

THE FIFE GOLF TRAILS

The essential guide to seven golf trails that highlight the very best of golf and dining in Fife, the Home of Golf





The Kingdom of Fife – Home of an Ancient Game

The ancient Kingdom of Fife is the spiritual and cultural home of the game of golf. Herein lies St Andrews the epicentre of world golf where the Old Course is the Mecca to which every golfer wants to make pilgrimage at least once in a golfing lifetime.

But Fife has a lot more to offer than the world's most famous golf course. This ancient kingdom is home to 43 golf courses representing every aspect of the game from classic links to superb heathland and parkland courses and hidden treasures that are a joy to seek out for all the family.

These seven Fife Golf Trails have been established as a tribute to the royal and ancient game in the county that has contributed so much over the centuries to golf's worldwide development.

But it's not all about golf. Fife is a treasure trove of exciting experiences for the visitor. Apart from being home to many of Scotland's greatest golf courses it is also home to several of the nation's best restaurants.

Come to Fife, take the Trail that suits your mood and experience golf the way it was meant to be.

You won't be disappointed.



14th Hole, Old Course, St Andrews

Classic Links Golf Trail

**Old Course/Jubilee Course, St Andrews;
New Course, St Andrews; Kingsbarns Golf Links;
Lundin Golf Club**

For lovers of traditional links golf, the purest form of the royal and ancient game, the **Fife Classic Links Golf Trail** provides the ultimate experience. Follow in the footsteps of the greatest players in the history of the game from Old Tom Morris to Tiger Woods on the world's most famous golf course – the **Old Course** at St Andrews (subject to ballot), or tackle as an alternative the pure links experience and prodigious challenge of the **Jubilee Course** brought up to championship standard in 1988. The second leg of the Trail keeps us in St Andrews to enjoy the subtlety and wonderful test of the **New Course** laid out by Old Tom Morris himself in 1895 and largely untouched since.

On leg three we marvel at the majesty and splendour of the internationally acclaimed **Kingsbarns Golf Links**. Opened in the new millennium year, Kingsbarns immediately figured prominently in the rankings of the world's greatest courses. Spectacular views and just as spectacular a challenge await.

The final leg of the Fife Classic Links Trail takes us to the venerable links of the **Lundin Golf Club**, a James Braid designed classic where some of the game's greatest names have battled in final qualifying for a place in the Open Championship at St Andrews.



10th Hole, Kingsbarns Golf Links

The Open Championship Qualifying Trail

**Ladybank Golf Club; Scotsraig Golf Club;
Lundin Golf Club; Leven Links**

The Fife Open Championship Qualifying Trail takes the visitor to four of Fife's premier courses that have all been final qualifying courses for the Open Championship at St Andrews and which showcase the variety available in the Home of Golf.

Ladybank Golf Club enjoys a reputation as one of Scotland's finest inland layouts. It was founded in 1879 with six holes laid out by Old Tom Morris, later extended to nine holes in 1910. It only became an eighteen-hole layout as late as 1961.

It is a short journey to the **Scotsraig Golf Club** on the southern shore of the Firth of Tay midway between St Andrews and Dundee. The present layout is largely the work of master architect James Braid, who redesigned the course in 1923. Part of its charm is that it is a bit hidden away and a little difficult to find but the search is well rewarded.

The **Lundin Golf Club** as we have seen earlier is another example of some of the best of James Braid's work. It is the other half of a one-time 'Siamese twin' golf course arrangement from the 19th century with next door neighbour, Leven. Until the mid 1850s the towns of Leven and Lundin Links shared a narrow strip of linksland along the north edge of the Firth of Forth. But with the increase in popularity of the game the two towns agreed to take half of the course each and then add a further nine holes on the north side of the railway line to create two 18-hole layouts.

Leven Links today is a public links offering an impressive challenge and one of the finest finishing holes in Scottish golf.



7th Hole, Scotsraig Golf Club

Ladybank Golf Club

Annsmuir, Ladybank, Fife KY15 7RA

T +44 (0) 1337 830 814

E info@ladybankgolf.co.uk

W www.ladybankgolf.co.uk

Type - Inland

Holes - 18

Length - 6580 yds

Par - 71

Jack Nicklaus and Seve Ballesteros played a memorable exhibition match here in 1983.

Scotsraig Golf Club

Golf Road, Tayport, Fife DD6 9DZ

T +44 (0) 1382 552 515

E admin@scotsraigclub.com

W www.scotsraigclub.com

Type - Heathland/links

Holes - 18

Length - 6669 yds

Par - 71

A tricky challenge among the fir trees on what is a combination of heathland and links in character.

Lundin Golf Club

Golf Road, Lundin Links, KY8 6BA

T + 44 (0) 1333 320 202

E secretary@lundingolfclub.co.uk

W www.lundingolfclub.co.uk

Type - Links

Holes - 18

Length - 6371 yds

Par - 71

Not only a fine challenge but a clubhouse with one of the best settings in Scottish golf.

Leven Links

The Promenade, Leven, Fife KY8 4HS

T +44 (0) 1333 428 859

E secretary@leven-links.com

W www.leven-links.com

Type - Links

Holes - 18

Length - 6506 yds

Par - 71

Leven is the home course of Leven Golfing Society, the 11th oldest golf club in the world.



Leven Links Golfing Society

The Ladies' Golf Trail

Lundin Ladies Golf Club; Strathtyrum St Andrews; Elie Golf House Club; Crail Golfing Society (Balcomie Links)

Fife has a long tradition of ladies' golf dating back to the earliest days of the organised game back in the 19th century. Towards the end of that century, ladies' golf was thriving in St Andrews to the point that the St Andrews Ladies Club could boast 500 members in 1887, not many fewer than the all-male Royal & Ancient Golf Club. By 1899 the Jubilee Course in St Andrews had been built specifically for ladies to meet the demand.

Today Fife offers a wealth of opportunity for lady players. **The Lundin Ladies Golf Club** is the oldest independent ladies' golf club in the world and plays over its own James Braid designed nine-hole course in Lundin Links.

Designed by Donald Steel to complement the tougher challenges of its near neighbours, the **Strathtyrum Course** at St Andrews is in many ways the perfect challenge for lady players. It is less demanding in terms of length but tricky with an emphasis on accurate play and a good touch on the large greens.

The third leg of the Trail takes the visitor to the lovely East Neuk town of Elie where the **Elie Links** is renowned for its fine year-round condition and quality of challenge. This is the hometown of James Braid, who won five Open Championships and left a legacy of wonderful golf courses, although Elie links was not among them.

At Crail Golfing Society's **Balcomie Links** ladies will find this historic course very welcoming and very much to their liking. It is not demanding long although challenging enough when the coastal breezes blow as they do here often on Fifeness.



5th Hole, Balcomie Course, Crail Golfing Society

Lundin Ladies Golf Club

Woodielea Road, Lundin Links, Fife KY8 6AR

T +44 (0) 1333 320 832

E llgolfclub@tiscali.co.uk

W n/a

Type - Inland

Holes – 9

Length - 4730 yds

Par – 68

Look out for the group of ancient standing stones in the middle of the second fairway.

Strathtyrum Course St Andrews

St Andrews Links, St Andrews KY16 9SF

T +44 (0) 1334 466 718

E reservations@standrews.org.uk

W www.standrews.org.uk

Type - Links

Holes – 18

Length - 5620 yds

Par – 69

Only 15 bunkers on this course but all cunningly placed.

Elie Links

The Golf House Club, Elie, Fife KY9 1AS

T + 44 (0) 1333 330301

E book@golfhouseclub.org

W www.golfhouseclub.co.uk

Type - Links

Holes – 18

Length - 6273 yds

Par – 70

The charm of the course is apparent from the first tee, where a blind tee shot requires the starter to check with a submarine periscope from HMS Excalibur to ensure the fairway ahead is clear.

Balcomie Links

Craik Golfing Society, Craik, Fife, KY10 3XN

T +44 (0) 1333 450960

E info@craigolfingsociety.co.uk

W www.craigolfingsociety.co.uk

Type - Links

Holes – 18

Length - 5207 yds

Par – 72

Spectacular views from the clubhouse and excellent food to enjoy while taking in the panorama.



13th Hole, Golf House Club Elie

The Family Trail

Anstruther Golf Club; Balgove Course, St Andrews; Charleton Golf Club; Scoonie Golf Club

The Kingdom of Fife has more than 40 golf courses providing a vast range of challenges and to suit all age groups. Family holidays in Fife have always been popular and there is no better part of Scotland for the family to enjoy the royal and ancient game of golf together.

The Family Trail is the perfect grouping for a family outing on the links. Two of the courses featured are nine-hole layouts entirely suitable for the younger members of the family or for newcomers to the game.

The **Anstruther Golf Club** is a delightful nine-hole layout that runs along the cliff and down to the shore in this quaint East Neuk town. Master architect James Braid is credited with the layout and the clubhouse has a reputation for serving some of the best golf club food in the Kingdom.

The **Balgove Course** at St Andrews primarily caters for families, children and beginners but is also the perfect practice ground for learning the intricacies of links golf.

At the **Charleton Golf Club** the challenge is of a more demanding nature on an 18-hole layout on a rolling inland site with panoramic views across the Firth of Forth to the Lothians. Here the visitor will find good value for money and easy access to tee times.

A short distance along the coast the **Scoonie Golf Club** at Leven is another of Fife's lesser-known golfing treasures but one that is perfect for the family golf outing. It is a relatively short but challenging 18-hole parkland layout that has been the breeding ground for many of the fine players who have emerged from the Leven area over the generations.



Balgove Course, St Andrews

Anstruther Golf Club

Marsfield, Shore Road, Anstruther, Fife KY10 3DZ

T +44 (0) 1333 310 956

E bookings@anstruthergolf.co.uk

W www.anstruthergolf.co.uk

Type - Cliff-top

Holes - 9

Length - 4504 yds

Par - 62

Watch out for "The Rockies" voted the toughest Par 3 in the UK by Today's Golfer in September 2007.

Balgove Course St Andrews

St Andrews Links, St Andrews KY16 9SF

T +44 (0) 1334 466 718

E reservations@standrews.org.uk

W www.standrews.org.uk

Type - Links

Holes - 9

Length - 1530 yds

Par - 30

This is a great course for beginners or for more advanced players to work on your short game.

Charleton Golf Club

Charleton, Colinsburgh, Fife KY9 1HG

T +44 (0) 1333 340 505

E bonde@charleton.co.uk

W www.charleton.co.uk

Type - Links

Holes - 18

Length - 6152 yds

Par - 70

Practice facilities at Charleton are off grass and there is also a pitch and putt course.

Scoonie Golf Club

North Links, Leven, Fife KY8 4SP

T +44 (0) 1333 423 437

E manager@scooniegolfclub.com

W www.scooniegolfclub.com

Type - Links

Holes - 18

Length - 5494 yds

Par - 67

Visitors will find the perfect holiday golf experience here.



Balgove Course, St Andrews

Hidden Treasure Trail

Thornton Golf Club; Kinghorn Golf Club; Aberdour Golf Club, Burntisland Golf Club

Of Fife's more than 40 golf courses many are internationally renowned – the Old Course at St Andrews being the most famous of all – but among the Kingdom's unique collection there are many that deserve a much higher profile. These are Fife's hidden treasures often overlooked in the rush to the iconic names. But to rush past is to seriously lose out on some wonderful golfing experience.

The **Thornton Golf Club** near Kirkcaldy is a classic example. This fine parkland layout that wanders through avenues of trees is nothing short of delightful and the club takes a special pride in its warm welcome to visitors.

To the west of Kirkcaldy overlooking the Firth of Forth the **Kinghorn Golf Club** enjoys a well-deserved reputation for the quality of its challenge. It is one of Scotland's oldest golf courses dating back to 1887 when Old Tom Morris laid out the original nine holes. Today the 18-hole layout is greatly admired and sought out by many return visitors who have experienced the test and enjoyed the spectacular views it offers.

Near neighbour, the **Aberdour Golf Club**, is proud of its reputation for "golf with a view". It enjoys spectacular panoramas across the Firth of Forth to the Lothians beyond as well as a challenge that is stiff enough for most. Despite its proximity to the sea this is very much a parkland layout.

Final stop on the **Hidden Treasure Trail** is the **Burntisland Golf Club**. This venerable club lays claim to be the 10th oldest golf club in existence with 1797 as the date accepted for its inception. The layout on the Dodhead Links over which the club plays was originally the work of Willie Park Jnr of Musselburgh, twice an Open Champion. The hand of James Braid can also be seen here on the coastal fringe above the Firth of Forth.



6th Hole, Thornton Golf Club

Thornton Golf Club

Station Road, Thornton, Fife KY1 DW

T +44 (0) 1592 771 111

E enquiries@thorntongolfclub.co.uk

W www.thorntongolfclub.co.uk

Type - Parkland

Holes – 18

Length - 6210 yds

Par – 70

Fine putting surfaces have been a highlight of the Thornton Golf Club experience for many years.

Kinghorn Golf Club

Burntisland Road, Kinghorn, Fife KY3 9RS

T +44 (0) 1592 890 345

E Kgclub@tiscali.co.uk

www.kinghorngolfclub.co.uk

Type – Cliff-top

Holes – 18

Length – 5629 yds

Par – 65

In June 1921, an Open competition attracted, among others, Ted Ray, Gene Sarazan, Walter Hagen, George Duncan and many others

Aberdour Golf Club

Seaside Place, Aberdour, Fife KY3 0TX

T +44 (0) 1383 860 256

E info@aberdourgolfclub.co.uk

W www.aberdourgolfclub.co.uk

Type - Parkland

Holes – 18

Length – 5460 yds

Par – 67

Memorable for its views but also for the start of two consecutive par 3s.

Burntisland Golf House Club

Dodhead, Burntisland, Fife KY3 9LQ

T +44 (0) 1592 874 093

E info@burntislandgolfhouseclub.co.uk

W www.burntislandgolfhouseclub.co.uk

Type - Parkland

Holes – 18

Length – 5993 yds

Par – 70

The industrial legacy of abandoned quarries has been used to great effect in the layout of this historic golf course.



4th Fairway, Burntisland Golf Club

Carnegie Country Trail

Glenrothes Golf Club; Dunnikier Park Golf Club; Dunfermline Golf Club; Montgomery Course, Kinross

Golfers visiting Fife naturally gravitate towards the eastern side of the Kingdom where the iconic names and the great links courses have beckoned for generations. But the other side of the county has much to offer the visitor too. The **Glenrothes Golf Club** on the west side of the New Town offers a test challenging enough for any level of player. The course is set in a commanding position in mature parkland above the town. It was built in 1967 and provides the ideal holiday combination of good and affordable golf.

The **Dunnikier Park Golf Club** to the north side of Kirkcaldy is one of Fife's most picturesque parkland courses. Built in 1963 its gently undulating fairways have provided a memorable test for top players at both local and regional level. The club is proud of its reputation for the warmth of its welcome to visitors.

Perhaps better known as Pitfirrane, the venerable **Dunfermline Golf Club** is set in the grounds of the magnificent Pitfirrane House, the home of the Halkett family since the 15th century. The club was founded in 1887 and has a rich history including several moves before reaching its present location in 1953.

If we are pedantic the **Montgomery Course** at the Green Hotel Golf & Leisure Resort is not actually in Fife but just over the county line into neighbouring Kinross. But for visitors to the west of Fife this is a golf course that simply has to be added to the itinerary. This is the senior of the two courses here and the perfect last stop for the **Carnegie Country Trail**.



15th Hole, Montgomery Course, Kinross Golf Club

Glenrothes Golf Club

Golf Course Road, Glenrothes, Fife KY6 2LA

T + 44 (0) 1592 754 561

E secretary@glenrothesgolf.org.uk

W www.glenrothesgolf.org.uk

Type - Parkland Holes – 18
Length – 6406 yds Par – 71

Here the visitor finds a back nine that are challenging with a burn crossing four fairways

Dunnikier Park Golf Club

Dunnikier Way, Kirkcaldy, Fife KY1 3LP

T +44 (0) 1592 261 599

E dunnikierparkgolfclub@btinternet.com

W www.dunnikierparkgolfclub.com

Type - Parkland Holes – 18
Length – 6532 yds Par – 72

Dunnikier Park regularly hosts county and regional fixtures and is only 30 minutes from both St Andrews and Edinburgh.

Dunfermline Golf Club

Pitfirrane, Crossford, Dunfermline, Fife KY8 8QW

T + 44 (0) 1383 723 534

E secretary@dunfermlinegolfclub.com

W www.dunfermlinegolfclub.com

Type - Parkland Holes – 18
Length – 6121 yds Par – 70

The club has strong connections with the export of golf to America at the end of the 19th century. John Reid, regarded as the founding father of golf in the United States, was a member here as was Robert Laidlaw a founder member, with John Reid of the famous St Andrews Golf Club in Yonkers, New York.

Montgomery Course, Kinross

The Green Hotel Golf & Leisure Resort, The Muirs, Kinross KY13 8AS

T (+44) 01577 863467

E reception@green-hotel.com

W www.golfkinross.com

Type - Parkland Holes – 18
Length – 6508 yds Par – 72

Breaking 80 is a serious challenge here. Visitors with a handicap over 10 and who successfully shoot in the 70s qualify to be added to the "Montgomery Challenge Hall of Fame". Prize is a free round to include a friend!



Kinross Golf Club

The Golf Gourmet Trail

The Castle Course, St Andrews; Balbirnie Park Golf Course; Torrance Course, Fairmont, St Andrews; Duke's Course, St Andrews

The Fife Golf Gourmet Trail is a mouth-watering amalgam of some of Fife's most spectacular golf courses with examples of the very best in fine dining for which the Kingdom is also famous. First stop is the **Castle Course** in St Andrews, the 7th and newest of the courses run by St Andrews Links Trust. Designed by David McLay Kidd it has a magnificent setting high on the cliffs to the east of the auld grey toon. Dining could either be at the famous **Peat Inn** just outside St Andrews or the highly acclaimed **The Seafood Restaurant** that lies in the shadow of the Royal & Ancient clubhouse in the town itself.

The superb Fairmont Hotel is the venue for the second stop on this golfing gourmet adventure. The beautiful **Torrance Course** at the Fairmont provides the golfing challenge while the delightful **Esperante Restaurant** in the hotel provides the dining experience. Both come with the highest recommendation.

On the other side of St Andrews the majestic **Duke's Course**, designed by five-times Open Champion, Peter Thomson, enjoys a delightful setting high above and looking down towards St Andrews and will build up a fulsome appetite ready for the culinary challenge of the **Road Hole Restaurant** in the famous Old Course Hotel overlooking the 17th hole on the Old Course, the famous Road Hole.

The final gourmet halt combines the challenge of the Fraser Middleton designed **Balbirnie Park Golf Course** with the delights of **The Orangery** restaurant in the excellent Balbirnie House Hotel, a delightful 18th century Georgian mansion set amidst 400 acres of rolling parkland in the heart of Fife.



Torrance Course, Fairmont



Esperante Restaurant

THE COURSES

Castle Course, St Andrews

St Andrews Links, St Andrews KY16 9SF T +44 (0) 1334 466 718
E reservations@standrews.org.uk W www.standrews.org.uk

Type – Cliff-top Holes – 18 Length – 6759 yds Par – 71

There are spectacular views of St Andrews and across to Angus from the unique circular clubhouse with its distinctive copper roof.

Torrance Course, Fairmont

St Andrews, Fife KY16 8PN T +44 (0) 1334 837000
E standrews.scotland@fairmont.com W www.fairmontgolf.com

Type – Cliff-top Holes – 18 Length – 7230 yds Par – 72

Former Ryder Cup captain, Sam Torrance, was the designer of this fine course that has hosted among other notable events the Scottish Seniors Open.

Duke's Course, St Andrews

The Old Course Hotel, Golf Resort & Spa, St Andrews, Fife KY16 9SP
T +44 (0) 1334 474371

E reservations@oldcoursehotel.co.uk W www.oldcoursehotel.co.uk

Type – Heathland Holes – 18 Length – 7512 yds Par – 72

The Duke's Course was chosen as the host for the 2014 International European Amateur Championship, one of the four Majors in the world of Amateur golf.

Balbirnie Park Golf Club

Balbirnie Park, Markinch, Fife KY7 6NR T +44 (0) 1592 612 095
E craigfdonnelly@aol.com W www.balbirniegolf.com

Type – Parkland Holes – 18 Length – 6318 yds Par – 71

This is classic parkland golf in a glorious setting in the very heart of the Kingdom.

THE RESTAURANTS

The Peat Inn - Long regarded as one of the finest restaurants in Scotland, the Peat Inn just outside St Andrews, is a must visit for any serious lover of great Scottish cuisine. Geoffrey Smeddle's hallmark of restrained but inventive cooking combined with an excellent wine list makes for an unforgettable culinary experience.
T +44 (0) 1334 840 206

The Seafood Restaurant - When it opened in 2003 The Seafood Restaurant changed the food scene in St Andrews. It offers contemporary dining in an outstanding location with magnificent views over the West Sands, the Old Course and the North Sea from its floor to ceiling glass outlook. It also features an open theatre kitchen where head chef, Colin Fleming, and his team cook in full view.
T +44 1334 479 475 E standrews@theseafoodrestaurant.com

Esperante - A strong Mediterranean influence is evident at this internationally renowned restaurant at the Fairmont, St Andrews. The Esperante was awarded 2 AA Rosettes for 2010 - 2011 and holds Silver Gourmet Status by Eat Scotland.
T +44 (0) 1334 837 000 E standrews.scotland@fairmont.com

Road Hole Restaurant - An award winning team and a restaurant with perhaps the most iconic view in golf looking down over the famous Road Hole of the Old Course to a backdrop of the auld grey toon of St Andrews itself. Also on offer is one of the most comprehensive selections of scotch whisky anywhere in Scotland.
T +44 (0) 1334 474 371 E reservations@oldcoursehotel.co.uk

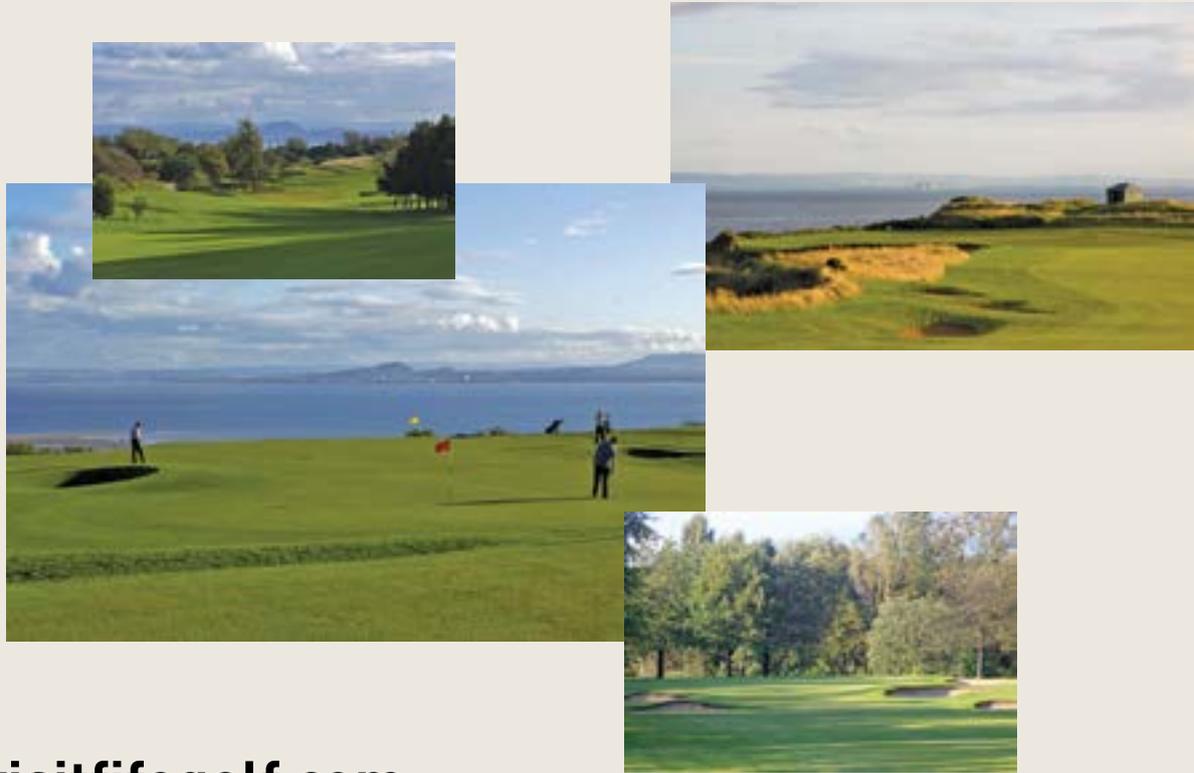
The Orangery - Voted one of Scotland's five most romantic restaurants by The Scotsman newspaper and a past recipient of Scotland's Hotel Restaurant of the Year, The Orangery at Balbirnie House offers classic Scotland on a plate. Relaxed and informal dining is the mood here with a menu featuring excellent seasonally chosen and locally sourced food. T +44 1592 610066 E rosemary@balbirnie.co.uk



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