

FOOD

25 of the best restaurants in the Scottish Highlands and Islands

■ NEW

Peter Irvine picks where you need to try in 2024 from the new edition of *Scotland the Best*, including a Michelin-starred kitchen on Skye and seafood shack in Oban

It's impossible to summarise the best restaurants of the Highlands, the Hebrides and northeast Scotland in this short intro. Inverness, one of the most visited small cities in Britain, and Aberdeen, with colleges, commerce (and a great art gallery by the way) both have restaurants and cafés as good as any in Scotland. Argyle these days has superb food here and there; and for all of its wild island landscape, Skye has a bigger concentration of good eating places than most mainland regions. On Islay, Harris, Lewis, Mull, Orkney and now Shetland, you won't starve for top seafood platter.



Much of the Pierhouse Hotel's superb seafood is landed right outside the restaurant

7. The Pierhouse Hotel, Port Appin

A destination hotel, bar/restaurant at the end of the minor road in Port Appin village, it's by the tiny pier where the passenger ferry leaves for Lismore. The setting is exceptional — also the seafood! Eat in the bar or conservatory. Chef Michael Leathley has an unpretentious but creative approach to the ingredients from local suppliers: oysters, mussels, crab — some landed here (the langoustines and lobsters are in the creels on the pier). The Cullen skink, platters and cheese soufflé! Lively atmos, wine and view of the island.

Port Appin; pierhousehotel.co.uk

Price rating ££