



# Ale and Hearty Welcome at the Tavern

SMALL, FRIENDLY AND PRIVATELY OWNED YOU CAN GLOW WITH VIRTUE IN THE PICTURESQUE CASTLE TAVERN.



Situated at the top end of Castle Street, opposite the main entrance to Inverness Castle and only minutes away from the city centre, Castle Tavern is popular with locals and tourists who appreciate a warm and friendly environment.

Here they can eat or drink in the restaurant, bar or outside on the veranda, all off the same menu and at the same price.

Owner George Maclean says: "It will be six years this month since I acquired the business and each year you need to give attention to different areas. Two years ago the restaurant got a facelift and last year the kitchen was completely refurbished. This month the main bar area will be freshened up."

To coincide with the new fresh look of the bar Castle Tavern is introducing a fresh menu which will still include the favourites along with new dishes. This includes winter sizzlers, light bites, quick bites, grill dishes and two mains meals for a special price. The Sunday roast and the special changing daily board will still remain.

The Castle Tavern is primarily a real ale pub that prides itself in its food and specialises in an extremely wide range of malts. It offers six taps of real ale and all local breweries are ever present.

With micro breweries springing up at a very fast pace, Castle Tavern is able to offer a wide range of ales from all parts of the country and even has its own house ale, Flora MacDonald, brewed by the Isle of Skye Brewing Company.

"It's a mixture of head brewer Pam's best ales and called after the lady herself whose statue proudly stands in front of the castle," George explains. "The ale is appropriately named as she stands looking towards Skye, wondering when the next delivery is!"

Happy Chappy from Cromarty, Trade Winds from Cairngorm, Dark Island and Atlas beers from Sinclair Breweries, Scapa Special from Highland Brewing Co and Ben Dearg from An Teallach Ale Company are all local brews frequently on tap.

As the tavern has a very good cross section and cosmopolitan clientele and is next door to two very good student hostels, there is a policy to stock a very good selection of English and Welsh ales, including traditional ciders.

And it is the intention of the tavern to introduce during the coming year a number of beer festivals which will focus on a certain area each time, such as Yorkshire ale and other districts throughout the UK.

The Castle Tavern also enjoys a steady stream of walkers who have completed the Great Glen Way – a 73-mile trek from Fort William to Inverness which is comfortably done in five days.

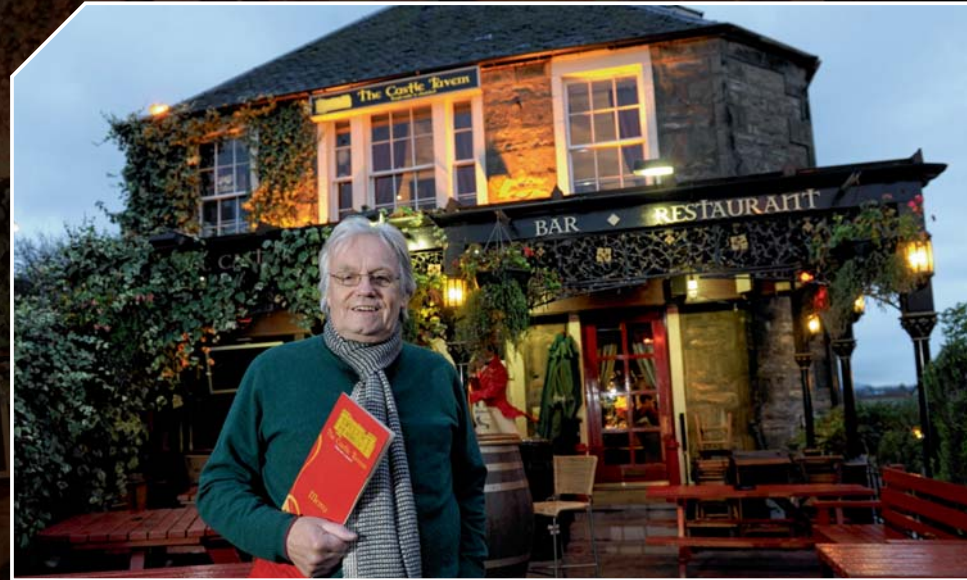
The finish line is in the castle grounds opposite the tavern, which presents walkers with a certificate of achievement to certify that they have successfully completed the Great Glen Way.

"We also run a courtesy coach to take walkers to their accommodation and then and pick them up if they decide to dine with us," George said.

During the main tourist season the Castle Tavern runs twice monthly jazz evenings, usually the first Wednesday and last Thursday of the month, and this year for the first time is getting involved in Inverness' Northern Roots Festival.

The festival will take from Wednesday, May 29 to Sunday, June 2 and will bring some of the finest folk and roots acts to the Highlands.

"Castle Tavern will be one of the key festival destinations, bringing music to the heart of the community with acoustic



sessions in the bar or outside on the patio between 2–5pm over the festival weekend."

For the past two years the tavern has opened its doors early for those wishing to attend the Scottish Golf Open at the Castle Stuart in July and this year will be no exception.

Patrons can book for an early breakfast at the tavern before the courtesy bus takes them out to the course and return from them by arrangement.

George, who has almost spent his entire working life in the licensed trade and has seen the changes and the rapid slow down of the industry, still believes that customer care is paramount.

He said: "I always remember a quote that still rings in my ear which is 'there is only one boss, the customer, and he can fire everybody in the company from myself down, simply by spending his money somewhere else.'"

For more information or to make a reservation visit [www.castletavern.net](http://www.castletavern.net) or telephone 01463 718178.

The Castle Tavern is open from 11am–1am Monday to Friday, 11am–12.30am on Saturday and noon to midnight on Sunday with food served every day from noon to 11pm.

## TWO MEALS FOR 11.95

(SOME THINGS ARE WORTH SHARING)  
COOKED BY US APPROVED BY YOU  
MONDAYS TO FRIDAYS NOON UNTIL 5PM.  
(choose any two of the following)

- Bangers and Mash
- Baked Brie Tart
- Whisky Haggis
- Battered Haddock
- Macaroni Cheese
- Cullen Skink
- Chicken Burger
- Angus Burger
- Gammon Steak

Where appropriate all above served with our own french fries and fresh market vegetables

