

A photograph of a distillery interior featuring several large, polished copper distillation stills. A man in a dark blue shirt stands between two of the stills, looking upwards. The scene is lit with warm, golden light, highlighting the metallic surfaces of the equipment.

Secret Malts *of Aberdeenshire*

Ardmore • Fettercairn • GlenDronach • Glen Garioch •
Glenglassaugh • Knockdhu • Macduff • Royal Lochnagar

Aberdeenshire 
COUNCIL

The Secret Malts

Why 'Secret Malts'? The Speyside area is celebrated across the world for being the centre of Scotland's Malt Whisky Trail, with the largest number of distilleries of any of the whisky-producing areas of Scotland. Within an hour's drive from Aberdeen, however, there are also a number of small and intimate distilleries that are less well known than their cousins "over the hill". We call these the "Secret Malts" of Aberdeenshire.

Of the eight distilleries featured in this guide, most of them are relatively small in scale but each has its own distinctive history, style and taste. Visitors can get a real insight into the science and art of the distiller, whose skills have remained almost unchanged for hundreds of years.

Of the eight Aberdeenshire distilleries featured in this guide:

Four of them have small visitor centres and shops offering regular tours of the distilleries, normally with very knowledgeable guides;

Three of them are not officially open to the public, but will organise informal tours of the distillery, (often led by the Distillery Manager, who can offer a unique insight into how they make their whisky). Please contact them in advance to make an appointment;

One of the Aberdeenshire distilleries, Macduff, is not able to offer tours or visits but has been included in the guide so that you can read a little about its history and seek out the whisky itself.

We hope this guide helps you to explore the area and its distilleries and that you enjoy discovering the Secret Malts of Aberdeenshire.

Uisge Beatha
the water of life

Welcome to Aberdeenshire

Aberdeenshire is rich in beauty and heritage, from the inland summits of the Cairngorm National Park and Royal Deeside, to the stunning beaches, cliff tops and coves of the Banffshire, Mearns and East Grampian coasts. The natural environment not only provides a perfect backdrop for our wonderful distilleries, but also ensures that there's plenty to see and do whilst visiting the area.

In many ways Aberdeenshire is the epitome of what people expect to experience when they visit Scotland - malt whisky, salmon and trout-stocked rivers, over 50 challenging golf courses, barren moors, castles, Highland Games - all wrapped up in a warm welcome.

With more historic castles than anywhere else in the UK, Aberdeenshire is home to Scotland's only Castle Trail. The perfect complement to Aberdeenshire's whiskies is our world renowned food which boasts some of the freshest and most flavoursome produce in Scotland's larder.

Getting here:

Aberdeenshire has excellent transport links with the rest of the UK and Europe. Whether flying, taking the train, catching the ferry or driving, reaching the region is very easy. For further detail, visit: www.visitscotland.com/destinations-maps/aberdeen-city-shire/travel/



How to Taste Whisky

It has taken well over 500 years for Scotch whisky to evolve into the rich variety of single malts, complex pure malts and distinctive Scottish blends that we know and love today. The history of each distillery as well as the nature of the landscape in which it sits and the method of production employed all play a part in the individual flavour and characteristics of the final product.

There are no set rules or right or wrong way to drink whisky. As long as it's enjoyed responsibly, there are many different ways to taste this revered spirit. Here is some basic guidance on how to start your journey;

You will need:

A clean tulip-shaped nosing glass

A jug of bottled still water at room temperature

A tulip shaped glass tends to be best for nosing. This will trap the aromas in the bulbous bottom of the glass and release them through the small area at the top. Whisky is often drunk from a crystal tumbler. This is perfectly acceptable, and is in fact more practical for drinking, however, the tulip shaped glass is better for nosing purposes.

Colour: Hold the glass up to a neutral background and have a good look at the colour. Colour can give an indication of age and wood finish, however, never trust your eyes alone. Any assumptions made on colour must be confirmed on the nose e.g. A dark rich amber coloured whisky may have been matured in an ex-sherry barrel from Spain or it may be an older whisky.

Body weight: Swirl the whisky around the glass, coating the sides thoroughly. Then wait, and watch the teardrops form and run down the side of the glass. If the legs run quickly, there are lots of them, and they are quite thin then it is probably a light-bodied whisky and/or a younger whisky.

If the legs take a long time to start running then run slowly down the side of the glass, there are very few of them and they are quite thick in appearance, then it may be a heavy bodied whisky and/or an older whisky.

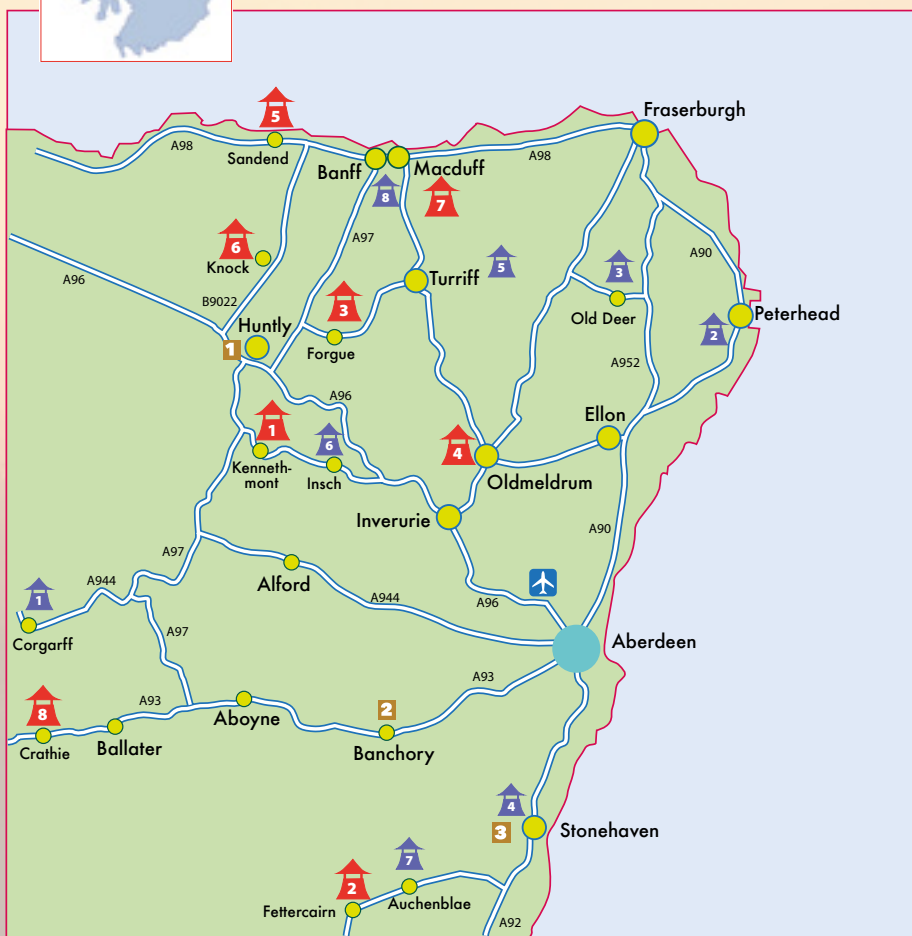
Nose: Add a splash of bottled still water to your whisky. The water will reduce the alcohol content, and raise the temperature slightly releasing more of the aromas. Ensure you nose the whisky more than once. Your first nose will be a rush of alcohol and other characteristics will follow quickly. Holding your mouth open slightly when nosing will help you to take in more of the whisky's aromas. (You may wish to nose and taste your whisky without water first, and then add a splash of water to experience the nose developing).

Palate: Take a taste of the whisky and try to pick out any flavours you can remember. Even though you are tasting, your nose is still doing a lot of the work. Sometimes you will pick out flavours on the palate that you were not immediately aware of on the nose, and vice versa. Think about how the whisky feels in your mouth. Is it silky smooth, is it a little syrupy, does it feel tingly on the tongue?

Finish: Does the flavour last a long time? Does it disappear quickly? Is it long and warming, or short, crisp and dry?











Distillery Location Map



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Working Distilleries




-  1 Ardmore, Kennethmont
-  2 Fettercairn
-  3 GlenDronach, Forgue
-  4 Glen Garioch, Oldmeldrum
-  5 Glenglassaugh, Sandend
-  6 Knockdhu, Knock
-  7 Macduff (*not open to public*)
-  8 Royal Lochnagar, Crathie

Lost Distilleries

-  1 Corgarff Castle, Corgarff
-  2 Glenugie, Peterhead
-  3 Glenaden, Old Deer
-  4 Glenury Royal, Stonehaven
-  5 Millfield, Turriff
-  6 Benachie (Jericho), Inch
-  7 Auchenblae
-  8 Banff

Please note that the Lost Distilleries are now no longer operational.

Retail Outlets

-  1 Whiskies of Scotland, Huntly
-  2 Deeside Drinks Emporium, Banchory
-  3 Dunnottar Wines and Spirits, Stonehaven

Ardmore



Kennethmont by Huntly, AB54 4NH

Tel: +44 (0) 1464 831213

Website: www.ardmorewhisky.com

Ardmore is uniquely the only consistently fully-peated Highland Single Malt produced since its inception in 1898. It forms the peaty backbone of the malt-rich, Teacher's Highland Cream blended whisky. Despite its size, Ardmore still employs traditional distilling and warehousing methods and utilises traditional equipment and materials.

Our Malts

Ardmore Traditional Cask

Ardmore Centenary (available at Distillery only)

Ardmore 25 year old

Teacher's Highland Cream (blended whisky)

Opening Times

Visits strictly by appointment, arranged in advance

Visitor Facilities

Limited visitor facilities, but authentic working distillery

Guided Tours

Visits strictly by appointment, arranged in advance

Shop

Alcohol sales available 10:00 to 17:00 hours

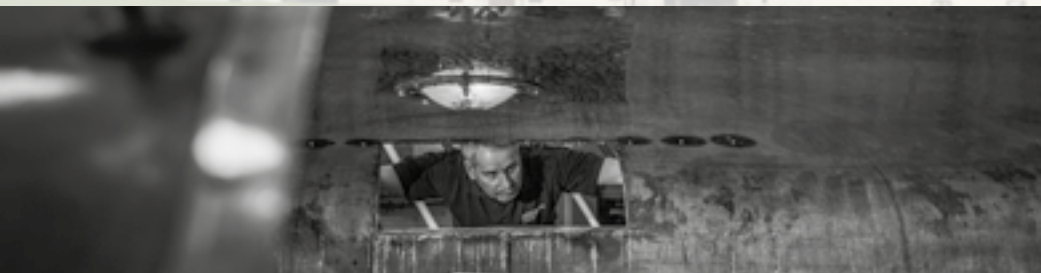
On line shop www.ardmorewhisky.com

How to Find Us

On the B9002. From Aberdeen follow A96 by Pitcaple and take B9002

From Huntly, follow A97 and take B9002


Fettercairn



Distillery Road, Fettercairn, Kincardineshire
AB30 1YB

Tel: +44 (0) 1561 340244

Website: www.whyteandmackay.co.uk



Situated under the Grampian foothills in the Howe of Mearns, Fettercairn town's name is loosely based on the phrase 'the foot of the mountain'.

Within this picturesque town lies one of whisky's hidden gems - Fettercairn Distillery. Founded in 1824, Fettercairn is one of the oldest licensed Highland distilleries in Scotland and for many years has been producing some of the finest malt whisky in Scotland.

Our Malts

Fettercairn Fìor.

Fettercairn Fasque.

Fettercairn 24, 30 and 40 year old

Opening Times and Tours

Easter to October: Mon to Sat: 10:00 to 17:00 hours

Tour times are as required and are free but groups should make arrangements with the distillery beforehand

Shop

Includes Fettercairn and Whyte & MacKay range

How to Find Us

Take the A90 and then the B966 to Fettercairn and follow the signs.

From Deeside take the beautiful B974 over the Cairn o' Mount.

Glen Dronach



Forgue by Huntly, AB54 6DB

Tel: +44(0) 131 456 2672

Website: www.glendronachdistillery.co.uk

Facebook: www.facebook.com/#!/pages/Glendronach/399563343469642

Twitter: www.twitter.com/Glendronach

From its home in the Scottish Highlands, the GlenDronach Distillery has been creating the finest sherried single malts for nearly 200 years. In 1826 the exuberant and extroverted James Allardice founded the distillery and produced his 'Guid GlenDronach' single malt.

Our Malts

GlenDronach 12 year old Original,
GlenDronach 15 year old Revival,
GlenDronach 18 year old Allardice,
GlenDronach 21 year old Parliament,
GlenDronach 15 year old Tawny Port Finish,
GlenDronach Single Casks

Opening Times

May to September: Mon-Sun: 10:00 to 16:30 hours

October to April: Mon-Fri: 10:00 to 16:30 hours

Visitor Facilities

Distillery visitor centre including distillery shop (with the opportunity to fill your own bottle from the distillery manager's cask or to buy our distillery exclusive bottling)

Guided Tours

GlenDronach Discovery Tour is available from 10:00 to 15:00 on the hour.

GlenDronach Tasting Tours are available from 10:00 to 15:00 on the hour.

GlenDronach Connoisseur's tour has to be booked in advance.

Admission costs

GlenDronach Discovery Tour £5

GlenDronach Tasting Tour £15

GlenDronach Premium Tasting Tour £20

GlenDronach Connoisseur's Tour £30

How to Find Us

Situated on the B9001 off the A97 from Huntly, near the valley of Forgue, the distillery is within easy reach of most tourist routes.

Glen Garioch



Distillery Road, Oldmeldrum, Inverurie
AB51 0ES

Tel: +44 (0) 1651 873450

Website: www.glengarioch.com

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/
glengarioch](https://www.facebook.com/glengarioch)

Twitter: [www.twitter.com/
GlenGarioch1797](https://www.twitter.com/GlenGarioch1797)

Established in 1797, Glen Garioch, (pronounced 'Geery') is Scotland's most easterly distillery. Situated in Oldmeldrum, Aberdeenshire, the distillery has been handcrafting a beautiful range of natural, non chill-filtered single malt whiskies for over 200 years.

Our Malts

For more information on our range of Single Malt Whiskies please visit www.glengarioch.com

Opening Times

Mon - Sat: 10:00 to 16.30 hours

From July to September, the visitor centre is also open on a Sunday from 12:00 to 16.30 hours

Guided Tours

Founders Tour - £6.00

Wee Tasting Tour - £12.00

VIP Tour - £40.00

A Rare Pair, Whisky and Cheese Pairing - £25.00

Private Tastings

Available. Please contact the distillery

How to Find Us

Oldmeldrum is around half an hour from Aberdeen, following the A947.

Visit www.glengarioch.com for further detail.

Glenglassaugh



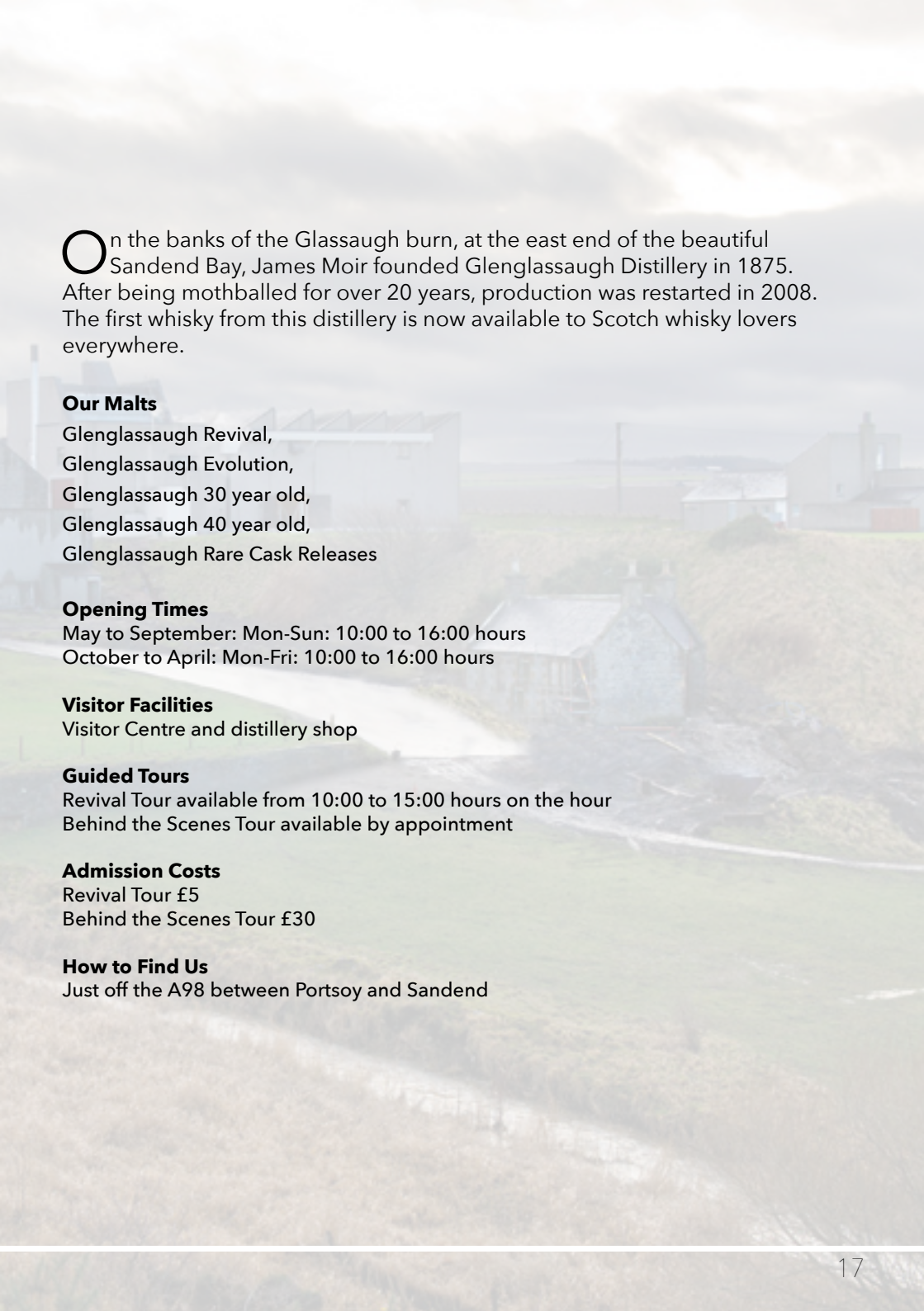
Portsoy AB45 2SQ

Tel: +44(0) 1261 842367

Website: www.glenglassaugh.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/groups/glenglassaugh/

Twitter: www.twitter.com/glenglassaugh



On the banks of the Glassaugh burn, at the east end of the beautiful Sandend Bay, James Moir founded Glenglassaugh Distillery in 1875. After being mothballed for over 20 years, production was restarted in 2008. The first whisky from this distillery is now available to Scotch whisky lovers everywhere.

Our Malts

Glenglassaugh Revival,
Glenglassaugh Evolution,
Glenglassaugh 30 year old,
Glenglassaugh 40 year old,
Glenglassaugh Rare Cask Releases

Opening Times

May to September: Mon-Sun: 10:00 to 16:00 hours
October to April: Mon-Fri: 10:00 to 16:00 hours

Visitor Facilities

Visitor Centre and distillery shop

Guided Tours

Revival Tour available from 10:00 to 15:00 hours on the hour
Behind the Scenes Tour available by appointment

Admission Costs

Revival Tour £5
Behind the Scenes Tour £30

How to Find Us

Just off the A98 between Portsoy and Sandend

Knockdhu



Knock, by Huntly AB54 7LJ
Tel: +44(0) 1466 771223
Website: www.ancnoc.com

A small traditional malt whisky distillery established in 1894 located right on the boundary of Aberdeenshire. The distillery water is supplied from springs on the nearby Knock Hill. Unusually, the single malt whisky is not named after the distillery but is bottled as anCnoc, part of the Inver House Distillers group.

Our Malts

Core range is 12, 16 and 22 year old, anCnoc.

Limited edition releases such as the 35 year old, Peter Arkle collection, annual vintage bottling as and when available

Opening Times

Office hours are Mon to Thur 08:00-17:00 hours, Fri 08:00-12:00 hours

Visitor Facilities

Limited visitor facilities

Guided Tours

By appointment, arranged in advance

Admission Costs

No charge but a donation to charity is appreciated

Private Tastings

May be available on request

Shop

Limited selections of products are available at the distillery (please note there are no credit/debit card facilities)

Online: www.ancnoc.com

How to Find Us

Turn off the A96 onto the B9022 just west of Huntly. Continue on this road for 9 miles then turn left at the sign for Knock

Macduff



Designed by William Delmé Evans, Macduff Distillery lies within the old "policies" of Duff House, on the eastside of the River Deveron. A distillery consortium of four men purchased the land, using their business connections to establish the new distillery of Macduff. Production first began in 1960.

The design of the distillery was different to what had come before in a number of ways, for example:

- There was no malting on site
- The fermenters were made of Corton Steel (copper nickel and mild steel)
- The original wash and spirit stills were heated at low temperature by steam coils, an innovation at the time.
- Macduff was the first distillery to condense the spirit in shell and tube heat exchangers instead of worm tubs.

Over the years, the ownership of the distillery has changed hands, additional stills have been added and the still room extended and, in the 1970's, it was rebuilt to further increase capacity. Today, Macduff has the unusual combination of two wash stills and three spirit stills. The state of the art tun room has a total of nine wash backs.

This is a modern distillery built mainly for the purpose of supplying malt whisky for the blending industry. Only a small amount of Macduff is bottled as a single malt, usually as the clean and mild tasting Glen Deveron 10 year old.

Our Malts

Glen Deveron single malts

Opening Times

Macduff Distillery is not open to the public

Royal Lochnagar



Crathie, Ballater AB35 5TB

Tel: +44(0) 13397 42700

Website: www.Discovering-Distilleries.com/RoyalLochnagar

Facebook: www.facebook.com/FriendsoftheClassicMalts

FriendsoftheClassicMalts

Twitter: www.twitter.com/12distilleries

Now owned by Diageo, Lochnagar Distillery was built in 1845 by John Begg from Aberdeen. In 1848, Queen Victoria acquired Balmoral Castle, half a mile from the distillery. John Begg invited Queen Victoria and her family to visit the distillery, knowing that Prince Albert had a particular interest in 'all things mechanical'. Two days after the visit, John Begg was awarded a Royal Warrant, and the distillery became known as Royal Lochnagar.

Our Malts

Royal Lochnagar 12 year old

Royal Lochnagar Selected Reserve

Opening Times and Guided Tours

Jan to Feb: Mon - Fri: 10:00 to 16:00 (Tours: 11:00, 12:30, 14:00 & 15:00 hours)

March: Mon - Sat: 10:00 to 16:00 (Tours: 11:00, 12:30, 14:00 and 15:00 hours)

Apr to Jul: Mon - Sat: 10:00 to 17:00 Sun: 12:00 to 17:00 hours

Aug: Mon - Fri: 10:00 to 18:00 Sat: 10:00 to 17:00 Sun: 12:00 to 17:00 hours

Sep: Mon - Sat: 10:00 to 17:00 Sun: 12:00 to 17:00 hours

Oct: Mon - Fri: 10:00 to 17:00 Sat: 10:00 to 16:00, Sun: 12:00 to 16:00 hours

Nov to Dec: Mon - Sat: 10:00 to 16:00 (Tours: 11:00, 12:30, 14:00 and 15:00 hours)

Festive Opening: Closed 25th & 26th December/Closed 1st & 2nd January

Visitor Facilities: Guided Tours and Gift Shop

Guided Tours (see above for times)

Lochnagar Tour: Tour of the distillery and taste of the Royal Lochnagar 12 year old

Reserve Tour: Tour of the distillery and taste of the Royal Lochnagar 12 year old and Selected Reserve

Royal Tour: 2 Hour in-depth tour of the distillery and special tasting of the Royal Lochnagar Family

For groups of over 8 people and to hear about other terms and conditions, please contact the distillery prior to your visit.

Admission Costs

Lochnagar Tour £7

Reserve Tour £10

Royal Tour £30

Children (aged 8 -17yrs) £2.50

Private Tastings: Private tours and tastings by arrangement

How to Find Us

Take the A93 to Crathie, cross the Balmoral Bridge and follow the road until you see a signpost to the right leading to the distillery.

Whilst there is a wide range of excellent whiskies available from retailers throughout Aberdeenshire, there are also a number of whisky sellers who can offer specialist knowledge and tasting opportunities to visitors. Once you've seen first hand how the region's "secret malts" are made why not continue your journey by visiting one of the shops detailed below. With literally hundreds of whiskies to choose from, your education has really just begun...



Since opening around 6 years ago, we have striven to enhance and improve our range, offering quality products and great service. We remain independent to this day.

Location

30 Evan Street, Stonehaven AB39 2WA
Tel: +44(0) 1569 760060

Our Malts

Approximately 100 whiskies, local distilleries, single cask limited editions, classics and new, around 300 beers and 50 gins

Opening Times

Mon: 12:00 to 18:00 hours, Tues: 10:00 to 18:00 hours, Wed: 10:00 to 18:00 hours, Thurs - Sat: 10:00 to 20:00 hours

How to Find Us

Stonehaven is located 15 miles south of Aberdeen and we are based just up from the main town square

Website: Coming soon

Facebook: www.facebook.com/dunnottar.wines

Twitter: www.twitter.com/DunnottarWines

WHISKIES of SCOTLAND

A must stop visit on the malt whisky trail, we are proud to offer The Whiskies of Scotland collection - our own exclusive range of bottling which has already received great industry acclaim and won many whisky awards. Customer have the unique opportunity to bottle from a selection of different casks whilst in the shop.

Location

36 Gordon Street, Huntly AB54 8EQ
Tel: +44(0) 845 6066145

Our Malts

Featuring single malt and single grain whiskies distilled at legendary names such as Banff, Bowmore, Caperdonich, Caol Ila, Macallan, Port Ellen, Springbank, Girvan, Carsebridge and blends such as Black Bull and Scottish Glory

Opening Times

Mon - Fri: 10:00 to 18:00 hours,
Sat: 10:00 to 17:00 hours

Online Shop

www.Singlemaltsdirect.com

How to Find Us

Take the A96 from Aberdeen and, on reaching Huntly, follow the A97, George V Avenue. The shop is on the right.

Website: www.Singlemaltsdirect.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/singlemaltsdirect



Aberdeenshire's oldest independent specialist drinks company with a range of Scotland's best malts - from something special for the connoisseur to bottles for those just starting out in their appreciation of the Water of Life!

Location

22 Dee Street, Banchory AB31 5ST
Tel: +44(0) 1330 822650

Our Malts

Rare, hand crafted, many single cask bottlings and some familiar names with quality in every dram. Single Grain, Vatted Malts and fine blends (including our own)!

Opening Times

April to December: Sun: 12:00 to 18:00 hours, Mon: 12:00 to 18:00 hours, Tue/ Wed: 10:00 to 18:00 hours, Thu/Fri/Sat: 10:00 to 20:00 hours

Guided Tours

Distillery tours and visits by arrangement

Shop

With over 150 whiskies, over 300 beers and over 60 gins, many Scottish.

How to Find Us

On reaching Banchory town centre, turn left down the hill at the main traffic lights onto Dee Street and we are right opposite a large car park. Customers can use on street parking for 45 minutes free of charge.

Website: Coming soon

Facebook: www.facebook.com/DeesideDrinksEmporium

Twitter: www.twitter.com/deesidedrinks

Future Developments

Scheduled for opening in summer 2014, Duncan Taylor Scotch Whisky is developing a specialist whisky bottling plant in King Street in Huntly. This will cater for independent bottling of single malts and will incorporate a viewing gallery and tasting room for group visits.

Exciting future plans include the proposed development of a new distillery using a historic building on the outskirts of Huntly. When complete this would provide distillery tours and a visitor centre.

For further details on both projects, contact Duncan Taylor Scotch Whisky on +44(0) 1466 794055. www.duncantaylor.com

The legend of the 'secret malts of Aberdeenshire' continues!



The Lost Distilleries

Not only is the history of Aberdeenshire's lost distilleries fascinating, but their whisky is highly sought after by connoisseurs and collectors. During the 20th century, a number of distilleries in Aberdeenshire closed, due to various economic difficulties.

The First and Second World Wars and Prohibition in the United States all had a detrimental impact on the industry, though after World War II, a surge in demand meant that many distilleries were built in quick succession.

Demand then dropped again during the recession of the 1980s, which resulted in a number of Aberdeenshire distilleries being forced to close.

Many of the whiskies from the lost distilleries of Aberdeenshire are now hard to source and as a result are appreciating in value. When you do find them, they are a real treat.

Corgarff Castle (Highland)

Address: Corgarff Castle, Cock Bridge, Corgarff
Established: 1826
Closed: Later in 1826 (when burnt down)

Glenugie (Highland)

Other Name: Invernettie
Address: Off South Road, Invernettie by Peterhead
Established: 1834
Closed: 1983

Glenaden (Highland)

Other Name: Glenadon
Address: Biffie Farm, Old Deer
Established: 1845
Closed: 1915

Glenury Royal (Highland)

Other Name: Royal Glenury
Address: Glenury Road, Stonehaven
Established: 1825
Closed: 1985

Millfield (Highland)

Address: Millfield Farm, Garmond, by Turriff
Established: 1798
Closed: After 1832

Benachie (Highland)

Other Name: Jericho
Address: Nether Jericho Farm, Colpy
Established: 1822
Closed: 1915

Auchinblae (Highland)

Other Name: Auchenblae
Address: By Burn Street, Auchenblae
Established: 1895
Closed: 1930

Banff (Speyside)

Other Name: Inverboyndie
Address: Inverboyndie, by Banff
Established: 1863
Closed: late 1983

For more information visit www.lostdistillery.com &
'Scotch Missed - Scotland's Lost Distilleries' by Brian Townsend

Your personal tasting notes and reflections on The Secret Malts of Aberdeenshire

Distillery	Date of Visit	Tasting Notes	Comments
Ardmore			
Fettercairn			
GlenDronach			
Glen Garioch			
Glenglassaugh			
Knockdhu			
Royal Lochnagar			

Please remember to mention 'The Secret Malts of Aberdeenshire' when you visit each distillery. Not only will this help us assess the impact of the initiative, but on occasions, some of the distilleries may run promotions.

We would also love to hear your experiences of 'The Secret Malts of Aberdeenshire'. Please post your comments, photos and observations to:

www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/facebook

Secret Malts

of Aberdeenshire

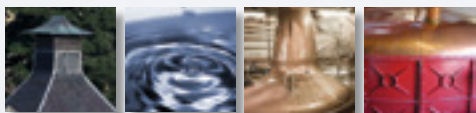


Within an hour's drive of Aberdeen you will find a number of small, intimate malt whisky distilleries. Less well-known than their Speyside cousins, these Highland malts are equally well worth exploring. With their distinctive tastes and styles Aberdeenshire's Secret Malts should not be missed and this free guide to visiting them will help you enjoy one of malt whisky's best kept secrets.

Includes: Tasting notes • Location maps • Visitor facilities • Opening times and prices • Guided tour information • Whisky ranges • Specialist retailers • Lost distilleries.

Please enjoy your whisky experience responsibly. Aberdeenshire has excellent hotels and bed & breakfasts that offer a warm welcome for those who wish to taste a few varieties!

www.visitscotland.com/destinations-maps/aberdeen-city-shire/



Aberdeenshire
COUNCIL



EUROPE & SCOTLAND
European Regional Development Fund
Investing in your Future

For further information go to www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/visit

Our thanks to the businesses included in this leaflet for their support in providing information and photographs.