

Kingston Single Malt Society

www.kingstonsinglemaltsociety.com

A social club for the appreciation of Single Malt Whisky since 1998

OCTOBER 28th, 2019

VOLUME 13; NUMBER 4



***This evening's menu featuring GLENROTHES & HIGHLAND PARK
in the Company of Cameron Millar***

**THE
GLENROTHES**
ESTD LIMITED RELEASE 1879



**HIGHLAND
ESTD 1798
PARK**
SINGLE MALT SCOTCH WHISKY

SINGLE MALTS

GLENROTHES 12 YEAR OLD

LCBO 639906 | 750 mL bottle **Price: \$74.70** Spirits, Whisky/Whiskey 40.0% Alcohol/Vol.

GLENROTHES WHISKY MAKER'S CUT

LCBO 642918 | 750 mL bottle **Price: \$99.95** Spirits, Whisky/Whiskey 48.8% Alcohol/Vol.

GLENROTHES 18 YEAR OLD

LCBO 642900 | 750 mL bottle **Price: \$199.75** Spirits, 43.0% bottle Alcohol/Vol.

HIGHLAND PARK VALKYRIE

LCBO 498105 | 750 mL bottle **Price: \$99.95** Spirits, Whisky/Whiskey 45.9% Alcohol/Vol.

HIGHLAND PARK VALKNUT

LCBO 632687 | 750 mL bottle, **Price: \$99.95**, Spirits, Whisky/Whiskey 46.8% Alcohol/Vol.

HIGHLAND PARK VALFATHER

LCBO 632687 | 750 mL bottle, **Price: \$99.95**, Spirits, Whisky/Whiskey 47.0% Alcohol/Vol.

JACK DANIEL'S SINGLE BARREL RYE

LCBO 487686 | 750 mL bottle **Price: \$59.95** Made in: Kentucky, USA By: Brown-Forman Louisville Operations

SORTILÈGE PRESTIGE LCBO 317206 | 750 mL bottle **Price: \$51.10**

Made in: Quebec, Canada By: Maison des Futailles Spirits, Liqueur/Liquor, Sweet Flavours 40.9% Alcohol/Vol.

MENU

1st Course: Smoked Salmon and Halibut Chowder, Bacon, Potatoes and Cream

2nd Course: Shaved Local Autumn Vegetables, Apple, Walnut, Quinoa, Shaved Gouda, Sherry Vinaigrette

3rd Course: Roasted Ontario Pork Loin, Local Pumpkin and Maple Puree, Brussels, Beets, Carrots

Dessert: Jack Daniel's Single Barrel Rye Pumpkin Pie with Oat Streusel and
Sortilège Prestige Maple Whiskey Whipped Cream

SEPTEMBER - KSMS Financial Statement

(Money from 51 Sept. attendees @ \$70)	= \$3570.00
September dinner 51 persons = \$50.00/ea	= \$2550.00
(Money remaining for buying Single Malt)	= \$1020.00
Cost of Single Malts	= \$2090.85
Cost of Pours per Person = \$41.00	
KSMS Monthly operational balance	= (-\$1070.85)
Cost per person (All inclusive)	= \$91.00
With the courtesy of Mike Brisebois	
Cost of Single Malts	= \$4873.90
TOTAL Cost of Single Malts	= \$6964.75
Cost of Pours per Person = \$136.56	
Cost per person (All inclusive)	= \$186.56

Upcoming Dinner Dates

November 18th, 2019 - Glenmorangie- Bryan Simpson
December 9th 2019 - Christmas Dinner -
Campbeltown / Lowland / Speyside /
Highlands / Islands / Islay
January 20th, 2020 - Robbie Burns - Speyside / Highlands / Islay
February 17th, 2020 - Deanston – Mike Brisebois
March 16th, 2020 - Irish / Speyside / Highlands
April 20th, 2020 - Campbeltown / Islands / Islay
May 25th, 2020 - Campbeltown / Speyside
June 22nd, 2020 - BBQ (Final Exam)
July 20th, 2020 - 9th "Matt" Night
Friday August 28th 2020 - 13th Annual Premium Night
September 21st, 2020 - Campbeltown / Lowland / Speyside /
Highlands / Islands / Islay
October 19th, 2020 - Speyside / Highlands
November 16th, 2020 - Speyside
December 14th 2020 - Christmas Dinner

Results of the SEPTEMBER Raffle

The winners were
Chantaille Buczynski who won
the Deanston 18 Year Old.

Giselle St-Jean who won
the Bunnahabhain Pea Coat that was
generously donated by Mike Brisebois

During the course of the raffle
a total of \$630 raised.
Thank you everyone!

Highland Park offers \$100k tailgate experience

11th October, 2019 by Owen Bellwood

Edrington-owned Scotch whisky brand Highland Park and American football team Minnesota Vikings have launched a US\$117,980 "tailgate experience", featuring a Viking ship.



Whisky fans can purchase a Viking longboat

Highland Park's Ship & Sip package is aimed at "Scotch enthusiasts, Viking decedents and Minnesota Vikings" and was created as a "one-time tailgating experience".

Priced at more than US\$100,000, the package includes a viking ship made from cedar wood with leather finishing, as well as a tailgate package including an engraved horn, Viking drinking horns, a personal whisky butler, bartender and 4k screens to watch American football games on. The experience also comes with a private photographer and security team. The recreation Viking ship will be yours to own, but a team of staff that comes with it will be on hand during one Minnesota Viking game to offer "the ultimate tailgate experience".

For those interested in purchasing Highland Park's Ship & Sip package, email Americas@HighlandParkWhisky.com for more information.

Earlier this month, [Orkney-based Highland Park added a 21-year-old single](#) malt Scotch whisky to its portfolio.

HIGHLAND PARK VALFATHER IS 'PEATIEST' WHISKY

19 August 2019 by [Becky Paskin](#)

Highland Park is closing its Viking Legend series of limited edition whiskies with Valfather, said to be the distillery's peatiest whisky to date.

Peatiest whisky: Highland Park Valfather is made using heavily-peated malted barley

Highland Park Valfather is a no-age-statement single malt matured in refill casks, and bottled at 47% abv.

Named for Odin, widely regarded as the most powerful of the Norse gods, Valfather is said to have aromas of 'crisp apple with sweet fragrant pear' and notes of 'creamy vanilla crème brûlée with toasted cedar wood and warming paprika'.

Valfather is the third and final expression in the Orkney distillery's Viking Legend series, inspired by Ragnarök, the mythological series of events that led to the death of many Norse figures.

The series was launched in 2017 in collaboration with Danish designer Jim Lyndvold with the [release of Valkyrie](#), and continued with [Valknut](#) earlier this



[year.](#)

Gordon Motion, master whisky maker at [Highland Park](#), said: 'Valfather and the whiskies in the Viking Legend series uses more of our heavily peated malt, making the series more like cousins, rather than a brother or sister to the core range.'

'Overall, this whisky is the richest and smokiest in taste profile compared to the rest of the series and our classic whiskies.'

Highland Park Valfather is available globally for around £60 a bottle.

Highland Park adds Valknut to Viking Legend range

30th July, 2018 by Nicola Carruthers - www.thespiritsbusiness.com

Highland Park has released the second expression in its special edition range inspired by Viking history, called Valknut.

Highland Park Valknut is the second expression in the Viking Legends series

Valknut is the second in a [series of three Viking Legend releases](#) and follows the launch of Valkyrie in April 2017. It will be followed by Valfather in 2019.

The new expression has notes of toasted vanilla pods, cracked black pepper, oak shavings, cloves, aniseed and aromatic smoke on the nose.

The palate is described as offering “sweet, aromatic cloves” combined with “tangy hints of aniseed”, followed by an “intensely balanced, bold and courageous” finish.

Danish designer Jim Lyngvild, an expert in Norse mythology, has designed the packaging for the single malt range.

The packaging took inspiration from two Nordic sources in Gotland, Sweden – the first of the four Stora Hammars stones and the picture stone at Tängelgård.

Valknut means ‘knot of those killed in battle’ and the three interlinked triangles on the design is associated with Norse god Odin, who guided the spirits of the dead to Valhalla.

Jason Craig, Highland Park brand director, said: “Valknut is an intensely balanced whisky with an abv of 46.8%.

“It’s been matured predominantly in American Sherry-seasoned oak casks with a slightly higher phenolic level compared to Valkyrie.

“We’ve also used a small amount of Orkney-grown Tartan barley, which adds to its smokier edge and lingering sweet, spicy finish.”

Highland Park Valknut will launch in more than 15 markets at an RRP of £58 (US\$76).

Highland Park launches 21-year-old single malt

4th October, 2019 by Melita Kiely

Edrington-owned Highland Park has added a 21-year-old single malt Scotch whisky to its portfolio.



Highland Park has added 21 Year Old: August 2019 Release to its portfolio

Highland Park 21 Year Old: August 2019 Release was made using six first-fill Sherry-seasoned European oak casks, four first-fill Sherry-seasoned American oak casks, and five refill casks.

The whisky comprises “almost identical quantities” of liquid from each cask type, delivering an ABV of 46%.

Tasting notes include grated nutmeg, root ginger and sun-ripened orange peel, leading to ripe mango, pear and vanilla flavours. There is said to be a “subtle” touch of peat smoke on the finish.

Highland Park 21 Year Old: August 2019 Release is available to purchase via the brand’s online shop now, priced at £230 (US\$283) per 700ml bottle.

Last month, [Highland park partnered with Scottish Ballet](#) to mark 50 years of the dance company with the launch of a limited edition whisky. This followed the release of the [brand’s most peated whisky to date](#) the month prior.

Scottish Ballet marks anniversary with Highland Park whisky

23rd September, 2019 by Owen Bellwood

Highland Park has partnered with Scottish Ballet to mark 50 years of Scotland’s national dance company with the launch of a new limited edition Scotch whisky.



Scottish Ballet marked its 50th anniversary with a collaborative whisky
The Orkney-based distiller has created a limited edition whisky said to have a spicy flavour that “reflects Scottish Ballet’s exciting repertoires”. Highland Park has released 5,000 bottles, with profits being donated to Scottish Ballet to fund outreach projects across Scotland.

Highland Park Scottish Ballet has flavours of peat smoke and heather honey

Christopher Hampson, CEO and artistic director of Scottish Ballet, said: “We embrace our 50th anniversary with an unprecedented programme of new work, affirming our commitment to be one of the most daring dance companies in the world.

“The Viking soul of Highland Park resonates with us and we are delighted this new partnership will support us to share our passion and ambition with as many people in Scotland as possible through our outreach projects.”

Highland Park Scottish Ballet is bottled at 40% ABV and carries an RRP of £50 (US\$62). The whisky is said to have flavours of aromatic peat smoke and heather honey sweetness.

Jason Craig, global brand director at Highland Park, said: “Our brand is grounded in Orkney’s Viking heritage and we look to collaborate with modern day Viking souls to help bring this to life. For us, Scottish Ballet’s relentless commitment to their art mirrors the dedication we have for our craft and we believe that’s something that will really resonate with both our audiences.”

Last month, the [Edrington-owned Scotch brand unveiled its “most peated release to date”](#).

Mjølner and Highland Park create signature whisky

15th July, 2019 by Owen Bellwood

Scotch brand Highland Park has partnered with Australian bar operator The Speakeasy Group to release a bespoke whisky in its Mjølner venues in Sydney and Melbourne.



Mjølner x Highland Park uses whisky matured in Sherry seasoned casks and refill casks

Available exclusively in the Australian market, the 14-year-old cask strength whisky was developed by Edrington-owned Highland Park and a team from Thor-inspired restaurant and cocktail bar Mjølner.

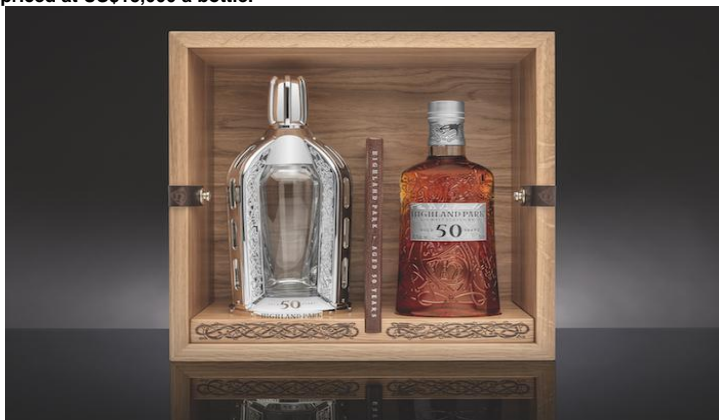
The Mjølner x Highland Park Whisky is the bar's first signature whisky bottling. Made using whisky matured in first-fill Sherry seasoned European oak casks, first-fill Sherry seasoned American oak casks and refill casks, the whisky has flavours of "Sherry and spice, sweet vanilla and a touch of smokiness".

When guests order a dram of the new whisky at either Mjølner venue, staff will deliver the signature Scotch to the table in a miniature replica Viking long boat. A total of 1,731 bottles of Mjølner x Highland Park Whisky have been created, with a limited number available to purchase from Australian distributor Spirits Platform and selected whisky retail shops in Sydney, [including The Oak Barrel](#). Earlier this year, the owners of [The Speakeasy Group announced plans to sell 10% of the company](#) in order to raise up to AU\$3 million (US\$2.13) to fund the expansion of the business.

HIGHLAND PARK 50 YEAR OLD UNVEILED

19 September 2018 by [Richard Woodard](#) – [www.scotchwhisky.com](#)

Orkney single malt Highland Park has announced its oldest release in eight years – Highland Park 50 Year Old, drawn from two ex-Sherry hogshead casks and priced at US\$15,000 a bottle.



Rare beast: Only 274 bottles of Highland Park's new 50-year-old malt will be released. Only 274 bottles of the new expression will be released, drawn from a pair of ex-Sherry hogsheads laid down in 1964 and 'discovered' at the back of a warehouse in 2008, according to [Highland Park](#) owner [Edrington](#).

Whisky from the two casks was combined and married for a further eight years, along with a 'small amount' of liquid from Highland Park's 50-year-old release from 2010.

The whisky was bottled at 42.5% without chill-filtration or artificial colour, with each bottle numbered and signed by Highland Park whisky maker Max McFarlane. Highland Park 50 Year Old is described as 'sweet at first, with notes of ripe black cherries and muscovado sugar, giving way to dried autumn fruits and warm, toasted wood'.

The whisky comes in an oak box made by Scottish designer and master craftsman John Galvin, which contains a bottle of Highland Park 50 Year Old, a crystal decanter and a leather book about the whisky's development.

Released from September 2018, Highland Park 50 Year Old is priced at US\$15,000 a bottle.

The series reintroduces age statements, new packaging and bottle designs to bring the expressions in line with the brand's domestic range.

The collection comprises no-age-statement Spirit of the Bear, 14-year-old Loyalty of the Wolf, 16-year-old Wings of the Eagle and 18-year-old Viking Pride Travel Edition.

Packaged in a one-litre bottle, Spirit of the Bear (40% abv) has been matured in Sherry-seasoned American oak casks. It has notes of smoky peat, root ginger, freshly grated nutmeg and sweet vanilla pods. It is priced at €50.

Loyalty of the Wolf (42.3% abv) is described as a "sweet and complex" whisky and has been matured in a combination of Sherry-seasoned American oak casks and ex-Bourbon casks. It has an RRP of €65.

Meanwhile, the "spicy and elegant" Wings of the Eagle (44.5% abv) is matured in both sherry-seasoned European and American oak casks. It is priced at €90.



Viking Pride Travel Edition (46% abv) is the "pinnacle" of the range and matured in Sherry-seasoned European oak casks. It has "rich, dark chocolate" and "heather honey" notes and has an RRP of €110.

Jason Craig, brand director, Highland Park, said: "The new travel retail-exclusive Highland Park collection marks a major step for the brand as we look to deliver new innovations and explore new flavour profiles for whisky drinkers around the world."

Igor Boyadjian, managing director, Edrington Global Travel Retail: "The new travel retail exclusive collection delivers a step-change in range navigation

through a number of premium cues, which allow consumers to understand the different character of each whisky whilst offering a strong storytelling proposition and on-shelf presence."

Each expression is already available in European travel retail, apart from Viking Pride Travel Edition which will launch later in the summer. The range will be available in major Asian and Middle Eastern airports from September 2018 and in the Americas from December 2018.

HIGHLAND PARK WINGS OF THE EAGLE, 16 YEARS OLD

SCORE84

PRICE BAND

£ £ £ £ £

ABV: 44.5%

AVAILABILITY: *Global Travel Retail*

FLAVOUR CAMP: *Rich & Round*

NOSE: The darkest of the new trio with more overt Sherried elements, Morello cherry and black fruits. There's even some slightly funky-up qualities: think dubbin wax on leather boots, black cardamom, dried citrus peels, treacle scone with butter and a light sootiness. There's some complexity here. Water brings out light lanolin, some rained sweetness (PX-like) that shifts towards pot pourri and floor polish.

PALATE: A soft start, which if I'm being honest is almost too soft, making the effect slightly gloopy, albeit with a buzz of alcohol at the same time. The ripe black fruits dominate the mid-palate but water hollows out the centre, so I'd leave neat.

FINISH: To be fair, things pick up here with baked plums, peach, dried raspberries, and low smoke.

CONCLUSION: Robust and warming, this is the most rewarding of the animal-themed trio, especially on the nose, but the lack of structure knocks it back. Still, if your preference is for whiskies which are soft and ripe then this is right up your street.

RIGHT PLACE, RIGHT TIME: Spiralling up, there's an [Eagle In Your Mind](#).

Highland Park unveils animal-inspired GTR range

25th July, 2018 by Nicola Carruthers - [www.thespiritsbusiness.com](#)

Edrington-owned Highland Park has released a new range of whiskies in global travel retail, which pay homage to animals from Viking culture.



Highland Park's new travel retail range takes inspiration from iconic animals in Viking culture

Highland Park to tour aboard Viking longship

14th August, 2018 by Owen Bellwood - www.thespiritsbusiness.com

Orkney single malt Scotch brand Highland Park has partnered with Viking longship Draken Harald Hårfagre for its upcoming tour of the US east coast.



The Draken Harald Hårfagre is more than 100 feet long and was constructed between 2010 and 2012

The Draken is a recreation of a Viking ship created by Norwegian entrepreneur Sigurd Aase. The tour with Highland Park will see the ship travel the US east coast from Maine to South Carolina, visiting 14 harbours over four months.

Martin Markvardsen, Highland Park's senior global brand ambassador, said: "The Draken ship and its journey exemplify the spirit of the modern-day Viking and everything that Highland Park stands for: determination, adventure, quality craftsmanship and rich history.

"Our founder Magnus Eunson was a direct descendant of the Vikings who settled on Orkney over 1,000 years ago and today, our whisky continues to be crafted in the old way by a new generation of Vikings.

"Highland Park is proud to be an official partner of the Draken ship and honoured to support its vision and tour of the United States."

The Orkney-based distillery will support the ship on its US tour, which will see the Draken stop off at cities including Washington DC and Philadelphia.

The Draken will offer deck tours at each stop-over, as well as screenings of a new Draken documentary, talks by the captain and crew, and Highland Park whisky tastings.

The ship, which is more than 100 feet long, was constructed between 2010 and 2012. It completed its inaugural transatlantic crossing from Norway to the US in 2016.

Last month, the [Edrington-owned distillery released the second expression in its special edition range inspired by Viking history](#), called Valknut.

Glenrothes highlights age statements in new range

7th September, 2018 by Amy Hopkins - www.thespiritsbusiness.com

Speyside distillery Glenrothes will depart from its focus on vintage whiskies for a new range of age-statement Sherry cask single malts, which will launch later this month.



The Glenrothes Soleo Collection will launch later this month

Targeted towards the "modern drinker", the new Soleo Collection contains six single malts aged for between 10 and 40 years.

The range is described as "slightly sweeter and much more approachable than traditional Scotch".

Gordon Motion, master whisky maker at The Glenrothes, said:

"The Glenrothes is a true and honest single malt. We believe in sharing the inspiration behind how and why we create the whiskies we do – showcasing the fundamentally simple yet natural process of whisky-making, a previously undisclosed part of the story.

"The Soleo Collection illustrates this perfectly and its fantastic new whiskies are testament to our commitment."

The range is priced between £37 (US\$48) and £375 (US\$487), but the price of the 40-year-old expression is yet to be confirmed.

Last year, [Berry Bros & Rudd sold The Glenrothes brand back to Edrington](#).

Scotch Whisky's Most Prestigious Society Is Putting Down Roots in the U.S.

SEPTEMBER 26, 2019 | SUSANNAH SKIVER BARTON



Scotch industry group the Keepers of the Quaich launched its USA chapter in New York City on September 25, toasting to camaraderie and future success. (Photo by Tim Ryan Smith)

Last night in New York City, the biggest leaders in scotch whisky came together to toast to the start of an exciting new moment. The [Keepers of the Quaich](#), an industry group that celebrates individuals who promote and support scotch worldwide, opened its new USA chapter with a banquet ceremony at Gotham Hall attended by 175 people.

The biggest distillers of Scotland were all represented, with companies like [Diageo](#), [Pernod Ricard](#), [William Grant & Sons](#), [Beam Suntory](#), and many others pouring some of their finest whiskies during a cocktail hour. A series of toasts punctuated the formal dinner, which included remarks from British consul Antony Phillipson and Torquihill Campbell, the Duke of Argyll, a spirited recitation of Robert Burns' Address to a Haggis, and plenty of bagpipes and traditional Scottish music.

Marvin R. Shanken, editor and publisher of Whisky Advocate, was inducted into the Keepers of the Quaich in its inaugural ceremony in 1988 and served as a member of the event's steering committee. "The entry of Keepers of the Quaich into the U.S. is a major step for the scotch industry and great news for whisky lovers everywhere," he said. "As one of the first members inducted and the publisher of the world's leading whisky magazine, I am proud to represent this prestigious organization."

THE OSCARS OF SCOTCH
"Being a Keeper is a bit like being awarded an Oscar," says Peter Prentice, the society's chairman and global VIP relationships director at [Chivas Brothers](#). "The Keepers give us the opportunity to showcase the very best of Scotland and scotch whisky in a way that reflects the leadership position that scotch whisky has in the world." The Society's stated mission is "to recognize the outstanding commitment of those who produce or promote the world's finest spirit."

Pointing to the collegiality across rival companies promoted by the society, Prentice compares it to creating a blended scotch. "When the whisky industry really took off in the mid-1800s, [it] rapidly learned that by blending whiskies together, you could make them a lot more palatable and pleasant—that whole expression of the whole being greater than the sum of its parts, and the art of blending and so forth," he says. "We rely on each other in a symbiotic relationship in many ways."

The Keepers of the Quaich was founded in 1988 by United Distillers, Allied Distillers, Justerini & Brooks Ltd., The Highland Distilleries Co., and Robertson & Baxter. (Mergers and industry changes over the years mean that, today, the founding partners are listed as Chivas Brothers, Diageo, Edrington, George Ballantine & Son, and Justerini & Brooks.) The society inducts 90 new members—and promotes ten existing members to the status Master of the Quaich—annually in ceremonies held in spring and fall at Blair Castle in Scotland. The stately residence is the seat of the Duke of Atholl, the chief of Clan Murray and a patron of the Keepers who

commands Britain's only private regiment, the Atholl Highlanders. These kilted infantrymen serve as the honor guard, greeting guests with bagpipes.

The two-handled quaich is often seen as a symbol of fellowship. (Photo by Tim Ryan Smith)

While details of the ceremony are deliberately kept secret, it does involve the use of a ceremonial quaich measuring 24 inches across and engraved with barley designs, and inductees are required to swear an oath. Scottish symbolism and heritage play a large role; the society has its own tartan, as well as a special coat of arms, shield, and crest. Its motto is "Uisgebeatha Gu Brath," Scots Gaelic for "Water of Life Forever." Yet despite its obvious Scottish identity, across the globe, the Keepers has ten international chapters in Australia, Brazil, Germany, India, the Netherlands, the Nordics (Sweden, Norway, Finland, Denmark, and Iceland), South Africa, Turkey, the United Arab Emirates, and now the United States.

"America is, without a doubt, the most important market for Scotch whisky in the world, with the most Keepers and Masters of any other country," Prentice says. "I'm very excited about the America chapter because you've got so much to play with over there. You know how to do things well; you know how to do things big. The USA is the land of the free and the melting pot for so many people from around the world. In many ways, the spirit of the United States of America is so closely aligned to the spirit of the Keepers of the Quaich in terms of putting people together. I think there's a lovely affinity."

WHAT IS A QUAICH?

While most whisky drinkers today imbibe from a glass, hundreds of years ago, the Scots used a shallow, two-handled vessel called a quaich (in Scots Gaelic, "cuach" or cup). Traditionally made from wood, versions crafted in silver and other materials began appearing in the 17th century. The quaich's two-handled design is often touted as a symbol of fellowship and trust. A person can only drink from it using both hands, meaning that, in the old days, the drinker couldn't keep a hand on their sword or dagger—they had to trust that no one around them intended any harm. Fortunately, the Keepers of the Quaich's membership has no such worries, but continues the tradition in the name of camaraderie and goodwill.

"To be able to release some of the last remaining spirit from the original still feels like we're celebrating the end of an era and is incredibly rewarding."

"This whisky will never exist again and that's what makes the release of our 40-year-old so special and highlights the true rarity of this expression."

Furthermore, The Glenrothes is also giving away 20 pairs of tickets to an exclusive tasting of the 40-year-old expression at Berry Bros & Rudd's premises at No.3 St James's Street, London.

Macallan partners with Pantone for Edition No.5

16th September, 2019 by Amy Hopkins

The Macallan has launched the fifth bottling in its Edition series, which celebrates the natural colour of the Speyside single malt and features a "unique" shade of purple created by Pantone on its packaging.



The Macallan commissioned Pantone to create the "bold" purple colour for its Edition No.5

The Macallan Edition No.5 is described as a "homage to the diversity and complexity of natural colour".

The whisky has been aged exclusively in American oak casks, offering "sweet notes of caramel and fresh fruit combined with oak spices". It follows the launch of four previous expressions in the Edition range, which "explores the unique elements" of The Macallan.

Edition No.1 celebrated the brand's use of wood; [Edition No.2](#) celebrated taste through a collaboration with The Roca Brothers of El Celler de can Roca; [Edition No.3](#) celebrated aroma in collaboration with master perfumer Roja Dove; and [Edition No.4](#) celebrated the architecture of [The Macallan's new distillery](#).

"We can find much common ground between whisky making and colour creation and with Edition No.5 we have been able to explore and celebrate these two art forms," said Sarah Burgess, The Macallan whisky maker.

"Whilst colour development starts with mixing basic colours with precision to achieve different shades, for whisky making, it is the knowledge and understanding of a specific palette of colours from the cask which is the starting point. From here we can craft the desired character and specific colour of the final whisky".

Pantone Color Institute created an exclusive colour for The Macallan Edition No.5 – an "intricate combination" of red and blue.

"As the rainbow's most complex colour, purple naturally felt like the ideal shade to highlight the equally complex process involved in The Macallan's whisky making," said Laurie Pressman, vice-president of Pantone.

"This new vibrant shade developed for Edition No.5, brings to life the exquisite combination of distinctive natural hues found in this whisky."

The Macallan Edition No. 5 is bottled without an age statement at 48.5% ABV and carries an RRP of £92 (US\$115). It will be available from select retailers and on-trade accounts.

MACALLAN REVEALS COLOUR-FOCUSED EDITION NO 5

16 September 2019 by Matt Evans

Speyside distillery Macallan has released Edition No 5, the latest single malt to join its annual limited Edition series.

Colour palette: *Macallan Edition No 5 is decorated with a unique purple label created by Pantone*

A no-age-statement single malt, the whisky has been matured in American oak casks before being bottled at 48.5% abv.

The new bottling is designed to showcase the colour of [Macallan's](#) whisky, following Editions No 1 and [No 2](#), focused on cask influence; [Edition No 3](#), which explored the impact of aroma; and [Edition No 4](#), which was focused on structure. Sarah Burgess, whisky maker for Macallan, said: 'Whilst colour development starts with mixing basic colours with precision to achieve different shades, when it comes to whisky making, it is the knowledge and understanding of a specific palette of colours from the cask which is the starting-point.'

Edition No 5 is said to have '100% natural' colour and is bottled without the use of spirit caramel.

The whisky is said to be full of 'oak, nutmeg and ginger' notes on the nose, with flavours of 'poached peaches and ripe pear' on the palate.

Glenrothes 40 Year Old is distillery's oldest whisky to date

12th September, 2019 by Melita Kiely

Speyside distillery The Glenrothes is due to release its first 40-year-old single malt Scotch whisky next month, priced at £2,900 (US\$3,574).



The Glenrothes 40 Year Old is the distillery's oldest single malt to date

The whisky was distilled in December 1978 in copper pot stills that were replaced soon after this date.

It has been matured in various Sherry-seasoned and ex-Bourbon casks to give aromas of orange oil, peach, cedar wood and almond. On the palate, the whisky is said to have notes of sultanas, cinnamon and nutmeg, balanced with tobacco and "soft" oak tannin.

Only 594 bottles of The Glenrothes 40 Year Old will be released through Berry Bros & Rudd on 1 October, each individually numbered and presented in an oak box.

The expression joins [the brand's Soleo Collection](#), which was brought out in 2018. It features six single malts aimed at the 'modern drinker', with each one designed to showcase the influence of Sherry-seasoned oak casks. The range comprises whiskies between 10 and 40 years old.

Gordon Motion, master whisky maker at The Glenrothes, said: "Forty years ago, The Glenrothes distillery was different in many ways, yet our whisky character has remained unchanged."

To emphasise the connection with colour, the bottle's label has been decorated with 'a uniquely bold shade of purple' developed by designers at the Pantone Colour Institute in New Jersey.

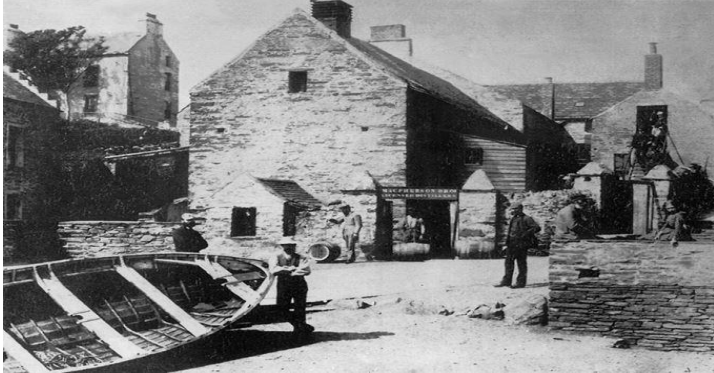
The whisky is available from specialist retailers, Heathrow Airport and the Macallan distillery, priced at £92 per 70cl bottle.

Edition No 5 is one of the latest additions to Macallan's various limited edition series, following the recent release of the distillery's 40-year-old [Fine and Rare 1979](#) single malt.

THE TENACITY OF ORKNEY'S EARLY WHISKY MAKERS

08 August 2019 by [Gavin D Smith](#)

Neither two world wars, economic decline nor the region's remote location could stop the Orcadians from building Orkney into a destination renowned for its Scotch and peat. Although just two distilleries remain, Gavin D. Smith finds an archipelago rich in whisky history, and tenacity.



Silent stills: The now-demolished Stromness distillery closed in the 1920s (Photo: Orkney Library and Archive)

The Orkney Islands are located to the north of the Scottish mainland and comprise 70 individual islands, 20 of which are inhabited. Their [history lies as much with Norway](#) as with Scotland, and Norse place names and ancient archaeological sites abound.

When it comes to [Orkney's whisky-making heritage](#), most people recount the story of Magnus Eunson, sometimes named as the founder of [Highland Park](#) distillery. Eunson was a local church officer, illicit distiller and the man who allegedly hid casks of his whisky under a pulpit to prevent their discovery by the forces of the law.

Whether Eunson can really be credited with establishing Highland Park – officially dating from 1798 – or was simply making whisky in the High Park locale of Kirkwall, the island capital of Orkney, during the late 19th century is a moot point. The distillery owner, [Edrington](#), prefers the version that it was founded by farmer John Robertson in 1798.

As with the origins of many distilleries, those of Highland Park are shrouded in mystery and myth, and whatever the truth of the Magnus Eunson story, Orkney's distilling heritage is really about so much more.

Apart from Highland Park, there were half a dozen other licensed distilleries briefly active around Kirkwall during the 1820s, and a mystery persists regarding the existence of Kirkwall distillery, recorded as being licensed to one David Driver in 1821.



Island survivor: Highland Park was one of only two Orkney distilleries to continue operating into the 1930s (Photo: Orkney Library and Archive)

It has been suggested that Highland Park and Kirkwall distilleries were one and the same thing, but this is clearly not the case. Highland Park was owned by the Robertsons until 1826, when Robert Borwick became licensee, and it remained in the hands of Borwick family members until the 1870s.

Records show that Kirkwall distillery was licensed to James Drever – probably a variant spelling of 'Driver' – in 1825, and subsequent licensees were Thomas Fraser, James Drever, William Chisolm Quay and ultimately John Macdonald & Co. The distillery is described as being on East Road, some distance from Holm Road, where Highland Park is situated, and is last noted as active in 1881-82. A research project into Kirkwall distillery's apparently obscure history is surely long overdue.

Meanwhile, in Orkney's second-largest settlement of Stromness, in the south-west of the mainland, one distillery operated between 1825 and 1831, while a second enjoyed more than a century of existence, from 1817 until 1928.

It was established close to the harbour by John Crookshanks, and was named Stromness distillery, though its single malt was initially marketed as Man O'Hoy, after one of Orkney's most distinctive landmarks, the red sandstone sea stack off the island of Hoy.



Global brand: The McConnells continued to export OO whisky to the US in the 1930s

Stromness was in the hands of no fewer than six individuals before closing in 1867, but 1878 saw it restored to use by the Macpherson brothers, who renamed the distillery itself Man O'Hoy and marketed its whisky as Old Orkney, or 'OO'.

The Macphersons ran Stromness distillery until it was acquired sometime between 1900 and 1910 by Belfast-based J&J McConnell Ltd, but the harsh economic climate of the inter-war years forced its closure in 1928. It was subsequently owned for a time by Booths Distilleries, but the distillery buildings were demolished during the 1940s, and ultimately replaced by local authority housing.

When he visited during the mid-1880s, [Alfred Barnard](#) described Stromness as 'The most remote Distillery in the Kingdom', and wrote that: 'In the little old-fashioned Still House are to be seen two of the "sma" old Pot Stills, each holding 300 gallons. One of these, a veritable smuggler's Still of a peculiar shape, is the quaintest we have seen in our travels, and was formerly the property of a noted law evader; its body is shaped like a pumpkin, and is surmounted by a similarly shaped chamber one fourth the size, to prevent the goods boiling over, through which the neck passes to the head of the Still.'

By the time an undated brochure, written before the First World War and titled *Farthest North*, was produced by J&J McConnell Ltd, Stromness distillery had clearly been significantly upgraded and expanded.



'Old-fashioned' setup: Stromness distillery's two 'sma' pot stills, 1913 (Photo: Orkney Library and Archive)

The uncredited author writes: 'The proprietors of the Distillery have modernized all that is possible to modernize in this primitive spot without interfering in any way with the old-style system of making good whisky. The very nature of the Distillery itself human hands cannot alter. The rock-hewn chambers, the "sma" auld stills (which still remain, though now unused, having been replaced by larger ones of the same pattern)...'

Along with Highland Park, Orkney's other surviving distillery is [Scapa](#), situated two miles to the west, on the shores of the historically strategic bay of Scapa Flow. It was founded in 1885, at a time when Speyside was fast becoming the go-to location for new distillery builds, so why construct it on an island north of the Scottish mainland?

Part of the reason is that one of Scapa's two founders, Robert Macfarlane – the other was Joseph Townsend – had managed Highland Park after previously being in business with his brother Daniel at [Port Dundas](#) distillery in Glasgow.



Vital position: Scapa distillery was built on the shores of the Scapa Flow. (Photo: pre-WWII; Orkney Library and Archive)

This meant he had first-hand experience of the island, its topography and logistics. The quality of Orkney peat for malting purposes was very high, and as [Chivas Brothers](#) archivist Chris Brousseau explains: 'If we think of the times in 1885 as opposed to today, it made perfect sense. The movement was done by ship as it was on the shipping lanes for Aberdeen and the south.'

He quotes a newspaper reference to Scapa, published during the 1890s, which declares that: 'The product of the Distillery, which is a Blending Malt Whisky, is well and favourably known in the trade, and the demand therefore is increasing every year. The carriage to and from the Distillery, being by sea, is cheap both for whisky and raw material.'

As well as being home to several distilleries over the years, Orkney also made a perhaps unexpected contribution to whisky-making on the Scottish mainland, courtesy of that high-quality peat previously mentioned.

The small island of Eday lies to the north-east of the Orkney mainland and for many years was home to the Eday Peat Company. Alfred Barnard noted the use of [Orkney peat](#) – imported from Eday to the Scottish east coast – in several of the distilleries he visited during the mid-1880s, including Auchtermuchty, Ballechin and [Bon Accord](#), along with [Strathisla](#) and [Miltonguff](#) on Speyside.



In demand: The Eday Peat Company loading peat into boats bound for Glenmorangie distillery, Tain, 1930s (Photo: Orkney Library and Archive)

Of Miltonguff, Barnard observed that '...only Orkney peats are used for drying the malt. The Orkney peats are said to be the finest in the kingdom. In the adjoining sheds we saw two ship-loads of this valuable fuel, which Mr Stuart had just imported from Eday [sic], in Orkney, for the following winter's use.' Distillery proprietor William Stuart also had an interest in Highland Park from 1868 until 1895, which may go some way to explaining how he knew that Orkney peat was of such excellence.

According to Eday Peat Company records, the Inverness distilleries of [Glen Albyn](#) and [Glen Mhor](#) were also customers, as was [Glenmorangie](#), where the peat was unloaded onto Morangie beach from small cargo vessels. Glen Mhor continued to import Orcadian peat until the outbreak of the Second World War in 1939.

In March 1939, Scottish Malt Distillers (the malt distillery-operating subsidiary of [Distillers Company Ltd](#)) placed a substantial order with Eday for peat to be used by several of its 'north country distilleries,' namely [Royal Brackla](#), [Milburn](#), [Teaninich](#), [Dallas Dhu](#) and [Glen Ord](#).

That same year, the recently re-opened Scapa distillery was also ordering peat from Eday, and as late as 1943, Scapa requested another 120 tonnes of it, perhaps being the last customer of the Eday Peat Company.

The late Orcadian writer George Mackay Brown once wrote that his fellow islanders were 'Fishermen with Ploughs'. Clearly, they were also pretty useful with stills, too.

SB visits: The Macallan

14th February, 2019 by Owen Bellwood - www.thespiritsbusiness.com



It has been a busy 12 months for Edrington-owned Macallan. The single malt Scotch whisky brand [completed and opened its new distillery, launched its first television campaign](#), saw one of its bottles become the first whisky to [sell for more than £1 million at auction](#) and unveiled its oldest expression to date – [a 72-year-old whisky bottled in a Lalique decanter](#).

To round off its impressive year, the Speyside whisky maker invited a group of journalists to its home on the Easter Elchies estate in Aberlour, Scotland, to take a look around.

While visiting the Speyside estate, SB was able to peruse Easter Elchies House, which features on the label of every bottle of The Macallan whisky, toured the distillery and its surrounding estate, and sampled a number of limited edition and rare Macallan bottlings.

After first arriving at the Easter Elchies Estate, SB was driven around the expansive warehouse facility that the brand is in the process of constructing. Behind the warehouses, which are capable of holding thousands of barrels, the Scotch whisky brand keeps its empty Sherry-seasoned casks – each waiting to be filled with new make spirit.

As part of the brand's expansion, it has developed its barrel store to hold even more whisky-ready casks.



After visiting the glamorous world of barrel stores and bonded warehouses, it was time to pay a visit to some of the wildlife that lives on the grounds surrounding The Macallan.

The Scotch brand has a flock of Highland cattle on site, which were out enjoying the rain and ready to pose for photos.

The next stop was the on-site fishing hut, where the group had a chance to meet Macallan's ghillie, Robert Mitchel.

Mitchel is responsible for monitoring fish stocks and hosting fishing trips on the river Spey. While speaking with the group he shared tales of his time fishing on the river and



introduced everyone to his two dogs.

Then, it was time for a dram.

SB and other guests enjoyed a glass of The Macallan 12 Year Old on the banks of the Spey, taking the time to enjoy the scenery and sounds of the river below.

After that, the group headed inside the distillery.

Edrington opened the £140 million distillery in June last year with the intention of increasing the brand's production capacity by a third.



At one end of the expansive space is a stainless steel mash tun, which is illuminated by lights that gradually changed between blue and orange through the course of the visit.

The stills in the new Macallan distillery are arranged in three circles, each made up of four wash stills and eight spirit stills.

In order to ensure the spirit produced at the new distillery is the same as that from The Macallan's old distillery, the stills have retained the smaller proportions synonymous with the brand.

The new stills were created by Scottish coppersmith Forsyths.



After walking through the distillery and accompanying visitor centre, the group reached an enormous window that looks out over the estate.

The visitor centre at the new distillery aims to tell the story of the brand and explore the influences of different cask types on the finished whisky.

To conclude SB's visit to The Macallan, the group gathered in one of the brand's bonded warehouses to sample a very special whisky.

The Macallan 72 Year Old is the brand's oldest whisky release to date. It was distilled in the 1940s and has spent the ensuing years maturing in Speyside.

Only 600 decanters of the lightly peated whisky have been released, each carrying a recommended retail price of US\$60,000.



MACALLAN NAMED AMONG WORLD'S TOP ATTRACTIONS

23 August 2019 by [Becky Paskin](#)

Macallan distillery in Speyside has been named one of the world's 100 must-visit destinations by Time magazine, ranking alongside the Star Wars: Galaxy's Edge park at Disneyland, and Australia's Uluru.



Global destination: Macallan's uniquely-designed distillery is one of Time's must-visit attractions

The subterranean Scotch whisky distillery, which [opened to the public in June 2018](#), was named among the influential US magazine's [2019 Greatest Places](#).

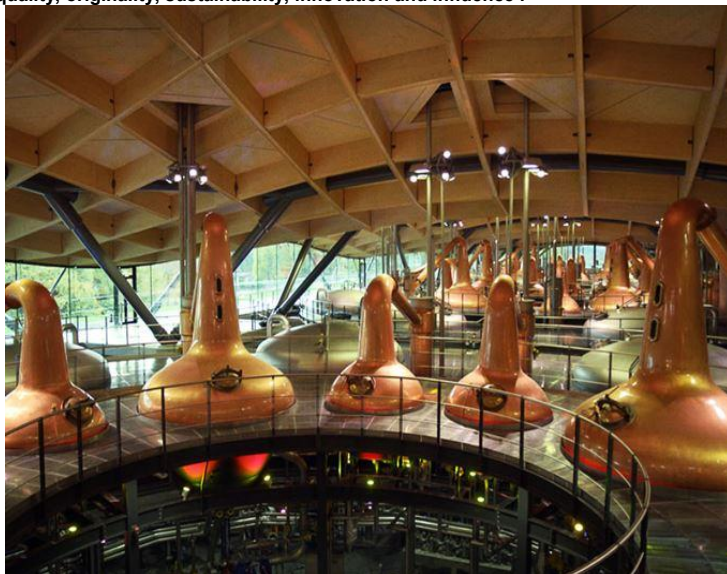
Designed by Rogers, Stirk, Harbour + Partners, the £140 million distillery is housed within an underground space fitted with an undulating, grass-covered roof to mimic the rolling hills of the surrounding Spey countryside.

[Macallan's](#) original distillery, which is also situated on the Easter Elchies estate in Speyside, was decommissioned in October 2017.

Since its opening, the new Macallan distillery has won a series of accolades for its [unique architecture](#), including the RIAS Award 2019 and the RIBA Award for Scotland 2019, and is shortlisted for the [RIBA Stirling Prize](#), which will be announced in October.

Time's second annual list of the world's top destinations features a selection of museums, parks, restaurants and hotels compiled by its own editors, correspondents and industry experts.

The nominated locations were then evaluated based on key factors, 'including quality, originality, sustainability, innovation and influence'.



In the round: Macallan's 36 copper pot stills are arranged in circular 'pods'
Commenting on the selection criteria the magazine's editorial team wrote: 'How does one measure the greatness of a place – in miles covered, dollars spent, or visitors captivated?'

'Such metrics can play a part, but also important is something that many travelers [sic] aspire to experience: the sense that one has stumbled upon the extraordinary.'

The list also features two other UK landmarks: the V&A Museum in Dundee, and the University Arms Cambridge.

Fiona Hyslop, MSP for Culture, Tourism and External Affairs, said both the V&A Dundee and Macallan distillery 'represent the very best of Scotland's tourism experience'.

She added: 'Whisky tourism continues to grow and last year visitor numbers to distilleries hit two million for the first time ever.'

'The Macallan distillery is an architectural wonder and in its innovative telling of the story of whisky is helping to lead whisky tourism.'

Visits to Scotland's whisky distilleries [have increased by 56% since 2010](#), according to figures compiled by the Scotch Whisky Association, which the body has claimed reflects a 'growing curiosity about Scotch whisky'.

Macallan expects to eventually welcome around 50,000 visitors a year through its doors alone.

Igor Boyadjian, managing director for Macallan, said: 'We look forward to continuing to welcome visitors from all across the world to our brand home, which is a reflection of the vision, commitment and collaboration from our team and partners.'

'Together, their unwavering commitment to excellence enabled us to deliver this unique and striking piece of contemporary architecture.'

Laurie Piper, operations manager of Moray Speyside Tourism, added: 'News that the new Macallan distillery has reached *Time* magazine's 2019 World's Greatest Places list is no surprise to us here in Moray Speyside – we've seen the effect it's already had on tourism in the area, and as the true home of malt whisky, it can only be a good thing for the region's tourism industry that such a fantastic, inspirational and innovative building at the heart of Speyside is recognised at worldwide level.'

Oldest Macallan bottling could sell for US\$125,000 at auction

17th June, 2019 by Nicola Carruthers

A bottle of the oldest Macallan expression to date – a 72-year-old single malt bottled in a Lalique crystal decanter – is expected to sell for between US\$100,000 and US\$125,000 at auction.



The Macallan 72-year-old features an accompanying stopper and wooden presentation case

The Macallan 72 Years Old in Lalique – The Genesis Decanter [was released last year](#) to celebrate the [opening of the new £140m Macallan distillery](#) and visitor centre in June 2019.

A bottle of the 72-year-old whisky will go under the hammer at Skinner Auctioneers' Fine Wine and Rare Spirits online auction this month. The auction is held from 18-27 June.

Produced in 1946, the expression has an "exquisite balance of strong, sweet oak with the peaty spirit shaping its refined character". The nose is said to have aromas of fruit followed by hints of peat, with a "lingering hint of rich fruit and oak" on the finish.

The bottle design has been inspired by the curvature of the distillery's roof structure, which is said to be suggestive of the building rising and falling from the ground.

The presentation case is inspired by the interior of the distillery, with a curved wooden roof over the decanter and a footprint taken directly from the circular layout of the three new still houses.

Limited to 600 decanters worldwide, the rare whisky has sold for as high as US\$12,000 a dram, according to Skinner Auctioneers.

The Fine Wine and Rare Spirits auction will also offer a 43-year-old, 1964 White Bowmore estimated at US\$10,000-US\$12,000; a 44-year-old, 1964 Gold Bowmore estimated at US\$12,000-US\$15,000; and a collection of rare Bourbon and rye bottles from the Prohibition and pre-Prohibition eras.

In October last year, a bottle of The Macallan Valerio Adami 1926 60-year-old Scotch whisky [set a new world record](#) after selling for £848,750 (US\$1.1m) at a Bonhams auction in Edinburgh.

The Macallan: a brand history

24th April, 2019 by Tom Bruce-Gardyne - www.thespiritsbusiness.com

The Macallan is almost a victim of its own success, with fans complaining about being unable to get their hands on the coveted whisky. But, as The Spirits Business reports, the company has invested in production capacity to keep up with demand.



Revolution was in the air in 1926, what with the general strike, but it was business as usual at the sleepy Speyside distillery of The Macallan. Cask no. 263 was just another Sherry butt filled that year and destined to disappear into a bottle of blended Scotch whose price was then capped at 12s/6d (62p). But somehow the cask slipped through the net and slumbered until 1986 when 40 bottles were filled. Today, what was once a humble spirit made from malted barley, water and a little yeast is now smashing records at auction. If the bottle comes with a pop art label by Peter Blake or Valerio Adami, you can expect to pay more than a million bucks – such is the power of The Macallan.

Getting to this transcendent position has been a slow burn for a distillery founded in 1824, having made whisky on the side for some years before that. In 1887, The Macallan was but a footnote in Alfred Barnard's vast book on the UK's whisky distilleries, and for much of the 20th century it would have struggled to compete in an industry that was consolidating fast. But it was swift to follow Glenfiddich's lead in bottling some of its whisky as single malt in the 1970s, though with an initial marketing spend of just £75 (US\$96).

"Yeah, amazing!" says Scott McCroskie, The Macallan's current managing director, who confirms: "It's a little bit more than that now." The brand enjoyed a free guest appearance on a bedside table in the film *Don't Look Now*, which was only fair given that Allan Shiach, whose family owned the distillery, co-wrote the screenplay of Nicolas Roeg's 1973 thriller. Unfortunately, it went unnoticed, given what was happening on the bed between Julie Christie and Donald Sutherland. Forty years later, audiences did take note of the 50-year-old Macallan that stars in the Bond movie *Skyfall*, though this time the brand owner would have paid handsomely.

In between the two films, McCroskie mentions The Macallan's "creative, funny and slightly irreverent" early advertising beside The Times' crossword, and the creation of Maxxium in 1999, which "very quickly gave it great global distribution". Maxxium was the joint venture between Rémy Cointreau, Jim Beam and the Edrington Group, which bought The Macallan's owner, Highland Distillers, that year for £601 million. Above all, McCroskie believes the brand's success is because: "From the start there's been this obsession with quality."

The Macallan likes to talk of its 'six pillars' that include "curiously small stills", "natural colour" and, especially, its "exceptional oak casks". That meant exclusively Sherry casks until Fine Oak was launched in 2004, which suggests Bourbon barrels had been used for a while. Yet McCroskie insists: "The vast majority, over 97%, is aged in Sherry-seasoned casks. We're by far the biggest buyer of casks from Jerez, and as investment it's off the scale. I think it's well over £25m." This goes some way to explain The Macallan's high price.



The Macallan Sherry Oak, Double Cask and Triple Cask Matured replaced the 1824 range

SHORT SUPPLY

Along with dark mutterings about the occasional use of non-Sherry casks, former UK fans complain of being priced out. The hard truth is The Macallan is in short supply and its new customers in Taiwan and the US have deeper pockets. "We probably have slightly neglected the UK over the years," admits McCroskie. "There probably has been a bit of a temptation to put stock into Asia and America, but we're now really looking to re-emphasise the UK and European markets."

In 2012, after a three-year trial in duty free, The Macallan launched the 1824 Series as its core range in Europe. Labelled Gold, Amber, Sienna and Ruby with ascending prices and no age statements, it was spun as a way to unleash the creative genius of Bob Dalgarno, The Macallan's then whisky maker, and free him from the shackles of age. Many thought Edrington was being disingenuous; it wasn't about creativity, it simply reflected a chronic shortage of aged whisky. This spring, it was replaced by Sherry Oak, Double Cask and Triple Cask Matured as the new core range, mostly with age statements. So, was 1824 a mistake?

"We sold every single bottle we made, so from that perspective it wasn't a mistake," retorts McCroskie. "Was it as successful as we'd hoped? Probably not is the honest answer." He claims the reason 1824 was dropped was because: "We wanted to consolidate the range across all markets, so you could see the same product wherever you went." There was also a lot more mature Macallan available since a £20m investment in 2008 took the number of stills to 21 and capacity to 11.5m litres. But this was nothing compared to what happened next.

Six years ago, Edrington realised that further expansion was needed but "felt it wouldn't be doing the brand justice to do a bolt-on", says McCroskie. The new distillery by Rogers Stirk Harbour + Partners (RSHP) is a truly spectacular temple to the brand. It is no bolt-on but it did cost £140m, which demonstrates faith in the long-term future of whisky and The Macallan. Such temples are not uncommon in wine, but it is a first for Scotch, and it will be fascinating to see if Edrington's rivals will ever be so bold.

The new distillery shares the same big, billowing roof as Heathrow's Terminal 5, also designed by RSHP, and is 120 metres long. It is not 'small', 'rare' or

'boutique', in other words, and at 15m litres, its capacity is second only to The Glenlivet among malt distilleries. McCroskie quickly points out that production hasn't been maxed out, and says: "We'll grow gently over time, but today the dynamics of demand are really strong right across the world. I think we'll be tight for stock for the next 12-15 years, and potentially beyond. Look at Hennessy, that's 7.5m-8m cases and is still seen as incredibly premium and crafted, so we're miles from that. We have to stay true to that obsession with quality." Meanwhile, volumes continue to grow, and in March The Macallan quietly became a million-case brand.



The Macallan began at Easter Elchies House
1824 – The Macallan, an illicit farm distillery, takes out a licence
1965 – The Macallan's stills double from six to 12
1996 – The distillery is acquired by Highland Distillers
1999 – Edrington buys Highland Distillers, with William Grant & Sons as a sleeping partner
2004 – The Macallan Fine Oak launches
2012 – The Macallan 1824 Series launches
2017 – Distillation begins at the new £140m distillery

MACALLAN ESTATE FEATURES HOME-GROWN BARLEY

31 May 2019 by [Becky Paskin](#)

Macallan has introduced a new core range single malt containing a proportion of whisky distilled from barley grown on its Easter Elchies estate.

Home-grown homage: Macallan Estate has been made to honour the distillery's Speyside location
Macallan Estate is a no-age-statement whisky matured exclusively in Sherry-seasoned butts and hogsheads, and bottled at 43% abv.

It's said to have aromas of 'wood spice and orange oil', and flavours of 'candied raisin, fresh fig, sweet fresh orange and delicate fresh citrus'.

[Macallan](#) claimed its home-grown barley has only previously been used to produce whisky for the 'most exclusive and sought-after' releases in its prestige range.

The barley grown on Easter Elchies' 100 acres of fields changes every few years,

and has included Golden Promise, Minstrel and Momentum varieties. Sarah Burgess, whisky maker for Macallan, said: 'Our Easter Elchies estate lies within the legendary Speyside region of Scotland, a place of timeless natural beauty, and a place that we are proud to call home.

'With its wonderful sweet citrus hints and warming wood spice, The Macallan Estate is a rich, satisfying and complex spirit that pays homage to the fertile Speyside lands where The Macallan is located.'

The whisky is presented in a gift box with aerial photography of the estate's barley fields that surround [Macallan's new £140 million distillery](#).

Macallan Estate will be a global release, available initially from select whisky retailers in the US and Europe from July for around £195 per bottle.



MACALLAN DISTILLERY UP FOR STIRLING PRIZE

18 July 2019 by [Richard Woodard](#)

Macallan's eye-catching new £140 million distillery on Speyside has been shortlisted for the RIBA Stirling Prize 2019 – the accolade given to the UK's best new building of the year.



Rolling roofscape: The new distillery was praised for its links to the surrounding landscape

The distillery and visitor centre, [which opened in 2018](#), has already won the RIAS Award 2019 and the RIBA Award for Scotland 2019, and is now part of a six-strong shortlist for the main RIBA Stirling Prize, awarded annually.

Past winners include 30 St Mary Axe in London (aka The Gherkin), the Scottish Parliament, Hastings Pier and, in 2018, Bloomberg's new London headquarters. According to the citation [for the 22,000sq m distillery](#), which was designed by Rogers Stirk Harbour + Partners: 'The rolling roofscape of this building echoes the form of the surrounding hills and serves to conceal an exceptionally well resolved and ingenious fusion of architecture, whisky technology and impactful interior settings, displaying the heritage of the [Macallan](#) brand.'

It goes on to praise the 'warmly lit, majestic double curvature timber gridshell roof' and the link between the new building 'and the enchanting scenery of the Spey river, the source of water that brought the distillery to the site'.

The distillery will be vying for the top honour with five other projects, including the Cork House in Berkshire; the Weston visitor centre, Yorkshire Sculpture Park; the Nevill Holt Opera, Leicestershire; London Bridge Station in London; and the Goldsmith Street sustainable social housing project in Norwich.

The winner will be announced during a ceremony at London's Roundhouse on 8 October.



Warmly lit: Judges have lauded Macallan's 'majestic' double curvature roof

A bottle of The Macallan Valerio Adami 1926 60-year-old Scotch whisky has set a new world record after selling for £848,750 (US\$1.1m) at a Bonhams auction in Edinburgh.

The Macallan Valerio Adami 1926 Scotch whisky has set a new world record after selling for £848,750 at auction

The new sale breaks the previous record of the most expensive bottle of Scotch sold at auction, which was also set by Bonhams in May this year when a bottle of the [60-year-old expression fetched £814,081 \(US\\$1,100,197\)](#) went under the hammer.

The Macallan Valerio Adami 1926 had been expected to sell for [between £700,000 and £900,000](#) (US\$888,000 and US\$1.14m) in the sale, which took place today (3 October).

The whisky was bottled in 1986 and The Macallan commissioned two leading pop artists, Valerio Adami and Peter Blake, to design the labels for just 24 bottles, equally split between the pair.

It is not known how many of the 12 Adami bottles still exist, but one is rumoured to have been destroyed in an earthquake in Japan, and one is thought to have been opened and consumed.

Martin Green, Bonhams whisky specialist in Edinburgh, said: "I am delighted at this exceptional result. It is a great honour to have established a new world record, and particularly exciting to have done so here in Scotland, the home of whisky."

"Bonhams now holds the record for the three most valuable bottles of whisky ever sold at auction."

In April this year, two bottles of The Macallan 1926 Peter Blake and Valerio Adami bottles [sold for US\\$1.2m through luxury retailer Le Clos](#).

Macallan names Campbell its first master whisky maker

1st October, 2019 by Nicola Carruthers

The Macallan has hired Kirsteen Campbell as its first master whisky maker as part of a restructure of the Scotch brand's distilling team.



Kirsteen Campbell is The Macallan's first master whisky maker

Campbell joined Macallan owner Edrington in 2007 as a whisky quality technologist and was appointed Cutty Sark master blender when the company acquired the brand in 2010.

She will transition to the master whisky maker position from her current role as [master blender for blended Scotch brands The Famous Grouse and Naked Grouse](#).

The appointment marks the "next chapter" in the history of the brand, following the [opening of the new Macallan distillery and visitor centre](#) in Speyside last year. Campbell will lead the "newly strengthened" Whisky Mastery team, which will now incorporate the role of master of wood, [currently helmed by Stuart MacPherson](#).

Alongside Campbell and MacPherson, the Whisky Mastery team includes: Sarah Burgess, lead whisky maker; Polly Logan, whisky maker; Steven Bremner, whisky maker; and Russell Greig, sample room assistant.

The formation of the Whisky Mastery team will see "maturation and whisky making working hand in hand" and bring together the "next generation of whisky makers". As part of the new structure, apprentices with natural sensory talent will learn the art of whisky making from the team.

Campbell's career in the industry started in 2002 with a degree in food science. She then discovered her passion for Scotch when working in a new make spirits laboratory.

In addition, Campbell holds a diploma in distilling and has also worked at the Scotch Whisky Research Institute.

'Future legacy'

"I feel a real sense of honour and pride to be entrusted as the custodian of The Macallan, charged with leading the Whisky Mastery team in the creation of The Macallan's remarkable single malt whiskies," said Campbell.

"Having been a part of the wider Edrington whisky making team for over a decade, I'm really looking forward to working more closely with the team at The Macallan."

"The Macallan is at the pinnacle of whisky making across the globe and the Whisky Mastery team will combine the whisky makers' depth and breadth of skills and experience to drive forward The Macallan legacy for the future."

Igor Boyadjian, managing director, The Macallan, added: "The appointment of Kirsteen and investment in the future legacy of The Macallan, with the strengthening of the Whisky Mastery team, comes at an incredibly exciting time as The Macallan continues to cement its position as one of the world's leading single malt whiskies."

"In the wake of the first anniversary of the new distillery, The Macallan is experiencing continued global growth and success, enjoying growing demand in new markets."

In April this year, Lowland distillery Bladnoch appointed The Macallan's Nick Savage [as its new master distiller](#).

MACALLAN RARE CASK EYES COLLECTORS MARKET

19 September 2018 by [Becky Paskin](#) – [www.scotchwhisky.com](#)



Macallan is to start releasing its Rare Cask expression in limited batches, in a move it believes adds to the brand's 'element of collectability'.

Collectors' item: Four batches of Macallan Rare Cask will be released each year

The no-age-statement single malt, which is fully matured in first-fill Sherry casks, will now feature batch numbers and the year of release prominently on every bottle.

Macallan Rare Cask Batch No. 1, 2018 is being launched globally this month, and will be the first of three batches released this year. However four batches will be released in each subsequent year.

While the number of bottles will vary from batch to batch, each will be a vatting of 50 Sherry butts bottled at 43% abv.

Macallan Rare Cask was first introduced as an extension to the distillery's range

in 2014, as a vatting of 16 different casks it claimed at the time was the most ever used for a single Macallan expression.

Now the Rare Cask bottle has also been redesigned in keeping with Macallan's recent packaging refresh, and comes presented in a mahogany-coloured gift box.

Nick Savage, [Macallan](#) master distiller, said: 'This whisky truly exhibits the art of cask selection and the role of our whisky making team to hand pick the casks for each batch.'

'The casks give the greatest contribution to the character and are the only source of the rich mahogany colour. It is one of the Macallan's most complex yet balanced whiskies that we've created, with soft notes of rich oak, vanilla and chocolate.'

'With the release of yearly batches, Rare Cask can also be a memorable way to celebrate or mark a special year or occasion.'

Macallan Rare Cask Batch No. 1, 2018 is available for around £230 per bottle.

Macallan's whisky has become some of the most collectable from Scotland, with the brand named the most investible and most traded at auction in 2017, according to specialists at Rare Whisky 101.

In August this year, the sale of the limited edition [Macallan Genesis caused traffic 'chaos'](#) as collectors and investors queued outside the distillery in the hope of purchasing one of a reported 360 bottles available.

Macallan aims to 'break the norm' with Concept series

3rd October, 2018 by Amy Hopkins - [www.thespiritsbusiness.com](#)

The Macallan is to expand its global travel retail (GTR) offering with the launch of an experimental collection inspired by surrealism, which will kick off with the brand's first double-aged whisky.

Concept No.1 is Macallan's first double-aged single malt

Within the Concept range will be an annual limited release that "centres around breaking the norm" with "innovative production techniques".

The first expression in the range – Concept No.1 – is Macallan's first double-aged single malt and has "flipped maturation on its head" by ageing the whisky in Sherry-seasoned casks first before moving to ex-Bourbon barrels. The whisky has spent the same amount of time in both barrel types, but Macallan has not disclosed the length of maturation.

For the limited release, Macallan set aside 68 casks, which is the equivalent of up to 84,000 bottles.

Each bottling in the series will be a "one-off release".

Igor Boyadjian, GTR director for Macallan's parent group Edrington, said: "By 'breaking the norm', Concept No.1 reinforces our commitment to offering exciting products to travellers and we're confident this fresh innovation will prove attractive to travellers and collectors alike."



The new range features packaging inspired by surreal art and incorporates the brand's 'six pillars' ethos. It also includes design elements that evoke [The Macallan's new £140 million distillery](#).

Bottled at 40% abv without an age statement, Concept No.1 will be available in Dubai Duty Free from 1 December before rolling out to selected GTR outlets in Asia, Australia, the Middle East, Europe and the Americas from January 2019. The whisky has an RRP of US\$125.

The Concept range joins The Macallan's Quest Collection in GTR. The Speyside single malt [replaced its long-running GTR-exclusive range](#) – the 1824 Collection – with Quest Collection at the start of this year.

The Macallan reveals Concept Number 2

7th October, 2019 by Melita Kiely

Edrington-owned The Macallan has unveiled the second Scotch whisky in its Concept Series – The Macallan Concept Number 2, which was inspired by music.



The Macallan Concept Number 2 will be available exclusively in global travel retail The Macallan Concept Number 2 was unveiled at the TFWA World Exhibition & Conference in Cannes, France, last week.

It is the second of three whiskies that will comprise the Concept Series, and follows last year's [The Macallan Concept Number One](#), which aimed to "flip maturation on its head" by first ageing the liquid in Sherry-seasoned casks, and then ex-Bourbon barrels.

Concept Number 2, created exclusively for global travel retail, aims to bring together two passions of The Macallan whisky maker Steven Bremner: whisky and music.

Bremner, an 'avid' house DJ, said: "Building music is in some ways the same as building whisky."

"In music, you have to lay down the base track, just like you create the base flavour in whisky, and then you build layers around them."

The Macallan Concept Number 2 was matured in a mix of Sherry-seasoned American oak casks, Miguel Martin Sherry casks and ex-Bourbon barrels.

Tasting notes include aromas of toffee apple, vanilla, oak spice and nutmeg, leading to flavours of toffee, dried apple, almond, cinnamon and wood spice on the palate. The finish is said to be medium sweet with hints of spice and toffee.

"Each different cask brings its own influence to the character of the liquid, like each instrument or sound adds depth to a track," added Bremner.

"In both cases, we can alter each different element to play up or down particular sounds or flavours."

The Macallan Concept Number 2 will first launch in The Macallan Boutiques in Taiwan Taoyuan Airport and London Heathrow Airport Terminal 5. It will also be made available in Dubai Duty Free in December, before a global travel retail rollout from January 2020.

Bottled at 40% ABV, the expression will retail for US\$150 (£120/ €135) per 700ml bottle.

Macallan launches VR activation in New York

24th July, 2018 by Owen Bellwood - [www.thespiritsbusiness.com](#)

Edrington-owned Scotch whisky brand The Macallan has launched a virtual reality visitor experience in New York's Grand Central Station.



The Macallan's VR experience will transport groups of whisky fans from New York to its home in Scotland

The Macallan Distillery Experience is designed to celebrate the Speyside whisky brand's new distillery, [which opened its doors in June](#).

The four dimensional virtual reality (VR) experience will give guests an inside look at the multi-million-pound new distillery, as they explore the site's architecture, collectable expressions and untold stories.

The premiere of The Macallan Distillery Experience took place at a private event in Brooklyn last night (23 July), with the experience set to open for whisky lovers at Grand Central Station from 25-27 July.

Samantha Leotta, brand director of The Macallan, said: "We're proud to celebrate the opening of The Macallan's breathtaking new distillery and visitor experience in Scotland and exciting new era of innovation by unveiling this immersive installation in New York City.

"Participants can explore the new distillery as if they were really there, and choose their own path to learn more about the iconic estate, history and heritage of The Macallan and its unrivalled whisky-making process.

"This journey was created so participants can be virtually transported to Speyside and experience the sights, sounds and scents of our new home."

The immersive activation allows a small group of people to travel to The Macallan's home together by stepping into a cube-like projection structure.

An in-person guide takes guests through the experience, highlighting the new distillery and its estate as 360-degree videos are projected on all sides of the structure's walls. The experience includes wind and scent diffusion technology matched to the footage.

Outside of the New York events, whisky enthusiasts around the globe will be able to view The Macallan Distillery Experience on their mobile phones or desktops, through social media, or at select wine and liquor retail stores, bars and restaurants using a VR headset.

More Macallan Is Coming - And It's Going to Look a Little Different

JUNE 4, 2018 | SUSANNAH SKIVER BARTON - <http://whiskyadvocate.com>



The new Macallan Distillery in Speyside, Scotland features an undulating, turf-covered roof that blends in with the landscape. (Photo by Ian Gavan)

Prep your glasses, Macallan fans: more of the iconic single malt scotch is headed your way. On May 22nd, parent company Edrington unveiled the new Macallan Distillery on the Easter Elchies estate in Speyside, Scotland, a project that has been years in the making. Boasting 14 stills—each a perfect replica of the stills used in the old facility, to ensure consistency of the liquid—the new distillery has the capacity to make an estimated 15 million liters of pure alcohol each year, about a third more than before.

It will take some time for that whisky to come of age, of course. In Scotland, the minimum aging requirement for whisky is three years, and most of Macallan's core range is 12 years old or more. But with demand for its bottles growing continuously year after year, the company is clearly planning ahead. The whiskies will continue to be made with the same water source, barley, and cask types as before, and will age in Macallan's 14 on-site warehouses.

Construction on the new distillery started in 2014 and took three and a half years to complete, but the payoff is big. Unlike its predecessor, and most other scotch distilleries, the new facility blends in seamlessly with the Scottish landscape—to the point that it can be hard to distinguish between its undulating, turf-covered roof and the green hills that loom behind it.

Inside, the distillery features both the expanded production facility and a visitor center, including a 4-D experience that shows how sherry casks are made in Spain, an interactive model demonstrating the distilling process, and a display of over 3,000 bottles highlighting the range of natural colors Macallan's whisky takes on through cask maturation. An archive wall displays nearly 400 bottles dating from throughout the brand's history.

Tours (£15) will be offered multiple times a day and will guide visitors through Macallan's "Six Pillars," or core foundational processes. Eventually VIP tours will also be available. There's an on-site shop with lots of bottles for sale, and a restaurant serving local cuisine like Moray Firth crab and Scottish charcuterie. Best of all: the on-site bar, where each tour ends in a tasting of four drams, has plenty of bottles of Macallan to try, including expressions that are available only at the distillery.



A NEW LOOK FOR THE BOTTLES TOO

Simultaneously with the new distillery's unveiling, Macallan is revamping the U.S. packaging for its core lineup of whiskies—as well as renaming some of them. Macallan's Fine Oak range will now be known as Triple Cask Matured, joining the Sherry Oak and Double Cask ranges to make up the distillery's most widely available single malts. Previously, Fine Oak featured 12, 15, 18, 21, and 30 year old expressions, although 21 and 30 year old were discontinued in 2017 and 10 year old is not making the leap to the new branding. The Triple Cask Matured label will include the 12, 15, and 18 year old single malts, all exactly the same as they were when bottled under the former name.

On top of the name change for Fine Oak, the packaging across all three ranges has been modified slightly, but it will still be recognizable to Macallan fans. In addition to a different bottle shape and color-coding system that helps drinkers identify the cask make-up of each range, the new packaging includes anti-refill closures and anti-counterfeit technology - an increasingly important detail, in light of the fact that fake whisky - including fake Macallan - is a growing problem. No details about the anti-counterfeit technology are available currently.

As a final touch, Macallan has also unveiled its oldest whisky to date - a 72 year old single malt distilled in the 1940s and packaged in a custom Lalique crystal decanter. Dubbed the Genesis Decanter, the 42% ABV whisky will be released in August. Only 600 decanters will be available, with 156 coming to the U.S. at a cost of \$65,000 each. Compared to the prices certain rare Macallans are fetching at auction these days, that's practically a steal.

MACALLAN EDITION NO 4

www.scotchwhisky.com

SCORE93

PRICE BAND: £££££

ABV: 48.4%



PRODUCTION TYPE: *Single malt whisky*

REGION: *Speyside*

FLAVOUR CAMP: *Rich & Round*

NOSE: Reassuringly complex, with lots of oak and wood spice at the fore, surrounded by sweet acacia honey and toffee. This alluring, zesty, citrus baked sweetness, like a lemon drizzle cake or key lime pie, is captivating. I could sit and nose this for hours.

PALATE: Cakey and nutty, muscovado sugar and black pepper. The wood's effect is very much apparent – fresh oak shavings and a polished sideboard – but it's not overdone. Sticky caramel and Jamaica ginger cake take centre stage as the wood spice builds. However, there's enough citrus zestiness – lime peel and orange juice – to keep the spark going.

FINISH: Is that a touch of smoke? Perhaps a heavy char. Either way, it lingers, with a chewy, sticky fruitiness, like reduced blood orange juice.

CONCLUSION:

Edition No 4 is designed to showcase the 'structure' of Macallan. This is an absolute bargain. Just glorious.

RIGHT PLACE, RIGHT TIME: You can't talk about

the structure of Macallan without referencing its new architectural marvel of a home. A [Design for Life](#).

Macallan unveils 72-year-old whisky priced at \$60k

31st May, 2018 by Nicola Carruthers - www.thespiritsbusiness.com

Edrington is set to release its oldest Macallan expression to date – a 72-year-old single malt bottled in a Lalique crystal decanter, priced at US\$60,000.



The Macallan 72 Years Old in Lalique takes design cues from the brand's new Speyside distillery

The Macallan 72 Years Old in Lalique – The Genesis Decanter has been released to celebrate the [opening of the new £140m Macallan distillery](#) and visitor centre on 2 June.

Distilled during the 1940s, the new expression has an “exquisite balance of strong, sweet oak with the peaty spirit shaping its refined character”. The nose is said to have aromas of fruit followed by hints of peat, with a “lingering hint of rich fruit and oak” on the finish.

The bottle design has been inspired by the curvature of the distillery's roof structure, which is said to be suggestive of the building rising and falling from the ground.

The presentation case is inspired by the interior of the distillery, with a curved wooden roof over the decanter and a footprint taken directly from the circular layout of the three new still houses.

Nick Savage, The Macallan master distiller, said: “The Macallan 72 Years Old is an incredibly rare single malt defined by years of dedication and craftsmanship.

“As the oldest whisky we have ever bottled, this is a truly momentous occasion to commemorate our remarkable new distillery. Although delicate throughout all aspects, it provides an intense experience which acknowledges the distinguished history of The Macallan.”

The Macallan 72 Years Old in Lalique – The Genesis Decanter will be rolled out globally from August 2018. Limited to 600 decanters worldwide, it is priced at US\$60,000 per 700ml.

Ken Grier, creative director for The Macallan, said: “Our wonderful new distillery is both a tribute to the traditions of our whisky and its natural Speyside environment, and a future-facing vision, looking forward to the next chapter of The Macallan. Lalique have a deep and true understanding of The Macallan, having been our partner for over a decade.

“Their interpretation of this design masterpiece in crystal is beyond exceptional. Their mastery and creativity never ceases to amaze and inspire us and our extraordinary collaboration is reflective of the highly meaningful part Lalique have played in the story of The Macallan.”

Macallan sales soar 4,000% at Sotheby's

4th May, 2018 by Melita Kiely - www.thespiritsbusiness.com

Global demand for Scotch whisky is evidently thriving as value sales of The Macallan grew 4,000% to US\$2.6 million at auctioneer Sotheby's in 2017.



The Macallan in Lalique Legacy Collection sold for US\$987,994 at auction

The data was published in Sotheby's 2017 Wine Report, which ranked The Macallan in the top 10 most valuable wine and spirits producers worldwide – up from 100th place in 2016.

Last year, spirits gained a larger share of sales, representing 6% of Sotheby's auction and retail sales – up from 1% the previous year.

Sotheby's attributed the growth to “blockbuster demand” for fine whisky in Asia across both retail and auction markets.

Furthermore, whisky scored the top three places for highest sales prices last year: The Macallan in Lalique Legacy Collection, comprising 18 bottles, sold at auction in Hong Kong for US\$987,994; The Macallan Assortment, aged 50-65 years and made up of six bottles, sold at retail in Hong Kong for US\$474,359; and The Legendary Ichiro Hanyu Card Player Series in Full, a collection of 58 bottles, sold at auction in Hong Kong for US\$454,791.

Last month, The Macallan set another world record after [two 60-year-old bottles sold for US\\$1.2m](#) through luxury retailer Le Clos.

Macallan to launch limited edition Genesis whisky

14th June, 2018 by Nicola Carruthers - www.thespiritsbusiness.com

Edrington is set to release a limited edition Macallan expression to mark the opening of its new distillery.

The Macallan Genesis Limited Edition is limited to 2,500 bottles



Genesis Limited Edition celebrates the new [£140m Macallan distillery and visitor centre](#), which opened on 2 June.

The bottling tells the story of lead architect Graham Stirk's vision for the site and "reflects each painstaking step in The Macallan whisky-making process".

The whisky is said to have notes of dried fruits, oak, fresh apple and chocolate on the nose. On the palate are flavours of dried fruits, cinnamon and ginger spices leading to a "clean and warming" finish.

It is presented alongside a signed lithographic print created by one of only two remaining map printing presses in the UK.

Ken Grier, creative director for The Macallan, said: "The collaboration between The Macallan and Graham Stirk of Rogers Stirk Harbour + Partners was the beginning of something truly remarkable; a partnership based on a shared commitment to mastery, delivering an iconic distillery and this unique, limited edition bottling.

"The innovative design of the distillery pays tribute to the natural elements that contribute to the production of The Macallan. From the barley fields and the oak trees to the importance of fresh spring water in the distillation process, it is designed to celebrate the entire whisky making cycle.

"Just as the beautiful signed print showcases the secrets of this architectural marvel, the Genesis Limited Edition whisky reflects the intricate workings of The Macallan whisky making process."

Bottled at 45.5% abv, Genesis Limited Edition will be available to buy soon from The Macallan distillery and The Macallan Airport Boutiques. It is limited to 2,500 bottles and priced at £495.00 (US\$665).

Macallan Valerio Adami 1926 could break world record

15th August, 2018 by Nicola Carruthers - www.thespiritsbusiness.com

A 60-year-old bottle of The Macallan Valerio Adami 1926 is expected to sell for up to £900,000 (US\$1.14m) when it goes under the hammer in Edinburgh.

The Macallan Valerio Adami 1926 is estimated to fetch between £700,000 and £900,000

The expression is estimated to make between £700,000 and £900,000 (US\$888,000-US\$1.14m) at the Bonhams Whisky Sale on 3 October. Bonhams claims this could break the world record for most expensive bottle of Scotch sold at auction.

The whisky was bottled in 1986 and Macallan commissioned Peter Blake and Valerio Adami to design the labels for the limited edition bottlings – 12 of the Adami and 12 of the Blake labels.

Earlier this year, a bottle of The Macallan Valerio Adami 1926 [sold at a Bonhams auction in Hong Kong](#) for £814,081 (US\$1.1m) – the most ever paid for a bottle of Scotch whisky at auction.

It is not known how many bottles of The Macallan Valerio Adami 1926 still exist. One is said to have been destroyed in an earthquake in Japan in 2011, and it is believed that at least one of them has been consumed.

Bonhams whisky specialist, Martin Green, said: "The Macallan 1926 60-year-old has been described as the Holy Grail of whisky.

"Its exceptional rarity and quality puts it in a league of its own, and the world's most serious whisky collectors will wait patiently for many years for a bottle to come onto the market.



"It is a great honour to be offering this amazingly rare whisky at our Edinburgh sale."

Macallan unveils multi-million-pound Boutique programme

24th June, 2019 by Melita Kiely

The inaugural Macallan Boutique has opened at Dubai International Airport (DXB) as part of a new multi-million-pound global investment from the Scotch whisky brand.



The first Macallan Boutique has opened in Dubai International Airport Created in partnership with luxury travel retailer Le Clos, The Macallan intends to open a series of stores as part of its new Boutique series, targeting key cities and airports around the world.

The Macallan Boutique in terminal three at DXB took inspiration from The Macallan Estate, incorporating architecture, aesthetics and materials, and offering immersive features from the recently opened [£140 million \(US\\$188.4m\) "state-of-the-art" distillery and visitor centre](#).

Suzy Smith, managing director, Edrington Global Travel Retail, said: "It has been a year since we opened the doors of our new distillery and visitor experience, which was one of the most exciting moments in our history as a brand.

"The next chapter in our story is the launch of our Boutique programme, which will bring whisky lovers across the world even closer to our home on Speyside.

"Each store will be a gateway to the world of The Macallan, from the stunning cinematography of the Easter Elchies estate to the exceptional whisky available to taste.

"As we continue to roll out these Boutiques globally, we hope more people are able to catch a glimpse into the home of the world's most valuable single malt. Partnering with Le Clos to open the first new outlet will allow us to deliver a true luxury shopping experience for travellers in our product offering and through exceptional service."

Travellers will be able to purchase a selection of rare and exclusive whiskies from the boutique, including bottles from the Masters of Photography, Golden Age of Travel and Exceptional Single Cask ranges. Additional boutiques will be opened around the world throughout 2019.

LAGAVULIN REVEALS 2019 JAZZ FESTIVAL MALT

13 September 2019 by Matt Evans

Islay distillery Lagavulin has released a limited edition 21-year-old single malt as its eighth annual Islay Jazz Festival commemorative bottling.

Old soul: The Lagavulin Jazz Festival Edition 2019 celebrates 21 years of the festival

Celebrating the music festival, which is in its 21st year, the whisky has been matured in a combination of refill and recharred American oak hogsheads before being bottled at 50.1% abv.

Colin Gordon, distillery manager at [Lagavulin](#), said: "The Islay Jazz Festival has become a pilgrimage for many Scotch adorers around the globe and this year's 21-year-old bottling looks set to be an extra special edition, as we celebrate 21 years of the festival."

The whisky is said to possess a 'maritime, almost briny smokiness' on the nose with 'crisp notes of smoky bacon, eucalyptus and a hint of gunpowder



dryness' on the palate.

Priced at £395 each, only 2,004 bottles of the 21-year-old have been produced, available to purchase only at the Lagavulin distillery.

The annual limited edition Jazz Festival bottling is said to have been a 'sell-out success' since its launch in 2011.

The [Islay Jazz Festival](#), promoted by the Islay Arts Association and Jazz Scotland, is taking place from 13-15 September, with Lagavulin distillery hosting gigs from popular artists in the genre such as Bria Skonberg and Colin Steele.

ROYAL BRACKLA TO REVAMP WHISKY RANGE

07 October 2019 by Matt Evans

Royal Brackla is to relaunch its core range of whiskies next year with new 12-, 18- and 21-year-old single malts, each finished in different ex-Sherry casks.



New lineup: Royal Brackla's revamped range replaces its 12-, 16- and 21-year-old whiskies

Each expression in the Highland distillery's new range will be bottled at a higher strength of 46% abv (as opposed to the original 40%), and without caramel colouring.

The three new expressions will be matured in American oak casks and finished in a selection of first-fill ex-Sherry casks.

[Royal Brackla](#) 12 Years Old, finished in ex-oloroso Sherry casks, is said to contain 'the full bodied spice of oloroso and the bright summer breeze of Royal Brackla' and will be priced at US\$79.99.

The range's 18-year-old is finished in ex-Palo Cortado casks and is said to be 'enticing and complex' with 'big, succulent soft fruits' on the palate, priced at US\$154.99.

Royal Brackla 21 Year Old, finished in a combination of ex-Pedro Ximénez, oloroso and Palo Cortado casks, is said to contain 'syrupy toffee notes with richly fragrant summer berries' and will be priced at US\$279.99.

The revamped range, which replaces Royal Brackla's original 12-, 16- and 21-year-old expressions, will be rolled out gradually from Spring 2020, with a one-month exclusive launch at China Duty Free Group stores in Beijing, Shanghai and Guangzhou.

Gaurav Joshi, regional director for Asia Pacific global travel at the distillery's parent company [Bacardi](#), said: 'China is such an exciting market for our single malt whiskies – the Chinese whisky connoisseur is discerning and makes decisions driven by a taste for refinement.'

WHISKY SHOULD BE ACCESSIBLE FOR EVERYONE

18 September 2019 by [Becky Paskin](#)

The spinning speakers gave the impression of a frenzied air raid. The noise – I can only describe it as 'noise' – bounced off the red brick walls and dusty chalkboard as we looked on, dumbfounded. 'What does it mean though?' my friend asked, equally confused by the eerie starkness of the classroom. We crossed the corridor and ventured into another room. Plastic chairs lined one wall facing a giant projection of a film showing an animated interview of a designer discussing the merits of Minecraft, of all things. Was this really a nightclub, or had we blindly wandered into a Dutch post-modernist Bauhaus revival?

De School has a reputation as the trendiest nightclub in Amsterdam. Situated in a former school in the west of the city, it's become a destination for locals and tourists looking to dance into the early hours.

But what's kept behind the school gates is a secret – strictly no cameras are allowed (so sorry folks, no photos of the spinning speakers).

We'd strolled down from the more touristy Leidseplein with its piles of Old Amsterdam cheese and overpriced beer, via a vibrant street party in Jordaan blaring a classic combination of traditional Dutch folk songs and techno. A short queue was beginning to form in the playground as we arrived at our designated venue.



De School: The Amsterdam institution is an arts venue, restaurant and nightclub
'Hey guys, welcome to De School,' the doorman said to the three English guys ahead of us, eyeing them closely. 'Do you know who's playing here tonight?'

The English guys shook their heads, IDs in hand, faces beaming with anticipation. 'Not really, we just know this is the best club in town!' 'Oh, well, I'm sorry gentlemen. If you can't be bothered to find out what we're playing, then we can't be bothered to let you in.' Say what? 'Thank you very much gentlemen, goodnight. Please leave.'

It wasn't just their faces painted with shock. The entire queue fell silent at such an absurd reason for refusing entry. Was he serious?

'But we've just walked all the way across Amsterdam to get here!' they cried, their frustrations falling on the young Dutchman's shrugging, ambivalent shoulders. Hospitality obviously wasn't 'hip' in this über-cool establishment.

We stepped forward; it was our turn to be judged. Would we be deemed cool enough to get in? Considering the pejorative attitude, did we even want to? Drawing on our experience of the Jordaan street party, we guessed the club would be playing techno (what else, Amsterdam?). The doorman sighed and almost reluctantly stepped aside to let us through, his face showing a look of contemptuous disappointment. How dare we get the answer right.

We were informed by some of the other patrons lucky enough to make it past the reproachful child on the door that De School takes a similar approach to the famous Berlin nightclub Berghain. Its operators have a strict policy to refuse entry to those *they believed* wouldn't enjoy the evening. The club's house rules state: 'Our visitors should be aware of De School's musical identity. People may be denied entry to the club when we think this is not the case.' Other grounds for being asked to leave include wearing a suit, or a shirt.

De School claims its strict door policy is designed to give patrons the very best possible experience, although a cynic might say it veers heavily towards discrimination on the basis of someone's musical and clothing preferences, for the sake of infamy.

As I stood watching the Bauhaus speakers whizz around it occurred to me that although I wasn't the biggest fan of techno, although the doorman would have made a snap judgement about my perception of the club if I'd been honest, I was in fact enjoying myself. De School was fascinating in a twisted, surreal kind of way: the music was alright, actually, the local beer pretty good and I discovered Club-Mate. Turning someone away from a new experience just because they're uninitiated robs them of an opportunity to discover something different, and potentially transform a novice into a life-long devotee.

Much in the same way, whisky can also sometimes fall into the trap of adopting discriminatory 'house rules', whether it's a brand ambassador directing newcomers away from heavily-peated whiskies and toward the 'easy-going' Speysiders, or a bartender suggesting a lady may wish to top her dram up with cola, despite ordering it neat.

Brand ambassadors and bartenders are the doormen of the whisky world. They shouldn't be afraid to pour old, rare and unique whiskies for newcomers in the hope of igniting new passions. They should be encouraging novices – young and old, male and female – to sample everything, even the bold, peaty and funky whiskies.

Over the last year Craigellachie has been hosting [free tastings of its new 51-year-old single malt](#) across the world. Tickets have been allocated via ballot, not on the basis of whether a potential guest had tried a whisky of

that age before, knew what it tasted like or had done their research into the distillery's spirit cut points and yeast pitch rate. Craigellachie simply wanted to share its oldest and rarest whisky with everyone in the belief that whisky is in fact for everyone.

Proof of familiarity or fandom shouldn't be a prerequisite to experiencing something new, just as a person's appearance is no indication of their personal taste, be that in music or whisky.

If the operators of De School had a more open mind perhaps the three English guys wouldn't have been turned away, and could well have fallen in love with techno, and possibly also Club-Mate. But I guess they'll never know.

Ardgowan releases blended malt ahead of distillery build

24th September, 2019 by Amy Hopkins

Scotch whisky producer Ardgowan Distillery has launched the first bottling in its new limited edition Clydebuilt series.



The new Clydebuilt series celebrates the generations who worked on the Clyde

Coppersmith is a blended malt made using whisky from Speyside and Highland distilleries, and has been fully matured in first-fill oloroso Sherry casks. The series has been developed by Ardgowan whisky maker Max McFarlane, who [joined the group from Edrington earlier this year](#). "Coppersmith is the first in the Clydebuilt series of whiskies which Ardgowan Distillery will release in the years ahead," said McFarlane. "Each bottle in the series will celebrate the pride shown by generations of workers on the Clyde, who together built some of the world's most illustrious ships."

"In our first release I wanted to produce a top-drawer blended malt and I believe that is what we have achieved."

Planning permission to build Ardgowan Distillery in Inverkip, near Glasgow, [was granted in 2017](#), with construction set to begin next year. The team plans to start production at the one-million-litre facility in 2021, creating a flagship seven-year-old Scotch alongside a range of younger single malts.

"When I first heard there would be a new distillery in Inverkip I knew immediately I wanted to be involved. It's my hometown and I have long thought that Inverclyde is a natural area for a distillery," added McFarlane. "It's en route to the islands, it's near the sea and I think this will help us create a coastal Lowland malt of real character."

"Of course, this will be a number of years away, but our new Clydebuilt series will give us something to enjoy while we wait." Coppersmith will launch in selected retailers on 1 October and is now available to pre-order. The whisky has an ABV of 48% and an RRP of £49.99 (approximately US\$62).

asterisk below. We'll make sure to update this list as needed. But now, let's all get (re)acquainted with the other scotch islands, beyond Islay.

ISLE OF SKYE

TALISKER DISTILLERY

Year Founded: 1830

Location: Carbost, Isle of Skye

Things to Note: The house style is a medium-peated malt with a maritime character. Fun fact, up until 1928, the distillery triple-distilled its whisky. There are still three spirit stills on site along with its two wash stills.

Notable Bottles: [Talisker 10 Year](#) is the standard-bearer for this brand. It's a classic whisky that is thankfully widely available. Others include the [no-age statement Storm](#) and [Dark Storm](#) bottlings.

Current Owners: Diageo



Talisker Distillery / Photo Credit: Gordon Hatton

*TORABHAIG DISTILLERY

Year Production Began: 2017

Location: Teangue, Isle of Skye

Things to Note: Torabhaig plans to produce a peated malt whisky with the peat level still to be revealed. Also, multiple varieties of barley and casks will be used. Distillery output is said to be 1.5 million bottles of single malt scotch whisky per year.

Current Owners: Mossburn Distillers & Blenders

ISLE OF ORKNEY

HIGHLAND PARK DISTILLERY

Year Founded: 1798

Location: Kirkwall, Isle of Orkney

Things to Note: Orcadian peat is quite different from both mainland peat and Islay peat because it contains more moss and heather due to its northerly location. The peated malt is heavily-smoky, but it only comprises 20% of the mash with unpeated malted barley making up the bulk of the malted barley recipe. Additionally, 100% ex-sherry casks are used for maturation, both in American and European oak.

Notable Bottles: Too numerous to count. Any of the core age-statement single malts are must-try whiskies and each received a [recent name change and makeover](#).

Others to Try: [Highland Park Dark Origins](#), [Highland Park Valkyrie](#), and if you can find any of the [Valhalla Collection](#) on a bar, make sure to get yourself a dram.

Current Owners: Edrington Group

SCOTCH ISLANDS: GOING BEYOND ISLAY FOR SINGLE MALT WHISKY

by [Stephanie Moreno](#)

September 21, 2019

Whenever the Isles of Scotland are discussed in the whisky world, nine times out of ten it will be regarding whiskies from the Isle of Islay. With [Ardnahoe Distillery](#) having recently opened, there are now nine working distilleries on the isle, and counting. Granted, those [Islay distilleries are certainly worthy of exploration](#). But Scotland has hundreds and hundreds of islands to explore, and lucky for us whisky fans, some of them have distilleries.

Some brands will be recognizable, but perhaps you didn't know where exactly they call home. Other distilleries are just now in the production phase with single malt whisky still to come, which we've indicated with an



Highland Park Distillery / Photo Credit: Highland Park Distillery

SCAPA DISTILLERY

Year Founded: 1885

Location: Kirkwall, Isle of Orkney

Things to Note: Scapa's house style single malt is unpeated, although in 2016 the brand released a no-age statement single malt called Glansa. Unusually, the distillery uses a Lomond still in its whisky production.

Notable Bottles: [The 16 Year](#), first introduced in 2008 was the standard malt for this brand, but in recent years it seems to have fallen out of production. The [Scapa Skiren](#) is a serviceable dram if the price is right.

Current Owners: Pernod Ricard's Chivas Brothers

ISLE OF ARRAN

ARRAN DISTILLERY (FORMERLY CALLED ISLE OF ARRAN DISTILLERY)

Year Founded: 1994

Location: Lochranza, Isle of Arran

Things to note: The distillery produces both unpeated and peated single malt whiskies. Also, a variety of fortified wine finishes are included in its portfolio. In addition, the distillery produces blended whiskies as well as a whisky cream liqueur.

Notable Bottles: Peat lovers should seek out the [Machrie Moor limited editions](#) and as an everyday dram, you could do worse than [The Robert Burns](#) single malt. We think the [Bard of Ayrshire](#) would approve.

Current Owners: Isle of Arran Distillers



Arran Distillery / Photo Credit: Arran Distillery

*LAGG DISTILLERY

Year Production began: 2018

Location: Lagg, Isle of Arran

Things to Note: The distillery expects to produce a heavily-peated single malt with a new-make that is much heavier and more rustic than its sister distillery, Arran.

Current Owners: Isle of Arran Distillers

ISLE OF MULL

TOBERMORY DISTILLERY

Year Founded: 1798

Location: Tobermory, Isle of Mull

Things to Note: This distillery produces both an unpeated (Tobermory) and peated single malt (Ledaig). Recently, production stopped for 24 months to upgrade the distillery and visitor centre. The expected relaunch is set for summer 2019.

Notable Bottles: [Tobermory 12 Year](#), [Ledaig 10 Year](#) and 18 Year. Also, the

brand has introduced a gin. Tobermory Hebridean Gin is made with botanicals from the Isle of Mull as well as new-make malt spirit that is typically used to produce the brand's unpeated scotch whiskies.

Current Owners: Distell Group

ISLE OF JURA

JURA DISTILLERY (FORMERLY CALLED ISLE OF JURA DISTILLERY)

Year Founded: 1810, then known as Small Isles Distillery

Location: Craighouse, Isle of Jura

Things to Note: Although heavily-peated whisky was featured in the past, currently it releases more non-peated offerings with peated releases having a more subtle smoke factor. In addition, more thought is considered when selecting barrels for maturation in order to bring out certain characteristics in the malt whisky.

Notable Bottles: Recently (2018), the brand launched its [The Signature Series](#) which marks a new look for Jura. Seek out [Jura Seven Wood](#) and [Jura 18 Year](#).

Current Owners: Whyte & MacKay



Jura Distillery / Photo Credit: Jura Distillery

ISLE OF LEWIS

ABHAINN DEARG DISTILLERY

Year Founded: 2008

Location: Uig, Isle of Lewis

Thing to Note: The distillery intends to be a true field-to-bottle distillery in order to reduce its carbon footprint and be entirely self-sufficient. Abhainn Dearg is pronounced *Aveen Jarræk* which means Red River in Gaelic. Bottles Available: The first single malt was released in 2011 as a special three-year whisky. The distillery released its first 10 year single malt, [Abhainn Dearg X Single Malt](#), this past winter.

Current Owner: Mark Tayburn

ISLE OF HARRIS

*ISLE OF HARRIS DISTILLERS

Year Founded: 2015

Location: Tarbert, Isle of Harris

Things to Note: The first whisky release is still TBA, but the name will be The Hearach Single Malt Whisky. "Hearach" is the name for the people of the Isle of Harris.

Currently Available: [Isle of Harris Gin](#)

Current Owners: Isle of Harris Distillers Ltd.

ISLE OF RAASAY

*ISLE OF RAASAY DISTILLERY

Year Founded: 2017

Location: Kyle, Isle of Raasay

Things to Note: The style for the distillery will be a lightly-peated single malt, with the first single malt whisky expected for 2020 release. Raasay offers luxury accommodation within the same building as the distillery, a Victorian-era villa called Borodale House.

Currently Available: [Raasay While We Wait](#)

Current Owners: R & B Distillers

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Dial Up the Smoke Status with This Single Malt Scotch Scale

AUGUST 28, 2019 | JONNY MCCORMICK | FROM [FALL 2018](#)

<http://whiskyadvocate.com/perfect-peat-level-scotches/>



Many peat-smoked whiskies state the phenol parts per million (ppm) of the malted barley on their label, suggesting that the higher the ppm the greater the smoke intensity. While it represents a useful indicator, remember that ppm is a measure of the raw material—not the finished liquid. The final smoke impact is further shaped by decisions made at the points of distillation, maturation, and blending. (For an insightful explanation of this process, check out our [interview with Bruichladdich head distiller Adam Hannett](#).) Ready to explore the range of peatiness for yourself? Taste through these whiskies and accelerate your appreciation.

FROM 0 TO 300: FIND YOUR PERFECT PPM

0 ppm—[Hazelburn 10 year old](#)

Pears, toffee, herbal tobacco, cinnamon, vanilla, and cocoa powder.

<1 ppm—[Old Pulteney 12 year old](#)

Almonds, honey, and nuts with wood spices.

0.5-2 ppm—[Bunnahabhain 12 year old](#)

Nutty, toffee, light molasses, vanilla fudge, citrus, dark berries, and a hint of brine.

12-13 ppm—[Ardmore Traditional](#)

Sweet notes of toffee and caramel, damp, earthy peat, and bourbon-like notes.

12-20 ppm—[Kilchoman 100% Islay](#)

Smoke, lemon curd, vanilla, allspice, baked apples, dark chocolate, and nutty oak.

15 ppm—[Tomatin Cù Bòcan](#)

Lemonade, coconut, malt, and honey, plus cinnamon and cloves.

15-25 ppm—[Springbank 10 year old](#)

Citrus fruit, cereal, and mildly smoky oak, as well as vanilla toffee, cedar wood, hazelnuts, and coconut.

20 ppm—[Arran Machrie Moor](#)

Peat, spicy malt, toffee, lemon, nuts, and chocolate.

20 ppm—[Highland Park 12 year old](#)

Fragrant and floral, with hints of heather and spice, as well as honey, citrus fruits, and malt.

25-30 ppm—[Bowmore 15 year old](#)

Lush fruit, raisin, pot-still rum, Heath bars, citrus, and wood spices.

30 ppm—[Balvenie Peat Week 2003](#)

Islay-like phenols, sweet floral notes, vanilla, citrus fruits, and honey.

35-45 ppm—[Ledaig 10 year old](#)

Ripe barley, honeyed vanilla, black licorice stick, espresso bean, and olive brine.

40 ppm—[Port Charlotte 10 year old](#)

Maritime notes, with sweet caramel, coconut, and orchard fruits.

40-50 ppm—[Laphroaig 10 year old](#)

Iodine, charcoal, seaweed, black pepper, fruit, vanilla, caramel, and sweet oak.

45 ppm—[BenRiach 10 year old Curiositas](#)

Earthy peat, hot road tar, honey, tropical and dried fruits, allspice, and oak.

45 ppm—[Glenglassaugh Torfa](#)

Heathery peat with dried fruits, malt, cream soda, ripe peaches, chili, and ginger.

50 ppm—[Kilchoman Machir Bay](#)

Smoke, sea-washed rock, light flowers, and hot sand; sweet and smoky, with a chalky edge.

55 ppm—[Ardbeg 10 year old](#)

Smoked haddock, citrus fruits, milk chocolate, pipe tobacco, black coffee, and licorice.

80 ppm—[Longrow 18 year old](#)

Sweet vanilla, ripe apple, chimney soot, charcuterie, licorice, coffee beans, brine, and chili.

>100 ppm—[Ardbeg Supernova](#)

Minty and sweet spice, seaweed, smoked fish, and dried grasses.

131 ppm—[Octomore 1.1](#)

Cigar smoke and ash, licorice root, bacon fat, Kalamata olive, orchard fruit, honeyed malt, brine, and soft vanilla.

258 ppm—[Octomore 6.3](#)

Coastal brine, mint, thyme, grapes, cherries, chocolate, and oak.

309 ppm—[Octomore 8.3](#)

Barbecue smokiness, citrus fruit, earthy peat, full-bodied red wine, milk chocolate, ginger, and chili.

HOW IS A WHISKY CASK MADE?

19 September 2019 by [Becky Paskin](#)

When whisky spends years resting in casks it's vital that the vessel is in optimum condition to do its job. Yet the construction of a quality cask is far more complex than simply bounding a few staves together, writes Becky Paskin.



Sturdy vessel: Casks are designed to be able to store liquid for many years (Photo: Kelvin Cooperage)

It's a credit to the cask's genius engineering that its shape and construction hasn't changed in hundreds of years. Used by breweries, wineries and distilleries the world over, the humble cask is responsible for slowly maturing some of our favourite beverages, adding sweetness and spice while mellowing the liquid at the same time.

Maturation is one of the most important processes in the creation of whisky, with many distillers believing the cask contributes as much as 60-70% of a whisky's flavour. But a cask's background, including how it has been made, can have a huge impact on its maturation efficiency.

OAK SELECTION

Oak is the wood of choice for manufacturing whisky casks, and is a legal requirement for Scotch and Bourbon. Why oak? It's strong, can be coopered into a cask, is liquid tight and releases flavours such as vanilla, caramel and nuts when toasted.

There are over 600 varieties of oak, each of which embodies characteristics that reflect its own terroir, although not all are suitable for maturing whisky. The most commonly used species are *Quercus alba* (American oak) and *Quercus robur* (European oak), although distillers are experimenting with numerous oaks grown around the world from Oregon garryana to Japanese mizunara.

Casks are constructed in cooperages, which will often work closely with sawmills, timber suppliers and forestry commissions to ensure the oak is sourced sustainably.



Air drying: Oak staves are often left out in the elements to season for several months (Photo: Kelvin Cooperage)

SEASONING THE OAK

The process of crafting a cask begins in the forest. Oak trees that grow tall and straight without low-hanging branches are harvested and sent to a sawmill where the heartwood is carved into staves. Each tree can provide enough wood to make around three barrels. The mill makes what is called a 'quarter cut', sawing the wood against the grain (for American oak) to prevent the oak from leaking when it is made into a cask.

When it is felled, a white oak tree contains around 60% water, so when the quarter-sawn lumber arrives at the cooperage, it must first be dried out. A cooperage will usually air-dry the lumber for a period lasting a few months to a few years, depending on the oak species, its moisture content and its future use. This process not only allows the moisture to evaporate from the wood gradually, preventing any cracking or splitting, but also lets any tannins and other unwanted compounds in the wood break down.



Quarter cut: The heartwood is sawn in a way that makes the cask liquid tight

'We like to let it age for 3-6 months out on our yard, let Mother Nature do its thing,' says [Michael Nelson](#), plant director at the Brown-Forman cooperage in Louisville. The site manufactures the majority of new American oak barrels destined to mature the likes of Jack Daniel's, Woodford Reserve and Old Forester whiskeys. 'The process is called seasoning,' he says. 'The wood sits out in the weather, gets rained on and snowed on in the winter time, which releases some of the tannins in the wood, but it's also starting to dry the lumber.'

Oak destined to make wine casks on the other hand are seasoned outside for considerably longer, often up to 36 months.

The Brown-Forman cooperage then finishes drying the lumber in a kiln at around 150°F for anywhere between a few days to a few weeks to reach a moisture content of around 12.5%. 'There's a whole science behind drying wood and lumber,' Nelson says. 'If you dry it too fast it will cause splits and defects as the moisture tries to escape the cells of that wood, so it's got to be dried slow.'

Not all oak is air seasoned though – some distillers choose to work with casks which have been kiln-dried only. Regardless of the seasoning approach, once the oak is dry it can be cut and shaped.

CASK TYPES

CASK	SIZE (LITRES)	CHARACTERISTICS
Quarter Cask	45-50	The quarter of the size of an American standard barrel.
Barrel	190-200	The American standard barrel is the most common used by whisky makers, and is usually made from American oak.
Hogshead	225-250	Hogsheads (aka 'hoggies') are generally constructed from ex-Bourbon barrels with additional staves.
Barrique	250-300	Slightly larger than a hogshead, the barrique is commonly used by the wine industry.
Puncheon	450-500	Although a similar size to a Sherry butt, puncheons have a dumper appearance, and are usually made from European oak.
Butt	475-500	Large butts are commonly used by the Sherry industry, and can be made from either American or European oak.
Port pipe	550-650	These large, long casks are the default size for maturing Port wine.

SHAPING THE CASK

All the surfaces of the wood are first planed to create similar widths and to clean up the exterior. The longer staves will be used to form the body of the cask, while the shorter pieces will be used to create the heads, or ends.

Holes are drilled into the sides of the smaller pieces which are fitted with dowels and attached together to form a square of flat oak. The squares are cut into circles with a rounded edge, and will later be fitted to the cask to form its ends.

The long, planed pieces of oak are shaved into a trapezoid shape to create staves, which will neatly form a barrel shape when fitted together.

BARREL RAISING

The act of assembling, or raising a cask is a bit like solving a puzzle. The cooper uses an average of 31 staves per barrel, but with each one a different width, they must select the most appropriate sizes to form a leak-proof cask with no gaps. A very wide stave is selected at the beginning, in which a bung hole will be drilled following assembly. The cooper uses temporary steel hoops to secure the staves together.

To bend the staves into a cask shape without cracking or splitting the wood it is steamed, and bound by further temporary hoops.

Before the ends can be fitted, the interior of the cask must first be toasted and/or charred, depending on the requirements of the distillery, winery or brewery.



Puzzle pieces: Staves are arranged in a circle and bound by temporary hoops

TOASTING AND CHARRING

Toasting and charring both involve heat-treating the oak in preparation for filling with new make spirit, although [the processes do differ](#). 'Toasting is the art of slowly heating the wood,' says [Andrea Wilson](#), Michters' master of maturation. 'Sometimes people might confuse that with charring which is the ignition of the interior of the wood; it goes up in flames.'

Toasting involves holding the cask over a heating element or flame for several minutes, depending on the depth of toast required, to break down wood compounds which extract specific characters into the whisky. For instance, toasting breaks down lignin which creates vanillin, the source of whisky's vanilla flavours. 'If you go to a really high toast temperature, you might get smoky or mocha-type characters, whereas lower temperatures may extract flavours that are more fruity or spicy,' Wilson adds.

Charring involves setting the interior of the cask alight for a much shorter period, just a few seconds, to create a char layer that will react with the spirit and remove unwanted flavour compounds during maturation. While toasting goes deep into the wood, charring affects only the surface of the cask. The intensity of the char is graded, with a number four char – also known as an 'alligator char' because of its scaly appearance – being the most intense.

While it is a legal requirement for all barrels used in the maturation of Bourbon to be charred, they do not have to be toasted. On the flipside, the barrels used to mature wine and beer are simply toasted, and not usually charred.



Heat application: Casks are toasted and/or charred using direct flame or a heat element (Photo: Kelvin Cooperage)

TESTING FOR LEAKS

Once the interior has been toasted and/or charred, the cask is fitted with its permanent steel hoops – the head hoops go around either end, the quarter hoops around the tapered lengths, and the bilge hoops either side of the belly. A groove, or croze, is carved at the end of the cask to fit the ends (which have also been toasted and or/charred). A bung hole is drilled in the widest stave and fitted with a cork or plastic bung.

The cask is then filled with a small amount of water and pressurised air to test for leaks. If the cask is deemed ready, it is shipped out to the distillery, brewery or winery ready for filling. If leaks are found, the cask is repaired with reed or cork wedges and spiles, although sometimes

individual staves may have to be replaced. Of the 2,300 barrels made at the Brown-Forman cooperage each day, just 50 require repair.

REUSING CASKS

A cask's lifespan depends on what it is used for. Those used by the Sherry industry in [solera systems](#) can often be decades old, while Bourbon producers, which can only use *new* American oak casks, only use theirs for a few years before selling them on to another industry.

The majority of casks used by Scotch distillers will have already been used to mature or store Bourbon, rum, Sherry, Port or wine, among other beverages. These are either shipped to Scotland whole, with a small amount of liquid retained inside to keep the cask wet, or broken down into staves for reassembly at a Scottish cooperage.

The first time one of these casks is used to mature Scotch it is known as a 'first fill'. Subsequent uses are known as 'refills'. Sometimes whisky is given an additional period of maturation in another cask which will impart different flavours. This process is called [cask finishing](#), or secondary maturation.

After some time a cask's ability to effectively mature whisky diminishes as the toasted oak's sugars are depleted and the char layer exhausted. However, these casks can be rejuvenated through a process called STR – shave, toast, rechar. Back at the cooperage the cask's spent inner layer is shaved off, before it is toasted, recharred and filled again. Obviously there are only so many times this process can be repeated before the cask is deemed 'knackered' and retired from use.

CAN WHISKY GO BAD IN THE BOTTLE?

23 September 2019 by [The Whisky Virgin](#)

It's common knowledge that wine has a definitive shelf life once its cork has been popped, but what about whisky? Our Virgin hits the books to discover how to keep his Scotch stash from 'going bad'.



Open season: Whiskies can eventually lose flavour after that first dram has been poured

So I was at a tasting, continuing my mission to get whisky wise, when I heard a veteran Scotch-ist complaining their dram was no good. 'The bottle has *obviously* been open too long,' they said. Now, I'd never thought about the possibility that good whisky could go bad. I'd always just figured I could crack open a nice Scotch, enjoy a few drams, and then squirrel the rest away for later. But apparently it's possible you can go back to a bottle that's been open for a while and find the liquid inside has fallen apart like a cake in the rain.

Why did nobody warn me about this?

I thought about my own modest whisky stash. Should I have been keeping it in a special room or cellar to preserve its deliciousness? Would I miss out on peak whisky flavours if I didn't finish my bottles in a speedy fashion?

Faced with the prospect that my favourite booze might be more fragile I'd thought, I raced back to the gaff to check on my collection and do some emergency research.

Back in my flat, I took a recently opened Scotch from the cupboard and gave it a long, concerned sniff. Seemed fine to me. It definitely hadn't gone bad like a carton of milk or anything but then I'd only torn into it a few weeks ago. If whisky bottles come sealed up with caps and corks to keep their insides fresh then what happens when I start pouring liquid out and letting air in? Could that Scotch-ist be right – that after dram number one every bottle of whisky just gets slowly worse and worse?



Noticeable difference: A whisky's aroma will gradually change as it is exposed to oxygen

After some initial research, things weren't looking good. Lots of people out there in whisky land seem to think that time exposed to air *can* make your hooch taste different. Once you crack that seal, the alcohol content can drop as ethanol evaporates and strongly smelling Scotches such as big, peaty numbers can lose their intensity the longer they're open. I was starting to worry I'd have to drink all the whisky in the house to avoid irrevocable flavour loss. Would I be up to the challenge? Only time would tell.

Word on the street is that hardcore whisky hoarders have been known to go to extreme lengths to fight flavour loss – spraying special gas into their bottles to keep the air out and sealing them up with lab-grade tape called Parafilm. I don't like the idea of my hard-earned whisky getting past its best, but this hobby is already expensive enough for a cash-strapped millennial, so I'm not in a rush to drop extra dollar on gas and tape. Luckily, some Scotch fans suggest a low-tech solution for long-term preservation that involves decanting whisky from open bottles into smaller containers so it has less contact with the air and stays fresh for longer.

This is all good to know in case I ever decide to preserve half a bottle of Scotch for future generations like a malty time capsule, but I am left wondering if whisky in my house will actually have the chance to go 'bad'. Flavours might change a bit in an open bottle but nothing I'm reading seems to say it happens overnight or that it will turn totally undrinkable. It's not like I've ever managed to hold on to a bottle of whisky, open or closed, long enough to notice this happening so far.



Uprstanding citizens: Whisky should not be stored on its side or upside down But what if one day I decide to get serious about booze hoarding and grow my little Scotch stash? Even I know that whisky collecting is big these days and while I might lack the self-control and forward thinking to get on it right now, who knows what the future will bring? What does someone like me need to do to make sure a stack of delicious – and maybe even valuable – sealed whisky bottles stay in top condition? Do collectors with giant piles of vintage maltiness do anything special to stop the march of time?

The experts out there seem to agree that Scotch is tougher stuff than other boozes, such as wine, that need specific storage conditions. This is great news for me because there's no way I'm digging a whisky cellar in the flat I rent above a non-franchise chicken shop. The [big things](#)

[to keep in mind](#) seem to be not getting bottles too hot by leaving them in direct sunlight or next to the oven, and not storing them upside down or sideways in the wine rack, which can apparently damage the seal.

I also heard that the tightest of caps on the most collectible of bottles aren't 100% perfect and can break down over time, even if you're super-careful with them. The highly dedicated have been known to wrap the top of their bottles in Parafilm even when they're unopened to stop a drop of their investment escaping and keep their precious whiskies absolutely perfect... Wow. I have to say, the idea of whisky being sealed up inside a bottle like that forever – even if it's with the best intentions – does seem like kind of a bummer.

I get that Scotch is precious stuff and we want to enjoy it in its best possible condition, but I wouldn't want planning for the future to stop me enjoying whisky in the present.

Seems to me the best way to stop my favourites going bad might be to drink them. It's not like memories have a sell-by date, eh?

Laphroaig series honours founding family

30th September, 2019 by Owen Bellwood

Scotch brand Laphroaig has released a new series of whiskies that honour Ian Hunter, the last member of the founding Johnston family to run the Islay distillery.



Laphroaig has released a 30-year-old whisky to honour Ian Hunter

The youngest member of the Johnston family, Hunter joined the Laphroaig distillery in 1908. His relatives, brothers Donald and Alexander Johnston, founded the distillery in 1815. Hunter is credited with doubling the production capacity of the distillery and successfully exporting Laphroaig whisky around the world.

The new series of annually-released whiskies will each be featured in a book that documents part of Hunter's legacy at the distillery, now owned by Beam Suntory.

The first release, Unique Character, "reflects Ian Hunter's formidable character". Just 400 nine-litre cases of the whisky have been released.

Book One: Unique Character has aged in first-fill Bourbon barrels and is non-chill filtered. It pays homage Hunter's decision to introduce American white oak barrels to the maturation process at Laphroaig.

With an age statement of 30 years, the whisky is described as being "beautifully rounded with a combination of sweet, zesty and medicinal notes".

John Campbell, Laphroaig distillery manager, said: "If you visit the Laphroaig distillery today its clear to see the impact of Ian Hunter through the practices and innovations that are still followed.

"For good reason Ian is credited as the pioneer and innovator of this incredible whisky. Without Ian, the Laphroaig we know today would not exist, so we have much to thank him for. It is this legacy that we celebrate throughout the series."

The limited edition whisky is bottled at cask strength of 46.7% ABV and will be available at selected retailers for an RRP of £700 (US\$860). Book Two will be released in 2020.

Benromach launches 50-year-old single cask Scotch

30th September, 2019 by Amy Hopkins

Speyside distillery Benromach has launched the oldest single malt in its current range – a 50-year-old single cask Scotch priced at US\$10,000.



Benromach 50 Years Old is the oldest whisky in the brand's current range
Single cask Benromach 50 Years Old was laid down in an ex-Sherry hogshead in 1969 and was left to mature for 50 years.

Keith Cruickshank, Benromach Distillery manager, said: "Benromach is known for its range of classic Speyside single malt Scotch whiskies, beautifully balanced with a light touch of smoke."

"This old and rare expression exudes undertones of gentle smoke and rewards 50 years of patience and nurture with sweet Sherry aromas, ripe fruits and a mellow, mature oak finish."

Only 125 decanters of the whisky will be available to purchase globally. Based in Forres, Benromach was acquired by Gordon & MacPhail in 1993. The distillery announced an [expansion of its warehousing facilities](#) last year, when it also moved into gin with the release of [Red Door Gin](#).

Earlier this year, the brand launched [Benromach Peat Smoke Sherry Cask Matured](#) and [added two whiskies](#), aged 41 and 46 years, to its Heritage collection.

A GOOD STORY JUST ADDS TO WHISKY'S PLEASURE

25 September 2019 by [Richard Woodard](#)

London's former fish market will be filled with the rather more appealing aroma of several hundred different whiskies this weekend, when The Whisky Exchange Whisky Show returns to Old Billingsgate.

If you're going, you're probably already fine-tuning your strategy for the event: the must-taste drams, the distillery stands you simply have to look in on, the seminars and tastings [that stand out in the schedule](#).

Sometimes it's the whiskies you didn't see coming that make the biggest impression: that spur-of-the-moment pour from a distillery you've never heard of; the passing friend who thrusts a glass under your nose and says: 'Try this.'

For the most part, because of the nature of the event, you won't be tasting blind. You'll know the distillery, the age (if there's one on the label), and perhaps the cask type. You may also have the marketing spiel ringing in your ears as that nice person behind the stand pours you a measure.

Does any of that matter? Try as we might to be objective, we all have our preconceptions – positive and negative – about the names on the bottles, the professed style of the whisky inside and even the design of the packaging.

Sometimes, if we allow them to, these inner voices can drown out the true sound of the whisky in front of us. 'I don't like Sherried whiskies' ... 'Eight years old is just too young' ... 'My friends all sneer at this distillery.'



Inner voices: It's hard to cast aside preconceptions when we know what we're tasting

Such internal influences can create a negative force, skewing our honest opinion of the liquid we're looking at, nosing and tasting. The empiricism of blind tasting removes such destructive thoughts.

However, blind tasting also has its limitations, not least because that's not the way we normally drink whisky. We make a conscious choice in a bar or a shop, or at home, whether the bottle we select is an old friend or a new acquaintance.

That decision is influenced, to a greater or lesser extent, by the story that lies behind the liquid inside the bottle. It may be the whisky's story, but often it will be our own: recollections of a memorable distillery visit; a night spent with friends or family; a moment of discovery in the frenetic atmosphere of a packed whisky event.

When the whisky tells the story, it should be an engaging one, and one that is rooted in authenticity. Not, however, the empty, [dead linguistic template of 'luxury' and 'craft'](#), where distillery identity is sacrificed in favour of a one-size-fits-all false narrative, and historical fact treated as an inconvenience to be twisted into [a new, alternative 'truth'](#).

Sometimes, rather than relying on a press release or some back-label scribbles, we can discover the best stories through our own efforts: reading around the subject, listening to what informed people have to say or, if you're lucky enough to write about whisky for a living, conducting research for an article.



Rich history: Cardhu's compelling heritage can add an extra layer to tasting its whisky

Now, when I taste [Cardhu](#), lurking at the back of my brain are thoughts of the two remarkable women who did so much to shape that distillery's early history, Helen and Elizabeth Cumming: Helen, or 'Granny Cumming', selling bottles of whisky out of her kitchen window for a shilling a pop; the shrewd business dealings of Elizabeth, which did so much to secure the family fortune (we'll be featuring the Cummings on [Scotchwhisky.com](#) soon).

If I pick up a glass of [Bruichladdich Bere Barley](#) (or track down the [Arran](#) bere bottling from a few years back), I'll be thinking of an idiosyncratic barley variety that has survived in some of Scotland's remotest outposts for up to 6,000 years, nearly became extinct 20 years ago, and is now [undergoing a resurgence](#).

Will Cardhu's history or bere's survivor status be any consolation if the whisky I'm tasting is crap? Of course not. The aromas, flavours, texture, balance and complexity will always remain the ultimate arbiters of quality.

But do those anecdotes add an extra dimension to the pleasure when there's a good drop in your glass? You bet they do. Enjoy the whiskies this weekend – and listen to their stories.

US to impose 25% tariff on single malt Scotch

3rd October, 2019 by Nicola Carruthers

The US is set to enforce US\$7.5 billion worth of tariffs on exports from the EU, including single malt Scotch whisky and liqueurs, over an ongoing dispute with the World Trade Organization (WTO).



The US tariff on EU goods will “undoubtedly damage the Scotch whisky sector”

Yesterday (2 October), the US government revealed its intentions to impose a 25% import tariff on EU goods, including single malt Scotch whisky, single malt Irish whiskey, liqueurs, cordials and wine on 18 October 2019. The US has also imposed a 10% tariff on aircrafts.

The US said it had the authority to increase the tariffs “at any time” or change the products affected.

The US has been embroiled in an ongoing spat with the WTO over illegal subsidies for plane manufacturers Airbus and Boeing. The tariff has been launched in retaliation against EU subsidies given to aerospace company Airbus.

Next year, the WTO will decide what tariffs the EU can impose in retaliation to US state aid given to American company Boeing.

Trade group the Distilled Spirits Council said these new tariffs will have “numerous unintended negative consequences” on jobs and consumers in the US, as well as US firms operating in the EU wine and spirits industry.

Analysis from the trade association shows that the US tariffs on Scotch, liqueurs and cordials, and wine could impact almost US\$3.4bn in imports. It could also result in the loss of around 13,000 jobs in the country, including bartenders and farmers.

The new US tariffs are the latest blow to hit the industry since the EU's [25% retaliatory tariff on US products](#), including American whiskey, was imposed in July 2018, resulting in a 21% sales decrease.

US president Donald Trump locked the US in various trade wars in 2018 after imposing 25% and 10% tariffs on steel and aluminium imports respectively, effective from 1 June 2018.

Industry response

Scotch Whisky Association's chief executive Karen Betts said: “Despite the fact that this dispute is about aircraft subsidies, our sector has been hit hard, with single malt Scotch whisky representing over half of the total value of UK products on the US Government tariff list (amounting to over US\$460 million).

Betts added that the tariff “will undoubtedly damage the Scotch whisky sector”.

She said: “The US is our largest and most valuable single market, and over £1 billion of Scotch whisky was exported there last year. The tariff will put our competitiveness and Scotch whisky's market share at risk.” Betts also expressed concern that the tariff will “disproportionately impact smaller producers”.

She continued: “We expect to see a negative impact on investment and job creation in Scotland, and longer-term impacts on productivity and growth across the industry and our supply chain. We believe the tariff will also have a cumulative impact on consumer choice.”

The EU and US first reached an agreement for tariff-free trade in distilled spirits in 1994.

“The Scotch whisky industry has consistently argued against the imposition of tariffs in our sector,” said Betts. “For the last 25 years, trade in spirits between Europe and the US has been tariff-free.

“In that time, exports of Scotch whisky to the US and of American whiskey to the UK and Europe have grown significantly, benefitting communities on both sides of the Atlantic, boosting investment, employment and prosperity for all.”

Chris Swonger, president and CEO of Distilled Spirits Council, called the move a “devastating blow to the US spirits industry”.

He said: “While we recognise the US and EU are trying to solve long-standing trade disputes, distillers on both sides of the Atlantic have become collateral damage in matters that are completely unrelated to our industry.

“As the important holiday season approaches, we urgently call upon the US and the EU governments to get back to the negotiating table and return to tariff-free trade with our largest export market.”

‘Particularly irritating’

Ulrich Adam, director general of Spirits Europe, branded the decision “unacceptable”, claiming the spirits industry should not have to foot the bill over a row “essentially about civil aircraft subsidies”.

He said: “It is particularly irritating to see that unrelated sectors like ours will be hit by an extra 25% tariffs when the sector at stake will only be imposed a 10% rate.

“Most importantly, for the last 18 months, we have recurrently underlined that imposing tariffs on spirits harms consumers and producers on both sides of the Atlantic alike.

“The success of the spirits sector in the United States and in the European Union is mutually reinforcing. Indeed, many of our European producers operate distilleries and production sites in the US, while many American producers also own distilleries in Europe.

“We call on the president-elect of the European Commission and the commissioner designate for trade to find a negotiated solution with their American counterparts as soon as possible and to de-escalate the current situation.”

The American Craft Spirits Association (ACSA) is also urging the US government to “work collaboratively with the EU to ensure all American businesses, including craft spirits, prosper”.

The ACSA's CEO, Margie Lehman, said: “The threat of additional retaliatory tariffs from the EU on American rum, vodka and brandy imports from the US will further limit our market access, directly affecting not just our distillers and their families – who collectively make up a workforce of more than 20,000 employees across the US.”

Michelle Korsmo, president and CEO, Wine & Spirits Wholesalers of America, said: “These tariffs stand to disrupt consumer-driven, industry-wide growth, and will negatively impact the family-owned businesses who import and distribute the nation's wine and spirits. When free trade is compromised and business becomes more expensive to conduct, consumers are always left to pay for the damages by way of higher prices.”

Robert M Tobiassen, president of the National Association of Beverage Importers, added: “These tariffs will devastate, perhaps destroy, many small- and medium-sized family businesses importing these products into the United States.”

Scotch Whisky Prices Are About to Skyrocket. Here's What That Means for You

OCTOBER 6, 2019 [DRINKS](#) By [WILL PRICE](#)



A 15-year-old dispute between the U.S. and European Union over government subsidies given to airplane manufacturers is coming to a head. That spells bad news for Stateside Scotch whisky drinkers.

According to the [BBC](#), the World Trade Organization recently gave the U.S. government approval to impose tariffs on \$7.5 billion in goods from the EU. The U.S. supplied a list of products produced in a number of European nations that would be subject to the new 25 percent tariff. On it: all whisky produced in the UK, including [Scotch whisky](#) and [Irish whiskey](#). The tariff goes into action on October 18th. Here's how that could affect your next trip to the liquor store.

Prices Could Rise Almost Immediately

"I don't think there will be a lag time or delay with the tariff affecting price," said Jonathan Goldstein, owner of New York City's popular Scotch whisky store [Park Avenue Liquor Shop](#). That's because of the way the alcohol industry is structured — where producers may only sell to distributors, who may only sell to retailers, who may sell to consumers. Distributors will learn that their products have gone up in price and markups will be imposed to meet their own margins. Immediately.

Nima Ansari, head spirits buyer at [Astor Wine & Spirits](#), said, based on the tariffs going into effect on October 18th, prices can technically go up as early as November 1, when the retailer's wholesale price has spiked due to rising prices for the rest of the supply chain. "There's no guarantee, but if I had to guess, I'd say some things will be effected that early and some things won't," Ansari said.

The Hikes Could Be Above 25 Percent

Scotch prices increasing by 25 percent would be troublesome but conservative; Goldstein says to expect larger price spikes: "Everyone has to take their margins into account when the price jumps for everybody — producers, distributors, importers and retailers. Let's say my wholesale cost is just 25 percent more; well I also work on my own percentage, so my markup has to be that much more to get it on the shelf. I think it's going to be a disaster. If people were struggling with the concept of a \$50, non-age-statement whisky before, they're going to be shocked in a few weeks."

Ansari said there's a chance larger single malt producers may take on some of the costs themselves in order to avoid sticker shock that could alienate long-time customers. "I think [single malt producers] are thinking longer term; this is not the world we'll be living in permanently. It's a pretty safe bet to say prices aren't going down," Ansari said.

Bottle Availability Is Up-in-the-Air

Beyond prepping for the price hike, buying a few extra bottles of your favorite whisky also ensures you won't find yourself unable to find the good stuff. There's a chance that, given the bump in price at every level of the supply chain and lessened consumer interest, fewer mid- to high-end bottles will make it Stateside. So not only will the stuff be more expensive, there's a good chance there will be less of it. Ansari said this likely won't have an effect on larger-scale producers and doesn't foresee supply shortages from the single malt establishment, while Goldstein said we'll have to wait and see. "Knowing you love a specific bottle of single malt scotch, you can't hurt yourself by going out and buying a few extra bottles before this begins," Ansari said.

There's No End in Sight

The impending tariff is the result of a multi-decade dispute and, in part, a reaction to an [identical tariff](#) the EU levied on American-made whiskey sold in Europe. A spokesman for the UK's Department for International Trade said representatives of the U.S. and EU are negotiating an end to the trade tussle, the [BBC reports](#), but given the length of the spat and the lack of an end date provided by the U.S. government, it's not possible to project the tariff's duration. Ansari notes that it's completely up-in-the-air at the moment, with events like an [October 31 Brexit vote](#) that would have the UK leave the EU (and therefore excluding itself from EU-targeted tariffs) holding the power to end the dispute almost immediately.

For now, you might want to consider a trip to your local liquor store.

THE GLENLIVET CAPSULES: WHY THE HYSTERIA?

09 October 2019 by [Becky Paskin](#)

What was created to be a fun, novel way to approach Scotch whisky cocktails rapidly turned into a PR storm for [The Glenlivet](#) this week.

In celebration of [London Cocktail Week's 10th anniversary](#), the Speyside single malt brand created a range of edible/drinkable cocktail capsules in collaboration with Alex Kratena and Monica Berg of London's Tayer + Elementary, rated one of the world's best bars after just nine months of operation, and capsule designer Notpla.

Three original cocktails 'inspired by the elements and flavours of The Glenlivet Founder's Reserve' — Citrus, Wood and Spice — were filled into a biodegradable casing made from seaweed extract (called 'oohos') and presented to patrons in a bespoke wooden box.

'The cocktail capsules are unique and push the boundaries of how drinks can be served,' said Kratena, who, alongside Berg, is known within the industry for an evolutionary approach to cocktail creation.



Whisky wrath: Three little Scotch-based cocktails have somehow caused mass outrage

Twitter users, on the other hand, weren't so sure, particularly those in the US who still recall the fall-out of the Tide pod craze, a thankfully short-lived YouTube trend that saw young people film themselves biting into laundry detergent capsules.

While Outlander's Sam Heughan, who is launching his own whisky brand, [remained unconvinced](#) by the innovation, one of the more hysterical over-reactions came from ABC's foreign affairs reporter Julia Macfarlane, who described it as a '[sick joke](#)' and an '[abomination](#)', calling on Scottish First Minister Nicola Sturgeon to 'do something'.

Other reactions have gone so far as to label the capsules a 'public health hazard', prompting warnings by Twitter users that 'teens are going to put these in their butts', despite the fact they are only available at Tayer + Elementary, where alcohol is not served to minors, let alone to anyone attempting to shove anything up their rectal passage.

The capsules were described by one publication as 'weird shit', despite the fact that spherification, the technique pioneered by El Bulli chef Ferran Adrià to create spheres of liquid contained in an algae-based casing, has been used and celebrated by chefs the world over for a good 15 years; and despite the fact that oohos filled with Lucozade were handed out to runners during this year's Virgin Money London Marathon to cut back on plastic waste — without so much as an outraged hashtag from the Twitterati.

Apparently, the universe can rest easy if these biodegradable, ingestible pouches are filled with anything other than Scotch whisky.

It begs the question: what if the cocktails contained rum, or that darling of the British press, gin? Would the capsules still have received such widespread criticism?

Wine writer Nina Caplan missed the point in her [succinct op-ed for The Guardian](#): 'Multinationals such as Pernod Ricard (which owns The Glenlivet) are fixated on novelty, which has nothing to do with the slow enjoyment of good whisky. If we want people to drink responsibly, it isn't enough to put anodyne health warnings on websites and bottles. What is needed is an education in appreciation, and that doesn't come in a consumable capsule.'

Surely the enjoyment of a 'good' whisky is down to a person's individual preference — fast, slow, neat, mixed, in a glass or seaweed casing, the choice is subjective. Sticking with the old adage that whisky appreciation can only be attained by 'slow enjoyment' actually throws [whisky education back into the dark ages](#).

The capsules each contain 23ml of liquid, and are served chilled, directly from the fridge to be popped into the mouth in one go. Biting down on the capsule releases the cocktail inside, and consumers are free to roll that liquid around the mouth for as long as they like.

As far as drinking responsibly goes, each capsule contains less alcohol by volume than a standard 25ml shot (as defined by the British Weights and Measures Act) of 40% abv Tequila, vodka, etc, which is, incidentally, more liquid volume than contained in a Glenlivet capsule.

The capsules were devised as a light-hearted exploration of the possibilities of how whisky can be enjoyed, although (assumably playfully) the press release asking whether they mark the 'death of the whisky tumbler' may have been a step too far. However, as Miriam Eceolaza, director of The Glenlivet, said: 'As a brand that celebrates originality, we are always looking to break the conventions that have determined how single malt Scotch has historically been enjoyed.'

In the face of an ageing consumer base, Scotch has been trying to [shake off its dusty image](#) of tartan and tweed to appeal to a younger audience, with varying degrees of success. They may be marketing buzzwords, but innovation, craft and stories with substance are what excite new whisky drinkers, and unless Scotch appeals to their cravings it risks becoming the dusty, uncool spirit of past generations, languishing on the top shelf as the more relevant Bourbons, rums and Irish whiskeys swagger in.

Divisive cocktail capsules aren't enough on their own to change the public's perception about mixing Scotch, but at least The Glenlivet is trying. The saga goes to show Scotch is caught in a *Catch-22* situation – it's damned if it doesn't innovate; ridiculed if it does.

ABC's Macfarlane is, however, at least partially correct: Nicola Sturgeon should do something – get down to Tayēr and try the capsules, and show that drinking a Scotch-based cocktail in a different way needn't be a cause for mass outrage.

The Glenlivet cocktail capsules will be available at Tayēr + Elementary for the duration of London Cocktail Week (4-13 October).

Gordon & MacPhail gets green light for Cairngorms distillery

14th October, 2019 by Nicola Carruthers

Scotch whisky bottler Gordon & MacPhail has secured planning approval to build a new Speyside distillery in Cairngorms National Park.



Gordon & MacPhail has gained planning approval for a new Speyside distillery. Gordon & MacPhail first announced plans to [construct a distillery and visitor centre in Craggan](#), near Grantown-on-Spey, in May 2018.

Last Friday (11 October), the site was given the green light by the Cairngorms National Park Authority (CNPA).

Eleanor Mackintosh, CNPA planning committee convener, said: "This is a major development for the area and this will be the first malt whisky distillery to be approved by the Cairngorms National Park Authority since it was established in 2003.

"The food and drink sector and the tourism industry are both extremely important to the National Park economy – often going hand in hand as is the case here.

"I fully support the officer's recommendation to approve the application. It is an innovative building to house a business that will provide long-term economic benefits."

The multi-million-pound facility will have an annual maximum production capacity of two million litres of spirits, equivalent to 100,000 cases of whisky.

The site, which has been [designed to take advantage of its views across the River Spey](#), has a circular design to disguise much of the day-to-day workings of the distillery.

The new distillery will be the company's second, and follows its purchase and refurbishment of the Benromach Distillery.

Katherine Donnachie, planning officer with the CNPA, said: "The building is set to be 'state of the art' and we consider it to be well designed and in a good location with suitable mitigation measures in place to combat ecological impacts.

"Subject to conditions and a legal agreement securing good pedestrian and cycle links between Dulnain Bridge and Grantown, I recommend we approve the applicatio

To Peat or Not to Peat: These Distilleries Give You the Option

AUGUST 21, 2019 | JEFFERY LINDENMUTH | FROM [FALL 2018](#)

Given no other knowledge of a scotch distillery, most whisky lovers would choose to know just one thing: Is their whisky smoky or not? The answer isn't so simple, as more single malt producers play both sides of the fence. Exceptions to the rule are exciting for both fans of a distillery, who get to see a new side of their old favorite, and detractors, who might discover they enjoy a distillery's whisky after all. Unpeated versions will

offer little to no peat smoke, while peated renditions show obvious smoke. So choose a distillery, then have it your way.



SINGLE MALT SCOTCHES WITH BOTH PEATY AND UNEPEATED VERSIONS

[AnCnoc 12 year old](#) vs. [AnCnoc Cutter](#)

Known for light and honeyed malts, Knockdhu added a peated range in 2004.

[Arran 14 year old](#) vs. [Arran Machrie Moor](#)

Machrie Moor, the peated whisky from Arran, is produced in just one batch each year.

[Balvenie 12 year old DoubleWood](#) vs. [Balvenie Peat Week 2003](#)

For one week each year, Balvenie distills using heavily peated malt, smoked over Highland peat.

[BenRiach 10 year old](#) vs. [BenRiach Curiositas 10 year old](#)

With new ownership in 2004, Benriach embarked on a path of both peated and unpeated whiskies.

[Benromach Organic](#) vs. [Benromach Peat Smoke](#)

Organic Benromach includes a hint of smoke, but there's no comparing the intensity of Peat Smoke.

[Bruichladdich Laddie 10 year old](#) vs. [Bruichladdich Port Charlotte 10 year old](#)

This Islay distiller's core range is unpeated, but they make up for it with Port Charlotte and Octomore.

[Bunnahabhain 12 year old](#) vs. [Bunnahabhain Toiteach](#)

Gaelic for "smoky," Toiteach is the peated entry from this distiller of primarily unpeated Islay whisky.

[Caol Ila 18 year old](#) vs. [Caol Ila 12 year old](#)

A Diageo Special Release offers a rare glimpse beneath the smoky cloak of this Islay whisky.

[GlenDronach 12 year old](#) vs. [GlenDronach Peated](#)

Peat represents a rare deviation from the house style, but you'll still find sherry cask flavors.

[Glenfiddich 12 year old](#) vs. [Glenfiddich Fire and Cane](#)

For their latest innovation, peated whisky is finished in rum casks for a smoky, sweet treat.

[Glenlivet 12 year old](#) vs. [Glenlivet Nadurra Peated Cask](#)

Nadurra gets its smoke not from peated malt, but from finishing in casks that held peated whisky.

[Hazelburn 12 year old](#) vs. [Longrow](#)

These whiskies represent unpeated and heavily peated expressions from Springbank.

[Macallan Double Cask 12 year old](#) vs. [Macallan Rare Cask Black](#)

Smoky Rare Cask Black is an outlier for Macallan, whose reputation is built upon sherried single malts.

[Scapa Skiren](#) vs. [Scapa Glansa](#)

While it starts off much like the unpeated Skiren, Glansa is then finished in casks that held peated whisky.

[Tobermory 10 year old](#) vs. [Ledaig 10 year old](#)

Peated malts are now designated by Tobermory's original distillery name—Ledaig.

[Tomintoul 16 year old](#) vs. [Tomintoul Peaty Tang](#)

This typically gentle and fruity malt gets a surprising peaty twist from the use of peated malt during distillation.

Membership and Dinner prices for 2019-2020

Membership Fee:	\$50 (singles)
	\$75 (couples)
One Time Initiation Fee:	\$15
Standard Dinner Fee:	\$70 (member)

Christmas Dinner Fee:	\$80 (non-member)
	\$75 (member)
Robbie Burns Dinner Fee:	\$75 (non-member)
	\$75 (member)
June BBQ Dinner Fee:	\$85 (non-member)
	\$80 (member)
	\$80 (non-member)

Reservation policy

- The agreement with the Kitchen's requires that we provide seven (7) business days notice for them to guarantee accommodation for our requested numbers. To accommodate the Kitchen's needs and meet our contractual obligation with them; our members are requested to respond to the emailed invitation seven (7) business days prior to the respective dinner to guarantee a seat at the dinner. Following the RSVP date members will be placed on a waitlist.
- For these individuals the process will be as follows, using the Monday September 23rd, 2019 dinner date as an example:
- Dinner invitations will be sent out Friday August 23rd, 2019. Please respond to me (rdifazio04@gmail.com). I will then acknowledge that you have a seat. Please understand that if you do not receive a response you are not guaranteed a seat at the respective dinner. In such circumstances (e.g., computer glitches) please e-mail me again or call me (613-532-5285).
- Unless otherwise stated accommodation at the dinner will be guaranteed for all members who respond by Friday September 6th, 2019 @ 6pm.
- Once the RSVP date has been achieved I will e-mail a spreadsheet informing everyone of their status and amount due.

Cancellation policy

- Using the same example as above, anyone who cancels anytime prior to Friday September 6th, 2019 @ 6pm will be removed from the list.
- Anyone canceling between Friday September 6th, 2019 @ 6pm and Monday September 23rd, 2019 will be expected to pay for the cost of the dinner and scotch (\$70). It is the responsibility of the member who cancels their (or their guest's) reservation to find a replacement. If I am asked to find a substitute and one is found, then the member will be asked to pay for 50% of their dinner cost.
- Anyone who fails to attend the Monday September 23rd, 2019 dinner without having cancelled and been successfully replaced will be expected to pay the full cost (\$70). A member will be responsible for their guest's cancellation (\$80).
- If a member asks to be included at the dinner between Friday September 6th, 2019 @ 6pm and Monday September 23rd, 2019, their name will be placed on a wait-list and be accommodated on a first-come first-serve basis.

Assigned / Reserved Seating

- Assigned Seating will be offered for the June, August, and December dinners.
- Reserved Seating will only be considered if it is a group consisting of a single member plus 3+ guests or a couple member plus 2+ guests.

Perfume / Cologne and Whisky

- Our enjoyment of fine whisky at KSMS starts with a nosing - for many a definitive and delicate moment in their relationship with a new dram. The power of aroma is unquestionable. From defining life experiences to the recall of special memories, the sense of smell is as individual as a fingerprint and has the ability to evoke some of the most precious, rewarding and distinctive moments. Unfortunately strong perfumes can mask and distort other aromas and smells and interfere with the ability to register and recognize subtler fragrances.
- To be fair to all we ask all our members to please refrain from wearing scented products and perfumes to our KSMS evenings.

Dinner Payments

- Please consider sending your payment by e-transfer prior to the dinner. The password will be "KSMS", to whatever your security question is. Receiving payment in advance will allow everyone the opportunity to socialize before the dinner as well as reduce the accounting work required after.
- For e-transfers, Members are responsible for collecting from their guests, and then forwarding one payment in total by e-transfer.

Just a note because we care.

Please understand that for the purpose of each event you are advised to drink responsibly and refrain from excessive consumption. The dinners hosted by the Kingston Single Malt Society are sampling events. By agreeing to pay and thereby attend the dinner you agree to release from legal responsibility and hold harmless Kingston Single Malt Society, its President Roberto Di Fazio, and any other volunteers from liability or claims arising from these events.



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