

HISTORY

YOU ARE SITTING IN A TRULY HISTORIC BUILDING IN ONE OF THE OLDEST AREAS OF EDINBURGH.

Merchant Street is the short cul de sac off Candlemaker Row and it was built on land where an earlier hall of the Merchant Company of Edinburgh stood. It was demolished in about 1829 to make way for George IV Bridge (named, of course, after King George IV who reigned from 1820 to 1830). George IV visited Edinburgh in 1822 and his state visit was organised to a great extent by Sir Walter Scott; this was the first time a king had been in Scotland since Charles II in the 1670's.

By the 1820s, Edinburgh had spread beyond the Old Flodden Wall, built just after the disastrous defeat of the Scots by the English at Flodden in 1513. A large suburb had arisen in the George Square area. The route to this was very congested and awkward via the West Bow, a corner of the Grassmarket and Candlemaker Row before reaching Bristo Port. It was therefore decided to build a viaduct directly from the Lawnmarket to Bristo Port.

The famous Edinburgh architect Thomas Hamilton designed George IV Bridge and the work started in 1827 and finished 9 years later. Although it is not obvious, the bridge is a considerable structure. You can best appreciate it by looking at the height of the arch spanning the Cowgate and the number of basements to buildings like the Edinburgh City library built in 1890.

Laterly, The Charter of Novadamus by the Trustees of The Scottish Reformation Society gave consent to William Frederick Bauermeister & Francis Bauermeister the Booksellers to use the site. This imposed certain burdens on the property (aside from maintenance burdens), of which three are of historical interest;

- The property is not to be used for the sale of intoxicating liquor;
- No trading of any description should take place on a Sunday;
- Books can be sold on weekdays in the ordinary course of business but they can't be used in any way for a purpose deemed contrary to the promotion of a protestant religion.

These burdens are now unenforceable following the 2004 Act as in what is known is contra bonos mores. The restaurant you are in now was used as the print room for the upstairs bookshop producing student papers, manuscripts and many dissertations for the local University. The building was purchased by the Crolla family in 2007 and Divino opened in 2010.

Enjoy your wines

Salute

DIVINO
WINE BAR & RESTAURANT

BY THE GLASS

SPARKLING	125ML	REGION
PROSECCO MILLESIMATO DOC - BISCARDO 100% GLERA	9.50	VENETO
PROSECCO ROSÉ BRUT DOC - BISCARDO GLERA, PINOT NOIR	9.50	VENETO
FRANCIACORTA FERGHETTINA DOCG CHARDONNAY, PINOT NOIR	14	FRANCIACORTA, LOMBARDIA

WHITE	VINTAGE	125ML	175ML	REGION
PINOT GRIGIO DOC - MONOPOLIO 100% PINOT GRIGIO	2023	7.5	11	VENETO
CHARDONNAY IGT - AUSTO 100% CHARDONNAY	2022	8	11.5	EMILIA ROMAGNA
VERMENTINO DOC 100% VERMENTINO	2023	8	11.5	SARDINIA
PECORINO DOC - FANTINI FARNESE 100% PECORINO	2023	8	11.5	ABRUZZO
SAUVIGNON BLANC DOC - URRÀ DI MARE 100% SAUVIGNON BLANC	2023	9	13	MENFI, SICILY
GAVI DI GAVI DOCG - BERGAGLIO 100% CORTESE	2022	9.5	13.5	GAVI, PIEMONTE
SOAVE 'LA ROCCA' DOCG - PIEROPAN 100% GARGANEGA	2021	16	23	VENETO
GEWURZTRAMINER DOC - COLTERZIO 100% GEWURZTRAMINER	2023	11	15.5	TRENTINO
WHITE WINE SPECIAL - PLEASE ASK SERVER	-	10	12	-

ROSÉ	VINTAGE	125ML	175ML	REGION
BARDOLINO CHIARETTO DOC - BOLLA 55% CORVINA, 35% RONDINELLA, 10% MOLINARA	2022	10	14	GARDA, VENETO