



Object of the Newsletter

To promote the appreciation of fine Scotch Whisky, the area from which it comes, the people that inhabit the land and it's history. By the way, I do not profess to be an expert, I am merely expressing an opinion on the whiskies I am tasting.

I now look at Glenmorangie 25-year-old which I tried in the White Hart Inn, in the Grass market, in Edinburgh, Scotland when I was over there last year. I have to say the whisky is superb, and the bartender was paranoid. After ordering a dram, I asked if I could get a photo of me holding the bottle, not a chance. I tried to explain that I was too old to run out of the bar with it and not get caught, but he wouldn't relent.

This is a definite case of older is better, which is not always the case. I like all of the Glenmorangies that I have tasted (so far), and that is most of them. The 25-year-old has that extra something, it's just kind of classy and to me says 25 years went into making this. Would I buy it? Probably not, let me explain. A couple of years ago I would have bought it and proudly displayed it on the bar with all the other expensive whiskies I used to buy. I had a change of priority recently, and that is to spend my money trying as many fine whiskies as possible and there is a lot out there to try. So yes it is highly recommended by me, and if you want a great looking bar, buy it and show it off, it's just not my thing anymore.

You can buy Glenmorangie 25-year-old for around \$280.00 a bottle.

Tasting Notes;

Nose - Floral, peach crumble

Palate - Fruitcake, tropical fruit, blackberries

Finish - Blackberries, oak & spices

"Slainte Mhath"

Paul Bissett





The White Hart Inn

The earliest written records for The White Hart Inn on this site date to 1516. However, only the cellarage survives from this time, whilst the building above ground dates to 1740.

The pub gets its name from a miraculous and holy event that took place in Edinburgh in 1128. The Scottish King David I, against the advice of his priest, set out hunting upon the Feast Day of the Holy Rood, which is Scots for the Holy Cross. He came upon a huge, white stag and gave chase but was suddenly thrown from his horse. The maddened stag immediately turned upon its pursuer and King David began frantically praying to God for his salvation. The story is told that a fiery cross appeared between the stag's antlers before it vanished from sight. A grateful King David built a shrine upon the site of the miracle, founding Holyrood Abbey, the ruin of which may be seen today at the rear of Holyrood Palace.

'Two of the most infamous patrons were Edinburgh's notorious bodysnatchers, William Burke and William Hare'

For many years public executions were held a few hundred steps to the east and the crowds would keep the innkeeper extremely busy.

The White Hart Inn has also welcomed many notable patrons throughout its five centuries including the Scottish bard Robert Burns, who spent one week here in November 1791 visiting his lover Nancy Macklehole (Clarinda) for one last time and during his stay he was inspired to write one of his most beautiful and enduring love songs, Ae Fond Kiss. Some of his poetry may be seen painted upon our wooden rafters.

Two of the most infamous patrons were Edinburgh's notorious bodysnatchers, William Burke and William Hare, who spent the year of 1828 enticing several of their fellow patrons back to their nearby lodgings only to murder them and sell their corpses to Dr Knox at Edinburgh Medical School. Their faces may still be seen grinning from their places on The White Hart's beams. In recent years, staff and customers have reported numerous sightings and experiences that suggest the hospitality offered at The White Hart Inn over the centuries has been so good that some of our patrons have decided never to leave!



Below is a simple guide to help you choose your single malt Whisky, and the flavor notes you should expect from it. Being Scottish I recommend you find a likely candidate and try it in a bar before buying the whole bottle. This Issue; [Glenmorangie 25-year-old](https://glenmorangie.com) . For more information go to <https://glenmorangie.com>





Edinburgh's Grassmarket

www.greatergrassmarket.co.uk

From the shadow of Edinburgh Castle the Grassmarket and surrounding areas continue to be “a place of bustle and life” within the city’s UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Within our area the past literally lays the foundation for how we use the space as many buildings occupy ancient sites. The area also retains uses such as taverns and shops which have been here since the 1500s and continue to be a popular attraction. The architecture that surrounds the square sets the backdrop to many infamous stories some of which involve the site of the former gallows.

Edinburgh's Old and New Towns were inscribed as a World Heritage Site in 1995 recognising the Old Town's Medieval street pattern and the formal planning of the New Town. The layout of the Greater Grassmarket area is still according to the regulations laid down by the medieval burgh magistrates and it is a testament to them that it maintains an historical streetscape that copes with contemporary demands on the space. At the centre of the Greater Grassmarket area is the Grassmarket. The Grassmarket's origins lie with it being in a valley, which meant it was easier for livestock and carts to access rather than having to negotiate the steep slope up to the Old Town. For this reason the area was probably used as a market from the 1300s. Originally the site of cattle fairs, various stables and yards were built around the market for the cattle to be fattened and butchered before taken to the meat market. This ended around 1670 when the market became used more as a transit point where traders would bring in their goods before unloading carts and carrying them up the West Bow into the city by barrow or porter. Indoor corn markets were located in the area until 1912 and open air markets continue to this day.

A central feature of the Grassmarket is the **Bow Well** built in 1681 as the first piped outlet of running water in Edinburgh. Although renovated in the late 1700s it kept the original Robert Milne design.

“Slange”

Next to the well is the Covenanter’s memorial which stands as a humble reminder of the Grassmarket’s place in the history of Edinburgh as the site of the city’s gallows. The history of the Grassmarket and the gallows are inextricably linked, it is difficult to think of them without your head conjuring up images of body snatcher Burke and Hare, the unlucky Captain Porteous of the town guard, and half-hingit Maggie who actually survived the experience. The White Hart pub is a reminder of other historical figures who are known to have stayed here, including the poets Wordsworth and Robert Burns, who spent his last night in Edinburgh here in 1791.

Most of the buildings in the Grassmarket date from the 1800’s following a period of improvement in the Old Town. Several buildings from the 1700’s survive on the northern and eastern sides most notably the White Hart Inn. Sadly only one complete building remains from the 1600’s at the entrance to Victoria Street, which dates from 1616. This makes the building the oldest in the Grassmarket and in its day would have been of high status as much of the town was built of wood. However, stone from older buildings was often reused as you can see at number 74-82 , which was built in the 1930’s but incorporates an earlier door frame dated 1634. This mixture of old and new can also be seen in the innovative new design of Dance Base, Scotland’s national centre for dance.



Grassmarket with the castle above left