

DINNER WITH



**GAVIN ELLIS** is the youngest recipient of VisitScotland's Silver Thistle award and a tireless campaigner to improve Scottish tourism. With his wife Penny, he also owns and runs Knockornie Hotel (01309 673146, [www.knockornie.co.uk](http://www.knockornie.co.uk)), in Forres.

**What's the best meal you've had?**  
I dine out more than most, which is a huge privilege. However, this means I'm not with my family as much as I would like. So one of the best meals I've had was a barbecue with them on a beach in Mull.

**What's the worst meal you've had?**  
At a Hungry Horse in Perth – even my children questioned the food. Never again.

**What's in your fridge?** There are some nice farm eggs – I call them nuclear because they're big and yellow – some OJ, emmenthal, Macbeth's bacon and mince, smoked venison and some ham salad. There are also bottles of prosecco and sauvignon blanc.

**What's your hangover fix?** A bacon roll and coffee. In a real emergency, I pinch the kids' Im Bru – don't tell them.

**Do you have a guilty pleasure?** One to check Penny's sauces... just in case. I can share with the nation? Well, I like the simplest big-up.

**What's your classic stand-by recipe?** A gourmet burger. Sometimes scallops from Mull, lightly fried, kidding? But I did run the Edinburgh 10k last year for Hearts and Balls, and that had the desired result.

**Who would you invite to a fantasy dinner party?** An eclectic mix: Cheryl Cole, because she is amazing; Liz Hurley, for her stories; Lisa Stansfield, to sing; Thomas Telford, to inspire me; Billy Connolly, to ensure we laugh until we weep; Jeremy Clarkson, to find out what he's really like; and Betty Boothroyd, to chair the event (and Clarkson).

**What food says 'home' to you?** Scallops from Mull, lightly fried, kidding? But I did run the Edinburgh 10k last year for Hearts and Balls, and that had the desired result.

**Have you ever been on a diet?** Are you kidding? But I did run the Edinburgh 10k last year for Hearts and Balls, and that had the desired result.

**What's the one food that makes you feel better?** Fresh food, real food. Do you eat airline food? Short-haul, no. The snack station before you board is better. Long-haul, yes. But I always choose the lightest dish.

**Do you buy organic?** No, but I do buy local, which is far more important. I'm more concerned about the people in the world we are not feeding.

**How tidy is your kitchen?** Who says it's my kitchen?