

Glenkinchie Distillery launch sows the seeds of future tourism growth *Lowland Home of Johnnie Walker opens safely for visitors after multi-million revamp*

26 October 2020: The seeds of future regeneration for whisky tourism in Scotland are being sown in lowland Scotland this week with the opening of a unique new multi-million pound distillery and garden visitor attraction at Glenkinchie near Edinburgh.

The single malt distillery in East Lothian – the region famed as the garden of Scotland for its quality food and drink produce - will open its gates to the public again this week after a major transformation of its visitor attraction as part of a £185million investment in Scotch whisky experiences by Scotland’s leading distiller Diageo.

Glenkinchie will be the Lowland Home of Johnnie Walker, the first of four corner distilleries around Scotland that will form an incredible network of visitor experiences linked to the world’s number one Scotch whisky and the new global centrepiece Johnnie Walker Princes Street attraction in Edinburgh, planned to open next summer.

The Glenkinchie Distillery attraction is centred around a beautifully landscaped garden – carefully curated to reflect the stunning local rural environment – and an extraordinary immersive guest experience in the distillery’s traditional Victorian red brick warehouses.

Barbara Smith, Managing Director of Brand Homes for Diageo in Scotland, officially declared the new visitor experience open with the ceremonial planting of a tree to complete the garden and to represent the future growth of Scotch whisky and tourism.

She said: “The opening of the wonderful new visitor experience and garden at Glenkinchie is the first step in our long-term £185million investment in whisky tourism in Scotland.

“We are acutely aware of the difficult times many people are going through, particularly our colleagues in the tourism and hospitality sector across Scotland. We know there’s a long way to go and a lot of uncertainty ahead. Still, we believe in the resilience of our business and our communities, and we will be doing all we can through our investment to sow the seeds of recovery and future growth.”

Ramsay Borthwick, Glenkinchie Distillery Manager, said: “Glenkinchie will give people a thrilling first taste of the new visitor experiences we are creating across Scotland.

“We will be offering people an experience like no other distillery in Scotland at Glenkinchie and that will be followed as we transform Clynelish, Cardhu and Caol Ila over the coming months, and as we build towards the opening of our global Johnnie Walker Princes Street attraction in Edinburgh next summer.”

Subject to government guidance on COVID-19, Glenkinchie will open to the public on Thursday 29th October. Tours can be booked at: www.glenkinchiedistillery.com

Along with Diageo’s full network of distillery visitor experiences across Scotland, tours operate according to strict COVID protocols to protect guests, employees and the local community. The distillery is accredited by VisitScotland’s “Good To Go” scheme in the verification of its COVID procedures (<https://www.visitscotland.org/news/2020/launch-of-were-good-to-go>).

About Glenkinchie Distillery, the Lowland Home of Johnnie Walker (note: full details available in accompanying press pack)

Created by BRC Imagination Arts - a global design and production agency, renowned for its work on major visitor experiences including the Guinness Storehouse in Dublin - the Glenkinchie brand home is a full sensory experience, allowing visitors to immerse themselves in the history, craft and flavour of whisky.

Highlighting the single malt's light floral profile, the new look brand home features an abundant garden area with an orchard and specially selected plants native to the East Lothian region and planted to create year-round seasonal variations.

The new visitor experience has been created in the distillery's beautiful red brick Victorian warehouses, in which guests are taken on a magical journey through Glenkinchie's rich heritage, its generations of passionate whisky makers and its intricate and unique flavour creation process.

Beautifully designed tasting rooms allow guests to enjoy the whisky and discover the liquid credentials of Glenkinchie. A stunning bar area serving tasting platters, whisky highballs and a selection of dram flights is the perfect spot to relax after a tour.

The new brand home will offer a range of specialist tours and events including a Glenkinchie Flavour Journey; Whisky in the Wild tour; Warehouse and Cask Tour; Flowers and Cocktails Class and a Behind the Scenes Tour and Tasting.

Glenkinchie has also been designed to operate to the highest standards of sustainability and was recently presented with a Gold Award by Green Tourism, the highest environmental accolade for visitor attractions.

To ensure the new brand home is accessible for everyone, Diageo has taken expert advice from Euan's Guide, the leading information source for accessibility in visitor attractions.

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For further information please contact:

Diageo

Diageo Scotland Press Office: Pressofficescotland@diageo.com; +44 (0) 131 519 2133

Frame

Alison Downs: alison.downs@framecreates.co.uk / 07917 678061

Hannah Giles: Hannah.giles@framecreates.co.uk / 07471 035 611

About Diageo

Diageo is a global leader in beverage alcohol with an outstanding collection of brands across spirits, beer and wine categories. These brands include Johnnie Walker, Crown Royal, J&B, Buchanan's and Windsor whiskies, Smirnoff, Cîroc and Ketel One vodkas, Captain Morgan, Baileys, Don Julio, Tanqueray and Guinness.

JOHNNIE  WALKER

GLENKINCHIE™

THE LOWLAND HOME OF JOHNNIE WALKER

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