

»..... **DRINKS MENU**«
♦ VOL. 5 ♦

“By definition, you have to live until you die. Better to make that life as complete and enjoyable an experience as possible, in case death is shite, which I suspect it will be.”

Irvine Welsh

Welcome,



The story of Nauticus began with Kyle and Iain, chatting over drinks about creating a bar to champion Scottish produce wherever possible. They dug deep - spending many days researching and thinking about every element. It soon became apparent that this had not been done before - this was brand new territory! Our priority here is produce made in Scotland or owned by a Scottish company; where this wasn't feasible, Scottish heritage somewhere down the line was paramount. 18 months later, the dream is a reality and we're proud to say that 90% of our products are Scottish, or have Scottish links.

Our name Nauticus is latin for Nautical. We decided on this name due to Leith's historical ties with shipping and Global trade. Leith has an extremely rich and interesting history; we hope that you enjoy reading through the menu, and that you find it as fascinating as we did when researching it.

Each of our chapters relate to a period of time in and around Leith; from tea and spice routes, the gin craze, sherry trade and the key role that Leith played in the whisky boom.

Thanks for visiting.

Kyle & Iain.



1128

1182

1295

1380

1398

1434

David I was gifted what's now known as North Leith. South Leith was granted to a Norman Knight.

The first mention of Leith trading overseas.

The 'Auld Alliance' was formed between Scotland and France.

Robert II granted a 'Prime Gilt' duty tax. This benefitted the sick, poor & widows of mariners, as well as retired mariners.

Sir Robert Logan who owned the Shore, sold his feudal rights to Edinburgh.

The King's Wark was built on the orders of James I.



Mary Sr was in charge of Scotland and mother to Mary Queen of Scots AKA Mary Jr who was married to the French heir to the throne. A bit of a row erupted between Scottish Catholics and Protestants so the French came to support Mary and her Catholics, whilst the English joined forces with the Scottish Protestants. The English besieged Leith for 12 whole years. In 1560, Mary fell ill and passed away at Edinburgh Castle. At this point the French gave up and headed home - basically ending the 'Auld Alliance'.



1560 was a sad year for Mary Jr, she lost both her husband of only 2 years, as well as her mum. By 1561 she had returned onto the shores of Leith from her long holiday in France. She stayed in Lamb's house which was pretty much an Airbnb of its time. She proceeded to marry for a second time in 1565 to Lord Darnley, they were married for two years before he passed away in mysterious circumstances. Finally she married for a 3rd time to the Earl of Bothwell; they both spent most of their marriage in separate prisons. That's love for you.

1600

The Musselburgh races were held in Leith until 1816.

1620s

Leith had become the main industrial port of Scotland.

1680

Anchor Soapworks was established on Water Street.

1686

Robert Mylne constructed a new harbour and windmill by The Shore.

1690

Fire destroyed The King's Wark. The present building was erected and given the same name.

1698

The first four ships of the fated Darien Expedition sailed from Leith.



Things like sugar, dried fruits and spices were seen as gold back in these days. We were really good pals with a lot of Europeans, especially the Dutch. They loved herbs even back then, and so did we by all historical accounts. Trade boomed, and Scotland was doing pretty well as an independent nation. Our economy's luck would soon change with the ill fated Darien expedition. This was a disastrous attempt by Scotland to create its first colony.

Chapter 1 ~ Spice Routes



Chai me a River

JG Thomson rum, Port of Leith oloroso sherry, Amarosa rosehip liqueur, chai spiced orange, Bon Accord ginger beer.

£12

Anise in Wonderland

Tanqueuray gin, Lucky Liqueurs kümmel, anise hyssop, lemon.

£12

Salt Miner

Bruichladdich The Classic Laddie whisky, miso orgeat, galangal, lemon, orange bitters.

£12.5



Please inform staff of any allergens before ordering as we can modify drinks to personal preference.

1744

The first ever “Rules of Golf” were established in Leith.

*see page 13

1776

Thomas Latta resided in Leith and later created the saline drip which was a huge breakthrough in medicine.

1792

Leith Banking Company was set up. By 1806 Leith had their own bank notes.

1812

Custom House was built on Commercial Street to deal with the booming import and export trade.

1812

Trinity house was built for the master of mariners. It is now the Maritime museum.

1812

Junction Bridge was constructed to link the docks to Ferry Road and Leith Walk.

Chapter 2 ~ The Gin Era



Familiar Bliss

Seven Crofts gin, Lucky Liqueurs passionfruit, apple cordial, lemon, soda.

£12.5

Rocketman

Lind & Lime gin, Valentian rosso vermouth, Port of Leith oloroso sherry, tropical cordial.

£12

Wild Fire

Secret Garden Wild gin, rhubarb, raspberry yoghurt, apple, earl grey, lemon.

£12.5



Leith and Edinburgh’s lengthy love affair with gin began; they went mental for the stuff. Leith was the perfect place to produce gin due to the vast amount of exotic botanicals and spices coming onto the shore everyday from all corners of the Globe. By 1777, there were eight licensed distilleries in Edinburgh, but nearly 400 unlicensed stills. This just shows that no one has ever enjoyed paying tax.

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1820

Permission was granted for the Leith Pier to be built, designed by Captain Samuel Brown.

1826

Leith becomes an independent burgh with its own Town Council.

1827

The Town Hall in Charlotte Street is built.

1837

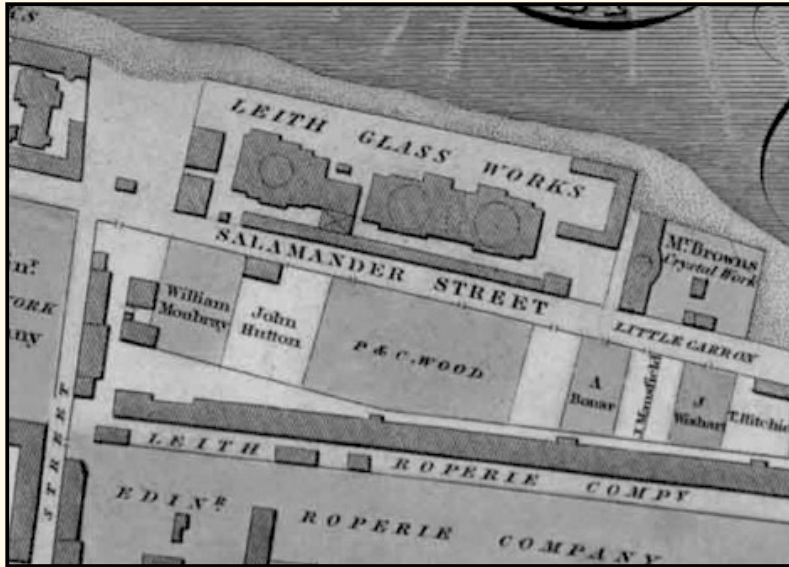
The Sirius was built by Robert Menzies & Sons in Leith. It became the first steamship to cross the Atlantic.

1863

William Sanderson & Son Limited was famous for its Vat 69 whisky and Sanderson's Mountain Dew Scotch Blends.

1868

Rose's lime cordial was founded by Lachlan Rose on Commercial st in Leith.



Leith specialised in wine bottle manufacturing, largely exporting to France and Spain. A staggering one million bottles per week were produced. Wine storage in Leith dates to at least the early 16th century. In the late 1880s grape phylloxera devastated vineyards all across Europe so whisky got its big break. The wine bottle manufacturers quickly became whisky bottle manufacturers, to cope with the global demand in Scotland's finest product.

Chapter 3 ~ Wine Tradings



Symphony

Hendrick's gin, Valentian rosso vermouth, hibiscus, Campari.

£12.5

Orange is the New Black

Reyka vodka, Lucky Liqueurs tonka, chai spiced orange, espresso.

£12

Pressure Drop

Buffalo Trace bourbon, JG Thomson rum, Port of Leith oloroso sherry, toasted almonds, banana, bitters.

£12.5



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1870

Horse buses become the first form of public transport in Leith.

1903

Central Station was opened at the foot of Leith Walk.

1905

The electric tram system opened in Leith. Passengers changed at Pilrig as Edinburgh only had a cable system.

1908

The largest whaling fleet in the world was operated by Christian Salvesen & Co of Leith.

1920

Leith was (reluctantly) amalgamated with Edinburgh.
*see page 15

1940

John Crabbie acquired a former brewery located between Yardheads and Great Junction Street.



From humble dairy wholesalers to owners of major whisky distilleries, these brothers were well known around Leith. They were pioneers of marketing - one campaign was to distribute 500 parrots around the UK who had been trained to say “Buy Pattison’s Whisky.” However, ideas were above their station (literally in some cases - using trains as personal taxis) as they were done for fraud due to embezzling insane amounts of dosh out of their businesses. This nearly bankrupted the whole whisky industry, because of this, no new distilleries were built in Scotland for 50 years.

Chapter 4 ~ The Whisky Boom



Naughty Grasshopper

Glendronach 12 whisky, Lucky Liqueurs cacao and crème de menthe, anise hyssop, dairy.

£12

Raisin the Stakes

Benriach The Original Ten whisky, dried fruit, Port of Leith tawny port, Aelder elderberry elixir, bitters.

£12.5

Catch Me If You Can

Cutty Sark Prohibition whisky, Amarosa Rosehip liqueur, Pilot Moccachino stout, dates, bitters.

£12



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1960s

1980s

2000s

2015

2016

2017

Around 85 bonded warehouses stood in Leith in the 1960s. These matured around 90% of all Scotch whisky.

Leith went through one of it's darkest periods, which Irvine Welsh's novel Trainspotting touched on.

Change of the property market created the catalyst for Leith becoming the creative centre it is today.

The Biscuit Factory, just off Bonnington Road reopens as an arts & fashion hub.

Hibs win the Scottish cup after 114 years. Big day for the Hutch.

Leith Theatre was used for the first time in 25 years.

No / Low Alcohol Cocktails



Safe Home

Port of Leith manzanilla sherry, Lucky Liqueurs bramble, apple cordial, faux citrus, soda.

£8

Too Much Too Soon

Atopia Hedgerow spiced citrus 0.5%, Pilot Peach Melba beer and ginseng tea cordial, Valentian rosso vermouth, Campari.

£8

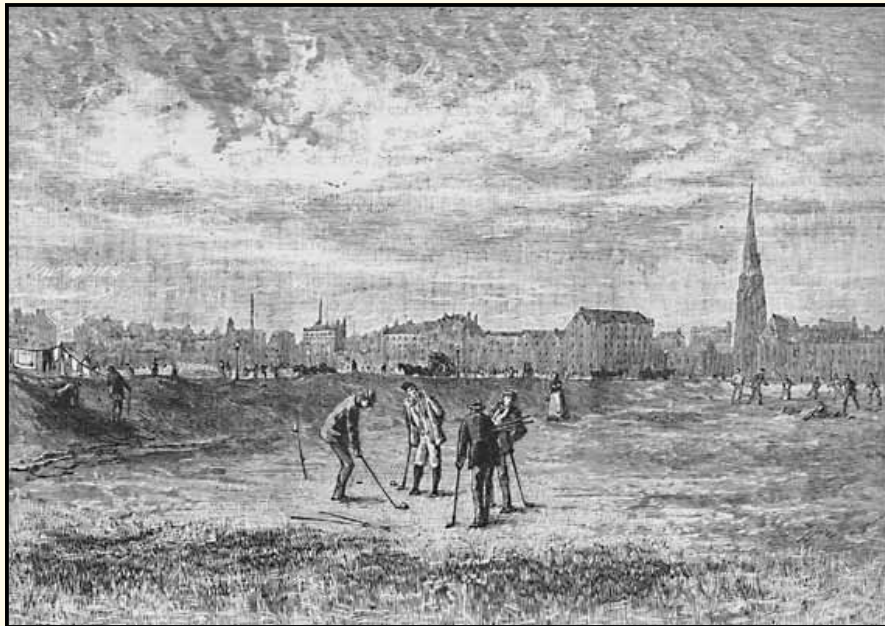
Million Miles Away

Feragaia alcohol free spirit, anise hyssop, ginger, lemon.

£8



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*Rules of Golf

The first documented mention of 'golf' is in Edinburgh on 6th March 1457. King James II banned 'ye golf' in an attempt to encourage archery because he was good at it, and wasn't good at golf! Fast forward 200 years, golf had become a famous sport played by the finest of gentleman including famous Scottish surgeon John Rattray. A gathering of John and his pals in April 1744 resulted in the first recorded golf competition - held on Leith Links.

The honourable Company of Edinburgh Golfers aka The Golf Council insisted on a set of rules for this game; this turned out to be 'the first set rules of golf' ... Mental.

Planning permission for two distilleries in Leith were submitted.



The opening of...

Time to start making our own history.

Our first ever whisky is released. A collaboration with Arran and Royal Mile Whiskies. It was awarded 92 out of 100 by Dave Broom.

We turned one!! Our second whisky release is revealed. A beautiful bottling in collaboration with Glenglassaugh.

We are awarded with 'Pub of the year' at the Great British Pub Awards.



***Leith Merger**

The Capital and Leith split at Pilrig Street. One famous story was that the pub at the border was cut down the middle due to the fact that Leith had an extra half hour of drinking time compared to Edinburgh. Once the Edinburgh side of the pub closed, all you had to do was stumble over to the Leith side, and you could grab a couple more pints before heading home. Genius.

Leith was (reluctantly) amalgamated with Edinburgh in 1920, ending 87 years of independent existence. The merger didn't favour all, with Leithers voting 5 to 1 against joining with their city neighbours.

Whisky Highballs



Raspberry Beret

Dewar's Illegal Smooth whisky, raspberry, ginger, lime, Bon Accord ginger beer.

£8

Bloom Weaver

Woven Handmade whisky, Lucky Liqueurs bramble, Port of Leith Tawny port, flowering current, soda.

£8

Ships in the Night

JG Thompson sweet whisky, Secret Garden pinot noir vermouth, lime cordial, lime, Bon Accord rhubarb soda.

£8



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Mar 2020

What the hell is going on?

April 2020

The birth of 'Edinburgh Booze Delivery'. We become a cocktail making and delivering machine. We adapted to a new way of living.

Oct 2020

Hatch installed
*see below

Oct 2020

27 weeks of pop ups with chefs and friends.

May 2021

We. Are. Back! Officially! Our doors and arms are flung open. We are ready to welcome everyone back to the venue.

Aug 2022

We turn four! Our third whisky release is revealed. A beautiful PX finished Caol Ila. The first release from Nauticus Whisky Merchants.
*see page 19



* With the arrival of 'you know what' in early 2019, we had to adapt quickly to be able to keep our doors open and the business going. Following another 'stay at home' announcement the 'Hatch Series' was born. A makeshift kitchen and a new window made for the start of 27 weeks of different pop ups and collaborations with chefs from all over. We naturally became Leith's Social Hub. The reaction to our small window was astounding. The support we received from friends and regulars was overwhelming, and something we will never forget.

Nauticus Classics



Pickled Martini

The Botanist Islay dry gin, Great British vermouth, Nauticus pickle brine.

£12.5

Porridge Colada Milk Punch

Aberfeldy 12 whisky, oat milk, pineapple, coconut yogurt, tropical Rooibos tea & lemon.

£12.5

Skinny Dipper

Seven Crofts gin, pineapple weed cordial & Bon Accord pink grapefruit soda.

£8



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2023

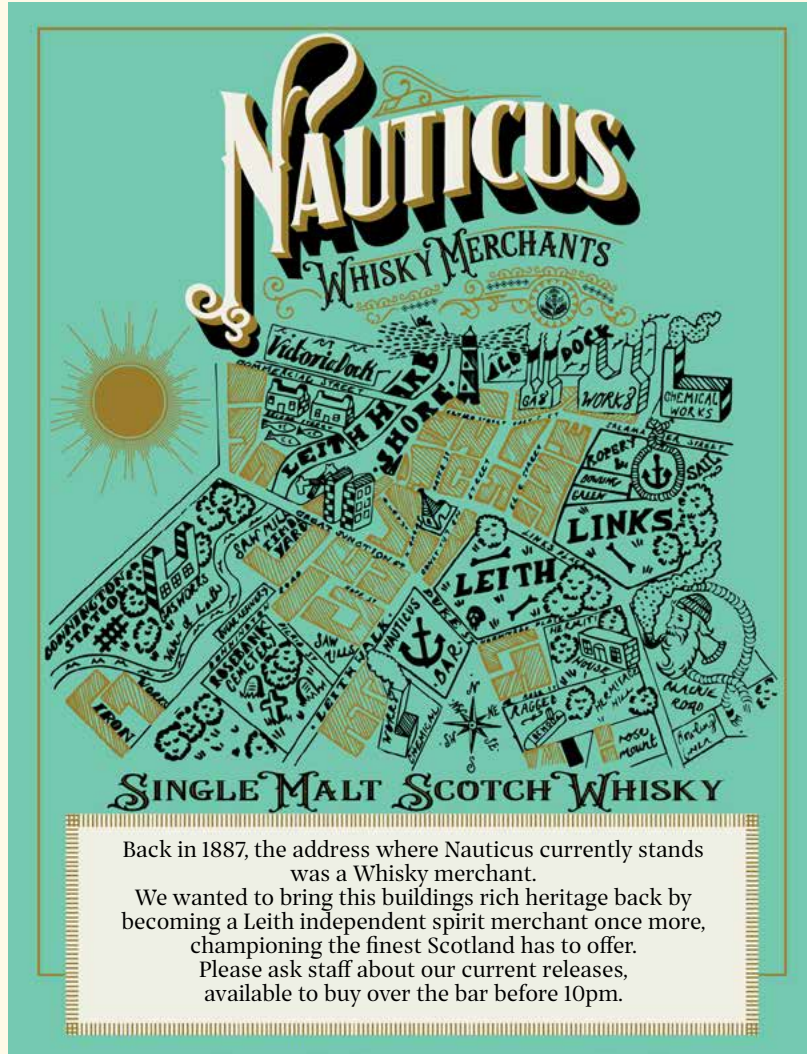
Team Nauticus continue to spread the word of modern Scottish hospitality around the world with seminars and takeovers.

Jan 2024

Our fearless leader Broony set sail for pastures new.

Aug 2024

Beginning of Nauty music sessions, showcasing the best of Scottish talent.




Back in 1887, the address where Nauticus currently stands was a Whisky merchant.

We wanted to bring this buildings rich heritage back by becoming a Leith independent spirit merchant once more, championing the finest Scotland has to offer.

Please ask staff about our current releases, available to buy over the bar before 10pm.

www.nauticusbar.co.uk

 [@nauticusbar](https://www.instagram.com/nauticusbar)

menu design - [@designbyjakes](https://www.instagram.com/designbyjakes)