

# **EAST LoTHIAN COUNCIL**

## **LICENSING STANDARDS**

**From: Licensing Standards Officer**

**To: C. Grilli  
Clerk to the Licensing Board**

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**Date: 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2025**

**Subject: LICENSING (SCOTLAND) ACT 2005**

**OCCASIONAL LICENCE APPLICATION(S) OCC601-603/25**

**LA TRATTORIA, 119 HIGH STREET, TRANENT, EAST LoTHIAN, EH15 1RU**

I acknowledge that the submission of this report is outside the statutory reporting time scale given by the Act. As such I respectfully request that the Licensing Board relieve this failure under Section 135 of the Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005. The circumstances reported below have only come to light in the last few days and so could not be reported earlier. I believe it is important for the consideration of the above occasional licences that members consider the content of this report.

If accepted, please read this additional report alongside my previous report submitted 8<sup>th</sup> September 2025.

On 20<sup>th</sup> September I received information that there was an event held earlier that day at La Trattoria advertised as a Boozy Brunch and that photos and videos of the event showing consumption of alcohol had been posted on social media. In addition, I was informed that alcohol has been advertised on the Facebook page for the premises. At this time, I submitted an online report to police Scotland detailing another potential Section 1 Licensing (Scotland) Act offence, the unlicensed sale of alcohol.

On 22<sup>nd</sup> September, I requested an open-source search be conducted by East Lothian Corporate Communications Department for the advertisement of the Boozy Brunch event and any evidence of alcohol advertising or consumption from 28<sup>th</sup> August until present day.

The attached screenshots of post on Facebook were returned – see Images 1-10

On the La Trattoria Facebook page a post was found advertising an BoozéBrunch event as shown in Image 1. The event was advertised to take place on 20<sup>th</sup> September between 12noon – 4pm and the offer included a glass of prosecco on arrival, 3 cocktails and a selection of food for £45. Live music was also advertised. Within the comments section shown in Image 2, an individual asks if the event is fully booked and this is confirmed that by La Trattoria. In addition, it is confirmed in the comments that a deposit of £20pp is required.

Images 4-7 show patrons with cocktails that appear to have been made on the premises being consumed. In addition, there appears to be a member of staff in Image 3 standing with a tray of wine/prosecco to serve to patrons. There is no evidence from these photos that this is a BYOB event, and it would be impossible for patrons to have made the cocktails that are on the tables. On the tables there appears to be other bottles of wine that have been sold in addition to the offer.

Image 4 shows the applicant Ms Pacitti is shown to be present at the event.

There were also videos present on social media showing the restaurant at capacity with patrons consuming cocktails, wine and what appears to be prosecco. There appears to have been entertainment at the venue with live music. At times photos and videos show patrons dancing on chairs. This is something I would discourage at all premises as unsafe.

Screenshots from the Facebook page for La Trattoria were also reviewed please see Images 8 - 10. There are 3 posts advertising cocktails namely Amalfi breeze containing Aperol posted on 9<sup>th</sup> September, Paloma containing tequila posted on 14<sup>th</sup> September and Espresso Martini containing vodka posted on 20<sup>th</sup> September. These adverts for alcohol have been posted during a time when the premises has not been licensed under an occasional licence. The Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005 defines "sell" as - *in relation to alcohol, includes barter and expose to or offer for sale, and related expressions such as "sale" are to be construed accordingly*. The post of the Amalfi breeze was posted one day after Ms Pacitti had been asked to cease all sales of alcohol until an occasional licence was granted.

The advertisement of the cocktails is a clear offer of sale during an unlicensed period.

On the balance of probabilities given the information above I believe that sales of alcohol have taken place without a licence. There is nothing to indicate that the cocktails provided, and other drinks have been non-alcoholic and the advertisement of the event details the supply of alcohol.

Currently, a provisional premises licence is held for the above premises that was granted in April 2025. The licence holder is Paola Crolla, the applicant Natascia Pacitti is the business operator.

All the information contained in this report has been submitted to Police Scotland prior to this board hearing. The officer dealing with the enquiry has requested that I do not contact Natascia Pacitti or Paolo Crolla until Police have contacted them.

I ask the board to consider if Ms Pacitti is a fit and proper person to be granted these occasional licences. On 8<sup>th</sup> September Ms Pacitti was asked to cease all sales of alcohol until an occasional licence was granted, however there has been a continued offer for sale and what appear to be sales of alcohol at the premises. This has shown a disregard for the licensing regime and clear issues with Ms Pacitti and her mother Ms Crolla's understanding of licensing legislation. This includes the difference between a provisional premises licence and a premises licence and the requirement for occasional licences. Ms Pacitti's conduct has been inconsistent with the licensing objectives. Selling alcohol without a licence is a serious offence which carries significant penalties. I ask the board to consider if Ms Pacitti can be trusted going forward to adhere to the licensing objectives and ask that the grounds for refusal under section 59(6)(c) are considered:

*(6) The grounds for refusal are—*

*(c) that the Licensing Board considers the granting of the application would be inconsistent with one or more of the licensing objectives,*

I suggest that no further occasional licences are issued to Ms Pacitti or for this premises until Police Scotland can carry out and conclude a full investigation. I submit this for the Board's information in determining the occasional licence applications.

Licensing Standards Officer

## Images 1 – 10

Image 1 – posted on La Trattoria Facebook page on 31<sup>st</sup> July 2025

**La Trattoria**  
31 July · 🌐

We said it would be back! 🥳🍷

BOOZeBRUNCH tickets are available from next Tuesday at 2pm!

Saturday 20th September 12-4pm.

You will get:

- Prosecco on arrival 🍷
- 3 cocktails 🍹
- Bruschetta and focaccia to share 🍷
- You will also get to choose between any pizza on the main menu, nduja or pesto pasta, or the chicken burger!

All for just £45 per person 🥳

Book directly on 01875710292.



BOOZeBRUNCH

**BRUNCH**

**LIVE SAX + DJ**

**SAT 20 SEPT**

**STEVIE LENNON**

LA TRATTORIA, TRANENT. TIMES: 12PM TILL 4PM  
119 HIGH ST, EH33 1LW

TICKETS: CALL 01875 710292

//////////BOOZEBRUNCH.CO.UK

 LA TRATTORIA


 48


45 comments 8 shares


Image 2 – Comments on Facebook post in image 1


**La Trattoria's post**


Most relevant ▾


**Carolyn Clark**  
Can't believe I'm going to miss this again,we are away that weekend,maybe next time  
7w Like Reply


**Lisa Mackie**  
La Trattoria is it a deposit or full payment when booking?  
7w Like Reply


**Author**  
**La Trattoria**  
Lisa Mackie deposit of £20pp  
7w Like Reply


Reply to Lisa Mackie


**Cat White**  
Leona date day babe 🍷🍷🍷🍷🍷🍷 xxxxx  
7w Like Reply


Leona McKenzie replied · 1 reply


**Karla Hastie**  
I have tried calling but no answer?  
6w Like Reply


La Trattoria replied · 3 replies


**Rhiannon Underwood**  
Had THE BEST day thank you all 🍷❤  
4w Like Reply


**Claire McConnell**  
Is this sold out?  
4w Like Reply


**Author**  
**La Trattoria**  
Claire McConnell it has sorry xx  
4w Like Reply


Reply to Claire McConnell

**Sharon Jamieson**  
I have tried calling but no answer?  
7w Like Reply

**Lauren Mason**  
**Kimberley Henderson**  
7w Like Reply

Kimberley Henderson replied · 2 replies

Comment as East Lothian Council






Image 3 – Believed to be staff member with tray of alcohol, posted on Facebook 20<sup>th</sup> September 2025

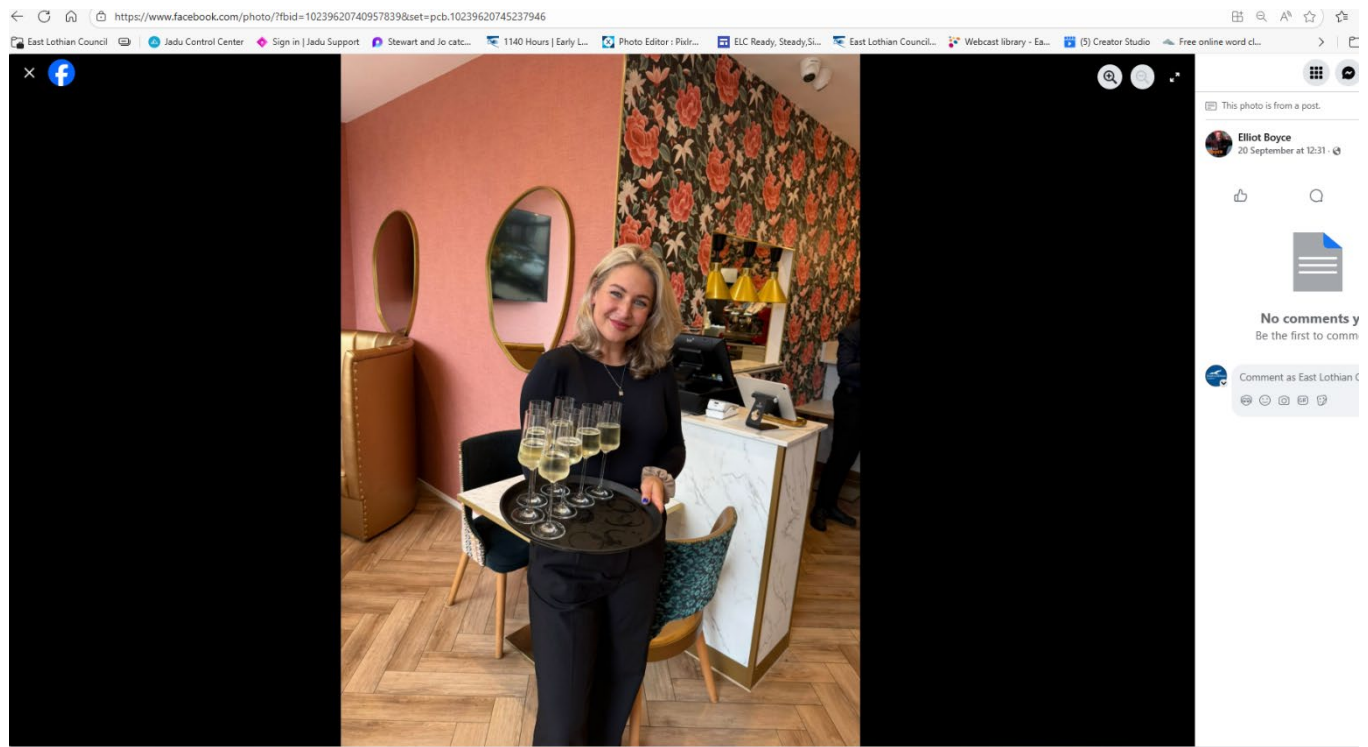
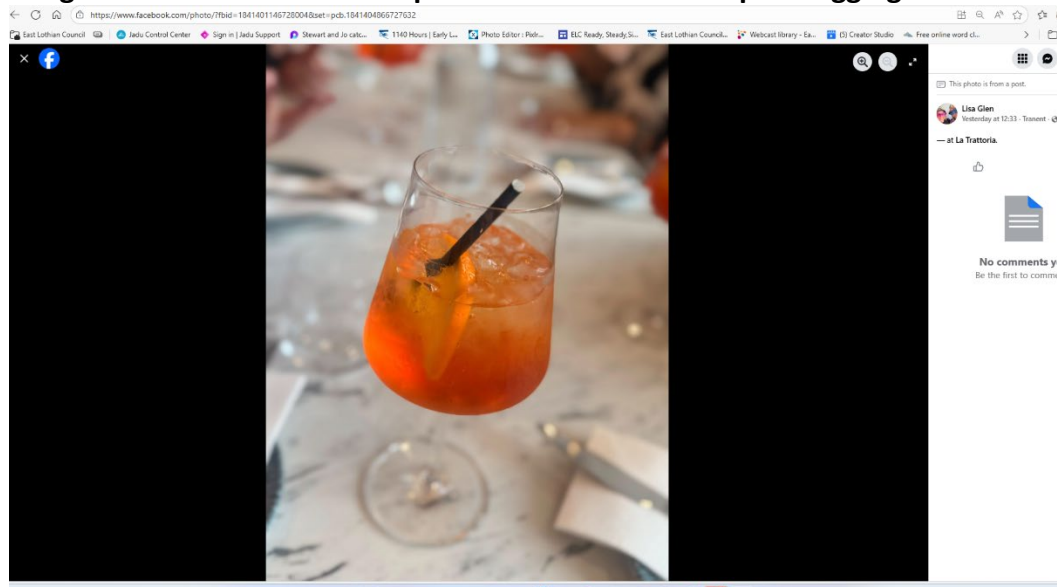


Image 4 - Collection images posted on Facebook 20<sup>th</sup> September including Natascia Pacitti





**Image 5 – Picture of a cocktail posted on facebook in a post tagging La Trattoria**



**Image 6 – Patrons with cocktails at La Trattoria posted on 21<sup>st</sup> September 2025**



Image 7 – Collection of photos from a post on Facebook posted 21<sup>st</sup> September



Lisa Glen is 😊 feeling happy with Boozébrunch at La Trattoria.

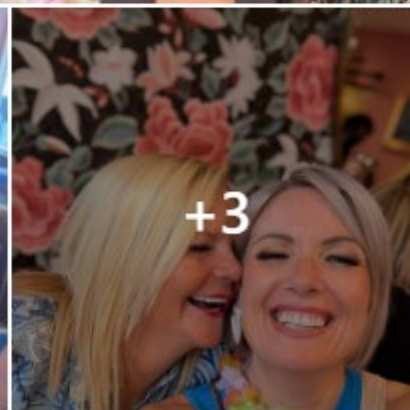
Yesterday at 12:33 · Tranent · 🌐



What an absolutely amazing day yesterday!

Food and cocktails were outstanding! And the atmosphere was fantastic! A great group of people having an absolute ball!!

Thank you to all at La trattoria you all wer amazing 🥳



👍❤️ 58

12 comments




Like



Share


Image 8 – Advertisement on La Trattoria Facebook page posted 9<sup>th</sup> September 2025


 **La Trattoria**  
9 September at 18:00 · 🌐

Amalfi Breeze ✨

Have you tried our delicious cocktails? 🍹

Book your table and sip on an Amalfi Breeze (or two)!



 **AMALFI BREEZE**

A tropical escape with rum, Aperol, pineapple juice and a dash of bitters, garnished with a pineapple slice.




  5





Image 9 - Advertisement on La Trattoria Facebook page posted 14<sup>th</sup> September 2025

**La Trattoria**  
14 September at 09:00 · 🌐


Paloma ✨

A vibrant and refreshing classic cocktail  
The perfect sip to complement every bite!




## PALOMA

A vibrant and refreshing cocktail that combines tequila with the zesty flavours of pink grapefruit soda and fresh lime juice. A pinch of salt enhances the citrusy notes, creating a perfectly balanced cocktail.

 3

## Image 10 - Advertisement on La Trattoria Facebook page posted 14<sup>th</sup> September 2025

**La Trattoria**

Page · Restaurant

119 High Street, Tranent, United Kingdom

+44 1875 710292


info@latrattoriaeastlothian.co.uk

latrattoriaeastlothian.co.uk


100% recommend (14 reviews)

Photos


See All Photos



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**La Trattoria**  
20 September at 09:00 · 🌐

Espresso Martini ✨  
The perfect cocktail to sip alongside your meal or to finish with dessert - whatever you fancy 🍷  
Book your table via the link in bio and enjoy cocktails at La Trattoria!



3

Like

Comment

Share