

Kingston Single Malt Society

www.kingstonsinglemaltsociety.com

A social club for the appreciation of Single Malt Whisky since 1998
JANUARY 21st, 2019 VOLUME 12; NUMBER 7



This evening's
menu celebrating
the
261st Anniversary
of
Robbie Burns
Birthday

MENU

Ode to the Haggis & Pre-Dinner Toast

1st Nosing: TALISKER PORT RUIGHE
(introduced by: Gavin Wood)

Soup: Cock-A-Leekie

2nd Nosing: KILCHOMAN RED WINE CASK

3rd Nosing: KILCHOMAN MADEIRA WINE CASK

Notes: KILCHOMAN STR CASK MATURED 2019
KILCHOMAN BRAMBLE
(introduced by: Doug Perkins)

Appetizer: Smoked Salmon and Potato Cake,
Horseradish Cream

4th Nosing: HIGHLAND PARK TWISTED TATTOO
16 YEARS OLD
(introduced by: Conrad Falkson)

Entrée: Short Rib of Beef,

Haggis Crust, Neeps & Tatties

5th Nosing: GLENALLACHIE 10 YEARS OLD
(introduced by: John Leighton)

Dessert: Black Berry-Pear Cranachan

Infused with Kilchoman STR Cask Matured 2019,
Topped with Kilchoman Bramble Liqueur

6th Nosing: BENRIACH 1997 Cask Strength 20 YO
(introduced by: Bill Gorham)

COST OF THE MALTS

TALISKER PORT RUIGHE LCBO 144311 | 750 mL bottle
Price: \$110.00 Spirits, Whisky/Whiskey 45.8% Alcohol/Vol.

KILCHOMAN RED WINE CASK MATURED ISLAY SINGLE
MALT VINTAGES 555870 | 700 mL bottle Price: \$189.95
Spirits, Whisky/Whiskey, Scotch Single Malts, 50.0%
Alcohol/Vol.

KILCHOMAN MADEIRA WINE CASK MATURED ISLAY
SINGLE MALT VINTAGES 555870 | 700 mL bottle Price:
\$189.95 Spirits, Whisky/Whiskey, Scotch Single Malts,
50.0% Alcohol/Vol.

KILCHOMAN STR CASK MATURED 2019 LCBO 235468 |
700 mL bottle Price: \$175.50 Spirits, Whisky/Whiskey
50.0% Alcohol/Vol.

KILCHOMAN BRAMBLE LCBO 622925 | 500 mL bottle
Price: \$46.00 Spirits, Liqueur, 19.0% Alcohol/Vol.

HIGHLAND PARK TWISTED TATTOO 16 YEARS OLD
LCBO 644377 | 750 mL bottle Price: \$123.95, Spirits,
Whisky/Whiskey 46.7% Alcohol/Vol.

GLENALLACHIE 10 YEARS OLD CASK STRENGTH
VINTAGES 126991 | 700 mL bottle Price: \$116.25, Spirits,
Whisky/Whiskey, Scotch Single Malts, 54.8% Alcohol/Vol.

BENRIACH 1997 Gordon & MacPhail (GM) Bottling
series Connoisseurs Choice - Cask Strength Vintage:
1997; Bottled: 19.06.2018; Stated Age: 20 YEARS
OLD; Casktype: Refill American Hogshead;
Casknumber Batch 18/051; Number of bottles: 234;
VINTAGES 068605 | 700 mL bottle Price: \$262.79 Spirits,
Whisky/Whiskey, Scotch Single Malts 56.0% Alcohol/Vol.

Results of the December Raffle

The winner of the Bowmore and Glass Gift Pack
was Helen Driver
and the winner of the Coach Purse
was Bob Crowson.
A total of \$575 was raised.
Thank you everyone!

Results of the Silent Auction

A big thanks to all those who participated.
A total of \$1335 was raised.
Thank you everyone!

Winners of Gifts from
Mrs. Claus (aka Lana Di Fazio)
Doug Perkins, Steven Fisher,
& Ainsley Crieghton

Upcoming Dinner Dates

Friday February 7th, 2020 - Ardbeg Night
February 17th, 2020 - Highlands / Islands
March 16th, 2020 - Irish / Speyside
April 20th, 2020 - Campbeltown / Islands / Islay
May 25th, 2020 - Speyside / Islands
June 22nd, 2020 - BBQ (Final Exam)
July 20th, 2020 - 9th "Matt" / International Night
Friday August 28th 2020 - 13th Annual Premium Night
September 21st, 2020 - Campbeltown / Lowland / Speyside /
Highlands / Islands / Islay
October 19th, 2020 - Speyside / Islands / Islay
November 16th, 2020 - Highlands / Islands
December 7th 2020 - Christmas Dinner
January 25th, 2021 - Robbie Burns - Speyside / Highlands / Islay
February 15th, 2021 - Speyside / Highlands / Islay
March 15th, 2021 - Irish / Speyside / Highlands
April 19th, 2021 - Campbeltown / Islands / Islay
May 17th, 2021 - Campbeltown / Speyside
June 28th, 2021 - BBQ (Final Exam)
July 19th, 2021 - 10th "Matt" Night
Friday August 27th 2021 - 14th Annual Premium Night
September 20th, 2021 - Campbeltown / Lowland / Speyside /
Highlands / Islands / Islay
October 18th, 2021 - Speyside / Highlands
November 15th, 2021 - Speyside
December 6th 2021 - Christmas Dinner

Explain about ... Burns Night

<http://whiskyforeveryone.blogspot.com/2010/01/explain-about-burns-night.html>

Burns Night is an annual festival that celebrates the life and works of Scottish poet and lyricist Robert Burns (also known as Rabbie to his friends) and has a strong association with whisky. Burns is widely regarded as Scotland's national poet and the festival has become Scotland's unofficial national day. It is celebrated on January 25th, the date of Burns' birth. Burns Night has a rich heritage in Scottish culture and combines two of the nation's favourite pastimes, eating and drinking whisky, with the legendary poetry of Robert Burns.

Robert Burns was born in 1759 in the small town of Alloway, Ayrshire. The town is located two miles (3km) to the south of Ayr in the Lowland region of Scotland. The house where he was born is now the Burns Cottage Museum. Burns was tutored mostly by his father for his early education before starting formal schooling in 1772. His first attempt at poetry was in 1774 - it was entitled *O, Once I Lov'd A Bonnie Lass* and was inspired by his first love. He went on to write hundreds of poems and songs including famous works such as *Tam O'Shanter*, *My Love Is Like A Red, Red Rose* and *Auld Lang Syne*, which is traditionally sung around the English speaking world on New Year's Eve.

As time passed and Burns' work became more renowned, so did his reputation for liking whisky and women. His heavy drinking and adultery gained him notoriety and scorn within literary circles, although the quality and output of his works remained consistently high. His first illegitimate child was born in 1785 and he went on to father 12 children with four different women (although these totals are believed to both be higher!). He died on July 21 1796, aged just 37, of rheumatic fever that is believed to have been accelerated by a degenerative heart condition from his childhood. His final child was born two days later, on the day that he was buried with full civic and military honours. Burns' grave stands in a graveyard in Dumfries.

So how did Burns Night begin and what does it involve? It is believed that the first Burns Night took place over 200 years ago in 1801. This is less than five years after Burns' death and was celebrated by a group of scholars who were fans of his works. In the early days, it was seen as the perfect platform to celebrate Scotland and being Scottish, incorporating Burns' poetry, Scottish food (most notably haggis, neeps and tatties) and copious amounts of whisky. The popularity and celebrations grew year on year until we have the Burns Night that we know today.

The modern Burns Night supper has evolved over time but remains quintessentially (some would say, stereotypically) Scottish. The core of the supper is the haggis (a mixture of offal, cereal grains, oatmeal, herbs and spices wrapped in the lining of a sheep's stomach) and this is served with neeps and tatties (turnip/swede and potato). This can be preceded by a soup based starter - the three most common are Scotch Broth (a thick soup that contains barley and anything else that you may have), Cullen Skink (a fish based chowder) or Cock-a-leekie soup (the clue is in the name - it's chicken

and leeks, then prunes are added). Dessert can take any form (if you have space or haven't had a heart attack by this point!), with cheese, Cranachan (whipped cream, whisky, raspberries and oatmeal) or Clootie Dumpling (a cake made with dried fruit, condensed milk, spices and golden syrup, then cooked in a cloth or *cloot* in Gaelic) being the most popular. These are traditionally accompanied by whisky at every opportunity.

The main ceremonial part involves the reading of *Address To A Haggis* - a poem written by Robert Burns to celebrate Scotland and its national food. The haggis is bought in and placed on a table and then the reader performs the poem to the haggis and the crowd. This can be accompanied by bagpipes at larger events (as seen in the image, left). The final act of the poem is to slash the stomach membrane of the haggis to reveal its contents and for the reader to down a dram of whisky (occasionally, another dram can be poured over the steaming haggis). Then the rule is to toast the haggis, have a fun evening and drink whisky!

Other Burns Night facts ...

- * Approximately 15 million people worldwide annually celebrate Burns Night.
- * There are statues of Robert Burns in Central Park, New York and at Poet's Corner in Hyde Park, London.
- * It is estimated that 70% of the UK's annual haggis consumption happens on or around Burns Night.
- * Burns Night contributes a staggering £150 million to the Scottish economy each year.
- * The poetry of Robert Burns have been translated in to almost every known language and have been used in the works of legendary figures such as Jimmy Hendrix and The Beatles.

WHISKEY PREDICTIONS FOR THE 2020S

by [Jake Emen](#) - January 3, 2020

It's been an incredible, eventful decade to be a whiskey drinker. We've never had greater exposure to a broader collection of excellent whiskeys across all styles, and from unimagined origins. In the 2010s, the whiskey world began to hear of a world-class single malt [made in Taiwan\(!\)](#). [Irish whiskey](#) saw a renaissance and [rye whiskey](#), which had been collecting dust in previous decades, got a well deserved heralding. Naturally, when discussing the 2010s, we have to talk about craft distilling. In the US, we saw a 10-fold increase in the number of craft distilleries from roughly 200 to over 2,000 this past decade. That's a lot of new whiskey brands!

Of course, balancing out what we've gained in the whiskey world are some enormous downsides as well. Prices have soared while supply of our favorites has dwindled. Both of those factors have helped the secondary market turn the pursuit of drinking delicious whiskey into something more like curating a costly museum exhibit. As we look ahead to the next decade, we have a few whiskey predictions for the 2020s.

THE REPLENISHMENT OF JAPANESE WHISKY & RETURN OF AGE STATEMENTS

No category was hit harder by its own success than [Japanese whiskey](#). As soon as the world discovered the category "poof" it was gone. Virtually all of the age statement whisky from Suntory and Nikka went into extinction. However, by 2030 you can look forward to at least a slight shift back to what once was.



Barrels at Yamazaki Distillery /Photo Credit: Suntory

Until then, the NAS and clear spirit offerings from both powerhouses will continue to help stem the tides. Production has been firing away at full force, so our whiskey predictions include that the next decade for age statements will make a come back.

STATES CONTINUE TO TAKE CHARGE

In the past several years, we've seen producer and state led movements arise to create new categories and marks of quality. Notably, distillers in New York state have created the [Empire Rye category](#). The [American Single Malt Commission](#) was formed this past decade to establish and promote this growing category.



The Colorado Whiskey Trail /Photo Credit: The Colorado Whiskey Trail
Meanwhile, states and regions are encouraging visits to local distilleries by promoting distillery trails. [Beyond Kentucky](#), you can now find trails in Tennessee and [Colorado](#), as well as the [Whiskey Rebellion Trail](#) up and down the mid-Atlantic. Expect these movements to continue in the decade to come. The passing of federal legislation to formally create new national categories is a nightmare, so producers will thrive by holding themselves to a higher standard and banding together.

MORE WORLD REGIONS COME TO PROMINENCE

The world of whiskey keeps getting larger by the day. Our whiskey predictions see that to continue with these three regions especially: Nordic, Australian and Chinese whiskeys. [Nordic distilleries](#) are already out in full force, and the countries are also home to deeply passionate consumers. Expect the world to catch onto distilleries such as [Mackmyra](#), [Spirit of Hven](#), [Braunstein](#), [Eimverk](#) and many others.



Starward Distillery /Photo Credit: Starward Distillery

While [Australian whiskey](#) has garnered some international attention, expect it to reach a fever pitch as more distilleries continue to come of age. And as for China? Pernod Ricard has already broken ground on a massive single malt distillery in the country. You can bet the other big boys won't be far behind.

SECONDARY MARKET WIDENS, BUT (SOME) PRICES FALL

By 2030, there are going to be more collectible whiskey than ever. Think of all the well-aged, limited edition releases that the country's best craft producers are going to be able to create. Not to mention high-end offerings emanating everywhere from Canada to Ireland to Asia.



Old whisky at Balvenie /Photo Credit: Balvenie

New cult classics and hidden gems will emerge, then disappear from stores to end up on that much-maligned secondary market. That bevy of newfound options though may actually lead to an unexpected bonus: the lowering of certain prices. Even with more whiskey collectors and connoisseurs than ever, there are only so many people willing and able to fork over thousands of dollars on a bottle or two.

With vastly increased supply, in another decade, our whiskey predictions include a world where former "everyday" whiskeys go back to being just that. Imagine, walking into your corner shop on a whim, dropping \$25, and leaving with some [Weller 12 Year](#). Wild!

THE BOOM & BUST OF CRAFT WHISKEY

Can the whiskey market support 2,000 craft distilleries over the long haul? What about when there are inevitably 3,000 and beyond? While [craft distillation](#) keeps booming, expect there to be a bit of a bust by the end of the '20s. That might mean only a reduced rate of growth rather than a true decline in sales or numbers. However, even with overall growth pushing forward, we'll inevitably see strings of distillery closures along the way, including some familiar names and faces.



Whiskey selection at Wyoming Whiskey /Photo Credit: Wyoming Whiskey

At the same time, expect the major conglomerates to continue stockpiling the cream of the craft crop. Of course, we've seen this all with beer already. Which leads us to ask...

IS THERE A HARD SELTZER OF WHISKEY?

Hard seltzer has upended the beer business. Is there an equivalent to be found in the whiskey world? You betcha. Say hello to the RTD, or ready-to-drink beverage. This category already exists but it's bound to break out in the next decade. Whiskey RTDs are already huge in places including Australia and Japan—sipping a canned highball while riding on a Japanese bullet train is one of life's pure pleasures. Our whiskey predictions see whiskey RTDs to explode on the scene in a matter of years here in the United States. If RTD whiskey was a stock, you should dump your funds into it.

Kilchoman doubles whisky production

21st August, 2019 by Nicola Carruthers

Islay whisky distillery Kilchoman has doubled its production capacity as part of expansion plans that include the build of a new visitor centre.



The Kilchoman Distillery is located at Rockside farm on Islay
The independent whisky producer has doubled its capacity to 480,000 litres of pure alcohol annually. Kilchoman said it is nearing completion of its stillhouse extension, which consists of two new stills, a new mashtun and six additional washbacks.

It is part of an expansion that started in 2018 with the completion of a new malt floor and kiln.

Anthony Wills, founder and managing director of Kilchoman, said that the final phase of the expansion, which will include a visitor centre, shop and café, is expected to be completed “within the next three to four months”.

He said: “At a time when I thought I might take a step back we’ve invested around £6 million [US\$7.3m] in upgrades. That said, without an increase in capacity we would be heading towards a situation where all Kilchoman would be sold purely on allocation.”

“With my three sons heavily involved in the business we want to continue building on the success of the last 15 years without the risk of running out of whisky.”

“The investment amounts to almost an entirely new distillery in itself however we wanted to ensure that the new equipment was a mirror image of the original stillhouse and we’ve been delighted with the quality of the spirit, with no discernible difference in the character of that produced from the new compared to old stills.”

“The new equipment will also allow us to experiment more during the malting and peat phases as well as in the stillhouse with yeast varieties and isolating specific spirit runs.”

KILCHOMAN 100% ISLAY 9TH EDITION AND 2010 VINTAGE RELEASED

Kilchoman has just announced this year’s 100% Islay Edition. It is made from a vatting of 43 different barrels of single malt that matured in ex-bourbon barrels for 9 years. This yearly limited edition release uses barley harvested from Islay. However, the peat level is 20 ppm, which is a departure from the brand’s standard 50 ppm. [Kilchoman 100% Islay 9th Edition](#) is non-chill filtered and has no artificial color added. It is bottled at 50% ABV.

As for [Kilchoman Vintage 2010](#), it’s a vatting of single malts from 42 ex-bourbon barrels and 3 oloroso sherry butts which were filled in 2010. The single malt matured for over 9 years. Notably, this marks the first non-single cask release for the brand bottled with an age statement. It is bottled without chill-filtration and with natural color at 48% ABV.

Both bottles have an SRP of \$110 each. A limited number of bottles are available worldwide as of September 2019.



Kilchoman 100% Islay 9th Edition

GlenDronach launches Traditionally Peated whisky

29th November, 2019 by Owen Bellwood

The GlenDronach Distillery has launched a peated expression of its Highland single malt Scotch whisky, called Traditionally Peated.

GlenDronach Traditionally Peated uses whisky matured in Sherry and Port casks
GlenDronach Traditionally Peated was created to honour the historical method of drying malted barley over burning peat, which would have been used by distillery founder James Allardice.

The whisky uses spirit matured in Pedro Ximénez, oloroso Sherry and Port casks. Master blender Dr Rachel Barrie said: “The GlenDronach Traditionally Peated offers connoisseurs a rare opportunity to explore the distillery’s rich depths of Sherry cask maturation, whilst paying homage to the robust peat-smoked earthy character of the early 19th century, that James Allardice himself would likely have enjoyed.”

“This wonderfully complex single malt presents notes of Highland toffee, dark honey and coal-smoked barley. Burnt orange and treacle glide over the palate, on a base of cloves and smoked bramble. Liquorice and dark fruits linger and intensify into the rich and earthy finish.”

Bottled at 48% ABV, GlenDronach Traditionally Peated is available to buy from select retailers with an RRP of £51 (US\$66).

The Highland Scotch whisky brand recently [unveiled the 17th batch in its Cask Bottling programme](#), which includes single malt whiskies distilled between 1990 and 2007.

Dial Up the Smoke Status with This Single Malt Scotch Scale

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



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.

simple on its own over ice or for pure indulgent pleasure, poured over ice cream, in coffee, creamy hot chocolate drinks, or as a delightful cake, bake or other grown-up treat – the choices are endless.”

Since launching in Ireland, Baileys has been available in 160 countries.

According to Diageo, 2,400 glasses of the cream liqueur are now consumed every minute of every day.

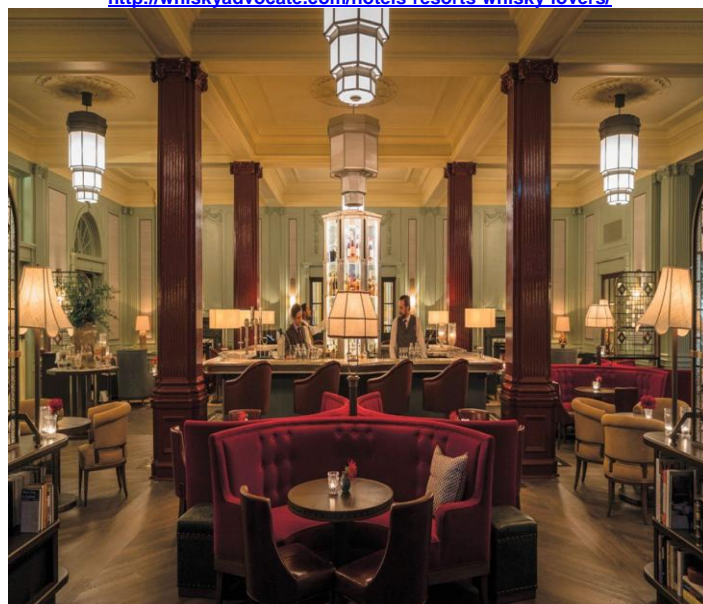
Made using a blend of Irish dairy cream, Irish whiskey, cocoa, vanilla extract and sugar, Baileys requires 200 million litres of fresh Irish milk each year to produce the cream used in its production.

Baileys, [which was named Liqueurs Brand Champion in SB's Brand Champions 2019 report](#), unveiled a raft of new products over the last year – [including a red velvet-flavoured liqueur](#) and [a range of alcohol-free iced coffees](#).

10 Great Hotels and Resorts for Whisky Lovers

JULY 2, 2018 | LARRY OLMSTED

<http://whiskyadvocate.com/hotels-resorts-whisky-lovers/>



The Century Bar at Gleneagles Resort in Perthshire, Scotland

Part of being a luxury hotel is stocking a respectable whisky selection, but only a handful go the extra mile to woo whisky lovers with curated lists of rarities, private barrels, tasting programs, specialty whisky cocktails, food pairings, and more. Whisky regions like Ireland, Japan, and Kentucky play host to some great whisky hotels, but don't discount Wisconsin, Beverly Hills, and Boston. Whisky fans appear in every corner of the globe and so do the hotels that cater to them.

[21c Museum Hotel](#)—Louisville, Kentucky

Louisville's hippest hotel focuses on art and whiskey and succeeds at both, with just 91 guest rooms and suites built around a contemporary art museum. Its vibrant lobby scene is anchored by Proof on Main restaurant, offering regional foods and more than 250 different American, Japanese, and Scotch whiskies, showcasing around 175 bourbons. There are half a dozen WhistlePig ryes including Boss Hog (\$65), half a dozen Van Winkle bourbons including Pappy Van Winkle 25 year old (\$300), and a list of domestic rarities such as Blade & Bow 22 year old (\$40). Through its 21c Selects program, Proof on Main also has around ten private barrel offerings available by the glass and sold by the bottle in their Louisville and Lexington retail shops. The bar has designed nine different whiskey flights with education in mind, ranging from single distillery to comparisons of whisky types. Knowledgeable bar staff stand ready to assemble a custom tasting flight or make a mean Mint Julep.

Don't Miss: The multi-colored Asleep in the Cyclone, one of the museum-hotel's art installations—and one of its suites; art you can sleep in.

[Boston Harbor Hotel](#)—Boston

Home to wine-centric restaurant Meritage, it's easy to overlook this longtime Forbes 5-Star luxury hotel's accomplished whisky program. Big mistake. Not only is it the city's finest lodging, made even better with a recent extensive renovation, but its ground-level Rows Wharf Bar has waterfront seating and offers what they claim to be the only Macallan 40 year old in Massachusetts. A generous 2-ounce pour runs \$1,025 but you can try half an ounce for \$300.

They also offer 75 Scottish, Irish, American, and Japanese whiskies, plus rotating specialty whisky cocktails. Regulars love the Oysters & Scotch special, featuring two ounces of Bowmore 12 year old poured over half a dozen oysters, offered nightly (6-8 p.m., \$25) or anytime (\$38). The harborfront hotel also hosts impressive multi-course whisky pairing dinners roughly every other month and has a recurring pop-up lobby whisky bar that, in the summer, is moved outside to the waterfront pavilion and offers cigar rolling.

Don't Miss: The direct water taxi service (8 minutes) from Logan airport, the nation's best post-flight arrival.

[Brooks Hotel](#)—Dublin

Located in the heart of Dublin, Brooks is a warm, intimate boutique property

Diageo sells two billionth bottle of Baileys

2nd January, 2020 by Owen Bellwood

Spirits producer Diageo has celebrated the sale of its two billionth bottle of Baileys Irish cream liqueur, 45 years after the brand's launch.

Diageo has sold its two billionth bottle of Baileys

First created in Ireland in 1974, Baileys reached the milestone in December 2019 when it sold its two billionth bottle.

Jennifer English, global brand director for Baileys at Diageo, said: "There has never been a more exciting time for Baileys. It has captured the imagination of millions of treat lovers around the world with so many delicious ways to enjoy it. It's deliciously



with fewer than 100 rooms. A private chef's garden and fresh ingredients from County Wicklow supply the acclaimed Francesca's restaurant. Rooms are decorated with handcrafted wooden furniture, sumptuous fabrics, and modern Irish artwork. Brooks sits within an easy walk to some of Dublin's most iconic bars and distilleries: the Temple Bar (450 whiskies and three-glass flights); Vat House (four-glass flights); Old Jameson Distillery (tours and tastings); and two of Dublin's newest distilleries, Teeling and Pearse Lyons. To close the day, Brooks' own Jasmine Bar offers over 70 Irish selections, including one of only 711 bottles of Celtic Cask Aon Single Cask (€20) and one of just 114 single cask bottles of Willie Napier 44 year old (€100). Beyond Irish whiskey, over 100 global selections span the whisky world from Sweden to Sri Lanka. Don't Miss: The traditional Irish breakfast, included with stay, at Francesca's, famous for its homemade Irish brown soda bread.



Proof on Main at the 21c in Louisville, Kentucky.

The Connaught—London, England

An urban Forbes 5-star hotel that loves whisky, the 121-room Connaught has long been one of Europe's most exclusive luxury lodgings. The old-school Connaught Bar has earned many awards, including the title of World's Best Cocktail Bar 2016 from Tales of the Cocktail. The 80-bottle collection focuses on unique offerings, including what is believed to be the city's only bottle of Macallan 51 year old, Bowmore 1968, Ardbeg 1974, and Hibiki 30 year old. The hotel partnered with Dalmore to create a custom Connaught Cask single malt, aged in a trio of cabernet, sherry, and port casks. The Connaught Cask is only sold here, in a gift set with a cocktail shaker and glassware (£315). The hotel offers cocktail masterclasses for guests and has two other bars, along with a Michelin 2-star restaurant by Hélène Darroze and a new eatery by legendary chef Jean-Georges Vongerichten.

Don't Miss: The signature 1815 Whiskey Sour from the bar's award-winning director of mixology, Agostino Perrone, using the Connaught Cask single malt.

Destination Kohler—Kohler, Wisconsin

The Kohler family, of faucet fame, has transformed their factory-town headquarters into a resort with multiple hotels, three Wine Spectator-awarded restaurants, spas, and four golf courses, including PGA Championship venue Whistling Straits. The American Club hotel gets 5 stars from Forbes, its spa another 5, and its Immigrant Restaurant 4—all the Forbes stars in Wisconsin. The Winery Bar always has more than 200 whiskies on offer, including 150 scotches. The "rare menu" includes picks like Highland Park 40 year old and Odin, The John Walker, several bottlings from The Last Drop, Macallan Reflexion, No. 6, and M, and Balvenie 50 year old—one of just 131 bottles of the rarity, which is only served in four places in the U.S. A standard pour runs \$4,000, but a 1/8-ounce taste can be had for \$495. These can also be enjoyed on the American Club's cigar terrace, while the Straits Clubhouse has more than 40 fine whiskies, and Blackwolf Run's clubhouse another 20.

Don't Miss: Play the walking-only Straits course with a caddie and you will be spoiled forever—the PGA Championship venue is ranked fifth-best in the nation and the finest Pete Dye design on earth.

Gleneagles Resort—Perthshire, Scotland

From top to bottom, Gleneagles' facilities are world class for golf, equestrian activities, shooting, fishing, off-road driving, and of course, lodging and dining. The finest accommodations are in the Whisky Suites, the finest dining at Scotland's only Michelin 2-star restaurant, Restaurant Andrew Fairlie. Fairlie, a Scottish Chef of the Year, prepares his signature dish by smoking lobster over whisky cask staves. Gleneagles just finished a massive, multi-million pound renovation that added two significant new bars. The American Bar houses all four Gordon & MacPhail Private Collection Ultra labels, making it the only bar in the world with a full set. They have about 60 other American and Scotch whisky selections, including a Glen Grant 50 year old (£1,100) and 1953 Glenfarclas (£900). But the new Century Bar is even more whisky-centric, with a deep list featuring many international whiskies and specialty whisky cocktails.

Don't Miss: With a thirteen-stand sporting clay range and competition quality shotguns, the resort is one of the best places to try shooting. Then retire to the Century Bar for a Smoking Gun: Balvenie DoubleWood, vermouth, maraschino, bitters, and birch water, presented in a puff of gunpowder smoke.

MGM Grand—Las Vegas

The MGM has several notable whisky watering holes under one roof, along with the two most luxurious lodging options in Vegas: Skylofts and the Mansion (both come with butlers). Star chef Tom Colicchio's Craftsteak, recipient of Wine Spectator's Best of Award of Excellence since 2007, serves some of the finest meats in town, including true A5 wagyu imported from Japan, alongside 230 whiskies, mostly scotch and bourbon, with plenty of Pappy Van Winkle to go around—the rare 23 year old goes for \$400 a glass. Choose from among 22 3/4-ounce pour flights, like the Dirty Thirty: four 30

year old whiskies (\$175). Any time you need a whisky, MGM's Whiskey Down is there to serve. The 24-hour specialty whisky bar houses ten private bourbon and scotch casks and more than a hundred other whiskies, plus craft cocktails and Davidoff cigar and whisky pairings. **Chef Michael Mina's** casual Pub 1842 offers dozens of bourbons, ryes, and whiskeys from small regional producers. Then there is Morimoto, from the original Iron Chef, with a slate of Japanese labels from Nikka, Ichiro's, Akashi, Hakushu, and Hibiki.

Don't Miss: Craftsteak's 1-ounce whisky pairings with dinner, curated when you order.



New York Bar at the Park Hyatt Tokyo in Japan.

Montage—Beverly Hills, California

There are six luxury Montage resorts worldwide, from the beaches of Hawaii to the ski slopes of Utah's Deer Valley, but the urban Beverly Hills enclave includes a mix of wonderful hotel rooms and over-the-top residences. It is also home to the ultra-exclusive Anglo-themed £10 bar, a VIP spot that is open only to hotel guests by reservation. Its whisky list includes over 20 different labels from Macallan, including the 65 year old Peerless Spirit (\$5,000 a dram), of which only two casks exist, and Royal Marriage, whose price is available "upon request." Other rarities include The Last Drop 50 year old (\$530) and Compass Box The General (\$224). Tasting flights range from "Teens," a trio of 17-18 year olds (\$104), to "Rare," including Macallan 57 year old and 1968 Highland Park (\$2,256). Attention to detail in presentation is unrivaled: everything is served in Lalique crystal and the water used for the ice spheres is imported from the Scottish Highlands.

Don't Miss: With flat-screen TVs, seating for six, and bar and restaurant service, the private cabanas at the hotel's rooftop saltwater pool offer a luxurious escape from the surrounding metropolis.

Old Course Hotel—St Andrews, Scotland

Overlooking the "Road Hole" 17th, the most famous hole on the world's most famous golf course, this luxury hotel is the top choice in the game's birthplace. The top floor Road Hole Bar is one of the finest on earth, with 214 single malt scotches including many from closed distilleries. Beyond that are Scottish blends, blended malts, and single grains, plus whiskies from Sweden, Wales, India, and more. They carry an extensive range from Diageo's Flora and Fauna collection and dozens of very rare labels, such as Caperdonich 1980 (£21), Killyloch 1967 (£250), and Ben Wyvis 37 year old—likely the last bottling ever from one of Scotland's shortest-lived distilleries, a rarity worth the £300 splurge. In fact, you can order a tasting flight that includes only whiskies from closed distilleries, opt for a whisky cocktail, or pair your dram with a cigar. A world-class spa, standout restaurants, and a private golf course will satisfy whisky lovers and their companions.

Don't miss: The Whisky & Tablet sundae, the hotel's signature dessert, which uses whisky in both the ice cream and traditional Scottish tablet, a dense fudge.

Park Hyatt—Tokyo

It's been fourteen years since the movie Lost in Translation hit theaters, yet whisky lovers still venture here to visit the bar where Bill Murray filmed many of his scenes. Murray's character, a movie star turned celebrity pitchman for Suntory whisky, was fiction, but the Hyatt, its New York Bar, and 17 year old Hibiki are all very real. A modern luxury hotel, the Hyatt sits atop a 52-story tower by architect Dr. Kenzo Tange. Guests enjoy spacious, apartment-style rooms and suites, the famous spa, and high-altitude indoor pool. The New York Grill on the top floor offers Kobe steak paired with grand views of Mt. Fuji. Adjacent is the New York Bar, with live jazz most nights and an extensive selection of Japanese whiskies, including Hibiki 30 year old (\$226) and a "Japanese Whisky Experience" tasting flight with Yoichi, Miyagikyo, and Yamazaki 18 or Hakushu 18 year old (\$866). Explore the Kozue restaurant and atrium-level Peak Bar & Grill for even more whisky!

Don't Miss: The Peak Bar's "Japanese cocktail" menu offers drinks like the Purple Town, with Miyagikyo whisky, frozen plum wine, and soda.



TOP 20 WHISKIES OF 2019

<http://whiskvadocate.com/>

#10 • Writers' Tears Double Oak



- Rank: 10
- Year: 2019
- Score: 92
- Price: \$65
- ABV: 46%
- Style: Blended Whiskey
- Place of Origin: Ireland

Walsh Whiskey has rarely released better whiskeys than those of 2019, which included two expressions made in collaboration with the Legaret family of Deau Cognac. Here, they apply bourbon and French oak cognac barrels to the unique marriage of single pot still and single malt Irish whiskeys, arguably the most premium interpretation of the Irish blend. Aromas of dark berry fruit, cinnamon, fudge, milk chocolate, graham crackers, jellied fruit, and a smudge of dry spices. Compelling, well-structured whiskey with cinnamon, chocolate, dark toffee, pepper, and ginger; never cloying, nor overly sweet, just a richly rewarding glass. —Jonny McCormick

#9 • Glenmorangie 14 year old Quinta Ruban



- Rank: 9
- Year: 2019
- Score: 92
- Price: \$55
- ABV: 46%
- Style: Single Malt
- Place of Origin: Scotland (Highland)

This Quinta Ruban succeeds the 12 year old version, adding two additional years of finishing in port casks, while maintaining the same bargain price. The result is a symphony of understated opulence. Marzipan, fresh apple and pear, milk chocolate, red berries, candied ginger, and praline on the nose build slowly, leading into a fruity, spiced palate. Flavors of soft gingerbread, molasses cake, cherry pie, spiced plums, almond nougat, and dark chocolate intermingle with faint strains of pipe tobacco. It sings on the finish, with a parting crescendo of hazelnut, spice, cigar wrapper, and lengthy oak. —Susannah Skiver Barton

#8 • Glenlivet Enigma



- Rank: 8
- Year: 2019
- Score: 93
- Price: \$149
- ABV: 60.6%
- Style: Single Malt
- Place of Origin: Scotland (Speyside)

A riddle inside a bottle, this release follows Glenlivet's previous mystery series bottlings Alpha, Cipher, and Code. Packaged in a jet-black bottle and box that look part Arthur C. Clarke monolith and part 3-D cryptic crossword puzzle, it's devoid of cask information or tasting notes by design. The best solution is to open it and unlock the whisky's secrets. Classic Glenlivet notes of lemon curd, melon, fresh peaches, bitter orange, and baked apples on the nose, followed by a smooth, creamy palate of marshmallow, toasted almond, marzipan, and lemon iced tea. The long, vibrant finish is replete with crème brûlée, sultana, cinnamon, and tropical fruit. —Jonny McCormick

#7 • Old Ezra 7 year old Barrel Strength



- Rank: 7
- Year: 2019
- Score: 94
- Price: \$40
- ABV: 58.5%
- Style: Straight Bourbon
- Place of Origin: Kentucky

Old Ezra's owner, Luxco, historically has played the role of whiskey négociant, sourcing liquid from third-party distillers. In 2018, the company opened its own distillery in Bardstown, Ky., where it's now laying down whiskey. While we wait for it to mature, we'll happily savor the sourced version. This is Ezra Brooks' first ever barrel-proof bourbon, and it's a beauty. A spice storm of cinnamon, clove, ginger, and roasted pecan greets the palate, easing into sweet notes of melted caramel, chocolate, macaroons, marzipan, and crème brûlée. Earthy hints of sandalwood and tobacco complete the finish, making this everything a great bourbon should be. —David Fleming

#6 • Woodford Reserve Master's Collection Batch Proof (2019 Release)



- Rank: 6
- Year: 2019
- Score: 94
- Price: \$130
- ABV: 61.6%
- Style: Straight Bourbon
- Place of Origin: Kentucky

Known for pushing boundaries, the Woodford Reserve Master's Collection series has been a mixed bag over the years. With Batch Proof, Woodford literally plays to its strength. This bourbon takes the same mashbill, flavor profile, and beautiful blending that makes up the standard 90.4-proof Woodford Reserve, and ups the intensity to 123.2 proof, uncut and

unfiltered. “Batch Proof” is Woodford’s answer to other distilleries’ single-barrel products. Now an annual spring release, Batch Proof doubles down on what Woodford does best, upping the banana pudding, dark spice, and toasty oak notes to decadent new heights. —*Jeffery Lindenmuth*

#5 • Aberlour A’bunadh Alba Cask Strength (Batch 001)



- Rank: 5
- Year: 2019
- Score: 93
- Price: \$90
- ABV: 57.1%
- Style: Single Malt
- Place of Origin: Scotland (Speyside)

Volume 90%

The yin to Aberlour A’bunadh’s yang, this cask-strength single malt is matured entirely in bourbon casks rather than sherry. The result is a bracingly pure whisky with deceptive simplicity; its flavors are clean and its structure precise, but it’s far from boring. The nose recalls black-and-white cookies, vanilla-frosted yellow cake, and shortbread with caramel topping, along with honeysuckle, jasmine, and coconut cream. Mouth-coating and full, it has flavors of poached pear, malt balls, nougat, lemon curd, toasted coconut, and hints of spice.

Vanilla, chocolate, and nut flavors are almost endless on the finish. Add water, or don’t: this is delicious either way. —*Susannah Skiver Barton*

cedar chest, berries, spearmint, tobacco leaves, saffras, licorice, and layers of earthy spice. The palate is consistent and deep, with flavors of cherry Coke, cough syrup, orange oil, leathery dark fruit, black pepper, chili flakes, and chocolate, shifting into a minty finish replete with pepper, cinnamon, dark chocolate, cooked berries, and roasted walnuts. Full, rich, and utterly satisfying. —*Susannah Skiver Barton*

#2 • Dewar’s 21 year old Double Double



- Rank: 2
- Year: 2019
- Score: 94
- Price: \$50/375 ml.
- ABV: 46%
- Style: Blended Whisky
- Place of Origin: Scotland

Volume 90%

Master blender Stephanie Macleod’s innovative blend was inspired by Dewar’s famous double aging process. She separately blended parcels of aged malt and grain whisky, left each to marry, then blended them together to marry again, before finishing in oloroso sherry casks. A tantalizing nose of chocolate, caramel, vanilla, crystallized orange slice, fresh plum, black cherry, and moist coffee grounds. Smooth flavors of chocolate-dipped raspberries, gingersnaps, and bold sherry fruit yield to a finish of smoke and spice. By releasing in novel half-bottles, Dewar’s spreads the love, enabling us to experience a 21 year old scotch for just 50 bucks. —*Jonny McCormick*

#4 • Heaven Hill 7 year old Bottled in Bond



- Rank: 4
- Year: 2019
- Score: 92
- Price: \$40
- ABV: 50%
- Style: Straight Bourbon
- Place of Origin: Kentucky

Volume 90%

In 2018, Heaven Hill discontinued its 6 year old bottled in bond bourbon that was sold only in Kentucky, but now has roared back with this widely available 7 year old. While the bottled in bond designation isn’t necessarily a quality guarantee, this whiskey more than proves its merit. It’s explosive, bold, and buttery, with warm flavors of honey-roasted peanuts, caramel, chocolate, corn muffins, licorice, and cinnamon, all accented by notes of savory herbs, cloves, white pepper, tobacco, and an earthy undertone. Well-integrated big oak, sweetness, and

spice combine to create grace, power, and length. This is pure bourbon bliss, at a very approachable price. —*David Fleming*

#1 • George Dickel 13 year old Bottled in Bond (Distilled in Fall 2005)



- Rank: 1
- Year: 2019
- Score: 94
- Price: \$36
- ABV: 50%
- Style: Tennessee Whiskey
- Place of Origin: Tennessee

Volume 90%

At the start of 2019, a Tennessee whiskey would have been considered a long shot to be named Whisky Advocate’s Whisky of the Year, but this Dickel came barreling from behind with the poise and power to impress our blind tasting panel. Its value is unmatched—serving up a full 13 years of barrel age at 50% ABV for just \$36. Such bargains result because Tennessee whiskey lives in the shadow of bourbon, which can easily command three or four times the price at this age.

Tennessee actually yielded a flurry of high-scoring new releases in 2019, many of which we suspect trace their roots to George Dickel’s recently renamed Cascade Hollow Distilling

Company. So we’re delighted to see Dickel place its name on this whiskey, with its bold, rich mouthful of flavors.

Following Tennessee’s practice of charcoal-filtering the distillate before aging, this whiskey is soft around the edges yet delivers plenty of intensity. The mouthwatering peanut aromas evoke memories of cracking open a school lunchbox while the palate delivers abundant fruit: orange marmalade and caramel apple. Fine bitter-sweet balance suggests burnt sugar, Mexican chocolate, chocolate-covered almonds, and toffee. Indeed, sweet nuts, like French burnt peanuts, candied pralines, and marron glacé, seem to be the common thread here, lending this a consistent chord from initial nose through the drying, pleasantly spiced finish.

As recently as 2016, Dickel appeared to be reeling, following the departure of two longtime distillers. In 2018, 33 year old Nicole Austin, a chemical engineering graduate who got her start with New York craft distiller Kings County Distillery, took over as general manager and distiller. Austin set about cherry-picking the warehouses for exceptional barrels, a dramatic change of course from the just-released George Dickel Tabasco Brand Barrel Finish, finished in hot sauce barrels.

The result is this 13 year old whiskey, which like all bottled in bond spirits results from one distilling season—here, the fall of 2005. In this way, bottled in bond whiskey is similar to a vintage wine, making this release a limited edition

#3 • Four Roses Small Batch Select



- Rank: 3
- Year: 2019
- Score: 93
- Price: \$55
- ABV: 52%
- Style: Straight Bourbon
- Place of Origin: Kentucky

Volume 90%

The limited-edition releases from Four Roses are always top-notch, but this bourbon—a permanently available addition to the lineup—proves itself every bit the equal of its rarer brethren. Made with the distillery’s F yeast strain, among others, it has a perfumed nose, with orange blossom,

by definition. We relish well-aged, delicious whiskey at a bargain price—and all whiskey lovers have reason to applaud George Dickel on hitting its stride. — Jeffery Lindenmuth

Some flak for whisky flipping

<https://www.whiskyandwisdom.com/whisky-flipping/>



Whisky flipping. It's the ultimate physical response to that vexatious question, "How much is this whisky worth?" Nevertheless, the answer to the question is pretty simple: A whisky is worth whatever someone is prepared to pay for it. One of the most contentious and ire-inducing phenomena to appear in whisky circles in the last 15 years has been the rise of the whisky flipper. Not familiar with the term? It's applied to someone who obtains a whisky at retail price (typically when the product is first launched or made available) and then, within a short timeframe, re-sells it on the secondary market at a significantly higher price. More often than not, the re-selling occurs once the original retailer's or supplier's stock is sold out, thus cashing in on a product that is no longer available through the original channels.

A classic example of whisky flipping is those that queue up at the distilleries on Islay during Feis Ile for the festival bottlings. They buy their two bottles from the distillery and then, once the bottling is sold out at the end of the day, they sell one or both of their bottles the very next day for a much higher price. There's another name for this identical practice in other circles: Scalping. Scalpers are generally viewed with disdain and the name has a strong negative connotation. For reasons unclear, those that carry out such activities with whisky have avoided having the less-wholesome label applied. So why do we call these people whisky flippers? If the practice annoys you, why not start referring to such folks as *whisky scalpers*?

An immediate question or issue that arises from this – which some readers may already be indignantly thinking – is that, in truth, nothing sinister or untoward is taking place here. Whisky flipping isn't illegal *per se* – notwithstanding that selling whisky without an appropriate licence *is* against the law in most (all?) states and countries. We live in a commercial and capitalist society, and there is no moral or legal barrier to someone purchasing something at Price A and then re-selling it at Price B. But the heart of the matter here – and the thrust of this piece – is the intention and motives of the original purchaser. If $(B - A = C)$ and the value of 'C' surprises/annoys/disgusts you, then bear in mind the truism we stated above: A whisky is worth whatever someone is prepared to pay for it. Whisky flipping simply capitalises on that – it's commercialising *someone else's* value. To be clear, no one is begrudging the good folks who buy a whisky; stick it in a cupboard; then forget about it or never get around to drinking it, and they sell it years later down the track after seeing it appreciate in value. Whilst they may serendipitously make good money on the transaction, their intent was never untoward or underhanded. Flipping, by definition, is buying then selling on within a short timeframe. The real crux of the matter is peoples' motivation and intent. Most folks in the whisky community believe that whisky is for drinking. If you deliberately buy up quantities of a whisky at its first release (thus exacerbating its scarcity) with the expressed intention of never drinking it, but purely with the intention of profiteering from it via a quick, short-term turnaround, then that is scalping – and many drinkers will take a dim view of your actions.

There's an associated angle to this discussion which also needs to be understood: There is much negativity and anger vented in whisky circles when a retailer or distillery releases a whisky at a price that "Joe Public" deems to be excessively high. Typical examples are the Feis Ile releases by the distilleries on Islay; anything by Ardbeg; retailers selling Pappy van Winkle; and in Australia, the special releases by Sullivans Cove. (Or most other Aussie distilleries for that matter). But here's the rub: How would you feel if you were a retailer or distiller and you sold a product for \$200....only to see it re-sell within a week on the secondary market for \$500? How much is the whisky worth? Well, clearly, it's worth \$500 – because that's what someone readily paid for it. Little wonder, then, that the next time there's a similar release, the original retailer or supplier simply charges \$500 from the outset. And this, ladies and gentlemen, is why the retail price of whisky has increased exponentially in the last few years. If the market will bear the higher price, then why shouldn't the original retailer/supplier get the benefit of that

increased price? Do not begrudge or criticise the retailer for simply charging what they see the market is evidently willing to pay.

The mechanics and economic forces of supply and demand will continue to play out and govern much of what occurs, with whisky flipping coming along for the ride. Whisky was comparatively cheap 20 years ago because we still had the glut of the "whisky loch" from the 1980's downturn sitting around in warehouses. Whisky is expensive today because the category has exploded in popularity and the distilleries were caught napping at the turn of the millennium and the first few years afterwards. The distilleries went into overdrive from 2009 onwards with many ramping up to 24/7 production in anticipation of emerging markets in Brazil, Russia, India, and China. Many distilleries embarked on expansion programs from 2013 onwards to increase capacity. If those markets do not materialise or if the whole category loses popularity (as has occurred repeatedly over the last two centuries), we may again find ourselves with a whisky loch in the near future and prices will drop as the players seek sales and revenue in a shrinking and challenging market. But the big difference between the game now and the game 20 years ago is the massive increase in avenues available for re-selling. It has effectively facilitated whisky flipping. Ebay, e-commerce, social media whisky groups, whisky websites, online auctions, Facebook trade/swap groups and the like have created (and generate) a secondary market with global reach and mechanisms lightyears ahead of what previously existed. And this is the domain in which whisky scalpers now readily exist and operate.

So what can you as a concerned consumer do? You can choose to boycott the secondary market or you can refuse to pay "inflated" prices that help fuel the ever-developing cycle of retail mark-ups. Do not feed the beast. That will give you a clean conscience and a warm, fuzzy feeling, but it won't actually change anything. (And you'll probably miss out on some good whisky!) It would take the collective will and action of the entire global whisky community to do likewise to affect any change. Good luck with that.

A more practical action is for the whisky community to stop referring to the practice as *flipping*. Flipping sounds buoyant, vibrant, and fun. There are even TV shows that take a lighthearted view of it all, such as "Flipping Houses", "Flipping Out", "First Time Flippers" and many more. Call it out for what it is: Whisky scalping. Flippers brag about the profit they make, and boast of their intentions. Scalpers do not. There's a reason for this and it's because no one likes scalpers.

In the meantime, do not vent your outrage or frustration at the retailer or distillery who raises their prices to charge what the market will evidently bear. Cheers, AD

Ballantine's The Glenburgie 15 Years Old

By Ryan on February 28, 2019 - <http://www.scotchblog.ca>

A couple of years back [I was turned onto Glenburgie](#) during a chance encounter at a New Brunswick liquor store and since then I've kept my eye out for other bottlings of this somewhat hard-to-find Speyside single malt.

So, when I discovered this distillery label release of [Glenburgie 15 years old](#) on LCBO shelves this past December, I leapt at the opportunity to try it. For the first time in Ontario, the so-called "heart of Ballantine's" blended Scotch whisky is available as an aged, stand-alone offering and is bottled at 40% ABV.

Similar to Dewar's "Last Great Malts" product launch a couple of years back which released a handful of single malts typically destined for blending as stand alone bottles; the Chivas and Glenlivet Group is offering whisky enthusiasts access to the core malts that make up it's flagship Ballantine's blend: Milnorduff, Glentauchers and Glenburgie. Typically, these malts are only available through independent bottlers and so it was quite a surprise to me to see them all appear under their original distillery labelling and aged to a very respectable 15 years.

I quite enjoyed the Gordon and MacPhail 10 year old expression but how would this older bottling, matured exclusively in ex-bourbon American oak, hold up to my reference point?

Nose: Fruity notes of red apples and pears along with a whiff of vanilla.

Palate: Muddled stewed fruit flavours of apples, pears, lychee and citrus peel with a texture and sweetness of thinned honey. This light-to-medium bodied dram shows additional notes of white chocolate fudge and warming ginger



Finish: Dry and relatively short-lived with caramel, orange peel, and something almost nutty on the finish.

Overall: This distillery labeled release of Glenburgie 15 years old is a straight-forward dram with a dry, fruity profile. While I think I prefer the G&M bottling over this one, it's still worth a buy at [\\$73.80 in the LCBO](#) especially given its relative rarity. Although it's not particularly complex, this version of Glenburgie offers great value to whisky geeks seeking single malts from distilleries whose output is typically relegated to blending. After all, it's not often you can find a 15yr old single malt in the LCBO under \$80!

Diageo Unveils the 2019 Special Releases Collection

OCTOBER 17, 2019 | SUSANNAH SKIVER BARTON



Diageo has unveiled full details of its 2019 Special Releases—and there are some changes this year.

[Months after teasing them](#), Diageo has finally revealed the full line-up of 2019 Special Releases. This year's collection features eight cask-strength single malts selected by master blender Craig Wilson. The whiskies are described as "rare by nature" and feature various cask finishes and maturation techniques. There are some parallels to past releases, like the presence of a 12 year old [Lagavulin](#). But there's a significant change: Of the eight whiskies in the collection, only three are for sale in the U.S.: Pittyvaich 29 year old, Mortlach 26 year old, and The Singleton of [Glen Ord](#) 18 year old. And there are less than 1,500 bottles total of all of them.

This is a substantially reduced offering from past years, which saw most if not all of the Special Releases for sale in the U.S. It may signal a new direction for the collection, which also largely features new packaging that's not closely tied to individual brands. For example, [Dalwhinnie](#) and [Cardhu](#) each have distinctive bottle shapes for their core single malts, but for this collection, they're packaged in a more standardized bottle. The exceptions are Mortlach and The Singleton, which both remain in their distinct, branded packaging. Full details on the lineup of 2019 Special Releases are below.

DIAGEO SPECIAL RELEASES 2019: RARE BY NATURE

Cardhu 14 year old—55% ABV, £120

Matured in amontillado sherry-seasoned hogsheads. Unspecified limited quantities; not for sale in the U.S.

Cragganmore 12 year old—58.4% ABV, £85

A medium-peated whisky, matured in refill American oak casks. Unspecified limited quantities; not for sale in the U.S.

Dalwhinnie 30 year old—54.7% ABV, £500

Matured in refill hogsheads and butts. 7,586 bottles; not for sale in the U.S.

Lagavulin 12 year old—56.5% ABV, £110

Matured in refill American oak casks. Unspecified limited quantities; not for sale in the U.S.

Talisker 15 year old—57.3% ABV, £110

Matured in freshly charred American oak hogsheads. Unspecified limited quantities; not for sale in the U.S.

Mortlach 26 year old—53.3% ABV, \$2,000

Matured in fresh-toasted first-fill Pedro Ximénez and oloroso sherry-seasoned casks. 276 bottles for the U.S.; 3,883 bottles total.

Pittyvaich 29 year old—51.4% ABV, \$430

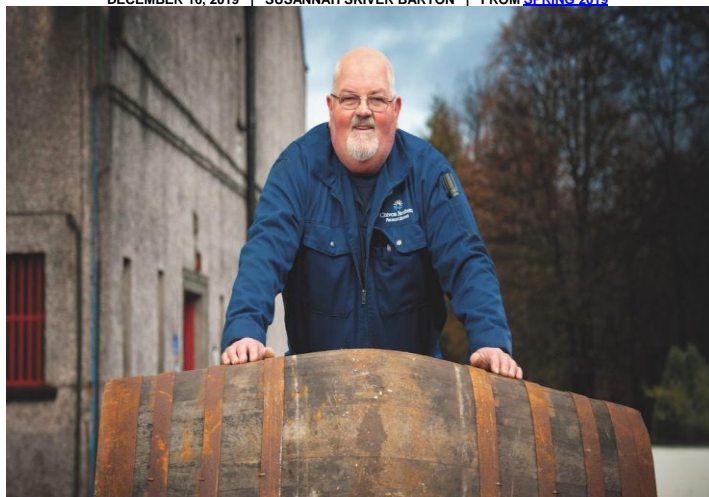
Matured first in Pedro Ximénez and then in oloroso sherry-seasoned casks. 600 bottles for the U.S.; 4,976 bottles total.

The Singleton of Glen Ord 18 year old—55% ABV, \$170

Matured in freshly charred American oak hogsheads. 600 bottles for the U.S.; unspecified total.

Cask-Strength Single Malt Is Built for Heavy Lifting

DECEMBER 16, 2019 | SUSANNAH SKIVER BARTON | FROM [SPRING 2019](#)



Aberlour Distillery makes one of the most widely enjoyed cask strength single malts, A'bunadh, which is fully aged in oloroso sherry casks. (Photo by Martin Hunter)

Taken at face value, the words "[cask strength](#)" signify something extra: alcohol. But there's much more to these whiskies than just higher proof. Cask-strength single malt scotch, which has no additional water added before bottling, is indisputably more flavorful; the molecules that make up what our noses and palates detect as delicious aromas and flavors are bound to alcohol, not water. With more alcohol in a dram, there's more flavor potential. You don't have to love high proof to benefit from cask-strength whiskies.

These whiskies put the power of enjoyment fully in the hands of the drinker. Rather than tasting whisky that has already been diluted to a standard 46%, 43%, or even 40% ABV, the imbibor is left to determine the ideal strength—a process that can be as simple as tasting neat, then [adding a few drops of water](#) at a time to taste. Or it can be as precise as measuring out whisky and water and trialing different combinations to methodically determine a particular whisky's optimal proof. Whatever route you go, cask-strength whiskies simply offer more drinking options.

CASK STRENGTH DEFINES

Formal regulations regarding the term "cask strength" are surprisingly scarce, even among the fastidious Scots. The [Scotch Whisky Regulations of 2009](#) do not define cask strength, but the UK's Department for Environment, Food, and Rural Affairs noted in a 2013 technical file, "The alcoholic strength of 'cask strength' Scotch Whisky must not be adjusted after maturation." The [Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau](#) (TTB), which regulates whisky labels in the U.S., does not currently have a formal definition of cask strength or barrel proof, but it has issued a ruling: in order to use these terms on the label, the spirit's proof can't be more than two proof degrees lower than it was when gauged for tax purposes. So if a whisky exits the barrel at 111 proof (55.5% ABV), it can be no less than 109 proof (54.5% ABV) when it's bottled.

[Here's Your Proof: 7 Cask Strength Single Malt Scotches to Try](#)

There are some scotches, like [Ardbeg Corryvreckan](#) and [Uigeadail](#), that are always bottled at the same high ABV; but, according to the director of distilling, whisky creation, and whisky stocks for [Ardbeg](#) and [Glenmorangie](#), Bill Lumsden, these don't meet the Scottish standard for cask strength because a little water is added to achieve a consistent ABV across batches. "Generally we're looking at between 57% and 58% ABV [for the 57.1% ABV Corryvreckan, when it's initially blended], so obviously very little water is added to that," he explains. Such minor adjustments would actually qualify as cask strength or barrel proof as far as the U.S. is concerned. Lumsden says that maintaining a consistent proof avoids the need for new labels with every batch. Similarly, [Glenfarclas 105](#) is always bottled at exactly 60% ABV and it does qualify as cask strength; the distillery is able to achieve this uniformity by blending casks to achieve a consistent flavor and proof, avoiding the need to add any water.

In most cases, however, distilleries take the path of releasing cask-strength whiskies in batches, with each batch boasting a unique flavor profile and slightly different proof. Different batches of [Laphroaig 10 year old cask strength](#), for example, vary in both proof and taste experience. For fans, such variations are to be embraced, a telltale sign of each new batch. "It allows people to see different sides of the brand," says distillery manager John Campbell, who explains that each batch of the cask-strength whisky intentionally varies in flavor. "Everybody who loves [Laphroaig](#) has a fantasy to get into the warehouses...and [10 year old cask strength] just takes that fantasy to the end."

QUIRKS OF CASK STRENGTH

Although cask strength is often equivalent to high proof, that's not always the case. Some cask-strength scotches soar to 60% ABV and higher, while others reside precariously close to the legal minimum of 40%, usually in the case of very old whiskies, like the 2018 release of Balvenie 50 year old, which was 41.6% ABV. The variance is due to many factors: the liquid's original strength when it was filled into cask, the length of time it spent aging, and the

conditions—including climate, warehouse type, cask type, and warehouse location—under which it matured.



Bottled in batches, Springbank 12 year old Cask Strength varies in ABV, though not in robust, rich flavor. (Photo by Scottish Viewpoint/Alamay) As a whisky sits in the cask, its ABV is affected due to the evaporation of liquid known as the angels' share. In hot, dry climates, the cask loses water from the solution at a faster rate than it loses alcohol, so the whisky's alcohol strength increases over time. In Scotland, which is humid and temperate, as a cask's liquid evaporates, the alcohol strength of the contents decreases. A cask's warehouse environment and specific location also impact the final ABV. Casks in a dunnage warehouse, with earthen floors and thick walls, are stacked only two or three high; there's little temperature variance and steady humidity, and thus fairly even evaporation. In a rackhouse-style space, which has more air circulation and can experience more profound seasonal temperature swings, casks are placed from ground level to several stories high; those in the upper tiers, especially, are exposed to higher temperatures, leading to more rapid depletion of liquid, including alcohol. For fans of cask-strength scotch, variations in final proof—and flavor—are one of the whisky's many charms. After Glenfarclas 105, [Aberlour A'bunadh](#) was one of the first widely available cask-strength single malts when it debuted in the late 1990s. The whisky, which was created as an homage to Aberlour's historic 19th-century single malt, is filled into oloroso sherry casks at 63.5% ABV, matured for a range of years, varying by batch, and bottled at cask strength two to three times a year. Yet its batches have varied from 57% to 62% ABV. "Each batch of A'bunadh can be subtly different," says master distiller Graeme Cruickshank. "They don't have a direct science where it's going to come out exactly how you expect it to every time, because there are many different aspects of the maturation."

MORE IS MORE

Taken literally, cask strength describes only the alcohol strength of the whisky. But because cask-strength whiskies are designed for flavor seekers, a number of other benefits frequently come along for the ride. In the case of Laphroaig, the 10 year old Cask Strength receives only minimal filtration designed to remove large particles of char, but leaving textures and flavors that would otherwise be stripped away by finer filtering. Likewise, at [Aberlour](#), A'bunadh stands alone in its exclusive use of sherry casks, which represent a huge price premium over the bourbon casks that are enlisted along with sherry for the distillery's other expressions. Because they are designed for purists, cask-strength Scotch whiskies often serve as an indicator of quality.

[Is Cask-Strength Scotch A Better Value? We Did The Calculations](#)

However, cask strength does not necessarily indicate a stylistic change or a dramatically different expression. In other words, if you are not a fan of a particular distillery's whisky at lower proof, you may like it even less at cask strength. The potential exceptions are single-cask scotches bottled at cask strength: these are often oddball casks or one-off releases from independent bottlers that showcase atypical expressions of a particular distillery. They can be surprisingly well-received by drinkers who would normally spurn that distillery's whiskies. On the other hand, you may pick up a cask-strength, single-cask whisky made at your favorite distillery and taste something utterly unlike what you were expecting. In this case, adding water may bring out familiar notes—or it may not. Caveat emptor.

A caution every cask-strength fan should keep in mind: when consuming whisky at such a high proof, the effects of alcohol are felt more quickly and intensely. This seems obvious, but I doubt I'm the only one who has gotten several drams into a bottle of, say, [Tamdhu Batch Strength](#)—a deceptively easy-drinking whisky bottled between 58% and 59% ABV—before noticing just how powerful it is. Even distillers are susceptible to this. "You've got to watch the Laphroaig cask strength sometimes, because it can be really smooth," Campbell says. "It's like, 'Where's the alcohol?' It's [seemingly] not there and before you know it, that 120 proof catches up with you."

It allows people to see different sides of the brand. Everybody who loves Laphroaig has a fantasy to get into the warehouses...and [10 year old cask strength] just takes that fantasy to the end. — Laphroaig distillery manager John Campbell

Sherry cask-matured scotches, like Tamdhu, Glenfarclas 105, and Aberlour A'bunadh, seem to be especially adept at masking their full strength.

Cruickshank posits that the sweetness of the sherry softens some of the alcohol punch. "Cask-strength whisky with sherry influence, without water, is much kinder on the palate," he says.

WATER DOWSING

Cask-strength whiskies are sometimes maligned as "too hot" or "punchy"—unfair accusations for something that simply delivers on the promise of its label. Of course these whiskies taste hot; their alcohol content can be 50% higher than a standard bottling—or even more!

I prefer to add water to most cask-strength whiskies, though the amount varies depending on the dram, and I usually use an eyedropper to avoid over-dilution. [Ten to twenty drops of water](#) equals a fraction of a quarter-ounce; added to a 2-ounce glass of 60% ABV whisky, the water doesn't reduce the strength in a meaningful way. Yet just that small amount tempers the heat of the alcohol on my palate and allows additional flavors and aromas to emerge. If it's still burning, I can always add a few more drops.

Some people drink cask-strength whisky as-is—no added water, just the full, face-melting experience. I've had friends (all men) tell me that they feel sheepish adding water, as if it calls their masculinity—or whisky creds—into question. For anyone feeling similarly, take heart in this confession from Lumsden: "From a purely personal perspective, as someone who uses their nose and palate for a living, I actually am a little bit scared of [cask-strength whiskies]. And invariably, if I've got a cask-strength whisky, I'll take a small sip of it, and get my initial thought process going. But for actually drinking them, I'm bit of a wimp and I generally will cut them with a little bit of water."

However you like it, remember that drinking cask-strength whisky isn't a feat of strength; it's an activity that should make you happy, whatever that tastes like. "Cask strength doesn't mean to say that your hair is shooting backward and your throat's on fire," says Campbell, who's no stranger to strong whisky. "It can be a quite profound experience."

THE COLOR OF WHISKEY: WHAT CAN IT TELL US?

by Thijs Klaverstijn - December 26, 2019

Alot of emphasis is put on the color of whiskey. It tells you what to expect flavor-wise, but it can also be a deceptive taste indicator.

A dark whiskey is associated with rich and luscious aromas and flavors, with plenty of maturity to boot. Moreover, a light whiskey is often dismissed as young and immature, probably lacking a certain complexity. We're here to tell you that's just plain wrong.

Yes, there are general guidelines when it comes to the color of whiskey. For example, most of the time the darker the whiskey, the older it is. A deeper color also suggests a more intense tasting experience, which in a lot of cases is correct. You wouldn't be completely wrong to abide by these. But as always, there are exceptions to the rules. A lot of 'em, actually.

It is important to understand how a whiskey gets its color. Remember, the spirit flowing from the stills is clear. It has no color whatsoever. It isn't until after maturing in oak casks that the whiskey transforms in the golden hued liquid that we know and love. Here's all you need to know about how to judge the color of your whiskey.

OAK TYPE

Different types of oak give different colors to the spirit. The most commonly used types are *Quercus alba* (American white oak) and *Quercus robur* (European oak). The former imparts a reddish shade, while the latter gives more of a strong yellow color. Depending on the charring level of a cask, the color extractives in the surface layer inside the cask are decreased.



Four Roses Bourbon / Photo Credit: Four Roses
BOURBON, SHERRY OR PORT

It's not just the type of wood that influences the color of a whiskey. While the bourbon industry exclusively uses virgin oak, the rest of the world is partial to used casks. These casks range from former bourbon casks, to sherry casks, and even brandy or port casks.

The previous contents of a cask have a huge effect on the final color of a whiskey. Sherry casks tend to give a whiskey an auburn-like look, while bourbon-matured Scotch whisky is often much lighter in color. Port cask maturation can even lead to a pinkish appearance.



The Glenrothes Sherry Cask Reserve / Photo Credit: The Glenrothes
FIRST-FILL OR REFILL

In the Scotch whisky industry (and in other countries as well), a cask is used several times. The more often a cask is used, the less active the wood becomes, and the less color it will impart on the spirit. Think of a cask as a tea bag. The first time you use it, it takes almost no time before you have dark, bitter tea. Every subsequent time, your tea will be lighter and not as intensely flavored. Check the label for any mention of first-fill (the first time a cask is used for Scotch) or refill (the second, third or even fourth time).



Benriach Aging in Ex-Bourbon Barrels / Photo Credit: Benriach
CARAMEL COLORING

Finally, there's an artificial way to darken a whiskey. This is thanks in part to something called E150a, otherwise known as *spirit caramel*, or caramel coloring. One of the most commonly colored spirits is Scotch whisky. Next to water (to dilute to bottling strength), E150a is the only substance legally allowed to be added to Scotch.

While in this context, the word caramel can be confusing, we're not talking about flavor. The reason companies use this technique is brand consistency. For example, Diageo wants to ensure that every batch of Johnnie Walker Black Label has the same color.

Bourbon is more regulated when it comes to E150a. Any bourbon—regular or straight—gets its color from the barrel, and nothing else. The same goes for other types of straight whiskey, like corn, wheat or rye.

The other whiskeys produced in America are fair game. Some are even allowed to add up to 2.5 percent of caramel coloring. If caramel coloring is used, it doesn't need to be mentioned on the label.



Johnnie Walker Black Label / Photo Credit: Johnnie Walker

WHAT DOES IT ALL MEAN?

Knowing all this, it is time to re-examine what we said at the outset. For example, can you ever safely say that a darker whiskey is actually older? No, that's impossible. As we have learned, there are many variables that influence the color of a whiskey.

There are several natural ways for one whiskey to be darker than the other. The length of maturation is just one of them. Most likely it is because of wood type, cask type, or the amount of times a cask has been used.

The same applies to the correlation between the color of a whiskey and any perceived flavor expectations. A dark whiskey often means it has matured in a sherry cask, or something more exotic like Cognac. A first-fill bourbon cask can also be very active and impart a lot of color, but will taste markedly different.

When E150a is used, all bets are off. A rule of thumb: unless the label explicitly mentions the whiskey still has its natural color, you're safe to assume it doesn't. It is impossible to judge an artificially colored whiskey on anything other than flavor.

Which brings us to the most important point. Don't be too quick to judge a whiskey by its appearance. The only way to really judge a whiskey, is by tasting it.

19 rules for how to survive and get along in an online whisky group

<https://www.whiskyandwisdom.com/19-rules-for-getting-along-in-online-whisky-groups/>



You've probably been part of an online whisky forum or a Facebook whisky group when the conversation suddenly turned south and things got ugly. Whisky people are generally all a great and friendly bunch but, occasionally, it doesn't take much to trigger some keyboard warriors and to bring out their dark side. Accordingly, here's a list of rules, tips, and pointers on how to get along and play nicely in an online whisky group...

1. Accept that some people will love a whisky that you think is terrible.
2. Conversely, accept that not everyone will like a whisky that you thought was awesome.
3. Accept that some people have a lower spending threshold than you. For some folks, whiskies costing more than \$100 will be too expensive.
4. Similarly, accept that some people have a higher spending threshold than you. Accept that people who spend \$500, \$750, \$1,000 or more on a bottle of whisky are not automatically snobs or up themselves.
5. Accept that a sense of humour is like a bottle of Port Ellen. Not everybody has one.
6. Don't try and swap/trade/sell something direct to other group members – particularly in a Facebook whisky group.
7. Accept that whisky changes over time. The 2020 release of Glen Bagpipe 10yo does not and will not taste the same as the Glen Bagpipe 10yo released back in 1999.
8. Accept that those who were drinking Glen Bagpipe 10yo back in 1999 will have a fairly firm opinion on this matter. Unless you were ALSO drinking Glen Bagpipe 10yo back in 1999, it is best not to buy in to such discussions.
9. Understand that it is humanly possible to have a different opinion to someone else, yet not abuse that person for having a different opinion.
10. Accept that posting comments or photos that include watches, cars, Japanese whisky, or unicorn bottlings will trigger some people.
11. Accept that single malts are better than blends. This statement may not *always* be correct, but you'd do well just to accept it nonetheless.
12. Our church has many different denominations. Accept that some people *really* like Japanese whisky. Accept that some people *really* like Irish whisky. Accept that some people *really* like Australian whisky. Accept that some people are traditional and only

like Scotch. Don't worry; it's all the same church – some of us are ecumenical and like ALL whisky.

13. Posting your honest comments, observations, and experiences about whiskies, bars, products, glassware, and tasting events is encouraged and should invoke positive conversations and responses. Accept that some dickheads will struggle with this concept and will attack you personally for daring to voice your honest comments, observations, and experiences about whiskies, bars, products, glassware, and tasting events.
14. Do your homework first and check/search archives and previous posts for answers to frequently-asked questions like, "What taxes will I pay if I buy a bottle from overseas?", or "Why is our local whisky so expensive?", or "Why does Proper Twelve taste so unbelievably bad?".
15. Accept that "whisky" and "whiskey" are two different things that denote different products. The terms are not interchangeable.
16. Accept that some people will not accept Rule 15. That's okay...not everyone can be correct in this world.
17. Similarly, accept that spelling is *really* important in whisk(e)y circles. Understand that palate, pallet, and palette mean three completely different things. And brace for impact if you spell it Ardbeg.
18. If it's a malt whisky appreciation or discussion group, don't post about bourbon, rum, or vodka. Posts about sherry *may* be acceptable.
19. Accept that opinions are like a bottle of Johnnie Walker Red Label. Everybody's got one.

You: "I opened my last bottle of Macallan Amber"

Newbie: "I prefer Sienna myself."

You: "No, I meant the pecan-flavoured liqueur."

Newbie: "What???"

6. You remember when a whisky cocktail meant whisky and coke.

7. When you started drinking whisky, Jim McEwan worked for Bowmore; Ardbeg was a closed distillery; and if you pronounced Islay "Izz-lay", you didn't get lynched.

8. You used to be able to say, "Michael Jackson really touched me" and everyone around you would understand exactly what you meant and agree with you.

Cheers,

AD

10 ways to annoy a whisky nerd



The growth and boom in the single malt industry in the last 15 years or so has given birth to the rise of the Whisky Nerd. The sort of person who knows (or thinks they know) every last detail about a distillery, or a particular bottling, or the latest industry gossip. They'll be able to tell you which distilleries still use wormtubs; what year Laphroaig was founded; and – if you hand them a glass of anonymous whisky – they'll sniff the glass and tell you which distillery it comes from; what its age is; and which warehouseman farted on the day the cask was filled.

They are the same people who can get very passionate if they hear you say something about whisky that they disagree with or believe to be incorrect. Fights have started and blood has been spilt over such simple opinions like which vintage release was the best ever Ardbeg! (Okay, readers, so was it the 1977 or 1974?)

So – if you're the sort of person who likes to upset an OCD sufferer by visiting their house and tilting all of their hung pictures so that they're crooked on the wall – here is a list of things you can say or do to annoy a Whisky Nerd:

1. Pronounce it Ardbeg instead of Ardbeg. (Some people believe this Islay distillery has a name not unlike that big white thing that the Titanic encountered.)
2. Tell them you've actually been to Scotland, and you had a great time when you visited the Johnnie Walker distillery.
3. Postulate that Glenmorangie invented cask-finishes before Balvenie did.
4. Insist that you can't possibly drink whisky at cask-strength, because it's too hot and you can't actually taste the flavour.
5. Explain that you always add water to your whisky, because that's what EVERYONE in Scotland does.
6. Tell them your favourite single malt is Macallums.
7. "You're a whisky expert? Actually, I'm rather fond of Jim Beam myself!"
8. "No, I don't really like whisky. It all tastes the same to me, although I tried that Blue Label once, and it was really nice with coke".
9. Tell them your favourite Scotch is Jamesons.
10. Tell them your dad has an old bottle of whisky that he's had at the bottom of his cupboard for decades, and he's saving it for a special occasion. When they ask what whisky it is, reply, "Umm...I think it's Malt Mill or something like that."

I'm sure you can think of others, and no doubt there will be some bona fide whisky nerds reading this who can share some beauties that they've heard over the years! Why not post them here in the comments section for all of us to enjoy?!
Cheers, AD

Eight ways that whisky tells you you're getting older



In many of life's pursuits, there are often tell-tale signs along the way that you're getting older. For example, that radio station you used to love listening to in your teens no longer does it for you. Certain drinks you used to enjoy no longer agree with you. Or you discover your favourite bands that you grew up with are now referred to as *vintage* or *classic rock*. Or that 5km jog you used to do in 25 minutes now takes you 40 minutes to complete. You get the idea. Whisky is another such medium that delivers the not-so-subtle message to you that – just like a perfectly balanced Glenfarclas – you've been maturing for quite a few years now. Whilst the whisky industry seems to be hurtling you down a steep path towards a No Age Statement retirement, there are...particularly if you're older than 40 and have been drinking whisky since the 1990's...plenty of signs that you, personally, are carrying an age statement.

In the many whisky events I host, present, or pour at, I invariably find myself in front of an increasingly younger audience. But is the audience getting younger, or am I just getting older? The spin doctor in me wants to think of it in different terms: "No, you're not older than the current crop of whisky drinkers, you've just been drinking it for longer!" That argument actually has *some* merit, because having been well-engrossed in the act of single malt appreciation now for over twenty years, there are definitely some signs and experiences that seemingly put me out of step with the current generation of whisky folks. So what are eight signs you're getting older as a whisky drinker...

1. You pour yourself a whisky. It doesn't occur to you to Instagram it.
2. You're enjoying whisky with a bunch of folks and quote something clever from *The Young Ones*. No one knows what you're talking about.
3. You remember being able to afford a Macallan 18yo.
4. You have the following conversation:
Newbie: "I tried the new Singleton release the other day."
You: "Oh....is Auchroisk back on the market again?"
Newbie: "No, it was the Glen Ord one."
You: "What???"
5. You follow it up with this conversation:

DECEMBER - KSMS Financial Statement

(Money from 76 December members @ \$75) = \$5700.00
December dinner 76 persons = \$50.00/ea = \$3800.00
(Money remaining for buying Single Malt) = \$1900.00
Cost of Single Malts = \$1350.00
Cost of Pours per Person = \$14.68
KSMS Monthly operational balance = \$550.00
Cost per person 76 attendees (All inclusive) = \$67.76

Membership and Dinner prices for 2019-2020

Membership Fee:	\$50 (singles) \$75 (couples)
One Time Initiation Fee:	\$15
Standard Dinner Fee:	\$70 (member) \$80 (non-member)
Christmas Dinner Fee:	\$75 (member) \$75 (non-member)
Robbie Burns Dinner Fee:	\$75 (member) \$85 (non-member)
June BBQ Dinner Fee:	\$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 January, 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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