

Edinburgh Cocktail Week – only a week to go!

Just another week to go and the Edinburgh Cocktail Week will be here to occupy your tastebuds and your free time. There are over 80 bars taking part in the week long event dedicated to the Screwdriver and the Martini. Each bar has a signature cocktail which will cost just £4 each along with your ECW wristband.



One bartender who is keen to make you something tasty this Edinburgh Cocktail Week

These are on sale now : £6 for a weekday band (valid Monday to Friday) and £8 for a weekend band (valid Saturday and Sunday).

The new Cocktail Village at Festival Square will be free to enter from midday to 11pm (8pm on Sunday) as long as you have a wristband. It will be decorated like an autumn garden, with live music and DJs. You might think you are at a festival, but it will be cosy and warm in the marquee.

There you will find 15 individual pop up bars with the likes of Grey Goose and Edinburgh Gin, Johnnie Walker and POCO Prosecco, Rumbullion Rum and Belvedere Vodka, St Germain and a special Golden Ticket Bar.

Organiser Gary Anderson said : “After 12 months of planning and organising, we’re excited to see Edinburgh Cocktail Week come to life and welcome everyone to our bigger, better event. There is so much to do this year between hoping around bars and discovering new tastes, to attending parties and masterclass, distillery tours and interactive challenges, or just hanging out in the Cocktail Village with your friends – there’s no experience like it in Scotland, so we say make the most of it and see you at the bar!”

Between sipping, sampling and socialising around the bars and Cocktail Village, there is also a programme of events, masterclasses and parties for wristband-holders to attend throughout the week, kicking off with a Porn Star Martini Party hosted by Absolut Vodka at 4042, Edinburgh’s newest late-night venue. Revelry continues throughout the week as Altos Tequila and Tonic bar collaborate to host a sleepover themed party with £4 ‘Agave Dream’ inspired cocktails. Entry to both events is free on a first-come basis and tables can be booked in advance by contacting each venue directly.

Thrill-seekers are invited to join Chivas Regal for a whisky themed Escape Room at Nightcap. Designed for both experienced and amateur whisky drinkers, attendees must use their senses to guide themselves through a labyrinth of flavour, collecting whisky along the way to unlock and create their own personalised blend at the end of the challenge, before enjoying a complimentary cocktail in the Nightcap Lounge.

Another exciting addition this year is ‘The Secret Spirits Study’ pop-up on Queen Street – a masterclass hub by day and underground bar by night, hosted by Wemyss Malts and Darnley’s Gin. Those eager to sample and get creative can look forward to experiential masterclasses such as ‘Mixed Drinks Through the Ages’ which explores the past, present and future of cocktails through sampling and hands-on cocktail-making. Or take ‘A Liquid Journey’ and sample six botanical spirits to discover how they react with one another to form the award-winning Darnley’s Gin range, while ‘The Secret to Blending Whisky’ masterclasses take pupils on a laboratory style flavour tasting before crafting a personalised blend to take home. In the evening The Secret Spirits Study will transform into a hidden cocktail bar with a programme of bar takeovers

with mixologists from across Scotland showcasing their skills to create £4 cocktails for wristband-holders to imbibe on in the lounge or underground bothy.

If a break from cocktails is needed, you can head to The Empress of Broughton Street for a beer & whiskey pairing with Jameson Whiskey and local craft brewers Barney's Beer, or be the first to take a tour of the Sweetdram distillery as it opens for the first time, exclusively for wristband-holders. Tour tickets cost £6 each and include samples of Sweetdram's Escubac (described specifically as not a gin) and their Smoked Spiced Rum.

Local gin producers, Pickering's Gin, are joining in by collaborating with Brewhemia to offer wristband-holders a whirlwind week of gin-soaked tastings, cocktail competitions, parties and gin shenanigans with co-founders Marcus Pickering and Matthew Gammell.

And the fun and benefits of an ECW wristband don't end there: wristband-holders can also enjoy a complimentary cocktail with beauty treatments at NOW by One Spa; promotions at the Official ECW Bottle Shops, Royal Mile Whiskies and Drink Monger; 50% off a ride with mytaxi; and free entry before midnight to Edinburgh's top late-night venues Lulu, 4042 and Shanghai – visit the ECW website for T&Cs.

Wristbands:

On sale now at www.edinburghcocktailweek.co.uk

Weekday (valid Monday – Friday) – £6

Weekend (valid Saturday & Sunday) – £8