



**PUNCHESTOWN**

**FESTIVAL  
OVERVIEW  
2022**

**TUESDAY 26 - SATURDAY 30 APRIL**

**RACING • SOCIAL  
STYLE • CORPORATE • FAMILY**

# Punchestown Festival 2022

It's been a while. Too long, but good times are coming.

The Punchestown Festival returns from Tuesday 26th to Saturday 30th April and you are invited to join us as we gather, celebrate and enjoy one of Ireland's favourite social and sporting events.

Over the past two years empty enclosures, lifeless bars, faces behind masks and champions returning to a silent winners enclosure proved one thing for certain - people make Punchestown!

## Racing: Punchestown is Where Champions Go

A showcase of jump racing is in store with 12 grade one contests and over €3.3 million in the purse. Here we mix speed merchants with stamina stars. Seasoned campaigners compete shoulder to shoulder with rookies and new names. This is where champions are crowned and fresh talent emerges. It is truly a fitting homecoming for our horses, trainers, jockeys and owners who have flown the flag with such success to deserted grandstands and silent stadiums in recent years. Few sporting experiences compare with the raw energy of horse racing. In Ireland horse racing is where sport and culture combine. It is inherent in Irish culture and heritage. It is fast, it is tough, it is fiercely competitive but it is exhilarating, thrilling and passionate in equal measure.

## Festival Dates & Times

The races get underway each day at 3.40 apart from Saturday when the first goes to post at 2.15. Each day has what is referred to as a feature race and title sponsors are as follows:

Tuesday 26th April - William Hill Champion Chase Day

Wednesday 27th April - Ladbrokes Punchestown Gold Cup

Thursday 28th April - Ladbrokes Champion Stayers Hurdle Day

Friday 29th April - Paddy Power Champion Hurdle Day

Saturday 30th April - Ballymore Festival Family Fun Day

Day	Gates Open	First Race	Last Race	
Tuesday	12 noon	3.40pm	7.15pm	(Bar Info: Last orders 9.15pm, bars close 9.45pm sharp)
Wednesday	12 noon	3.40pm	7.45pm	(Bar Info: Last orders 9.30pm, bars close 10pm sharp)
Thursday	12 noon	3.40pm	7.45pm	(followed By Goffs Festival Sale in parade ring)
Friday	12 noon	3.40pm	7.45pm	(Bar Info: Last orders 9.30pm, bars close at 10pm sharp)
Saturday	11.30am	2.15pm	6.40pm	(Bar Info: Last orders 8.00pm, bars close 8.30pm sharp)

# Whats The Big Deal – Business at Punchestown

Like any business the Punchestown Festival is a numbers game and the numbers here are impressive. Regarded as one of Ireland's leading corporate hospitality events, the Kildare venue will play host to over 17,000 corporate clients who will sit for lunch in one of the 30 venues including trackside pavilions, private suites and the flagship venue of our Hunt Stand launched at Festival 2018, the Corinthian Restaurant. There are almost 1,000 companies directly involved with the event as clients, sponsors, suppliers or corporate partners. Of this number almost 25% of the corporate hospitality product was purchased by UK based companies in 2019.

A wide variety of sectors including construction, pharmaceuticals, financial, insurance, legal and agri business consider Punchestown an invaluable client relations experience and as one long term customer put it "if you're not at Punchestown you can be sure your competitors are!"

2022 marks a year of growth at the home of Irish jump racing. Prize money levels have hit record highs with just over €3.3 million up for grabs in the 40 sponsored championship races.

The benefits of the festival spill over into the towns, villages and locality with independent research showing an economic impact figure of over €64 million from the five festival days alone. The competitive value, top class racing and famous vibrant atmosphere has not gone unnoticed by our British neighbours who travel in their thousands to attend the jump racing season finale each year. This combined with a nation-wide attendance and an average visit of three days means accommodation suppliers, restaurants, transport, leisure, clothing and beauty treatment services all benefit hugely.

## Famous Social Scene

Punchestown prides itself on the 'festival' aspect of the event and as a result the enclosures are filled with live music and street theatre before and after racing each day. Stilt walkers, fire eaters, dancers and performers greet racegoers as they arrive at the track.

There are 15 public bars on the site and they include the refurbished Loft, Archive, Open Gate, Double Bank and Sports Bars in the grandstand. You can also make your way to the relaunched reserved enclosure, considered the social hub of the festival where you will find the famous clear roofed Sky Bar, the 'Style Quarter' at the Bollinger Lounge & buzzing Festival Bar.

Over 15 live music acts and DJ's will perform during and after racing not to mention the tipster panels, celebrity interviews, parades, presentations, unveilings and of course the Bollinger Best Dressed Lady Competition

The Baldonnell Singers will perform the National Anthem on the opening day and local stage schools in Leah Moran & Vicki Barrys will perform on the mainstage at our Ballymore Family Day.

# The Bollinger Best Dressed Lady Competition

The Bollinger Best Dressed Lady will win a VIP trip for two to visit the exclusive Bollinger Estate in France where the winner and her guest will be given a private tour of the estate and guided tasting opportunities. Furthermore, this trip of a lifetime also includes Michelin star dining, chauffeur transfers, five-star accommodation and more.

The magnificent Bollinger Garden in The Style Quarter will be the epicentre of all things fashion at The Punchestown Festival. From Tuesday to Friday style scouts will be tasked with finding the most stylish attendees at the racecourse. Finalists will be selected each day and daily winners will be presented with Bollinger and Bellamianta prizes and goodie bags. Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday's winners will be fast-tracked to the grand final on Ladies Day, Friday 29th.

Ladies who are keen to compete are advised to come along to the races early and make tracks to The Bollinger Garden in The Style Quarter. Shona Dreaper, Communications Manager at Punchestown Racecourse commented "The Style Quarter is the epicentre for all things fashion during the festival. The Bollinger Champagne Lounge and Garden will play host to the daily selections and grand final on Friday. Ladies are advised to arrive from 1pm, enjoy a stroll through the parade ring enclosure, make their way through the festival shopping venue on Osprey Avenue and on to the reserved enclosure for great views of the racing, live music, wonderful atmosphere and of course, style! It's great to be back and we look forward to welcoming everyone to Punchestown".

## Family Fun at Punchestown with Ballymore

Festival Saturday has become a real success story and it now holds the largest attendance with over 37,000 attending in 2018.

It is firmly established as family day, with a vast entertainment and activity programme for children, all of whom race for free of course. This year we are holding our art competition where over 8,000 students have entered and the lucky winner will be presented with their prize on Festival Saturday in the parade ring.

Youngsters will be able to avail of the traditional carnival at the track, face painters, balloon makers and much more at the track. Street theatre and dance displays will also take place throughout the course of the day. Punchestown was the first racecourse to introduce this initiative. All children 14 and under race for free. This is all part of the Punchestown policy to encourage the next generation of racegoer.

# Festival Shopping Village

We are delighted to have Osprey Hotel with us again this year as the official sponsors of Osprey Avenue, the re-branded festival shopping village at the Punchestown Festival. Over 20 exhibitors showcasing brands from Ireland and the UK will be located beside the entrance to the reserved enclosure.

Exhibitors will offer a wonderful mix of products and services. So from kids clothing, original art, ladies fashion, gift & homeware, one of a kind millinery and everything in between Osprey Avenue has it! Festival goers have ample time to wander through the village and make some purchases as gates open two hours before the first race.

## Admission

- €30 General Admission – Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday.
- €40 Reserved Enclosure Admission – Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday.
- €40 general admission €50 Reserved Enclosure – Friday.
- From €30pp Party Packs for groups of 10 or more include admission, racecard, betting and drink voucher. Group offers closed on Friday 8th April due to unprecedented demand.
- From €20 Student and OAP Package.
- From €17 Teenage Admission 15/16/17 year olds.

**GATES OPEN 12.00 EACH DAY except Saturday when they will open an hour earlier at 11.30 for family day.**

For further information and a full archive of press releases please visit [www.punchestown.com](http://www.punchestown.com)