



Scotland, a country still energised by the lively debates of the last half decade, is not about to rest on its laurels either. Look out in 2018 for the opening of Scotland's first V&A Gallery in Dundee as part of the riverside city's massive urban regeneration, the arrival of the Great Tapestry of Scotland to Galashiels and another massive themed year in the offing, which fittingly for a country looking to the future, will be the Year of Young People 2018. ■

## Pick an Interest

### Islay Whisky

**Ardbeg:** This is the most visitor friendly of the trio of southern Islay distilleries. Her smoky, peat fired malts may be unfriendly to the untrained nose, but a warm welcome awaits with myriad tour options, both standard and specific for groups with special interests. There is an excellent shop too, where visitors can pick up distillery-only expressions. Their award winning café also weaves Ardbeg whisky into the delicious dishes.

 [www.ardbeg.com](http://www.ardbeg.com)

**Bowmore:** This graceful whitewashed distillery in the eponymous island capital is well set up for groups. Bowmore makes a great base for groups as they have comfortable self catering cottages on site and the village has plenty of pubs, cafés and restaurants. The distillery is one of the few in Scotland to still malt some of its own barley, which groups can witness. Their excellent tours culminate in the tasting room, ideal for groups, with sweeping views out over Loch Indaal.

 [www.bowmore.com](http://www.bowmore.com)



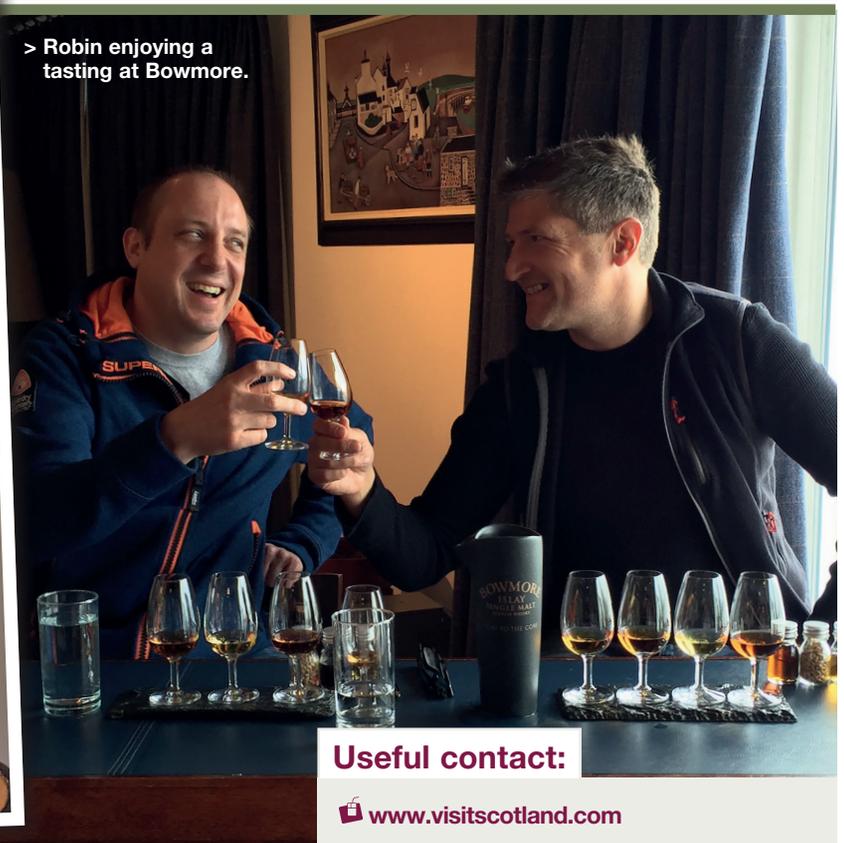
> Kilchoman Distillery.

**Kilchoman:** Islay's newest distillery (for now as a couple more are on the drawing board) is also easily its smallest. This bijou farm-style operation is instantly charming and easy to tour as the operation really is tiny. They are well set up for groups though, with exclusive tours, tastings and a wee café on hand that serves excellent local produce like beef paninis, with the beef sourced from the surrounding farms.

 [www.kilchomandistillery.com](http://www.kilchomandistillery.com)



> Robin at Ardbeg Distillery.



> Robin enjoying a tasting at Bowmore.

Useful contact:

 [www.visitscotland.com](http://www.visitscotland.com)