

THE
Icon

AUTUMN/WINTER 2023

ISSUE N° 13

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

Memorable Moments



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A Warm Welcome

From Our New General Manager

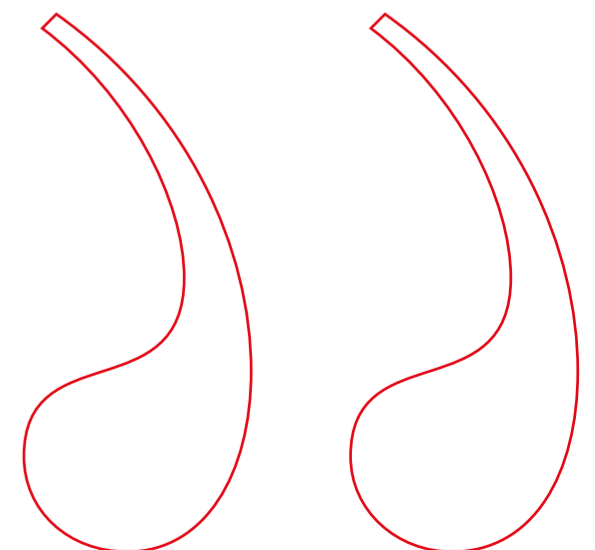
The most wonderful time of the year is fast approaching, and I am very much looking forward to my first Christmas here at The Balmoral.

With the winter months rolling in, it is a pleasure to welcome you all to experience the autumnal and festive season in Edinburgh. The capital has a vast number of fabulous attractions during this period, from our magical Christmas Market and famous Hogmanay celebrations to beautiful local art exhibitions and wonderful music concerts at the Usher Hall.

I invite you all to The Balmoral to warm up during the colder months with an iconic whisky tasting at our prestigious whisky bar, SCOTCH. After a day full of exploring and a dazzling wander through the Christmas Market, there is nothing more delightful than enjoying a smokey dram.

I hope you all have a wonderful autumn, and a winter filled with festive celebrations enjoyed with family and friends!

**ANDREW MCPHERSON
GENERAL MANAGER**



Concierge Recommends



Grayson Perry, Kenilworth AM1, custom-built motorcycle, 2010



Grayson Perry Trophy Awarded to a Person With Good Taste, about 1992

Grayson Perry Exhibition: Smash Hits

National (Royal Scottish Academy), The Mound until 12th November

The biggest ever exhibition of Sir Grayson Perry's work, covering his 40-year Turner Prize winning career. Bright, bold and particularly striking, his work is shown in this exhibition through pottery, sculptures, embroidery and various different painting techniques and materials. One particular show stopping piece is a full custom-built motorbike in his iconic colourful style.

More information & tickets: nationalgalleries.org/exhibition/grayson-perry-smash-hits

Usher Hall November Concerts

8th—25th November

James Martin, 8th November:

Celebrity chef with live demonstration and cookery stories from over the years.

Simon Reeve, To The Ends Of The Earth, 12th November:

World traveller on embracing the outdoors, thrilling tales and hearty laughs.

Ben Folds 'What Matters Most', 18th November:

A mix of full band, orchestra, and solo performances from his new album.

Ross Noble, 25th November:

Olivier Award nominated comedian with his most recent solo stand up comedy.

More information & tickets: usherhall.co.uk/



Edinburgh Castle, Castle of Light

Christmas Markets

Various city centre locations from 24th November to 3rd January

Edinburgh is truly magical this time of year, with one of the most spectacular Christmas Markets located just two minutes from The Balmoral in Princes Street Gardens and another located on and near George Street. Filled with traditional handmade gifts, warming mulled wine, lit up big wheel, popular ice skating rink, fairground rides and delicious street food stalls throughout, it really does make the perfect festive afternoon.

Entry is free, some attractions may require purchasing tickets in advance.

Castle of Light: Magic & Mystery

Edinburgh Castle, various dates from 24th November to 3rd January

Prepare to see Edinburgh Castle transform this festive season as Castle of Light returns for a fourth fantastic year. Delve into their new theme of Magic & Mystery this year as a tapestry of projections and enchanting installations illuminates the walls and facade of the castle. A fully immersive outdoor evening experience for all the family to enjoy.

Entry is free, some attractions may require purchasing tickets in advance.

More information & tickets: edinburghcastle.scot/whats-on/castle-of-light

Torch Light Procession

29th December, 6pm at The Meadows

Join 20,000 participants to create a river of light through Edinburgh's historic Old Town to the majestic backdrop of Edinburgh Castle, amongst a carnival of pipers, drummers, fire, and fanfare.

More information & tickets: tickets.edinburghshogmanay.com

Hogmanay Street Party

31st December, Princes Street

Celebrating its 30th anniversary this year, the world-famous Edinburgh's Hogmanay Street Party returns to the historic city centre, to once again light-up the skies, at one of the greatest New Year celebrations. With a feast of entertainment from live music, giant screens, street performers, pipers, drummers, funfair attractions, delicious street food and numerous bars dotted along the way, it's a night to remember.

More information & tickets: edinburghshogmanay.com/event/street-party

Meet Andrew McPherson

Our New General Manager

The Balmoral, the only Forbes Five Star hotel in Scotland is delighted to welcome Andrew McPherson as our new General Manager.

To help us get to know our new General Manager, we asked him some very important questions....

Where did you start in hospitality?

As a teenager, I grew up on the Isle of Wight and had my first job as a Kitchen Porter in the local pub—I was promoted to the lofty position of ‘chef’; chopping tomatoes, frying scampi and dressing pigeons! I went off to Bournemouth University to study a hospitality degree and have never looked back.

If you had to eat one meal for the rest of your life what would it be?

My wife’s lasagne!

What is your favourite sport?

My favourite sport is sailing, which I love to do along the West Coast of Scotland.

What was the first thing you bought with your own money?

I am sure it would have been sweets, those rhubarb and custard chews for a penny!

What is your favourite quote?

‘I can resist everything but temptation’ — Oscar Wilde.

If you could choose your last drink, what would it be and where would you drink it?

A Negroni, on a boat in the Med.



Andrew McPherson pictured with Katie McDowell (Personal Assistant to the General Manager), David Musk (Chief Concierge) and Sarah Black (Marketing Manager)



And lastly, what is your top tip for life?
Choose happiness and laugh often.

Andrew enjoying a dram of Macallan 18 Year Old in SCOTCH

The Balmoral Suite: Family Time

Our grand Balmoral Suite with its harmonising colour palette inspired by the serenity of our lochs, as well as hints of heather and deep green woodland in the lavish textiles makes the perfect base for a relaxing spacious family stay in Edinburgh.

With its two separate bedrooms there is plenty of room for everyone to enjoy. Spend the mornings watching cartoons and indulging on a delicious Balmoral breakfast, which can be served in the comfort of the suite or at our Brasserie Prince restaurant. After a long day exploring the mesmerising city, unwind with quality family time by the roaring fire with bedtime stories, at the Balmoral Suite there are memories to be made in all corners.

Ideal for longer stays and families with the ability for the suite to be interconnected with an Executive Old Town View room, creating a beautiful and spacious three bedroom family suite with views of Arthur's Seat and Edinburgh's historic Old Town.



Bonnie the Balmoral Owl

Bonnie lives in our clock tower admiring the beautiful views of Edinburgh Castle and Princes Street from her cosy roost. You'll see her throughout your stay from check-in to turn-down, she's never far away making sure your little ones have the most memorable stay.

We have a range of children's activities from a Harry Potter Trail around Edinburgh, a visit to Camera Obscura with over 100 different illusions or simply enjoy our special children's afternoon tea in Palm Court with a delicious hot chocolate.



To enquire about staying in The Balmoral Suite please contact: reservations.balmoral@roccoforte-hotels.com



A Local Guide To Stockbridge

Just a short 20 minute walk from The Balmoral, Edinburgh's most adored neighbourhood can be found, Stockbridge.

Stockbridge is renowned for its cobbled streets, Georgian architecture, beautiful green parks and a mix of independent shops and family owned restaurants.



Lannan Bakery

From beautiful laminated pastries, deep filled baguettes and luscious cakes this brand new bakery has been a popular choice by locals since its opening. A must try is their buttermilk croissants, a daily favourite by all.

I.J. Mellis & Son

Indulge on a delicious cheese tasting, sampling the freshest Scottish cheese. This is a fantastic opportunity for cheese lovers to learn from the passionate cheesemongers and bring your own bottle to enjoy. Or simply pop in to browse their huge selection of wonderful cheeses.



Dean Village Walk

Wander along to Dean Village where beautiful historical buildings dating back to the 19th century can be found. One of Edinburgh's most picturesque locations and often described akin to a fairy-tale.

Sunday Market

Stockbridge Sunday market offers a range of delicious hot food, freshly baked goods, charcuterie, fruit and vegetables, and arts and crafts. It is the perfect way to spend a relaxing Sunday afternoon and to enjoy some local delicacies.

Whiskers Wine Bar & Bistro

A relaxed family owned establishment that focuses on seasonal and fresh British cuisine with a classical French influence. Sit at the window with your chosen wine and watch the world go by.

Dean Village

Hogmanay: Celebrate With Us

The Balmoral's Hogmanay Experience

Bring in the New Year in true Balmoral style with a two-night stay waking up each day to the aroma of the finest coffee and a delicious breakfast of favourites such as Balmoral cured smoked salmon and scrambled eggs, served at Brasserie Prince or enjoyed in the comfort of the room or suite.

The stay includes a lavish black-tie evening on New Year's Eve, which begins 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.

Experience the powerful image of the city from the hotel, lit up by the midnight fireworks display at Edinburgh Castle, The Balmoral really is the idyllic spot to bring in the bells.

New Year's Eve Celebration Package

- Two night stay in one of our suites
- Breakfast each morning
- A bottle of Champagne in your suite on arrival
- Two tickets to The Balmoral's New Year's Eve Celebration
- Prices start from £3,785 for two

To find out more about the Hogmanay package at The Balmoral please contact: reservations.balmoral@roccoforte-hotels.com



Time For a dram?

The Balmoral's prestigious whisky bar, SCOTCH, has designed two iconic tastings for an idyllic whisky lovers getaway this autumn and winter time. The perfect holiday to relax, sip and enjoy sampling some of the rarest drams on the market.

Our two whisky tastings plus a very special dram:

A Journey Around Scotland

Which takes you from Speyside all the way to The Highlands, The Lowlands and Campbeltown. Each region is visited via hand-picked whiskies, specially selected by the SCOTCH Whisky Ambassadors. The perfect way for a whisky lover to experience Scotland's delightful delicacy, the country's beautifully distilled Scotch.

Rare & Ghosted

The name on its own encapsulates the much loved spooky autumnal season. During this whisky tasting guests will be able to sample some of the rarest, limited release, whiskies on offer. The dram served by the award-winning staff will be from a closed distillery or a rare bottling.

The Extraordinary Macallan 40 Year Old

At the heart of SCOTCH, sitting proudly on display behind the gleaming brushed brass and black granite bar, you will find The Macallan 40 Year Old.

SCOTCH is one of only two bars in Scotland which sells this rare whisky by the dram, creating a bespoke and opulent experience for guests visiting the world-renowned whisky bar.

The prestigious bottle is part of the limited edition Red Collection, a range of rare single malt Scotch whiskies created from some of the world's oldest and rarest casks.

More information and bookings please contact:
scotch@roccofortehotels.com, 0131 524 7142



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