SPIRIT OF SPEYSIDE WHISKY FESTIVAL

30th April - 5th May 2025

1 Region6 Days500+ Events

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Speyside Distillery

THE ART OF DISTILLING



SPEY from Speyside Distillery, is delighted to co-host this year's SOSWF, bringing together great minds of whisky to celebrate the art of distilling and the wonder of our Speyside Region. John, Joanna, Patricia and the SPEY Family wish everyone wonderful evenings at the Spirit of Speyside Opening Dinner & Ceilidh.

The hand built, artisan Speyside Distillery, a lost distillery, used time-honoured hand distilling to create multi award winning single malt whisky. SPEY's Spirit of Speyside Single Cask Bottling won **"Worlds Best Single Cask Single Malt"** at the World Whisky Awards 2021!





We look forward to working with our partners here in the UK, Europe, Asia and other markets with our exciting new expressions, art and much more to come.

For more details please contact below.

Speyside Distillers Co. Ltd. 193 Bath Street, Glasgow, G2 4HU. **The Snug** Unit 5, Santa Claus Drive, Aviemore, PH22 1AF.

#DRAM25 A GLANC

Six days. Countless drams. One unforgettable Festival.

From whisky wisdom and flavour tips to ceilidh nights, cocktail creations, and getting around Speyside-this guide has everything you need to explore, plan, and enjoy every moment of **#Dram25**.



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Festival Community

Thanks a Dram!

50

All information is correct at the time of publishing. Some events may have been added and some may have sold out.

For up-to-date information and to book tickets HERE.

The Festival promotes responsible drinking. We support visitors to get around this beautiful region. See page 12 for more information on how to travel around Speyside.

We thank all the talented photographers whose images have been used in this programme and help us to showcase the Festival and Speyside at its very best.

THE SPIRICULAR OF CHANGE



George McNeil



Every whisky tells a story—of land, people, and craft. And every Festival tells a story too.

This year, as we welcome you back to Speyside for another extraordinary celebration, we're also turning the page to a new chapter. George McNeil, who has guided the Festival through years of growth and success, raises his final toast as Chair, while Henry Angus steps forward to continue the journey. Like whisky itself, this transition is part of a natural evolution—rooted in tradition, looking ahead.

The 2025 programme is richer than ever, with exclusive access to distilleries, hands-on experiences, and moments that only happen here in Speyside. Whether you're sampling cask-strength rarities in a warehouse, crafting cocktails, exploring the region through food and folklore, or setting off along the River Spey, there's a dram—and an experience—waiting for you.

As we look to the future, the Spirit of Speyside Whisky Festival will continue to grow and evolve, embracing new ideas while staying true to the traditions and warm welcomes that make it so special.

Wherever your Festival journey takes you—whether it's a hidden gem of a distillery, an unforgettable masterclass, or simply the perfect dram at the perfect moment—we hope you savour every experience.

Here's to another exceptional year of whisky, friendship, and celebration.

SLÀINTE, George McNeil & Henry Angus

WHEREVER YOUR FESTIVAL JOURNEY TAKES YOU, WE HOPE YOU SAVOUR EVERY EXPERIENCE.

THE MACALLAN ESTATE WHERE OUR STORY BEGINS

Set amidst the breathtaking beauty of Speyside, The Macallan Estate spans 485 acres along the majestic River Spey. Step into the world of The Macallan and explore our unique range of exceptional Distillery experiences.

Whether it's a guided tour of our production process a tutored whisky tasting, or dining in TimeSpirit, each visit reveals the quality, craftsmanship and heritage that, together, define our legacy.

So, get ready to plan your visit, and embark on a unique, sensory journey of discovery.

Start exploring the possibilities, right here.



The Macallan Distillery Easter Elchies, Craigellachie, Aberlour, AB38 9RX

Crafted without compromise. **Please sayour The Macallan responsibly**. Guests must be over the age of 18 years old to participate in our experiences. See TheMacallan.com for our Distillery Experience Terms and Conditions. BRIGGS ThermoDrive

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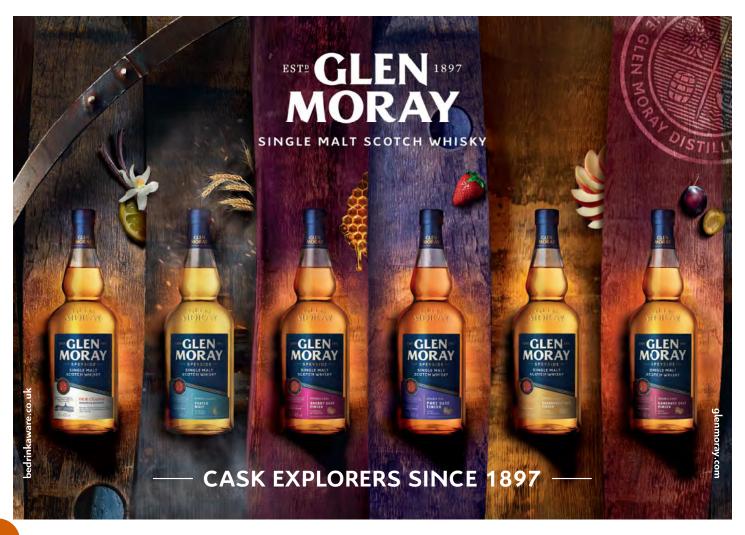
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SPEYSIDE'S BEST DRAM? THAT'S UP TO YOU!

The Spirit of Speyside Whisky Awards 2026– You Be the Judge!

An expert panel of whisky connoisseurs has carefully nosed and tasted entries from our talented Speyside distillers, selecting the top two in each category. But now, it's over to you!

The finalists for 2026 will be revealed on Wednesday, 30 April 2025, and from that moment on, the power shifts to you, beginning with our festival visitors. This is your chance to be part of whisky history by voting for this coveted "People's Choice" Award.

Categories in our Whisky Awards Finalists 2026:



For more information on the Spirit of Speyside Whisky Awards: <u>Click Here!</u>



TRY. TASTE. VOTE!

How to Get Involved

Join us at whisky venues across Speyside during the Spirit of Speyside Whisky Festival (30 April – 5 May 2025). Sample the finest shortlisted drams, nose, taste, and judge them like a pro, and cast your vote for the ultimate winner.

Think you have what it takes to pick the best dram of the year? **Come, sip, and decide!**



Proud sponsors of the Spirit of Speyside Whisky Awards – Forsyths Coppersmiths craft the pot stills that shape the character of Speyside's finest malts. Judging of the shortlist continues throughout the year, with the winners unveiled at the 2026 Spirit of Speyside Whisky Festival Opening Dinner.

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MAKE THE MOST OF YOUR FESTIVAL

The full Festival programme—live, flexible, and right at your fingertips.

This year, we're doing things a little differently. Instead of squeezing hundreds of listings into these pages (and having them go out of date before the ink dries!), we've taken everything online.

That means the full Festival programme is now at your fingertips—whether you're browsing on your phone, tablet, or laptop. You'll always see the most up-to-date event info, availability, and booking options, wherever you are.

No plans? Gap in your schedule? No problem - there's always space for more drams. Whether you're after a last-minute tasting, a distillery tour, a whisky brunch or something unexpected, here's how to find and book events on the go:

How to Festival Like a Pro:

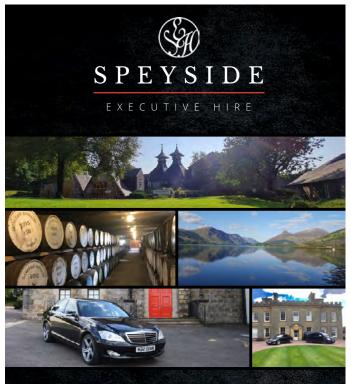
- Visit: <u>spiritofspeyside.citizenticket.com</u>
- Browse: Filter by theme, date or location
- Save: Favourite events you're excited about
- Book: Secure your tickets in just a few clicks

Top tip: Check the event description for maps and 'getting here' info - it's all there to help you plan ahead!

Need Help?

- Check your confirmation email for ticket details
- Visit a Festival Information Point for in-person support
- <u>Contact the event provider directly for event-specific questions</u>
- Email us at <u>whisky@spiritofspeyside.com</u> for Festival support

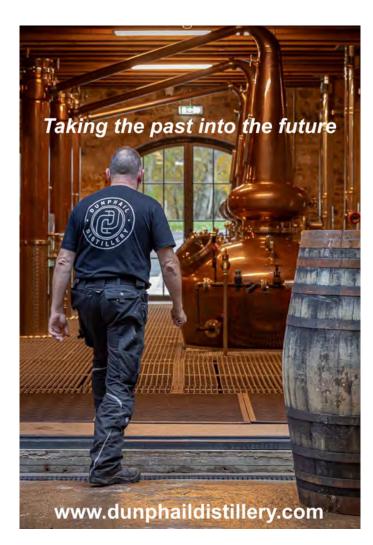




At Speyside Executive Hire we specialise in providing luxury whisky tours, corporate transfers and special occasion car hire at affordable prices. We pride ourselves on the first class service we provide to our clients on Speyside and across Scotland.

- for enquiries, please contact here -

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Robertson is delighted to be a partner of the Spirit of Speyside Whisky Festival 2025 and is proud to have delivered several distilleries in this world-renowned region.

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DRAWN FROM THE CASK: BEST NEW EVENT AWARD

Every year, the Spirit of Speyside Whisky Festival welcomes bold new experiences—and honours the one that captures the creativity, craft, and spirit of the region at its best. The Best New Event Award celebrates fresh ideas and unforgettable encounters that leave a lasting impression on festivalgoers.

In 2024, that experience came from DM Executive's Enchanting Mystical Whisky Adventure Around Speyside—a journey filled with surprise destinations, rich history, and expertly paired drams. A festival favourite from its first pour, it returns this year with a brand new chapter: Legends of the Liquid Gold.

Ready for Chapter 2?

Legends of the Liquid Gold picks up where the mystery left off—with secret stops, surprise drams, and zero spoilers. <u>Uncover the mystery here.</u>



For 2025, the bar has been raised once again.

This year's award is judged by Jonny McCormick—a Keeper of the Quaich, Contributing Editor at Whisky Advocate, and co-author of Whisky Opus 2024. With a deep respect for craft and curiosity, Jonny brings both insight and passion to the role.

"What makes a Best New Event? It's that perfect blend of originality, experience and connection—it has to feel like a moment you couldn't have anywhere else." – Jonny McCormick



Six exciting new events have been shortlisted. Turn the page, and discover the experiences in the running for 2025's top honour.

AND THE NOMINEES ARE...

From historical explorations to hands-on craftsmanship, the Best New Event contenders showcase the rich and diverse world of whisky.

Aberlour Fleming's Legacy

ALKA.

Walk in the footsteps of a whisky pioneer.

Following the path of James Fleming, this guided journey explores the landscapes and landmarks that shaped the Aberlour founder's legacy. The route passes the picturesque Linn Falls and crosses the historic Penny Brig, where tales of Fleming's philanthropy unfold. The experience concludes at Aberlour Distillery, offering a final look before its expanded site opens. A tasting of sought-after whiskies in the historic Victoria Room serves as a fitting tribute to a man who dedicated his life to his community and beyond.

Book Now



Build Experience

Step into the world of coopering and craft your own history.

A rare opportunity to experience the age-old craft of whisky barrel making, this hands-on session at Caledonian Cooperage brings traditional cask-building to life. Participants dismantle and rebuild a whisky cask using time-honoured hand tools, connecting with a trade that has remained unchanged for centuries. Set within an atmospheric cooperage, the experience offers an authentic glimpse into whisky heritage. A dram from one of Nick's small casks and a taste of his homemade casked cider complete this immersive encounter.

Book Now



AND THE NOMINEES ARE...

3 8 0

A Clash of the Stills: The Ultimate Distillers' Showdown



A whisky battle between masters of the craft.

In a spirited head-to-head competition, three of Scotland's top distillers each present a hand-selected dram that represents their craft. Hosted by whisky expert Mitch Bechard, this engaging event offers a rare opportunity to taste these exceptional whiskies while hearing the stories behind them. Featuring Polly Logan (Tormore), Callum Fraser (Glenfarclas), and Sarah Burgess (The Lakes), the event culminates in a lively debate as they passionately defend their selections. Adding to the excitement, the experience will be recorded live for Not Another Whisky Podcast.

Dallas Dhu Distillery: Drams from the Archives

Step back in time with rare whiskies from a bygone era.

An exclusive journey into the past, this experience offers an intimate look at the beautifully preserved Dallas Dhu Distillery, built in 1898. Led by whisky expert Dean Jode, the tour explores the golden age of whisky-making before concluding with a masterclass featuring five historic Dallas Dhu drams from the 1970s and 1980s. A rare opportunity to sample whiskies from decades past, this event also offers guests the chance to register their interest in acquiring casks or bottles from the distillery's upcoming new era.

Book Now



Book Now

AND THE NOMINEES ARE...

The Glenfiddich Milestones Tour



Explore Glenfiddich's journey through time.

A deep dive into Glenfiddich's rich history, this exclusive experience, led by Distillery Archivist Andy Fairgrieve, highlights key moments in the distillery's evolution. Beginning with refreshments at the Family Home, the tour continues to the Robbie Dhu Spring, the production areas, and the cooperage. The warehouses reveal the treasures of Glenfiddich's maturation process, including the renowned Solera Warehouse and the Malt Master's Selection. A rare opportunity to hand-fill a 20cl bottle from a specially chosen cask adds a personal touch before the experience concludes with a two-course lunch, a tasting of historic Glenfiddich releases, and a bespoke gift set.

Book Now

Linn House Supper Series

1.111

A whisky dining experience like no other.

The Linn House Supper Series welcomes guests into the elegant surroundings of Chivas Brothers' Linn House for an unforgettable whisky and gastronomy pairing. Each event in the series features a multicourse tasting menu created by renowned guest chefs, complemented by rare malts and bespoke whisky cocktails. With an emphasis on exceptional flavours and culinary creativity, the series brings together the best of whisky and fine dining. Guests looking to extend the experience can opt for an overnight stay in this historic whisky retreat.

Book Now



Can't pick just one?

Browse all the shortlisted Best New Events at #Dram25: <u>View them all here</u>



Private Casks & Bespoke Bottling The Spirit of Speyside's Distilleries in your glass.

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THE WHSKY HUB

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The 5 Steps to Appreciate your Whisky

Courtesy of the Scotch Whisky Experience

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ENJOY YOUR WHISKY WITH AND WITHOUT WATER AVOID USING DETERGENTS WHEN WASHING AS THEY CAN LEAVE LINGERING ODOURS, ALWAYS STORE WITHIN EASY REACH OF A BOTTLE.







WHISKY NEWS



OM GRAIN TO GLASS Q&A





PODCAST

The Official Whisky Glass

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'We invite you to visit our truly independent distillery and discover our renowned Highland Single Malt Scotch Whisky'

54/1

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For opening times and tours, please visit our website www.glenfarclas.com Visitorcentre@glenfarclas.com

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As Scotland's leading insurance broker specialising in whisky, we are thrilled to be a proud sponsor of the **Spirit of Speyside Whisky Festival**, a celebration of the rich heritage and craftsmanship of Scotch whisky.

If you wish to explore the intricacies of insuring renowned distilleries, ensuring the safety of precious whisky stocks, safeguarding private whisky collections, managing bonded warehouse operations, and other associated trades, please email us on:

graeme.dempster@howdeninsurance.co.uk alana.mcculloch@howdeninsurance.co.uk







There are lots of events running at The GlenAllachie during the festival, and our distillery bar welcomes walk-ins from 10:00 to 17:00 daily.

Why not join us for a free drop-in event this week? **Details below:**

Friday 2nd May

In-store sampling at Speyside Whisky Shop, Aberlour

Saturday 3rd May, 17:00-21:00 Food Night with Planta Pizza at the Distillery Bar

Sunday 4th May, 14:00-16:00 Dramming & Jamming with local musician Chris Grant at the Distillery Bar

Find last remaining tickets for our experiences at SPIRITOFSPEYSIDE.COM

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The Glen Grant Distillery **Rothes**, Aberlour Scotland AB38 7BS United Kingdom

OPENING HOURS: Mid-January – Mid-December: Monday-Friday: 10am – 4pm Saturday-Sunday: Closed

Tours by appointment only - 18 years old and over only. For more information on availability and tour times and to book a tour, please visit our website at www.glengrant.com



Book your tour online at www.glengrant.com

Standard tour: Distillery tour, tasting of 4 samples of 15ml of the Glen Grant Single Malt Whiskies, and a £2.00 discount voucher redeemable against the purchase of a 70cl bottle of whisky in the Gift Shop.

Revelation tour: Distillery tour, tasting of 5 samples of 15ml of the Glen Grant Single Malt Whiskies plus a sample of the "Master Distiller's choice", and a £2.00 discount voucher redeemable against the purchase of a 70cl bottle of whisky in the Gift Shop.

Drivers' packs available for those driving.



EARNING THE CRAFT BEHIND THE DRAM

The Spirit of Speyside Whisky Festival is proud to be the only whisky festival in the world to offer its own Whisky School – a unique opportunity for curious minds to explore the world of single malt in real depth.

Now extended to three and a half days due to popular demand, the Whisky School combines expert-led learning with rare insights from within the industry, offering an immersive, hands-on education in all things whisky.

IT WAS LIKE AN ADULT SUMMER CAMP FOR WHISKY ENTHUSIASTS!

What You'll Learn

Designed especially for whisky enthusiasts, the Whisky School covers:

- The history and heritage that shaped today's Scotch whisky
- The science and technique behind every stage of production from malting and mashing to fermentation, distillation and maturation
- The sensory side of whisky both personal and professional

Whether you're looking to expand your knowledge or speak more confidently about whisky, this experience offers both depth and enjoyment. Delegates leave with a Diploma of Attendance, greater understanding – and often, lasting friendships.

Taking place just before the main Festival, the Whisky School is the perfect way to begin your Speyside journey.

Learn More

Explore course content, and register your interest for future schools <u>HERE!</u>



SIP HAPPENS: HOW TO NOSE AND TASTE LIKE A PRO

Whisky tasting is about more than just drinking—it's about unlocking flavour, aroma, and the little details that make every dram unique. Whether you're a seasoned sipper or just starting out, these top tips from the Spirit of Speyside Whisky School will help you taste like a pro.



Pick the Right Glass

A tulip-shaped glass (like a Glencairn or copita) concentrates the aromas. Wide tumblers? Great for cocktails—not for nosing.



Master the Art of Nosing

Sniff gently with your mouth slightly open—it softens the alcohol and brings out the aromas. Start at a distance, then move closer. Trust your nose—fruit, spice, smoke? There's no wrong answer.



Look Before You Sip

Hold the glass to the light. Colour can hint at the cask type. Swirl gently and check the legs—slower ones may mean higher alcohol or longer ageing.



Sip Slow, Let It Linger

Let the whisky coat your tongue. Roll it around and notice how flavours shift—sweet at the tip, spice in the middle, dry at the back.



HOW TO NOSE AND TASTE LIKE A PRO



To Add Water... or Not? A few drops of water can open up a dram and reveal new layers. Try both ways—you're the judge.

Tasting Multiple Drams? Pace Yourself.



Feel the Finish How long do the flavours last? Is it creamy, smoky, or dry? A long, evolving finish often means a wellmatured whisky.

Stay hydrated, take breaks, and reset with oatcakes or a coffee bean. Savour each whisky—there's no rush. Many events offer driver's packs, and planning your transport makes for a smoother day.

Whisky tip: There's always something new to discover in every glass. Slow down, sip mindfully, and enjoy the journey!

Want to go deeper?

The Spirit of Speyside Whisky School runs from 27–30 April with expert-led sessions, guided tastings, and exclusive distillery access. Find out more <u>here!</u>





THE GLENLIVET.

THE GLENLIVET DISTILLERY Glenlivet, Ballindalloch AB37 9DB

FESTIVAL OPENING HOURS: April 30th - May 5th 10:00 -17:00

RESERVE YOUR TICKET HERE

The Glenlivet Distillery sits in a wild and remote glen with its history laced with drama and intrigue. It's a tale of grit and graft – of seeing off smugglers, excisemen and copycats – of knowing the importance of home and putting it on the map.

Join us at The Glenlivet and discover how we've been crafting and innovating our Single Malt whisky since 1824.





Situated in the town of Rothes, the hotel is the ideal base from where you can explore Speyside and everything it has to offer.

With a history dating back to 1901, and extensively renovated in 2016, the Station Hotel is the perfect blend of classic tradition and modern luxury.

Featuring 15 individually designed luxury bedrooms, a whisky wall with over 560 single malts, it is the perfect spot for delicious food or an overnight stay.

With over 60 distilleries within a 50-mile radius, the surrounding area is renowned for some of the finest whiskies in the world.

The Station Hotel 51 New Street, Rothes Moray, AB38 7BJ

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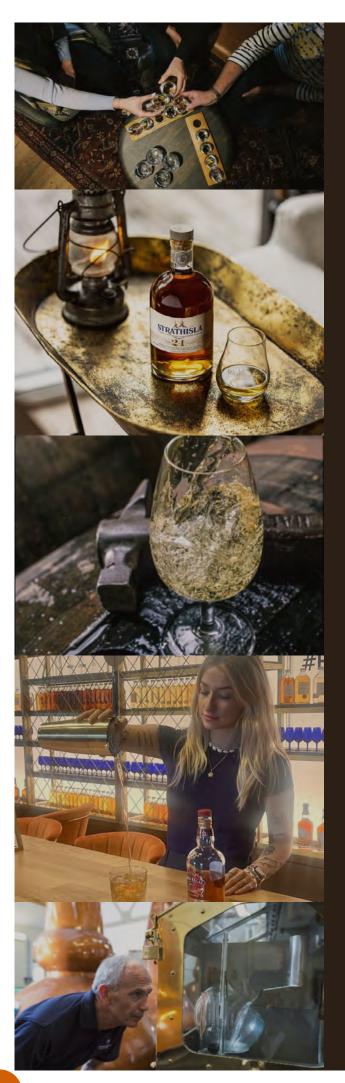
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Make some space in your Spirit of Speyside Whisky Festival agenda to come and visit the oldest continuously working distillery in Speyside.

At Strathisla, we're offering experiences tailored for everyone: whether you're a cask enthusiast, eager to sample exclusive single malts, or you want to try your hand at crafting some cocktails!

We even have a speciality tour hosted by our distillery manager Kelsey Bruce, who will take you around both Strathisla Distillery and Glen Keith Distillery.

RESERVE YOUR TICKETS HERE

VISIT US

Strathisla Distillery Seafield Ave Keith AB55 5BS

OPENING HOURS

April 30th - May 5th 10am - 5pm

WHAT'S THAT M TASTING?

The whisky school team breaks down the typical Speyside flavour profiles—from fruity to smoky, nutty to rich.

Here's your cheat sheet for the festival.

What influences flavour? From barley to barrel, here's how whisky's character takes shape.



Malted Barley

Peated barley adds smoky, earthy notes. Unpeated creates a cleaner, lighter style.



Mashing & Fermentation

Clear wort leads to fruity flavours; cloudier wort leans nuttier. Longer fermentation builds complexity.



Distillation

Tall stills produce lighter spirits; shorter stills create heavier, richer flavours.



Condensation

Worm tubs give a weightier, sometimes sulphury spirit. Shell & tube condensers offer a cleaner result.



Maturation

American oak (ex-bourbon) brings vanilla and caramel; European oak (ex-sherry) adds spice and dried fruit. Some whiskies finish in port, rum, or even tequila casks for extra complexity.

TASTING?

What aromas and flavours might you find in Speyside whisky?

Speyside whiskies are known for their complexity. These are just some of the aromas and flavours you might encounter.



Fruity

Many Speyside whiskies are packed with orchard and citrus notes. Look out for red and green

apple, pear, banana, grapefruit, pineapple, orange peel, and lemon zest.



Sweet & Spiced

Vanilla and honey are hallmarks of Speyside whisky, often accompanied by dessert-like

notes such as toffee, praline, icing sugar, and Christmas cake spice.



Nutty & Malty

The influence of malted barley and cask ageing can bring warm, nutty tones like almond, hazelnut, cereal, biscuit, and toasted oats.



Oily & Creamy

Some Speyside whiskies have a smooth, buttery mouthfeel. Expect notes of cream, butter, almond, lanolin, and soft waxiness.



Sherried & Rich

Maturation in European oak sherry casks adds bold, deep flavours: raisins, figs, Oloroso or Pedro Ximénez wine, and spiced nuts.



Peaty & Smoky

While not traditionally peated, some Speyside distilleries now offer lightly smoky expressions. You might find aromas of smouldering

oak embers, heather, bonfire smoke, sandalwood, cigar box, or liquorice. These differ from Islay's more medicinal notesthink less tar and iodine, more gentle wood smoke and char.



Other Aromas & Flavours

Wood shavings, struck matches, rubber, leather,

tobacco, mint-these are just some of the other flavours and aromas to look out for.

The best way to discover your favourite Speyside whisky? Taste your way through the Festival!



DISTILLERY

What is it that makes our whisky special?

It's the spirit of Aberlour.

From farmer to field, rain to river, grain to glass, everything considered.

Join us for one of our whisky tasting experiences, each with a carefully curated collection of whiskies for you to try.

RESERVE YOUR TICKET HERE

VISIT US: Aberlour Distillery, Aberlour AB38 9PJ

OPENING HOURS: April 30th - May 5th 10:00 - 17:30







MEET OUR GENUINE CHARACTERS FIRSTHAND

Join us at Benromach Distillery and discover how we make our award-winning whisky by hand.

Peek behind the famous red doors of Benromach and meet the characters who create our subtly smoky single malts.

To book a tour or tasting, visit **benromach.com**.

YOUR DRAM IS WAITING

MADE BY HAND FOR GENUINE CHARACTER

BENROMACH



DISTILLERY TOURS GIFT SHOP WHISKY LOUNGE

VISIT WWW.GLENFIDDICH.COM FOR OPENING TIMES AND BOOKING INFORMATION



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HIEY OF THE WER

Glenfiddich

SINGLE MALT SCOTCH WHISK

OUR ORIGINAL TWELVE his bright and balanced single malt is matured before mellowing in oak marrying tuns.

Tim the Valley of the Deer

DINE, DANCE & DRAM

WITH THE WHISKY STARS OF SPEYSIDE

Whisky, dancing, and a night you'll not forget (unless you overdo the drams!)

Join us for an unforgettable evening of whisky, food, and foot-stomping fun at the **Spirit of Speyside Ceilidh 2025**, hosted in the Osprey Arena at Macdonald Aviemore Resort.

Enjoy a hearty two-course Scottish supper, share a table with distillery hosts, and get swept up in the music of The Dandy Ceilidh Band. Whether you're a seasoned Strip the Willow pro or more of a Dram & Watch type, everyone's welcome on the dance floor.

Pack your dancing shoes, book a seat on the luxury coach—or treat yourself to an overnight stay using our discount code. Just don't spill your dram mid-dosie-do.

Click here for full event info and tickets.

| Venue: | Osprey Arena, Macdonald Aviemore Resort, Aviemore |
|----------|--|
| Date: | Friday 2 May 2025 |
| Time: | 19:00 – 23:45 |
| Tickets: | £55 & £75pp |



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FROM

Visit our brand-new whisky shop at The Old Bank in Forres and discover our latest releases, shop-exclusive whiskies and have fun bottling your own superb single malt, direct from the cask.

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- The Telegraph

Victoria St, Speyside Way, Craigellachie, Aberlour AB38 9SR Phone: +44 1340 881204 E-mail: reservations@craigellachiehotel.co.uk



SHAKEN AND STIRRED IN SPEYSIDE

Speyside whisky isn't just for dramming!

Speyside whiskies are known for their smooth, rich, and complex character—making them the perfect base for bold and creative cocktails.

This year, Glenfiddich and Strathisla are bringing whisky into the spotlight with two unforgettable mixology events. Whether you're sipping in the historic surroundings of Glenfiddich's Malt Barn or clinking glasses at Strathisla's lively tasting experience, expect expertly crafted serves, unexpected flavour twists, and a dram-load of fun.





Friday, 2 – Saturday 3rd May, 2pm – 3pm *Strathisla Distillery*



Friday, 2 – Sunday 4th May, 3.30pm – 4.30pm *The Glenfiddich Distillery*

SHAKEN AND STIRRED AT HOME

The Festival spirit doesn't end in Speyside! Bring the flavour of the Festival home and mix up a little Speyside magic, wherever you are.



Strathisla 11 Highball

A light and refreshing highball with the crisp sweetness of apple and the rich depth of Strathisla 11. Perfect for easy sipping.

Ingredients:

50ml Strathisla 11 50ml Pressed Apple Juice 25ml Simple Sugar 2 dashes of Rhubarb Bitters Soda Water (to top up) Slices of fresh or dehydrated apple (for garnish)

Method:

Combine ingredients in a shaker with ice and shake.

Pour into a highball glass filled with ice. Top up with soda and garnish with slices of fresh or dehydrated apple.

Tip: For extra freshness, use freshly pressed apple juice and good-quality soda water. A clear, large ice cube will keep the drink chilled longer without diluting it too quickly."

The Glenfiddich 15 brings warm spice and honeyed depth to the Whisky Sour



Whisky Sour

A beautifully balanced classic cocktail—velvety smooth with citrus brightness, a hint of bitters, and the warmth of Glenfiddich 15.

Ingredients: 35ml Glenfiddich 15yo 25ml Lemon juice 15ml Sugar Syrup 15ml Egg White Dash Angostura Bitters Lemon Peel or Maraschino Cherry (for garnish)

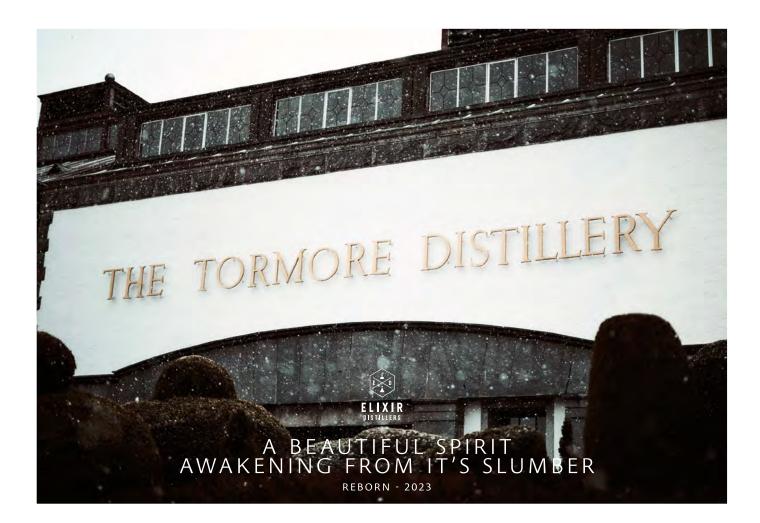
Method:

Into a cocktail shaker add, whisky, lemon juice, syrup, egg white and bitters Dry shake with no ice Add ice and shake until fully chilled Strain into cocktail coupe glass

Tip: A dry shake helps create a beautifully silky foam. For a twist, swap sugar syrup for honey syrup (2 parts honey, 1 part warm water) for a richer flavour.

Strathisla II's rich, malty notes shine in the Highball.

Sip responsibly. Show off shamelessly! Tag your creations with #ShakenInSpeyside





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GETTING AROUND SPEYSIDE

We are delighted to continue our partnership with Speyside Executive Hire, helping you navigate this beautiful region with ease. With over 50 distilleries spread across Speyside, it's safe to say – Speyside is **BIG!** Distilleries, venues, and towns are often spaced out, so it's important to plan your travel in advance to make the most of your festival experience.

Whether you're relying on public transport, booking a taxi, or taking turns as the designated driver, a little forward planning will help you explore everything the region has to offer—smoothly and safely.



Taxis & Private Hire

Speyside doesn't have Uber or app-based taxis, and local services can be busy during the festival. However, Ace Taxis will be offering an on-demand service in key areas, with additional support available between 12pm and 7pm to help meet demand.

We're also pleased to continue working with Speyside Executive Hire, who offer pre-booked private hire services—ideal for those looking for a more personalised or comfortable way to get around.

Booking ahead is strongly recommended, especially for early or late travel, or if you're heading to events outside the main towns. Contact details for Ace Taxis, Speyside Executive Hire, and other providers can be found in the Taxi Listing section.





Public bus services operate throughout Speyside and are a great option for getting between towns and villages.

m.connect is Moray's public transport network, connecting rural communities with both scheduled services and an on-demand travel option. You can book and track journeys using the m.connect app, available for Apple and Android devices.

Plan your journey here.

Stagecoach will be operating extended services during the Festival, including:

- Two late-night buses to help visitors return after evening events
- A special Sunday service on 4th May

Visit the <u>Stagecoach Bus App</u> or <u>www.stagecoachbus.com</u> for up-to-date timetables and fares.

Please note: All public transport is operated independently of the Festival. Be sure to check directly with providers for the latest travel information.

GETTING AROUND

SPEYSIDE



Scotland has some of the strictest drinkdriving laws in the world, with a legal blood alcohol limit of just 50mg per 100ml of blood-lower than the rest of the UK. Even a small amount of alcohol could put you over the limit, so if you're driving, the safest option is not to drink at all.

The good news? Many events offer Drivers' Drams, allowing designated drivers to bottle and take home the whisky they would have sampled. Check event listings to see where this is available.

If you're attending as a group, why not take turns being the designated driver across different days or events? It's a great way to share the responsibility while making sure everyone gets to enjoy the experience.

Most venues have parking on-site or nearby, with details included in event descriptions.

APPROXIMATE DRIVING TIMES AROUND SPEYSIDE

Core Distillery Areas

Elgin > Dufftown: 35 mins Elgin > Rothes: 20 mins Elgin > Aberlour: 25 mins Rothes > Aberlour: 10 mins Craigellachie > Dufftown: 10 mins Aberlour > Dufftown: 15 mins

From Aviemore, **Inverness & Aberdeen**

Inverness > Elgin: 1 hr Inverness > Dufftown: 1 hr 30 mins Aberdeen > Elgin: 1 hr 45 mins Aberdeen > Keith: 1 hr 15 mins Aviemore > Elgin: 1 hr 10 mins Aviemore > Dufftown: 1 hr

From Dufftown

Dufftown > Tomintoul: 30 mins Dufftown > Glenlivet: 25 mins Dufftown > Keith: 20 mins



From Elgin

- Elgin > Glenlivet: 45 mins Elgin > Tomintoul: 1 hr Elgin > Keith: 30 mins Elgin > Forres: 20 mins
- Elgin > Inverness: 1 hr



A Note on Rural Roads

Many venues are in remote but beautiful locations, and driving in Speyside can be different from what you might be used to. Expect winding roads, single-track routes with passing places, and the occasional wandering deer!

With long daylight hours in May (sunset around 9pm), visibility is usually good into the evening, but we still recommend planning your route in advance, allowing extra travel time, and downloading directions in case of patchy signal.

400 SEH

These times are approximate and based on typical rural road speeds. Roads can be winding and scenic - allow extra time for your journey, especially when travelling to more remote distilleries.

For more travel details, visit our website:

or refer to description of the event that you are attending.

NEED A LIFT?

No dram without a plan!

We're all for great whisky—but even more for responsible drinking. Here's a handy list of local taxi and private hire providers to help you get around Speyside safely.

Please book directly with operators—and book early when you can! More info here.

| Company | Telephone | Company | Telephone |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Central Speyside | | Forres | |
| Ace Taxis | 07383 820 820 | Mundole Taxis | 01309 673 168 |
| Craigellachie Cars | 07960 567 118 | Spot On Cabs | 01309 671 717 |
| Elgin | | Grantown-on-Spey | |
| C & R Taxis | 01343 545456 | Lindsay Jack | 07821 111 925 / 01479 872 442 |
| Hopeman D B Taxis | 07704 737 508 | Johnny's Taxis | 01479 851 375 / 07989 571 614 |
| Kinloss | | Keith | |
| Kinloss Taxis & Private Hire | 07771 911 192 | A2Z Taxis & Tours | 01542 780 257 / 07554 335 781 |
| Fochabers | | Millview Private Hire | 07879 695 976 |
| Ace Taxis | 01343 820 820 | Keith Kabs | 01542 662 477 |
| Buckie | | Dods Taxi | 01542 887 473 |
| Ace Taxis | 01343 820 820 / 01542 839 404 | Aviemore | 01012007 170 |
| Taxi4you | 01542 685 222 | Aviemore Taxis | 01479 811 111 / 01479 810 118 |
| Lossiemouth | | | 01479 812 000 / |
| Alec Logan Minibus | 07966 489 985 | Gerry's Aviemore Taxis | 07515 001 569 |
| Hire | | Docs Aviemore Taxis | 07971 736 599 |
| Lossie Taxis | 01343 815 999 | Harvs Aviemore Taxis | 01479 811 015 |

Festival Transport Share Scheme

Travelling from the same town? Staying in the same hotel? Heading to the same event?

Join our <u>Whisky Festival Transport Facebook group</u> to link up with fellow whisky lovers and share the ride (and the cost). It's a great way to meet people—and make your travel plans a little easier.

Nestled in Speyside, The Dowans Hotel is your whisky destination, with 700+ bottles and curated whisky flights. Our bar is open daily from 12pm to 12am, with meals from 12pm to 9pm.

During the Spirit of Speyside Festival, join us for events like A Blend of Magic & Myth with Hans Offringa for a deep dive into whisky's craft and history. Enjoy whisky-paired dinners, afternoon teas, and lunches with Speyburn, BenRiach, Glenfiddich, Balvenie, and Glenlivet.

End the festival in style at the OurWhisky Foundation House Party—the ultimate Speyside send-off. Mingle with distillers, blenders, and whisky royalty while enjoying live music, whisky highballs, expertly crafted drams, and a feast to fuel the night.

'FL, COV JOUR - 01340 871488 - DOWANSHOT **DOWANS RD**,



Extend your whisky adventure—stop by our sister property **HOTEL 1881!**

THE SQUARE, ARCHIESTOWN - 01340 221010 - HOTEL1881ARCHIESTOWN.COM









NFO, MAPS & LOCAL TIPS

Not sure where to go next?

Our Festival Information Points are here to help—whether you need a map, a plan, or just a dram and a blether while you wait.

Located across Speyside, they're also ideal places to meet up with friends, wait for your bus or taxi, get your bearings between events, or simply swap whisky tales with fellow festival-goers.

Find your nearest Info Point below and drop by during the Festival.

DUFFTOWN

<u>Royal British Legion –</u> <u>The Gathering Place</u>

50 Balvenie Street, Dufftown, AB55 4AS 01340 820711

Open every day of the festival from noon 'til late

WhiskyBrother Dufftown

1 Fife Street, Dufftown, AB55 4AL

01340 821 097

Open every day of the festival from 10:00 – 17:00

ABERLOUR

The Aberlour Hotel

89 High Street, Aberlour, AB38 9QB

01340 871 287

Open Sunday to Thursday07:00 - 23:00Friday and Saturday08:00 - 01:00

ELGIN

Johnstons of Elgin

Newmill, Elgin, Moray, IV30 4AF

01343 554099

Open Monday to Sunday 09:00 - 17:00

Against the Grain

25 Batchen Street, Elgin, Moray, IV30 1BH

07543 133 495

Monday-Tuesday - 16:00-22:00

(only during SOSWF)

Wednesday-Sunday-(only during SOSWF)



INFO, MAPS & LOCAL TIPS

FOCHABERS

Gordon Castle Walled Garden Café & Shop

Gordon Castle Walled Garden, Fochabers, IV32 7PQ

01343 615317

Open Monday - Sunday 11:00 - 16:00

AVIEMORE

The SNUG

Aviemore Retail Park, Santa Claus Drive, PH22 1AF

01479 810126

 Open Monday to Saturday
 10:00 - 18:00

 Sunday
 12:00 - 18:00

TOMINTOUL

The Whisky Castle

6 Main Street, Tomintoul, AB37 9EX

01807 580213

| Open Monday to Saturday | 09:30 - 17:00 |
|-------------------------|---------------|
| and Sunday | 12:00 - 17:00 |

CRAIGELLACHIE

Craigellachie Hotel

Victoria Street, Craigellachie AB38 9SR

01340 881204

Open every day

07.00 - 23.00

ROTHES

Station Hotel

51 New Street, Rothes AB38 7BJ

01340 832200

Open every day of the festival 11.00 until 12pm Weekdays and 1am Weekend



www.spiritofspeyside.com



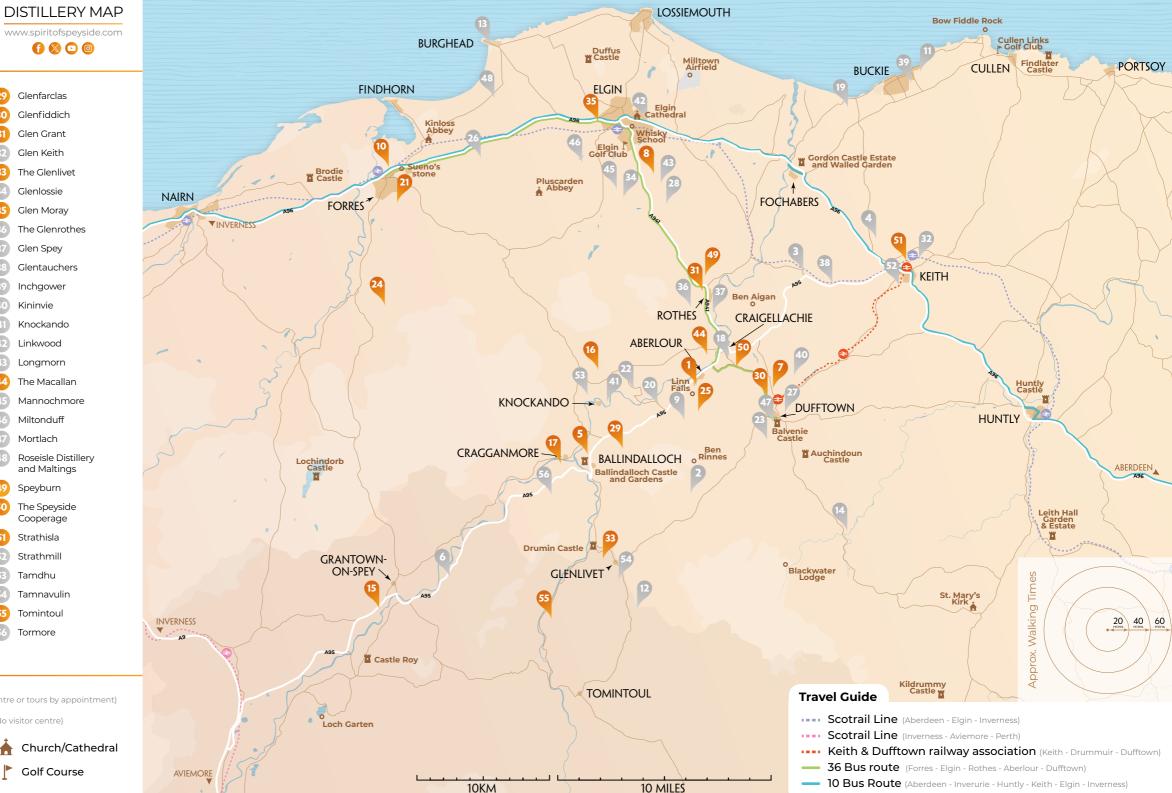
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Train Station

Castle

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THE SPIRIT of speyside whisky festival

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Hogshead of aged single malt Scotch Whisky



Further maturation in Octave Casks



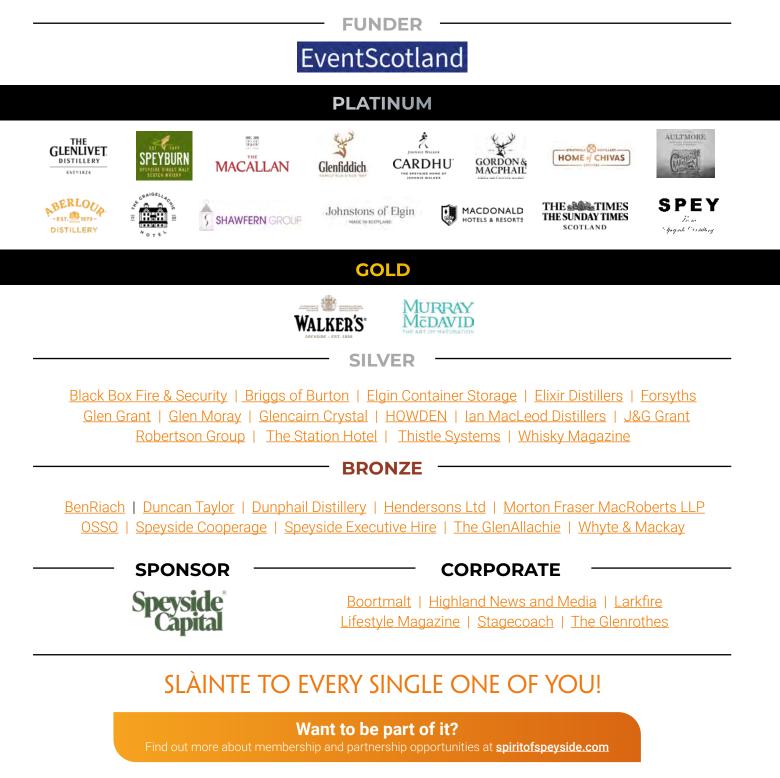
Limited batch of exclusive Octave Scotch Whisky bottled



THANKS A DRAM!

The Spirit of Speyside Whisky Festival wouldn't be possible without the incredible support of our members, partners, sponsors, and volunteers.

Your dedication, generosity and passion help cement the Festival as one of the world's best—year after year. Together, you help us share the Spirit of Speyside with the world, one dram at a time.





Welcomes

Spirit of Speyside Whisky Festival

Macdonald Aviemore Resort is the perfect base for discovering the Cairngorms, the UK's largest national park. Take time to explore and relax, enjoying everything our Aviemore Resort has to offer - three 4-star hotels, 18 spacious woodland lodges, a variety of dining options and bars, spa treatments, a luxury department store, a cinema, and an activity centre with an indoor leisure pool and soft play - you and the whole family are truly spoilt for choice.

Find out more at macdonaldhotels.co.uk/aviemore

Follow and tag us: facebook.com/MacdonaldAviemore #macdonaldaviemoreresort