



## *The Bourbon Affair*

in collaboration with *Villas and Vines*  
*presents*

# A Whisky Journey through Scotland

*Discover the Secrets of Scotland's Most Storied Drink  
in all 5 Whisky Regions*

September 6<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup>, 2020

Our hosts *Ryan and Staci Leonard*, owners of our favorite landmark *The Bourbon Affair* in Findlay, Ohio, have teamed with the extraordinary Guide Historian Whisky-Master *Elliot MacFarlane* and dedicated esteemed tour director *David Geen* with *Villas and Vines*, to create this magnificent Whisky Journey through Scotland. The Bourbon Affair offers hundreds of whiskeys, so it's only logical that Ryan and Staci want to share their passion, hosting a fortunate group of friends on this fantastic Whisky Journey. In addition to the abundance of distillery visits and whisky tastings, there are also plenty of non-whisky excursions included in our adventure as well. This is the opportunity you've been waiting for!

Scotland is part of the island of Great Britain (Europe's largest island) alongside England and Wales. This lush beautiful country is bursting with green spaces, lush forests, towering mountains and vast lochs (the Scottish word for lakes).

Scotch, as we already know, is produced in Scotland, which is traditionally divided into these five whisky-producing regions (in the order of our visits): *The Lowlands*, *Campbeltown*, *The Isle of Islay*, *Speyside*, and *The Highlands*. Throughout the course of our remarkable Journey, we discover all 5 regions, with visits and tastings in each!

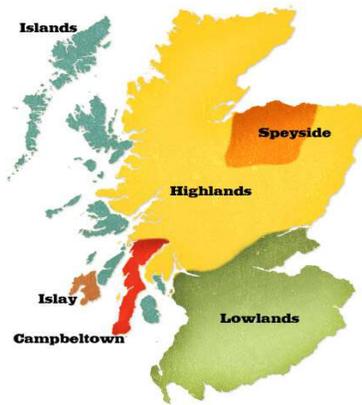
This trip is not only about drinking fine Scotch Whisky; it's also about remarkable dining experiences. Meals shared together are a very special part of the trip; we will discover and enjoy some of the finest dining in each of these regions at off-the-beaten-track restaurants, privately owned, and not designed for mass tourism. Each of the restaurants have been carefully and thoughtfully curated specifically for our group, delivering the finest Scottish produce from Field, Forest, Stream, and Ocean, combined with cozy authentic atmosphere, warm Scottish hospitality and exceptional views (in many cases).

Our Journey begins in Glasgow. Then following, we are able to discover the five regions while staying at only two different hotels, plus captivating Edinburgh as the final highlight!

Please Join us on this Remarkable Journey

*This is the Scotland of your Dreams!*





Following is a brief guide to each of the five main whisky regions that we will discover, in order of our visits:

### The Lowlands

There are only three operating distilleries remaining in the Lowlands. The Lowlands is located at the southernmost part of Scotland, and is a flat region with no mountains. Whiskies from this region are generally considered as the most light bodied of the Single Malts.

Typical style: *Light, floral and fruity*

Main active distilleries: *Auchentoshan, Bladnoch and Glenkinchie*

### Campbeltown

Once the whisky capital of Scotland, there are only three distilleries remaining in Campbeltown. The whisky here is peaty, with a salty hint and a briny character.

Typical style: *Robust, rich and briny*

Main active distilleries: *Springbank, Glengyle, Glen Scotia and Kilkerran*

### Islay

Pronounced "eye-luh", Islay whisky is considered to be the smokiest and strongest-flavored (some say it tastes of the sea) of the single malts. Their strong flavor is believed to be due to the region's exposure to the high winds and seas of the west coast.

Typical style: *Big and smokey*

Main active distilleries: *Laphroaig, Ardbeg, Bowmore, Kilchoman, and Lagavulin*

### Speyside

Speyside, the undisputed center for whisky in Scotland, boasts the highest concentration of distilleries (more than half the distilleries in Scotland are located in Speyside). Although the Speyside region is geographically part of the Highlands, it is considered a separate region because of its unique characteristics. The region received its name from the river Spey, which cuts through the area. Many of the distilleries use water straight from the river Spey in their production process. Speyside whiskies are thought to be the country's most complex, and are known for their sweetness and elegant flavors and aromas.

Typical style: *Rich and fruity, though use of peat has become more prevalent*

Main active distilleries: *Macallan, Glenlivet, Glenfiddich, and blends like Johnnie Walker and Chivas Regal*

### The Highlands

The Highlands is geographically the largest of the whisky producing regions in Scotland, and generally produces more full-bodied whiskies with deeper notes of peat and smoke. Due to the vastness of the region, Highland whiskies often taste very different from each other, from the extreme heathery, spicy character of the Northern Highlands to the fruity whiskies of the Southern Highlands.

Typical style: *Varied*

Main active distilleries: *Glenmorangie, Dalmore, Tobermory and Oban*



## *The Lowlands, Campbeltown, and Islay*

*September 6<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup>*

Our home base is *Tarbert*, an idyllic fishing village also known as the gateway to the beautiful peninsula of *Kintyre* in the south west portion of Scotland. The shops, pubs, hotels and houses settle snugly around Tarbert's welcoming, entirely natural harbor, one of the very few in Scotland. Tarbert is also renowned for some of the finest, freshest and tastiest seafood in all of Scotland. Tarbert is our gateway to the *Campbeltown* distilleries, and is the last stop before the *Islay Ferry* journey to the *Whisky Isle of Islay*.

Our home in Tarbert is the 4-star *Stonefield Castle*. Built in 1837, the Castle is a fine example of Scottish baronial architecture and still retains much of its original furnishings, wood paneling, ornate ceilings and marble fireplaces. Beyond the interior splendor, the castle is set in 60 acres of woodland gardens, on the shores of *Loch Fyne*, yet only 2 miles from the postcard fishing village of Tarbert. The hotel's bedrooms have views over the gardens and Loch Fyne. The restaurant features the best of all that is Scottish, including locally-sourced beef and seafood. After dinner, relax in the traditional elegance of the wood-paneled bar, lounge, or drawing room, complete with open fire and fine selection of local whiskies. [www.bespokehotels.com/stonefieldcastle](http://www.bespokehotels.com/stonefieldcastle)

### *Whisky Highlights in The Lowlands, Campbeltown, and Islay:*

- Three nights' stay at the authentic and charming *Stonefield Castle* on the shores of Loch Fyne in Tarbert.
- Visit with tasting at ***Auchentoshan Distillery*** (The Lowlands). Their whisky is not triple distilled because it's tradition, but because that's what it takes to create a delicate flavor unlike any other: Smooth, yet gutsy; Approachable yet deep.
- Experience tales and tastes at the ***Springbank Distillery*** (Campbeltown), now the oldest family-owned distillery in Scotland.
- ***Cadenhead Warehouse*** Tasting (Campbeltown), where we have the opportunity to sample a selection of the finest Cadenhead whiskies hand drawn from the cask in one of Springbank's traditional warehouses.
- Visit to the ***Laphroaig Distillery*** (Islay), where for nearly 200 years a small team of dedicated islanders have worked to create what is considered to be the most distinctive single malt in the world.

### *Non-Whisky Highlights in The Lowlands, Campbeltown, and Islay:*

- *Scenic ferry trip* (2+ hours each way) from Kennacraig (Tarbert) to Islay. On board there is a lounge, full meals, light snacks, gift shop, cafeteria and bar.
- Visit the *Islay Woolen Mill*, the oldest in Scotland still working. Islay Woollen Mill designs were featured in *Braveheart* starring Mel Gibson, *Forrest Gump* starring Tom Hanks, and *Rob Roy* starring Liam Neeson.





## Speyside and The Highlands

September 9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup>

Speyside is Whisky Heaven! The home-iest place in all of Scotland, Speyside is arguably the most famous of Scotland's whisky regions, and home to over half of Scotland's distilleries. The landscape is a beguiling mixture of rolling foothills, thick forest, riverlands, and beach-studded coastline. Visits to this gorgeous, green region are sun-dappled, full of good cheer and just the right amount of *liquid gold*. There's so much whisky here you'd think the wide, relaxed River Spey was flowing with the stuff!

Speyside is the driest and warmest part of Scotland. The fertile farmlands in and around the region are ideal for growing barley, which when combined with soft local water tumbling down off the mountains, produces some of Scotland's best-loved malt whiskies.

In Speyside, we enjoy *The Craigellachie Hotel*, a charming 26-room inn located where the *Rivers Fiddich* and *Spey* come together in the Scottish Highlands, in the heart of Speyside and at the center of all the Speyside action. Speyside is the largest whisky region in the world with over half of Scotland's distilleries, and *The Craigellachie's* elegant *Quaich Bar* is one of the world's leading whisky bars, where we're sure to meet friendly locals. With over 900 whiskies lining its walls, *The Quaich* is the perfect setting in which to enjoy a guided whisky tasting or a modern twist on a classic whisky cocktail, mixed by an expert and locally renown bartender. The hotel's pub, the *Copper Dog*, is for those who simply love a great pub. *The Dog* is constantly busy with people – both locals and travelers from far and wide. [www.craigellachiehotel.co.uk](http://www.craigellachiehotel.co.uk)

### *Whisky Highlights in Speyside and The Highlands:*

- Three nights' stay at *The Craigellachie Hotel*, in the heart of Speyside and at the center of all the local action. The *Copper Dog Bar* is a local institution and destination unto itself.
- Visit and tasting at the brand new **Macallan Distillery** (Speyside), a bold vision of innovation, collaboration, and a refusal to compromise. Despite the new facility, Macallan still uses the same spring water, curiously small stills, and processes to create the distinctive flavor and character of their single malt whisky.
- A warm welcome awaits at the **Edradour Distillery** (The Highlands), world-renowned as the smallest traditional distillery in Scotland and arguably the most unique. Dating back to 1825, Edradour stands alone as the last stronghold of handmade single malt whisky from a farm distillery still in production today.

### *Non-Whisky Highlights in Speyside and The Highlands:*

- Explore the *Highland Folk Museum*, a collection of over 30 historical buildings, providing insight into how Highland people lived and worked from the 1700's up until the 1950's.
- Discover the *Speyside Cooperage*, home of the ancient art of coopering (barrel-making) since 1947. The award-winning experience takes us on a complete journey from Acorn to Cask.
- Visit the *Culloden Battlefield*, a powerfully emotive and atmospheric battlefield where the 1745 *Jacobite Rising* came to a tragic end.
- Discover the romantic 14<sup>th</sup>-century *Cawdor Castle & Gardens*, built as a private fortress, and famed for its literary connection to Shakespeare's *Macbeth*.
- Re-live the romance of the *Strathspey Steam Railway*, on a scenic trip through The Highlands of Scotland.





## Edinburgh

September 12<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup>

**E**dinburgh, the capital of Scotland, is located in central eastern Scotland, near the Firth of Forth, close to the North Sea. Thanks to its spectacular rocks, rustic buildings and a huge collection of medieval and classic architecture, including numerous stone decorations, it is often considered one of the most lovely cities in Europe. Scottish people call it *Auld Reekie* and *Athens of the North*.

**E**dinburgh is one of Europe's most beautiful cities, draped across a series of rocky hills overlooking the sea. It's a town intimately entwined with its landscape, with buildings and monuments perched atop crags and overshadowed by cliffs. From the *Old Town's* picturesque jumble of medieval tenements piled high along the *Royal Mile*, its turreted skyline strung between the black, bull-nosed *Castle Rock* and the russet palisade of *Salisbury Crags*, to the *New Town's* neat grid of neoclassical Georgian respectability, the city offers a constantly changing perspective. Edinburgh is a city that begs to be discovered, filled with quirky, come-hither nooks that tempt you to explore a little bit further.

**M**ost of the structures in *Old Town* have remained in their original form over the years, with many charming medieval relics in this section of the city. In contrast, orderly Georgian terraces line the streets of *New Town*, where the urban scenery is a blend of older structures and modern architecture, giving the city a unique character. In 1995, Old Town was listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

**E**dinburgh, nicknamed "*The Athens of the North*" by the 18th-century great thinkers of the *Scottish Enlightenment*, is a city of high culture and lofty ideals, art, and literature. It is here each summer that the world's biggest arts festival rises; and it is here, beneath the Greek temples of *Calton Hill* – Edinburgh's acropolis – that the Scottish parliament sits again after a 300-year absence.

**E**dinburgh is also known as "*Auld Reekie*" (Reekie meaning "Smoky"), referring to the pollution from coal and wood fires that left dark smoky trails from chimneys through the Edinburgh skies. *Auld Reekie* also refers to a down-to-earth place that flicks an imprudent finger at the pretensions of the *literati*. *Auld Reekie* is a city of loud crowded pubs, decadent restaurants, late-night drinking, beer-fuelled poets, and all-night parties.

**O**ur home in Edinburgh is the best address on the Royal Mile at the *Hilton Edinburgh Carlton*. Blending perfectly into the historic surroundings of the Royal Mile, the Carlton is an iconic element of the city. The building dates to the early 1900s, and is part of the impressive *North Bridge* which links Edinburgh's Old and New Towns together, providing easy access to countless shopping, dining and entertainment hotspots. Once one of Edinburgh's top department stores, the building was fully refurbished in 2016 to bring the décor back to its stylish best.

[www3.hilton.com/en/hotels/united-kingdom/hilton-edinburgh-carlton-EDICAH1/index.html](http://www3.hilton.com/en/hotels/united-kingdom/hilton-edinburgh-carlton-EDICAH1/index.html)

### *Whisky Highlights in Edinburgh:*

- Three nights' stay at the *Hilton Edinburgh Carlton*, a beautifully refurbished hotel in the best location in town.
- Optional *whisky-drinking tour* one night of the best whisky bars in *Old Town*, led by our personal guide and whisky master, Elliot MacFarlane.
- Optional *whisky-drinking tour* another night of the best whisky bars in *New Town*, again led by Elliot, as he knows the best and most authentic establishments.

### *Non-Whisky Highlights in Edinburgh:*

- Discover the *Royal Mile*, a historical and cultural playground in Old Town extending from *Edinburgh Castle* to the *Palace of Holyroodhouse*, which is begging to be explored.
- *Edinburgh Castle*, perched on top a volcanic hill with sharp cliffs that have been cut by glaciers. The Castle has changed owners many times, having been captured by both the English and Scottish.
- *St. Margaret's Chapel*, the oldest part of the castle complex and likely the oldest building in Edinburgh, dating from approximately the year 1130.
- *Calton Hill*, home to Edinburgh's most prominent monuments
- Explore *New Town*. Built in the mid-to-late 18<sup>th</sup>-century in response to overcrowding in what is now known as the Old Town, Edinburgh's New Town has flourished as a true marvel of urban planning, with Georgian townhouses lining the broad avenues and open squares.
- Plenty of free time to explore Edinburgh's museums, shops, galleries, and pubs as you wish.

### Throughout the trip:

- Never basic entry-level distillery tours or tastings; always the more in-depth upgraded discovery.
- Dining together is a serious affair, and has been exclusively curated just for us. Experience off-the-beaten-track restaurants and very special hidden gems, privately owned and not designed for mass tourism. All meals (except three), with wines, are included at carefully selected atmospheric restaurants. In addition to all wine, 2 whiskies per person, are included at each dinner.
- All transportation is included in private chartered coach, from the beginning of the trip in Glasgow to the end of the trip in Edinburgh.
- Plenty of free time, giving you the opportunity to explore as you wish.
- All activities included.
- Intelligent Trip Design, always with a sense of journey, genuinely connecting you to the region.
- Services of a dedicated guide.
- Be part of the excitement, camaraderie, and friendship shared by traveling with other like-minded people.

### A note about our distillery visits:

Each distillery we visit offers a variety of ways in which guests can discover the property. In all cases, we will explore each distillery in a more in-depth way, always with the upgraded tour, a more extensive visit, and with more and premium tastings.

### Air:

Please note the trip begins in Glasgow and ends in Edinburgh.  
Air is NOT included to Glasgow and from Edinburgh.



### Meet our Guide Historian Whisky-Expert, Elliot MacFarlane:

Elliot MacFarlane is Director of *MacFarlanes' Company*, a nonprofit living history troupe that works to preserve, protect, and promote Scotland and the 18<sup>th</sup>-century. The Company was organized over 20 years ago and has, since its inception, raised over \$100,000.00 to support historical sites and cultural heritage organizations – primarily the *National Trust for Scotland*. The Company is made up of volunteers who are dedicated to the mission, and to Scotland.

For many years a passion for single malt whisky, the finest of Scotland's exports to the world, has provided the opportunity for a very enjoyable and educational sideline to living history. Presenting whisky tastings and themed dinners has added a unique opportunity to present the history, heritage, and culture of Scotland in, shall we say, a very palatable package. The wonderful pairing of fine food and great whisky has led MacFarlane to do continuing education in both fields, from *Whisky Studies* at *Moray College* to the *Culinary Institute of America*. Elliot is a *Certified Whisky Ambassador*, a graduate of the *Springbank Whisky School*, a recognized *Master Single Maltarian*, and has studied extensively in Scotland through nosing exams, farm visits, industry consultation, and distillery programs. To date, Elliot has visited over 75 distilleries in Scotland, and has over 30 years of regular travel to the country.

*MacFarlanes' Company* has long been involved in the preparation and presentation of 18<sup>th</sup>-century foods, historical dining, and historical gardening. The Company has made numerous school presentations, appeared at over 100 *Highland Games*, done living history at dozens of sites in Scotland and North America, and participated in many cultural and heritage events. Members of the Company have given lectures, taught classes, and made presentations at conferences, universities, historic sites, annual clan general meetings, and civic organizations for more than 25 years.

The work of *MacFarlanes' Company* is tied directly to a central belief: by learning the lessons of the past, you can better understand today, and better prepare for tomorrow; that presenting history as it was, rough spots and all, is paramount to informed decision making. [www.macfarlanescompany.org](http://www.macfarlanescompany.org)



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**A Whisky Journey through Scotland**  
*September 6<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup>, 2020*

**Name(s)** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address** \_\_\_\_\_

**City** \_\_\_\_\_ **State** \_\_\_\_\_ **ZIP** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone** \_\_\_\_\_ **Cell Phone** \_\_\_\_\_ **E-Mail** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ **\$6,500 per person, double occupancy**  
*Single Supplement is \$1,200*

**Deposit of \$500 per person is required to reserve your place.**  
Personal checks accepted.

Please return this form with the \$500 per person, payable to:

**Villas and Vines**  
**PO Box 131**  
**Douglas, MI 49406**

MasterCard and Visa accepted with a 3% surcharge per person added to the final payment.

**Final payment is due by July 8, 2020 (60 days prior)**

*This tour includes all hotels, ground transportation, bi-lingual tour guide, activities, meals, and wines as outlined in the program. **Air is NOT included.***

**Please note this trip begins in Glasgow and ends in Edinburgh.**

*CANCELLATION: If canceled up to 60 days prior, there is a \$500 cancellation fee. If canceled between 60 – 30 days prior, the penalty is 50% of the total cost of the trip. The trip is non-refundable if canceled within 30 days of departure. Trip cancellation insurance is strongly recommended.*

For more information and reservations, please contact:

**David Geen**  
**Villas and Vines**  
**(269) 857-1700**

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[www.villasandvines.com](http://www.villasandvines.com)



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Fine Spirits  
& Cocktails



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COMPANY