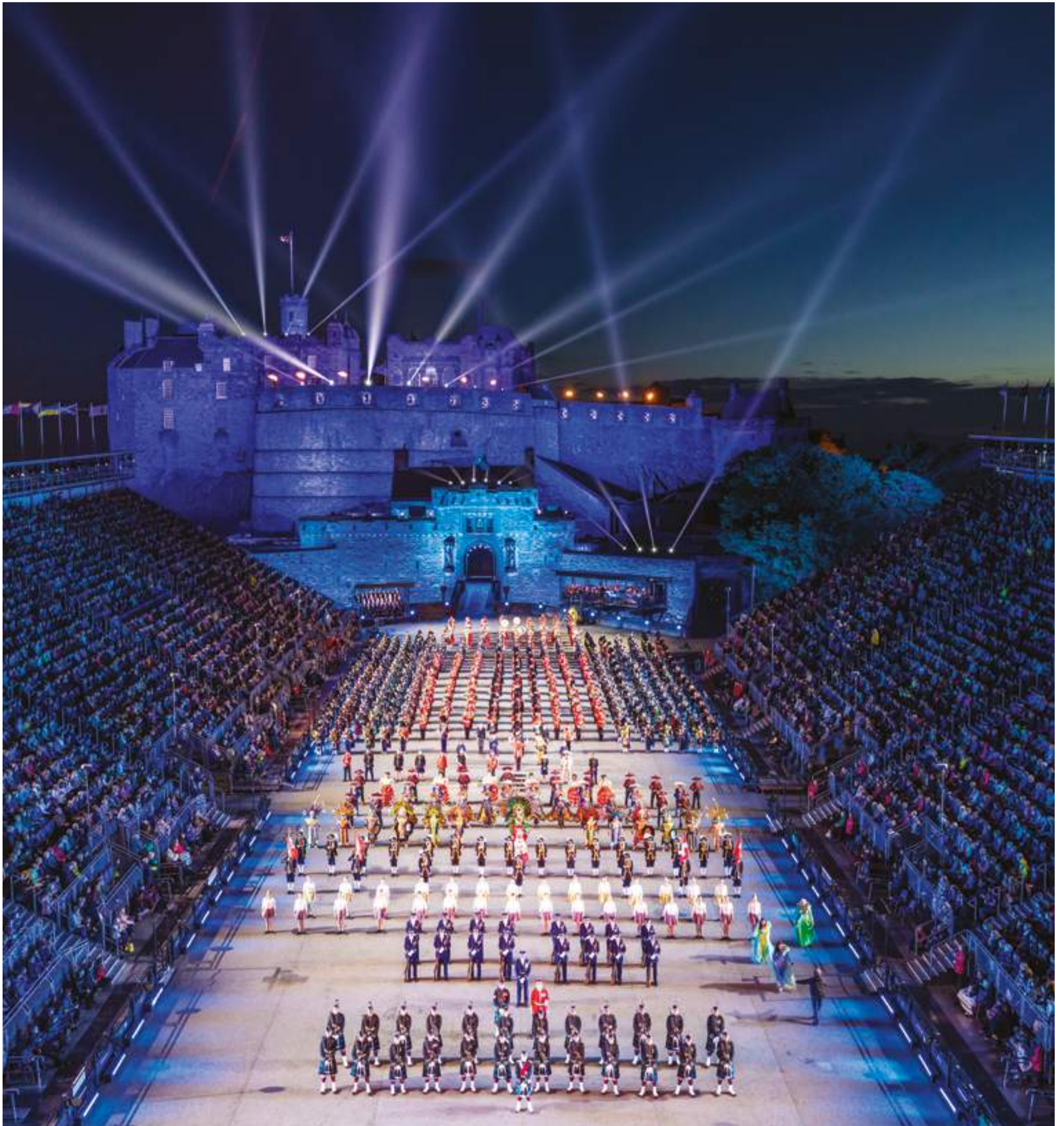


THE ICoN A Scottish *Summer*

Summer 2024
Issue N° 15

STORIES FROM THE BALMORAL, EDINBURGH'S ICONIC ROCCO FORTE HOTEL



A WARM WELCOME FROM OUR GENERAL MANAGER - CONCIERGE RECOMMENDS - RARE NEW ADDITION TO SCOTCH
- TOUR OF EDINBURGH COCKTAILS - EDINBURGH'S FESTIVAL FRINGE - THE BEST BEACHES NEAR THE SCOTTISH CAPITAL - FESTIVE AND HOGMANAY



Classic Room overlooking Calton Hill, The Balmoral

Contents

4-5

A WARM WELCOME FROM OUR GENERAL MANAGER

Our General Manager is looking forward to welcoming you to The Balmoral this summer.

6-9

CONCIERGE RECOMMENDS

A list of things to do in the city over the coming months, curated by our Concierge team.

10-11

RARE NEW ADDITION TO SCOTCH

SCOTCH is delighted to welcome an exclusive whisky bottle, created by The Macallan and Bentley Motors.

12-13

TOUR OF EDINBURGH COCKTAILS

Join us at Bar Prince to sample one of our 'Tour of Edinburgh' cocktails, each named after a famous spot in the capital.

14-15

EDINBURGH'S FESTIVAL FRINGE

An exciting opportunity to discover new theatre this August.

16-17

THE BEST BEACHES NEAR THE SCOTTISH CAPITAL

Some of Edinburgh's most beautiful beaches, only a short journey away from The Balmoral.

18-19

FESTIVE & HOGMANAY

Bring in the festive season with our beautiful Private Dining Rooms and join us for our Hogmanay Ball.



Andrew McPherson,
General Manager.

A Warm *Welcome*

From Our General Manager

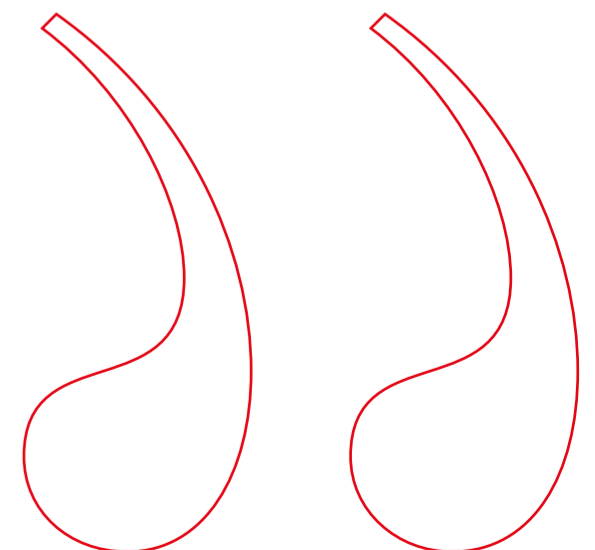
Summer has arrived in Edinburgh and The Balmoral is delighted to welcome guests for a season filled with warmer weather, refreshing cocktails and a marvelous calendar of events spanning from exciting new theatre to enthralling exhibitions.

We invite you to our city this summer to celebrate culture and creativity at the acclaimed Edinburgh Festival Fringe, the largest performance arts festival in the world. Each August, the festival hosts performances from across the globe, from hilarious comedies and live music performances, to dance and street art.

Begin the summer season by sampling Bar Prince's cocktails especially made to honour our beautiful capital's famous spots. Sip on an Arthur's Seat, a Holyrood Palace or a Calton Hill cocktail before venturing out to explore the city.

We are looking forward to welcoming you here at The Balmoral over the coming months.

**ANDREW MCPHERSON
GENERAL MANAGER**



Concierge *Recommends*



The Edinburgh Jazz and Blues Festival on Calton Hill, overlooking The Balmoral.

Edinburgh Jazz & Blues Festival

12th–21th July

With over 120 concerts this year in Edinburgh with both local and international faces, all-time favourites and newcomers this annual event draws visitors from all over the world. Choose from relaxed classical pianists to contemporary saxophone sounds in locations such as George Square and the Jazz Bar.

The full lineup of artists can be found online at: ejbf.co.uk

The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo

2nd–24th August

Set against the dramatic esplanade of the Edinburgh Castle, this spectacular August show is like no other. Performed by nearly 1,000 military musicians, drummers, dancers and singers with a number of special international guests and finished off with a lone bagpiper alongside a striking fireworks display, it's a Scottish night to remember.

Our concierge would be delighted to book your tickets

Game On Exhibition, National Museum of Scotland

29th June–8th September

From Sonic the Hedgehog to Mario, explore gaming's rich history by playing many of the key games produced over the last 50 years. This exhibition has attracted over 5 million people of all ages, while exhibiting in 24 cities around the world. The exhibition returns to the Scottish capital for the summer, following its showing over 20 years ago in the National Museum of Scotland.

Tickets can be purchased online at: nms.ac.uk

Edinburgh Zoo

Open daily 10am–6pm

Explore Edinburgh Zoo this summer, which is home to over 1,000 rare and endangered animals and situated on 82 acres of beautiful parkland. Visit the walkthrough habitats and see monkeys, wallabies, lemurs and pelicans. Experience the incredible glass viewing tunnel, where you can see a Sumatran tiger walk right over the tunnel. For those who prefer smaller critters, head to the Wee Beasts area where you can find reptiles, amphibians and insects.

Tickets for Edinburgh Zoo can be purchased online at: edinburghzoo.org.uk



Meet lemurs Kitata, Jingoma, Tipiaka and Pop Pop at Edinburgh Zoo.

Lind & Lime Distillery

Open daily 11am–6pm

Venture to Leith to discover the Lind & Lime Gin Distillery where they carefully create their own classic London dry gin using seven botanicals, juniper, coriander, angelica, liquorice, orris, fresh lime peel and aromatic pink peppercorns. Embark on a tour of the distillery and learn about the stories behind the origins of Lind & Lime Gin, fill and label your very own 5cl bottle of Lind & Lime Gin and sample some delightful drinks along the way.

Tickets for Lind & Lime can be purchased online at: lindandlime.com



Lind & Lime Gin Distillery, Coburg Street.

Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh

Open daily 10am–6pm

Set in over 70 acres of tranquil gardens and just one mile from the hotel, this world-famous collection of plants from around the world is a must see during the warm summer months. From the beautiful Rhododendron Collection, Giant Redwood trees and panoramic views of the city there's something for everyone including several café's perfect for an iced cold drink.

Entry is free, to find out more visit: rbge.org.uk



Royal Botanic Garden, Palm House.

Rare New Addition to SCOTCH

The Balmoral's acclaimed whisky bar SCOTCH is delighted to welcome an exclusive whisky bottle, created by The Macallan and Bentley Motors, to its bar this summer, named

The Macallan Horizon.

One of the world's first horizontal bottles is now proudly on display in a custom-made cabinet in the centre of our SCOTCH bar. In celebration of The Balmoral being the first in Scotland to secure the rare whisky bottle, it has launched a one-off £100,000 'Horizon Whisky Experience' which will be available from August 2024. The experience will include: becoming the proud owner of the world's first horizontal whisky bottle, a personalised membership to the hotel's exclusive SCOTCH Club, a two-night stay in The Balmoral's enchanting presidential suite the Scone & Crombie, and an incredible private tour and overnight stay at The Macallan Estate.

Scotch open daily 4pm-1am

Contact our team to find out more about the exclusive
'The Macallan Horizon Whisky Experience'
sales.balmoral@roccofortehotels.com



Tour of Edinburgh at Bar Prince



Join us this summer for a pre-theatre cocktail at Bar Prince.

Let the bustle of Princes Street fade as you step into the glamorous Bar Prince where you can take a seat in one of the cornflower-blue leather chairs or perch at the bar, decorated with gleaming copper barware.

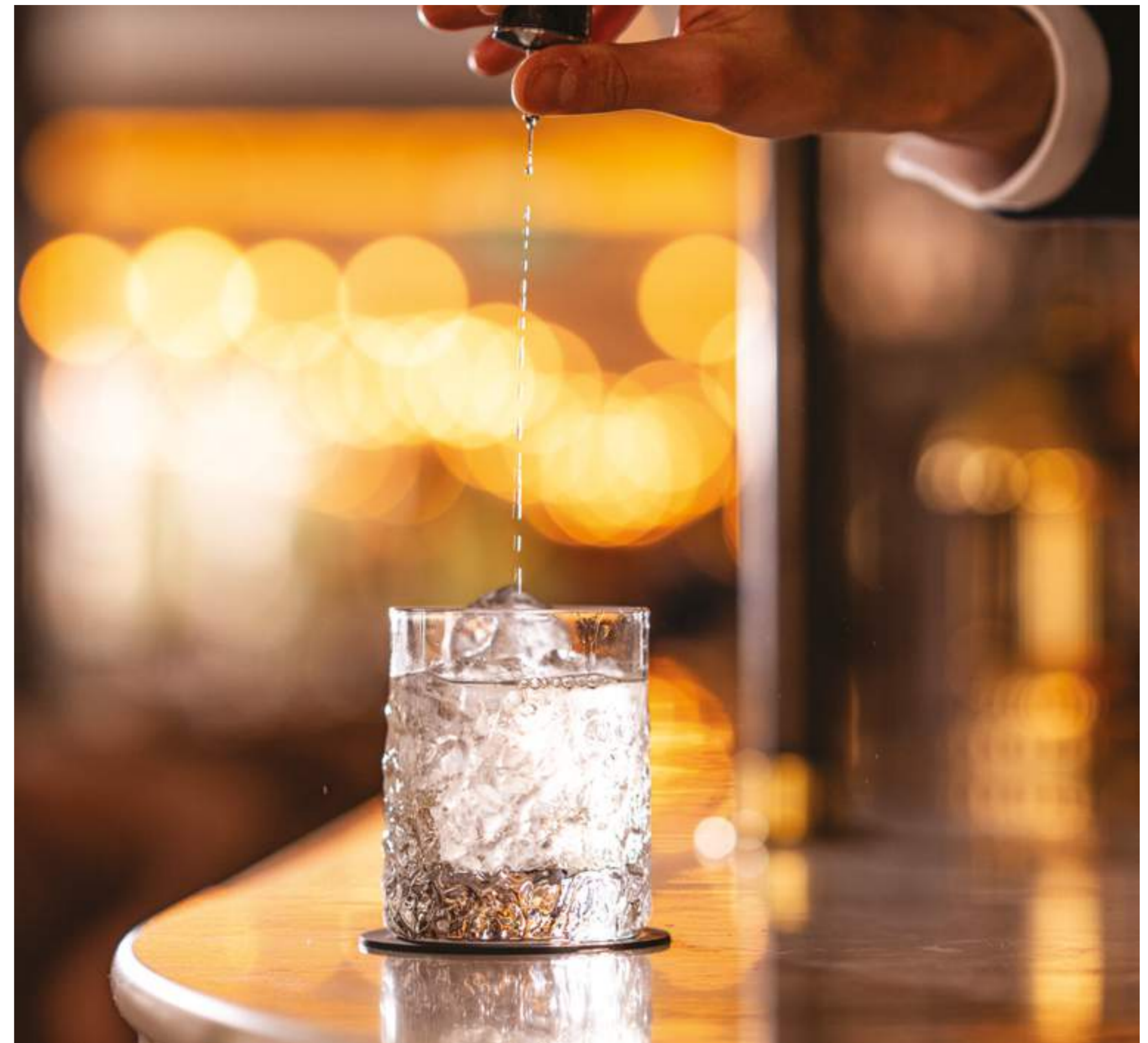
In honour of our beautiful capital, the talented Bar Prince team have created 'A Tour of Edinburgh' cocktail list, dedicated to our famous spots.



Cramond Island Causeway.

Cramond Island

'Cramond Island' is an Edinburgh Gin based cocktail with lots of fresh citrus notes, the perfect refreshment after a warm summer's day near the coast.



Holyrood Palace.

Holyrood Palace

'Holyrood Palace' is created with our own Balmoral Gin made just six miles from the hotel, showcasing a celebration of Scottish herbs combined with St Germain, Peach, Tio Pepe and Orange Bitters.

Other destination cocktails include Calton Hill, Arthur's Seat and Edinburgh's Mule.

Open Monday–Friday 11am–1am
Saturday–Sunday 12pm–1am

For more information, contact barprince@roccofortehotels.com or call 0131 556 2414

Edinburgh's *Festival Fringe*

Edinburgh's most anticipated annual event takes over the whole city for the month of August, filling it with creative energy and celebrations of culture from all over the world.

From world famous comedians to local street performers the festival month really does have it all. Experience an array of theatre, dance, comedy, circus, musicals, children's shows, spoken word and numerous events that all take place in Edinburgh.

It's not only the performances that make the festival particularly special, there is also an array of venues offering something unique for the month. From outdoor bars, themed areas, world street food and live music found all around the city there is plenty to see and do for all the family. Locations such as Bristo Square, The Meadows and George Square all have fantastic themed bars and delicious world street food.

Over 3,000 shows from 58 countries.

The Fringe is recognised as one of the most important cultural events in the world, with performers from 58 countries. 2024 is set to be particularly spectacular with over 3,000 shows and events to choose from.

From big names in the world of entertainment to new artists, the festival caters to everyone.



Austentatious © Paul Gilbey



Street performers, Royal Mile. Image Credit Visit Scotland.

Great for all the family

Amazing Bubble Man
Bristo Square, McEwan Hall

An Edinburgh Fringe favourite, the show sold out every year for the last 14 years. Amazing Bubble Man explores the fascinating dynamics of bubbles, combining comedy and artistry with audience participation and lots of bubble tricks.

Comedy all rounder

Austentatious
Bristo Square, McEwan Hall

For Jane Austen fans, there is the opportunity to watch the hilarious comedy Austentatious, which is an entirely improvised play based on a title suggestion from the audience, so no two shows are ever the same.

Something Scottish

Dear Billy, A Love Letter to the Big Yin
Assembly Rooms, Music Hall

The National Theatre of Scotland will also host some outstanding shows such as "Dear Billy, A Love Letter to the Big Yin", a solo show by Gary McNair celebrating Scottish actor Billy Connolly.

Contact our concierge team to find out more information and book concierge.balmoral@roccofortehotels.com



Bristo Square, University of Edinburgh.

The Best Beaches Near The Scottish Capital

Enjoy a day relaxing at the beach, with a refreshing drink in hand, and soak up the sunshine at one of our top recommended locations. Edinburgh has access to many beautiful coastal spots from the charming seaside suburb Portobello to East Lothian's natural cove Yellowcraig.

North Berwick West Beach

35 minute train journey from The Balmoral

A long stretch of beautiful sand with views to the island of Craigleith and the Bass Rock, North Berwick West Beach is a popular beach for families. It is the perfect location for sunbathing, paddling, picnics, bird watching and dog walking. For golf lovers, a putting green can be found behind the beach that is open during the summer months.

North Berwick West beach is also very close to the Lifeboat shed and within walking distance of the Scottish Seabird Centre.



North Berwick West beach, overlooked by North Berwick Law.

Portobello Beach

30 minute bus journey and walk from The Balmoral

Portobello Beach is a charming seaside suburb, with two miles of sand making it the idyllic place for swimming and sunbathing.

The Seaside Award-winning beach welcomes large crowds in the summer and hosts a number of popular events, including the annual Big Beach Busk, triathlon events and international volleyball competitions. Enjoy a refreshing drink or some delicious ice cream at the promenade which has several wonderful bars and cafés to choose from.



Portobello Beach.



Yellowcraig Beach, with Bass Rock visible out to sea.

Yellowcraig Beach

An hours drive from The Balmoral

Yellowcraig Beach is a natural cove in East Lothian with breathtaking views to the 1885 lighthouse on Fidra Island, which is said to be the inspiration for the Treasure Island novel by Robert Louis Stevenson.

The beach is very popular with families, with an adventure playpark and a great selection of nature trails.

We recommend taking a picnic with you since there are no cafes and restaurants closeby.

Why not opt for a delicious picnic created by our talented team featuring seasonal sandwiches such as the Classic Balmoral with smoked salmon, shallots, capers, lemon and crème fraîche on sourdough bread.

Celebrate at The Balmoral

Festive Gatherings

Spend a memorable festive gathering with family or friends in one of The Balmoral's beautiful private dining spaces, which overlook Edinburgh Castle and Old Town.

Its stunning central location does not take away from the hotel's incredible sense of peace and refined sophistication, a wonderful festive haven away from the hustle and bustle of the city centre.

Within The Balmoral, guests are greeted by impeccable Scottish hospitality and Christmas spirit sprinkled throughout the hotel.

Each of The Balmoral's light-flooded private dining spaces feature a wealth of grand, original features, making them an incredible venue for a beautiful Christmas celebration.

Our Festive Gathering packages include a glass of Prosecco on arrival, three course festive menu, half bottle of wine per person. All of which are hosted in our private dining rooms overlooking Edinburgh Castle. From £80 per person.



'Hogmanay' New Year's Eve

Toast to 2025 with a bottle of Champagne in your room or suite, chilled and awaiting your arrival. Settle in for a two-night stay waking up each morning to the aroma of the finest coffee and a delicious breakfast of favourites such as Balmoral cured smoked salmon and scrambled eggs.

Bring in the New Year with our lavish black-tie evening with one of the best views in Edinburgh for the famous fireworks display over the Castle. With a reception of free-flowing Champagne and delicious canapés.

As the clock counts down to midnight, enjoy lively music, entertainment, a pipe band and a five-course dinner, where each course is carefully paired with wines chosen by our Sommelier, set in the magnificent surroundings of the Sir Walter Scott Suite.

Two night stay with breakfast, a bottle of Champagne in your room and two tickets to The Balmoral's Hogmanay Ball from £3,784.

Contact our reservations team to find out more information and book reservations.balmoral@roccofortehotels.com

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