

THE VALE OF VIRTUE

An artist's impression of Mount Grace Charterhouse monastery in Yorkshire before 1539.



The Charterhouse monastery, called Vale of Virtue (valley of moral excellence), stood here. It was the only Carthusian monastery in Scotland. King James I established it in the late 1420s. He was brutally murdered in the town and buried here in 1437. Nothing remains of the building and the King James VI Hospital now stands on its site. It was founded in 1569 by royal charter.

- The Carthusians were a community of 13 hermits who prayed together in the church but lived separately in tiny houses each with a small garden.
- As a strict monastic order, they were perceived as closest to God. That's why the rich and powerful wanted to be buried here to secure their path through purgatory to heaven.
- The monastery covered a wide area and its orchard inspired the name of the high-rise Pomarium Flats nearby.
- No one knows what the Vale of Virtue really looked like. Historians think it looked very similar to Mount Grace monastery in Yorkshire, but there would have been more people living closely by.
- The settlement was ransacked during the Reformation of 1559 after John Knox preached in St John's Kirk. The remains were later demolished.



James I, 1394 - 1437 by an unknown artist.

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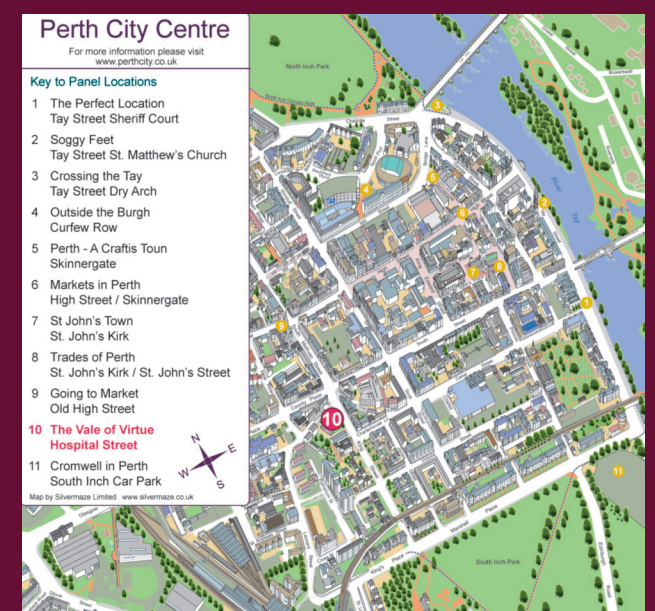
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