

Welcome to the official programme
for the 2025 Orkney Food & Drink Festival.

The Orkney Food and Drink Festival has been created especially to celebrate and showcase the outstanding wealth of food and drink products on offer within our islands.

It's also an opportunity for the passionate and dedicated folk behind those products to share their stories with as many people as possible and hopefully win over some new fans!

Orkney

Food & Drink Festival
20th-21st Sep 2025

*A celebration of food and drink
from the islands*



Join celebrity chef James Martin, BBC MasterChef 2024 winner Brin Pirathapan, and Great British Bake Off 2023 champion Matty Edgell, along with local chefs and producers, for a weekend of cooking demonstrations, tastings, and special food and drink experiences, all with an Orkney flavour!

"I fell in love with Orkney the very first time I visited and when we came back with the TV crew to film the Islands to Highlands series it was top of the places I wanted to go back to.

Everybody should experience not just its fabulous islands and stunning beaches, but it is home to fantastic people who are also lucky to have some of the greatest produce I've tasted on their doorstep. Can't wait to come back!"

James Martin



You can book event tickets and check for festival updates at: www.orkney.com/foodfestival

*All festival information is correct at the time of going to print and organisers reserve the right to substitute/change events.



The event has been organised by Orkney Food and Drink, a membership body representing many of the islands' producers, and financially assisted by Highlands and Islands Enterprise, Orkney Islands Council and Scotland Food and Drink.



Saturday 20th September

10:00 Highland Park Special Experience - Highland Park Distillery, Kirkwall

A tour of the distillery with a special tasting of three whiskies only available in Orkney. Sampling will take place in Magnus Eunson room.

10:30 James Martin, Cooking Demonstration with Q&A (45 mins) - Orkney Theatre, Kirkwall

Come and witness the culinary magic of the one and only James Martin at this cooking demonstration! Get ready to be wowed by his incredible skills and mouth-watering dishes.

11:30 Orkney Cheese - Cheddar Cheese Grading and Selection Session - Kirkwall Grammar School, Kirkwall

Join the experts from the award-winning Orkney Cheese Company for an insight into their vital grading work, with a guide to what makes a good cheese. You'll discover the difference between artisan cheddar and creamery cheddar and get to take part in a cheese grading demonstration.

11:30 Leigh Gould – Loki Seafood Demonstration (45 mins) - Orkney Theatre, Kirkwall

Leigh, a former 3 AA Rosette chef and owner of the award-winning Loki Seafood Shack in Stromness, will demonstrate a variety of ways to cook Orkney hand-dived scallops, in addition to showcasing some of the less well used species found in pristine local waters.

12:00 Highland Park Special Experience - Highland Park Distillery, Kirkwall

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12:00 Spirit of Scapa - Scapa Distillery

A brief behind-the-scenes tour of the distillery's production process, followed by an intimate tasting session in the Scapa Noust.



Left to Right
Local chefs and producers taking part include Leigh Gould, Gary Nicolson and Lara Hourie.

12:30 J Gow Rum – Cask Strength & Cocktails Class (45 mins) - Kirkwall Grammar School, Kirkwall

Be the first to try Hidden Depths Vol. 3, our first ever eight-year-old rum, two weeks before anyone else! Explore our range of wild yeast and cask strength rums and learn how to make some of our signature cocktails.

12:30 James Martin, Cooking Demonstration with Q&A (45 mins) - Orkney Theatre, Kirkwall

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13:15 Orkney Gin Company - Exclusive Cocktail Masterclass Experience (45 mins) - Kirkwall Grammar School

Join us for a relaxed and interactive session where we'll show you how to make a delicious cocktail using our brand-new mystery Old Tom.

- Dive into the story behind Orkney Gin Company and our island-inspired creations
- Enjoy a guided tasting of our handcrafted range – including a taste of our new spirit
- Everyone gets to sample the cocktail we make!

13:30 Local Chef Gary Nicolson Demonstration (45 mins) - Orkney Theatre, Kirkwall

Gary, founder of Box'd Orkney and former Orkney MasterChef winner, brings bold, honest flavours to the stage with a focus on seasonal, local ingredients, inspired by his Orcadian roots.

14:00 Highland Park Special Experience - Highland Park Distillery, Kirkwall

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14.15 James Martin Book Signing (30 mins) - Kirkwall Grammar School

James' popular cookbooks will be on sale during the festival, so grab the chance to get your copy signed!

14:30 Spirit of Scapa - Scapa Distillery

A brief behind-the-scenes tour of the distillery's production process, followed by an intimate tasting session in the Scapa Noust.

14:30 Highland Park Cocktail Masterclass (45mins) - Kirkwall Grammar School, Kirkwall

Join us for an immersive experience where our expert hosts will guide you through tasting notes and mixology tips in an exploration of two of our exceptional whiskies, demonstrating how these can be appreciated as a single dram and enjoyed as part of a refreshing cocktail. You'll learn about the local Orkney ingredients and traditions that give Highland Park its unique flavour and the inspiration and creativity behind our vibrant, refreshing approach to cocktails.

15:00 James Martin, Cooking Demonstration with Q&A (45 mins) - Orkney Theatre, Kirkwall

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15:45 Golden Slipper Brewing Company - A Taste of Seaweed (45 mins) - Kirkwall Grammar School

Golden Slipper Brewing Company launched this year with an innovative range of kombucha and vinegar. Sugar Kelp harvested off the coast of Birsay features in their popular Sea Kelp Fizz. Let the Golden Slipper team guide you through the world of seaweed with a unique cooking demonstration, discover its umami goodness and learn why it should feature more in our Orkney larder.

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19:00 Brin Pirathapan - The Storehouse Restaurant with Rooms, Kirkwall

Join MasterChef 2024 winner, Brin Pirathapan, for an insightful and entertaining evening where he'll share a specially created food festival menu with guests and tell the fascinating story of his MasterChef experience.

19:30 Cocktail Masterclass at The Orkney Distillery, Kirkwall

An evening session at the distillery where guests will enjoy a welcome drink before getting the chance to make three cocktails using our Kirkjuvagr Gin, Man O' Hoy Rum, and our own blended malt whiskies. Led by our team behind the bar, with a relaxed, hands-on format. **Limited to 12 people.**

Sunday 21st September

10:00 Highland Park Special Experience - Highland Park Distillery, Kirkwall

A tour of the distillery with a special tasting of three whiskies only available in Orkney. Sampling will take place in Magnus Eunson room.

10:30 Matty Edgell, Cooking Demonstration (60 mins) - Orkney Theatre, Kirkwall

Matty Edgell brings his signature mix of classic comfort and fresh flavour to the stage. Known for his warm, relaxed style, he champions seasonal ingredients and bakes that are as inviting as they are impressive.

11:00 Gin Making Experience - The Orkney Distillery, Kirkwall

A full-day interactive session where participants distil their own gin using mini copper stills and a wide selection of botanicals. Includes a welcome drink, tastings, lunch, and a 70cl bottle of their own creation to take home. **Limited to 10 people.**

12:00 Wine Tasting with Kirkness & Gorie (45 mins) - Kirkwall Grammar School

Duncan and Ben from specialist food and drink shop, Kirkness & Gorie, will taste guide you through five quality wines, all selected to match classic Orkney dishes – from scallops to North Ronaldsay mutton. Although they won't be serving up scallops and steak on the day, they'll be dishing out recipes and info sheets about the five wines you try.

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12:30 Lara Hourie - The Orkney Dairy Demo (30 mins) - Orkney Theatre, Kirkwall

Join Lara, owner of The Orkney Dairy, for a delicious, live interactive baking session! Lara will show you how to create her version of an Orkney Fudge cheesecake, with her own soft cheese, as well as all other ingredients from local producers, encompassing everything that's amazing about Orkney food and drink!

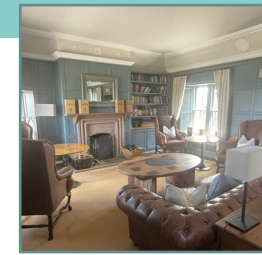
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13:30 Cupcake Bake Off - Orkney Theatre, Kirkwall

Four of Orkney's best young bakers, aged between 12 and 16, go head-to-head in a cupcake making skills showcase, with the results judged by none other than Matty Edgell winner of Great British Bake Off 2023.



Although focused around Kirkwall Grammar School and the Orkney Theatre, festival event venues also include Scapa Distillery's stunning Noust, and the famous Eunson Room at Highland Park Distillery.

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17:00 Cocktails and Nibbles - Ayre Hotel, Kirkwall

A special cocktail and networking session, with nibbles, to round off the festival. Guests welcome between 5pm and 8:30pm.

The following producers vans will be situated in the Kirkwall Grammar School car park Saturday and Sunday 11 - 4pm





Orkney Food & Drink Festival
has been generously sponsored by:



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