

DESTINATION BRIEFING · TOURISM & EVENTS PROFESSIONALS

24 JULY – 1 AUGUST 2026 · 8TH EDITION

# BELFAST WHISKEY WEEK 2026

Ireland's largest whiskey festival. **Nine days, one city** — the biggest celebration of whiskey, food, cocktails and craic that Belfast has ever seen.

[BELFASTWHISKEYWEEK.COM](http://BELFASTWHISKEYWEEK.COM)

**BELFAST  
WHISKEY  
WEEK**



THE HEADLINE NUMBERS

24 JUL - 1 AUG 2026

# ONE CITY. NINE DAYS. ALL THE CRAIC.

**9**

FESTIVAL DAYS, FRIDAY TO SATURDAY

**73**

TICKETED EVENTS ACROSS THE PROGRAMME

**28**

VENUES - BARS, HOTELS, RESTAURANTS & DISTILLERIES

**40+**

WHISKEY BRANDS & DISTILLERIES AT THE EXPO

**£10**

ENTRY POINT - TRY 3 DRAMS SESSIONS EVERY DAY

**4.9/5**

RATED BY 20,000+ PAST ATTENDEES

**300**

YEARS OF BELFAST WHISKEY HERITAGE CELEBRATED

**8TH**

EDITION - IRELAND'S LARGEST WHISKEY FESTIVAL

**WHISKEY • FOOD • COCKTAILS •  
COMEDY • THEATRE • TOURS •  
MUSIC**

From £10 tastings in Cathedral Quarter snugs to a £250 collectors' package at the Europa Hotel EXPO — the programme is built to welcome first-timers and connoisseurs in the same room.

THE STORY

# RECLAIMING BELFAST, AS A WHISKEY CITY

Belfast was once one of the great whiskey capitals of the world — a city whose distilleries shipped Irish whiskey to every continent. Belfast Whiskey Week, created by the Belfast Whiskey Club, has spent eight years turning that 300-year legacy back into living culture: not a trade fair, but a city-wide celebration threaded through the pubs, restaurants, hotels and streets where Belfast actually happens.

The result is a festival with the feel of a fringe — intimate rooms, big personalities, and a programme where a £10 tasting sits happily beside seven-course fine dining — now attracting visitors, distilleries and hospitality partners from across the UK, Ireland and beyond.

*"For our eighth year, we wanted to create a festival that truly celebrates the entire city — its people, its venues, its creativity and its incredible hospitality. Belfast Whiskey Week is no longer just a whiskey festival — it's a celebration of Belfast."*



▲ PAUL KANE · FESTIVAL DIRECTOR  
▲ BELFAST WHISKEY WEEK



THE PROGRAMME · THREE NEW FESTIVALS WITHIN THE FESTIVAL

# SEVEN FESTIVALS IN ONE

SAT 1 AUG · EUROPA HOTEL

## WHISKEY EXPO 2026

The flagship. 40+ distilleries under one roof, artisan food and live music, in two sessions at Belfast's most storied hotel.

£30-£250 · TWO SESSIONS

NINE NIGHTS · CITYWIDE

*Cocktail City*

## BELFAST COCKTAIL CITY

The city's best bartenders meet the world's whiskeys — masterclasses, tasting showcases and the Cocktail Takeover at Common Market.

**NEW 2026** 18 EVENTS · FROM £25

EVERY DAY · 3 WALKABLE BARS

## TRY 3 DRAMS

The £10 no-brainer: three themed pours in a proper Belfast bar, with a host who does the explaining. The festival's front door.

24 SESSIONS · £10 FLAT

TOUR · TASTE · DISCOVER

## DISTILLERY DAYS

Behind the scenes at Copeland, Hinch, Killowen and Shortcross — day trips that carry visitors from Belfast into the countryside of County Down.

4 DAY TRIPS · £0-£60

BELFAST FOOD FEST

*biafest*

## FOOD × WHISKEY

Belfast's celebrated food scene paired with the water of life — from £35 three-plate lunches to a seven-course, seven-cocktail collaboration.

**NEW 2026** 7 HEADLINE PAIRINGS

ON FOOT · DAILY

## WALKING TOURS

Guided strolls through Belfast's whiskey history and hidden bar scene — with a dram at every stop, midday and afternoon departures.

DAILY · £25-£30

THE UNEXPECTED *FRINGE* BWW

## FRINGE BWW

Comedy, theatre, a 5K pub run, whiskey D&D at Titanic Distillers, graveyard tours — the strand where the festival lets its hair down.

**NEW 2026** 12 EVENTS CITYWIDE

INDUSTRY · FRI 31 JUL · THE ACADEMY

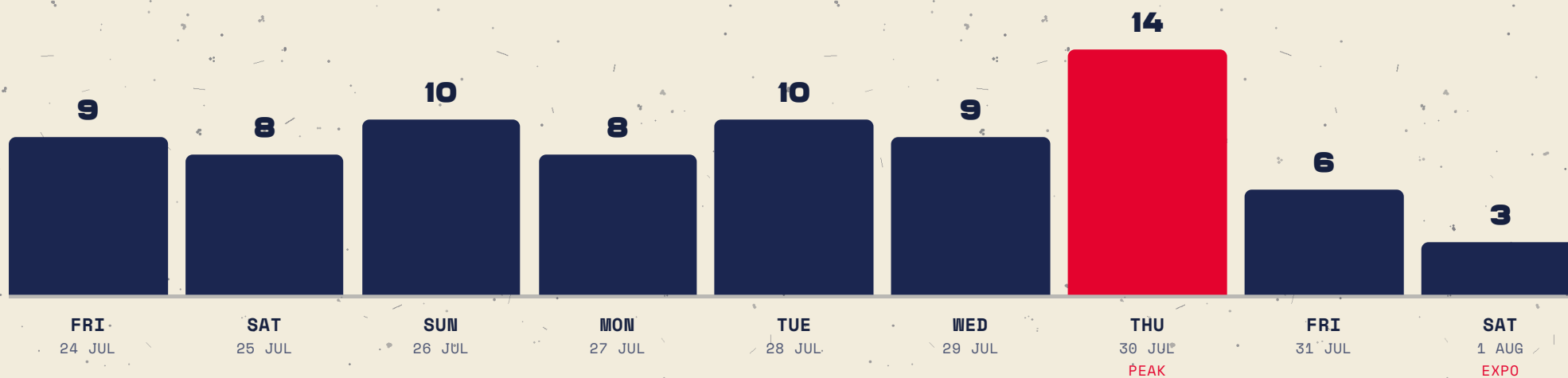
## THE WHISKEY INDUSTRY DINNER

"A Celebration of Whiskey" — dine with the people who shaped the Irish whiskey renaissance, closing the week with three hours of food, drams and craic.

£75 · 6:30PM · 3 HRS

THE RHYTHM OF THE WEEK

# NINE DAYS, WALL TO WALL



## OPENING WEEKEND • 24-26 JUL

Bia Fest lunches, the first 5K Pub Run, cocktail masterclasses and Challengers of the Quaich — 27 events in three days set the tone.

## DEEP WEEK • 27-30 JUL

The engine room: nightly cocktail showcases at The Watson, whiskey dinners, comedy and theatre, peaking at 14 events on Thursday 30 July.

## EXPO FINALE • 1 AUG

The week crescendos at the Europa Hotel: 40+ brands, two sessions, food and live music — the largest whiskey showcase on the island.

THE CRAIC · SCENES FROM BELFAST WHISKEY WEEK



ONLY IN BELFAST

# SIGNATURE EXPERIENCES

**£175**

## "I CAN KEEP A SECRET"

Clandestine fine dining in the Cavern at the Grand Central Hotel — Belfast's tallest hotel, whiskey served with theatre and discretion.

SUN 26 JUL · GRAND CENTRAL HOTEL

**£135**

## DAISIES × TENSHI

Seven courses, seven cocktails — two of the city's most talked-about kitchens collide for one night of Japanese-Irish precision.

SAT 25 JUL · DAISIES

**£30**

## THE 5K PUB RUN

Five pubs, five pours, 5.5 km. Not a race — "just a great night out with a little running in between." Both Fridays; the first already sold out.

FRI 24 + 31 JUL · FROM THE MORNING STAR

**£85**

## CHALLENGERS OF THE QUAICH

Competitive urban bar sports: 28 teams battle through King Pins for the Quaich — the festival's rowdiest Sunday afternoon.

SUN 26 JUL · KING PINS

**£35**

## DUNGEONS & DRAMS

A whiskey-fuelled D&D one-shot-a-thon on the slipways at Titanic Distillers — where else does a distillery host a dungeon crawl?

SAT 25 JUL · TITANIC DISTILLERS

**£30**

## FRIAR'S BUSH BY DRAM

A whiskey walking tour through Belfast's oldest graveyard — folklore, plague pits and pours, finishing at The Harrison.

THU 30 JUL · FRIAR'S BUSH / THE HARRISON

THE FLAGSHIP · SAT 1 AUGUST · EUROPA HOTEL · TWO SESSIONS · 18+

# EXPO 2026

An eclectic mix of whiskies from Ireland and around the world, complemented with local artisans, brewers, cider makers and home-grown spirits producers. Belfast's largest drinks exposition — fueled with live music, quirky gifts, exclusive whiskey releases and a room full of craic.

## GENERAL £30+

EARLY BIRD · FIRST 30

Entry, 40+ whiskey brands, food & live music.

## VIP £50+

ONLY 25 PER SESSION

Everything in General, plus early access, arrival cocktail & gift bag.

## MERCH £100

MOST POPULAR · LIMITED TO 50

Everything in VIP, plus numbered merch, chocolates & mixers.

## EXCLUSIVES £250

THE ULTIMATE · LIMITED TO 25

Everything in Merch, plus all BWW exclusive products, numbered to you.

### 40+

BRANDS POURING

### 2

SESSIONS · 12:30-4 / 5:30-9

### 18+

DRINK RESPONSIBLY



# THE WORLD IN A GLASS

A nightly world tour behind the bar of The Watson Library Bar and beyond — proof this is no parochial festival. Nine nights of showcases pour whiskeys from seven whiskey-making regions:

**IRELAND** Peated Irish showcase, Spot cocktails, pot still deep-dives

**SCOTLAND** Highland Fling Whiskey Sling · Islay, Speyside & island drams

**JAPAN & TAIWAN** "Lost in Translation" cocktail showcase

**USA** "Bourbon" — the American whiskey session

**AUSTRALIA** "Down Under" — Tasmanian & Australian pours all week

**EUROPE** "When in Rome" European whisky showcase · Armagnac fringe tasting

**ENGLAND** English whisky drams at the Duke of York



## COCKTAIL TAKEOVER · COMMON MARKET

Thu 30 July, 6pm — a full-venue takeover: 5 bespoke cocktails from 10 bars, live music & neon lights. Early Bird £35 · Merch & Food Exclusive £50.

## MAKE, SHAKE & LATE NIGHTS

Daily masterclasses at Angel & 2 Bibles rotate a different Irish distillery every day, while Muriel's and the Music Room carry the programme past 11pm. 18 cocktail events give non-whiskey drinkers a way into the week — every class beginner-friendly.

# BELFAST'S FOOD SCENE, PAIRED

Bia Fest folds Belfast's award-winning restaurants into the festival — local chefs, artisan producers and whiskey makers sharing a table. Highlights of the 2026 sitting:

**£45 / £75**

## ROAM — EXPRESSIONS OF POT STILL

Chef Ryan Jenkins opens and closes Bia Fest with a four-part journey through Ireland's signature style — lunch and dinner sittings.

**£60**

## CHOCTAILS & TRUFFLES

Chocolatier Dominic V at Daisies — chocolate, cocktails and whiskey in one decadent evening. A second sitting, Truffles & Tipples, follows on the 30th.

**£35**

## THREE PLATES, THREE DRAMS

The Morning Star's daily whiskey lunch — a rotating cast of makers (Glens of Antrim, Ó Catháin, Bushmills, County Down's finest) across four sittings.

**£85**

## PAUL CUNNINGHAM AT NEIGHBOURHOOD

The Mourne Larder chef cooks a one-night whiskey dinner — hyperlocal County Down produce with matched pours.

**£35**

## THE FOCACCERIA SESSIONS

"Man cannot live by bread alone. He needs whiskey" — House Proud Boucher's bread-and-dram pairings, plus comedy night Belly Laughs.

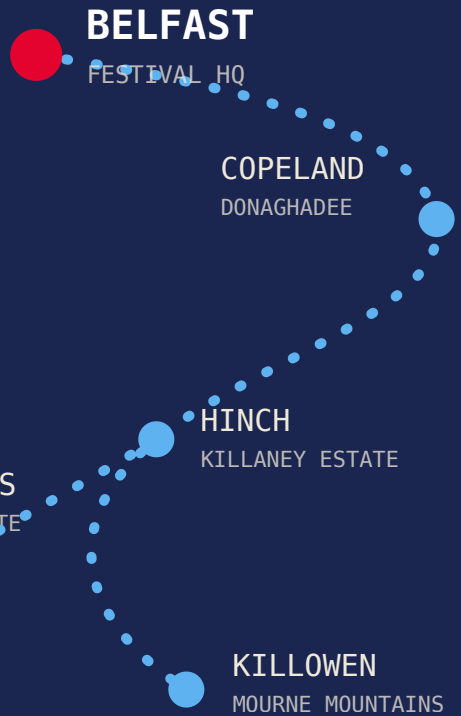
**£65 / £75**

## THE ACADEMY DINNERS

Belfast Met's training restaurant hosts two celebration dinners — the next generation of NI hospitality cooking for the whiskey crowd.

**DONUTS & DRAMS. TRUFFLES & TIPPLES. BREAD & BARLEY.**

Food events run £30–£135 and consistently sell out first — the strand that converts food tourists into whiskey tourists.



DISTILLERY DAYS & TOURS

# BEYOND THE CITY LIMITS

Four escorted day trips disperse festival visitors into County Down's new wave of distilleries — regional spend, overnight potential, and the landscapes that sell Northern Ireland.

<b>COPELAND</b>	Donaghadee day trip — the seaside distillery, free to attend	Sun 26 · FREE
<b>HINCH</b>	Boozy brunch on the Killaney Estate	Wed 29 · £50
<b>KILLOWEN</b>	"Contours of Killowen" — Ireland's smallest cult distillery, in the Mournes	Thu 30 · £55
<b>SHORTCROSS</b>	A tour of the Bodega at Rademon Estate	Fri 31 · £60

Back in town, daily walking tours — Hidden Whiskey Belfast, the Irish Whiskey Review tour, Pride in Whiskey and Friar's Bush graveyard — put the city's streets, murals and folklore on the itinerary between drams. And every day, the £10 Try 3 Drams sessions keep the tasting rooms of Sailortown and the Cathedral Quarter pouring.



KILLOWEN STILLHOUSE · DRAWING FROM THE CASK · THE MOURNES · A TRY 3 DRAMS FLIGHT — PHOTOGRAPHY © BELFAST WHISKEY WEEK

# WHY THIS FESTIVAL TRAVELS

## 01 • ACCESSIBLE BY DESIGN

53 of 73 events cost £30 or less, and 24 daily "Try 3 Drams" sessions hold a £10 flat price. The festival's front door is open to curious visitors, not just collectors — and the first-timers guide says so explicitly.

## 02 • A FULL-CITY FOOTPRINT

28 venues from Sailortown to the Ormeau Road — historic pubs (Duke of York, The Morning Star), new-wave rooms (Daisies, Roam), landmark hotels (Europa, Grand Central) — plus four County Down distilleries pulling visitors regional.

## 03 • NINE DAYS OF DWELL TIME

Programming runs midday to midnight every day — lunches, afternoon tastings, evening dinners, late-night cocktails and comedy. It's an itinerary engine: a genuine reason to book four-plus nights in the city.

## 04 • GLOBALLY FLUENT, PROUDLY LOCAL

Whiskeys from seven world regions, with Irish heritage as the anchor — supported by Visit Belfast, staged in the week between the Twelfth fortnight and August, when the city needs footfall stories most.

**4.9/5**  
**FROM 20,000+**  
**ATTENDEES**

"Belfast Whiskey Week has become one of the defining events in the city's cultural and hospitality calendar. The addition of food, cocktail and fringe programming creates an even broader platform for local businesses, artists and venues to showcase what Belfast does best."

— MICHAEL STEWART • BELFAST NIGHT CZAR

# DAY BY DAY — MIDDAY & AFTERNOON

BIA FEST / FOOD

DINNERS & MORE

COCKTAIL CITY

DRAMS & TASTINGS

WALKING TOURS

DISTILLERY TOURS

FRINGE

EXPO

MIDDAY

AFTERNOON

	FRI 24 JUL	SAT 25 JUL	SUN 26 JUL	MON 27 JUL	TUE 28 JUL	WED 29 JUL	THU 30 JUL	FRI 31 JUL	SAT 1 AUG
	Room — Expressions of Pot Still (Lunch) 12pm–2pm	Pride in Whiskey Tour 9:30am–11:30am	Belfast City Hidden Whiskey Walking Tour 12pm–2pm	Cocktail Making with Rademon Estate (Shortcross) whiskey 12:15pm–3pm	Cocktail Making with Two Stacks whiskey 12:15pm–3pm	Hinch Distillery Day Trip — Boozy Brunch 12pm–5:30pm	Killowen Distillery Day Trip — Contours of Killowen 12pm–6pm	Shortcross Rademon Estate Distillery — A Tour of the Bodega 12pm–5pm	EXPO 2026 - Session 1 — Europa Hotel 12:30pm–4pm
	Cocktail Making with Echlinville whiskey 12:15pm–3pm	Dungeons, Drams and Other Adventures — BWW D&D One-Shot A... 12pm–6pm	Challengers of the Quaich — Teams 12:15pm–4:45pm	Try 3 Drams of Irish Single Malts in Seatons of Sailortown 1:30pm–2:30pm	Whiskey Lunch: Three Plates, Three Drams with Ó Catháin 12:30pm–2:30pm	Cocktail Making with Glens of Antrim whiskey 12:15pm–3pm	Cocktail Making with McConnell's whiskey 12:15pm–3pm	Cocktail Making with Dingle whiskey 12:15pm–3pm	
	Try 3 Drams of Kilchoman Whisky in Seatons of Sailortown 1:30pm–2:30pm	Cocktail Making with Bushmills whiskey 12:15pm–3pm	Cocktail Making with Hinch whiskey 12:15pm–3pm		Try 3 Drams of Blended Scotch in Duke of York 1:30pm–2:30pm	Whiskey Lunch: Three Plates, Three Drams with Bushmills 12:30pm–2:30pm	Whiskey Lunch: Three Plates, Three Drams with County Down... 12:30pm–2:30pm	Try 3 Drams of Highland Single Malts in Duke of York 1:30pm–2:30pm	
		Try 3 Drams of Loch Lomond Whisky in Seatons of Sailortown 1:30pm–2:30pm	Whiskey Lunch: Three Plates, Three Drams with Glens of Ant... 12:30pm–2:30pm			Try 3 Drams of Tasmanian Whisky in Criterion Bar 1:30pm–2:30pm	Try 3 Drams of County Down Pot Still in Seatons of Sailort... 1:30pm–2:30pm		
			Try 3 Drams of GlenDronach Whisky in Criterion Bar 1:30pm–2:30pm						
			Copeland Distillery Day Trip 2:30pm–8:30pm						
	Irish Whiskey Review Whiskey Walking Tour 3pm–5:30pm	Nice to Peat You: Irish Peated Whiskey Cocktail Showcase 3pm–6pm	Highland Fling Whiskey Sling: Scottish Highland Whisky Coc... 3pm–6pm	Donuts & Drams at the Jeggy Nettle 3pm–5pm	Try 3 Drams of Tasmanian Whisky in Seatons of Sailortown 3pm–4pm	Bourbon: American Whiskey Cocktail Showcase 3pm–6pm	Down Under: Tasmanian & Australian Whiskey Cocktail Showcase 3pm–6pm	Try 3 Drams of 20 Year Single Grain in Seatons of Sailortown 3pm–4pm	
	Try 3 Drams of Sherry Cask Whiskey in Criterion Bar 3pm–4pm	Try 3 Drams of Speyside Single Malts in Seatons of Sailort... 3pm–4pm	Try 3 Drams of Ardbeg Whisky in Duke of York 3pm–4pm	Lost in Translation: Japanese & Taiwanese Whiskey Cocktail ... 3pm–6pm	When in Rome: European Whiskey Cocktail Showcase 3pm–6pm	Try 3 Drams of Bushmills Whiskey in Duke of York 3pm–4pm	Friar's Bush Graveyard Whiskey Tour 3pm–6pm	Try 3 Drams of Mystery Selection in Criterion Bar 4:30pm–5:30pm	
	Try 3 Drams of Irish Single Grain in Duke of York 4:30pm–5:30pm	Try 3 Drams of Islay Whisky in Criterion Bar 4:30pm–5:30pm	Try 3 Drams of Island Whisky in Seatons of Sailortown 4:30pm–5:30pm	Try 3 Drams of Middleton Whisky in Criterion Bar 3pm–4pm	Try 3 Drams of Japanese Whisky in Criterion Bar 4:30pm–5:30pm	Try 3 Drams of European Whisky in Seatons of Sailortown 4:30pm–5:30pm	Try 3 Drams of Irish Pot Still in Criterion Bar 3pm–4pm		
				Try 3 Drams of English Whisky in Duke of York 4:30pm–5:30pm			Try 3 Drams of Tasmanian Whisky in Duke of York 4:30pm–5:30pm		

# DAY BY DAY — EVENING & LATE

BIA FEST / FOOD

DINNERS & MORE

COCKTAIL CITY

DRAMS & TASTINGS

WALKING TOURS

DISTILLERY TOURS

FRINGE

EXPO

**FRI**

24 JUL

**5K Pub Run**  
6pm–9pm

**Cocktails & Truffles at Daisies — Chocolate & Cocktails wi...**  
6:30pm–8:30pm

**The Academy — Growing Old Is Mandatory, But Growing Up Is ...**  
6:30pm–8:30pm

**SAT**

25 JUL

**Daisies X Tenshi — Fine Dining: 7 Course Menu with 7 Cockt...**  
6:30pm–8:30pm

**SUN**

26 JUL

**Cavern, Grand Central Hotel — I Can Keep A Secret**  
6:30pm–8:30pm

**MON**

27 JUL

**A Whiskey Dinner with Paul Cunningham (Mourne Larder)**  
6pm–8:45pm

**TUE**

28 JUL

**Focacceria, House Proud Boucher — Man Cannot Live By Bread...**  
6pm–8pm

**Liquid Minds: A Spot of Colour — Spot Whiskey Cocktails & ...**  
7pm–9pm

**WED**

29 JUL

**Roam — Expressions of Pot Still (Dinner)**  
6:15pm–8:15pm

**THU**

30 JUL

**Cocktail Takeover 2026**  
6pm–9pm

**Daisies — Truffles & Tipples**  
6pm–8pm

**Focacceria, House Proud Boucher — Oh Crumbs: Pre Belly Lau...**  
6:30pm–8:30pm

**Armagnac Will Wreck Your Worldview**  
8pm–10pm

**Belly Laughs — Comedy, Whiskey & Cocktails at The Focacceria**  
9pm–11pm

**Whiskey Tasting in the Jeggy Nettle: Irish Styles of the 1...**  
9pm–11pm

**FRI**

31 JUL

**The Academy — A Celebration of Whiskey**  
6:30pm–9:30pm

**SAT**

1 AUG

**EXPO 2026 - Session 2 — Europa Hotel**  
6:30pm–9pm

EVENING

LATE

**Rum & Revelry at The Spaniard**  
9pm–11pm

**Classic Cocktails After Dark at Muriel's**  
9pm–11pm

**Late Night Whiskey at the Music Room**  
9pm–11pm

**Terry McCartan: (Is A) Macerated Fruit**  
9pm–10:30pm

# BELFAST WHISKEY WEEK

**24 JULY — 1 AUGUST 2026 · BELFAST**

**[BELFASTWHISKEYWEEK.COM](https://belfastwhiskeyweek.com)**

[TICKETS](#) · [PROGRAMME](#) · [VENUE MAP](#)

Prepared July 2026 as a destination briefing for tourism-board professionals. Programme data from the Belfast Whiskey Week 2026 events listing, [belfastwhiskeyweek.com](https://belfastwhiskeyweek.com) and the festival's May 2026 press release; quotes courtesy of Paul Kane and Michael Stewart. Details subject to change. Photography and brand marks © Belfast Whiskey Week / respective distilleries – used here for destination-marketing reference.