornoch Whisky Festival Marquee

As we close out the Dornoch Whisky Festival's 10th year, join us for a special five-course dinner paired with some of the festival's own past bottlings. These whiskies aren't available in shops anymore and each will be poured from just one bottle.

Day: Sunday | Time: 8pm | Price: £100



Dornoch Whisky Festival Grand Tasting

Our Exhibitors



SPEY

*From
Speyside Distillery*

ARDNAMURCHAN
Distillery
GLENBEG
1826



WOLFBURN

SINGLE MALT SCOTCH WHISKY

GLENWYVIS
DISTILLERY

DORNOCH



CASTLE HOTEL



SPRINGBANK

kilnininian.

Distributor of Fine Spirits



KANOSUKE®

SIGNATORY
S
VINTAGE



ROSLIN

• DISTILLERS LTD •

KILKERRAN



CAMPBELTOWN



**THE
GLASGOW
DISTILLERY
CO.**
STORIES WITH SPIRIT

Tasting Notes

For all your whisky 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:

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Tasting Note:

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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:

The Dornoch Whisky Festival Official Bottling 2025

Glen Scotia 2014

We are delighted to announce we have teamed up with the Thompson Bros at Dornoch Distillery again for this year's official Dornoch Whisky Festival bottling.

This exclusive bottling will be launched on Saturday, 25th October, at the Dornoch Whisky Festival Grand Tasting. For the first time, you'll be able to purchase the bottle at our Grand Tasting, from our table, and as always, you'll also have the chance to taste this dram the night before at our Dornoch Whisky Festival venues.

Bottled exclusively for the Dornoch Whisky Festival by the Thompson Bros, this Glen Scotia 2014 from a Refill Bourbon Barrel sits at 53.7% ABV, with just 160 bottles available. Priced at £60, it's a dram that captures the spirit of our 10th anniversary perfectly; distinctive, characterful, and made to be shared.

We're delighted that the proceeds from this year's bottling will go straight back into the Dornoch Whisky Festival, helping us make future years even better.

Dornoch Whisky Festival Bottle Details:

Thompson Bros
Glen Scotia 2014
53.7% ABV
Bottles: 160

To be launched on Saturday 25th October at the Dornoch Whisky Festival Grand Tasting

Thank You

For joining us for a dram.

And just like that, we've celebrated ten years of the Dornoch Whisky Festival. How time flies.

We hope you enjoyed this year's festival as much as we enjoyed planning and carrying it out. As we say each year - because we mean it - it wouldn't be possible without you all.

To our exhibitors, hosts, venues, volunteers, and our wonderful local community - thank you. This festival has always been about people, passion, and place, and this year more than ever, that spirit has shone through.

From our biggest Grand Tasting yet to the new events that joined the line-up, it's been a celebration worthy of a decade of drams. We've laughed, we've learned, and we've raised a glass (or two) to everything that makes Dornoch so special.

Most of all, thank you to our attendees, supporters, and friends for being part of our 10th year. Your enthusiasm and love for whisky are what keep our wee festival growing year after year.

Don't forget to mark your calendars for next year's Dornoch Whisky Festival as we return between Friday, October 23rd to Sunday, October 25th, 2026.

We can't wait to welcome you back for even more whisky, fun, festivities, and no doubt a few surprises up our sleeves.

Until next time, whisky lovers.



THANK YOU

FOR JOINING US FOR A DRAM



JOIN US FOR A DRAM NEXT TIME:
FRIDAY 23RD - SUNDAY 25TH OCTOBER 2026