

Kingston Single Malt Society

www.kingstonsinglemaltsociety.com

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

September 20th, 2021 VOLUME 15; NUMBER 3a; No. 180



MENU

1st Nosing: CAOL ILA 2004 13 YEAR OLD
(introduced by: Bruce Baker)

First course: Sweet Breads and Oyster Mushrooms
with a Sherry Caper Sauce

2nd Nosing: BENRIACH 14 YEAR OLD
(introduced by: Stewart Williams)

Second Course: Maple Roasted Butternut Squash Soup

3rd Nosing: LAGAVULIN OFFERMAN GUINNESS CASK 11 YO
(introduced by: Bill Gorham)

Third course: Marinated Elk Medallion with Roasted Fingerling
Potatoes, Rainbow Carrots and a Blackberry Sauce

4th Nosing: LONGROW RED - REFILL MALBEC 10 YO
(introduced by: Sylvain Bouffard)

5th Nosing: TALISKER 8 YO 2020 SPECIAL RELEASE
(introduced by: Brian Simchison)

Fourth course: Apple Pecan Crumble

6th Nosing: GLEN GARIOCH 1998 WINE CASK FINISH 16 YO
(introduced by: Conrad Falkson)

COST OF THE MALTS

CAOL ILA 2004 Gordon & MacPhail Bottling series Connoisseurs
Choice - Cask Strength Vintage: 2004; Bottled: 13.03.2018; Stated Age:
13 years old; Initial Maturation Casktype: First Fill Bourbon and Refill
American Casks; Finished in Casktype: Hermitage Casks for 3 Years;
Casknumber Batch 18/002; Number of bottles: 3922; VINTAGES 068605
| 700 mL bottle Price: \$166.75 Spirits, Whisky/Whiskey, Scotch Single Malts
55.6% Alcohol/Vol.

BENRIACH 14 YEAR OLD LIMITED 1998 RELEASE Distilled: 1998;
Bottled: August 2012; Cask # 2828; Wood: VIRGIN AMERICAN OAK
FINISH; Bottle # 171 of 307; LCBO 411090 | 750 mL bottle Price: \$275.95
Spirits, Whisky/Whiskey, Scotch Single Malts 55.9% Alcohol/Vol.

LAGAVULIN OFFERMAN EDITION GUINNESS CASK FINISH 11 YEAR
OLD VINTAGES 37259 | 750 mL bottle, Price: \$300.00, Spirits, Whisky,
Scotch Whisky 46.0% Alcohol/Vol.

LONGROW RED - REFILL MALBEC MATURED 10 YEARS OLD LCBO
432699 | 700 mL bottle Price: \$349.95 Spirits, Whisky/Whiskey, Scotch Single
Malts 52.5% Alcohol/Vol.

TALISKER 8 YEAR OLD 2020 SPECIAL RELEASE LCBO 18874 | 700 mL
bottle Price: \$124.95 Spirits, Scotch Whisky 57.9% Alcohol/Vol.

GLEN GARIOCH 1998 WINE CASK FINISH DISTILLED: 1998; BOTTLED:
2014 LCBO 102230 | 700 mL bottle Price: \$129.95 Spirits, Scotch Whisky
48.0% Alcohol/Vol.

Upcoming Dinner Dates

Monday September 27th, 2021 - Highland Park Masterclass

Friday October 15th, 2021 - Ardbeg Masterclass

Monday October 25th, 2021 - Flora & Fauna / Singleton

Monday November 15th, 2021 - Rachel Barrie -

BenRiach / Glenglassaugh / Glendronach

Friday November 26th, 2021 - Signatory Masterclass

Monday December 6th 2021 - Christmas Dinner

Monday December 13th 2021 - Christmas Dinner

Friday December 17th 2021 - Bunnahabhain Masterclass

Friday January 21st 2022 - Kilchoman Masterclass

Monday January 24th 2022 - Robbie Burns Dinner

Old Particular / Glendronach

Friday February 25th 2022 - Laphroaig Masterclass

Monday February 28th 2022 - Islands / Islay

Monday March 14th 2022 - Irish / Lowland / Highland

Friday March 18th 2022 - Glen Moray Masterclass

Monday April 11th 2022 - Bunnahabhain Dinner

Friday April 22nd 2022 - Glenmorangie Masterclass Part I

Friday May 27th 2022 - Glenmorangie Masterclass Part II

Monday May 30th 2022 - Campbeltown / Highlands

Monday June 20th 2022 - June BBQ - Speyside/Highlands

Friday June 24th 2022 - Hart Brothers Masterclass

Friday July 15th 2022 - Cooper's Choice Masterclass

Monday July 25th 2022 - Speyside / Highlands

Friday August 12th 2022 - Glenfarclas Masterclass

Friday August 26th, 2022 - 15th Annual Premium Night

AUGUST - KSMS Financial Statement

(Money from 33 August attendees @ \$80)	= \$2640.00
July dinner 33 persons	= \$1865.03
(Money remaining for buying Single Malt)	= \$774.97
Cost of Single Malts	= \$704.75
Cost of Pours per Person = \$17.62	
Money for Heels	= \$235.00
KSMS Monthly operational balance	= \$305.02
Cost per person (All inclusive)	= \$77.87

AUGUST PREMIUM NIGHT KSMS Financial Statement

(Money from 43 August attendees @ \$250)	= \$10750.00
(Money from 4 August attendees @ \$90)	= \$360.00
August Premium Dinner for 47 persons	= \$4584.26
(Money remaining for buying Single Malt)	= \$6525.74
Cost of Single Malts	= \$5922.50
Cost of Pours per Person = \$137.73	
Money for Heels	= \$1150.00
Glasses cost per glass	= \$11.20
KSMS Monthly operational balance	= \$1753.24
Cost per person (All inclusive)	= \$238.93

Inside Glenmorangie's dazzling new distillery

The 'Willy Wonka of whisky' offers an exclusive invitation to his Lighthouse laboratory to share the future of scotch © Benjamin McMahon

What does Scotch whisky taste like? What could it taste like? And how, in the future, could it break the rules?

These are the sorts of questions that are constantly bouncing about the restless mind of Dr Bill Lumsden, director of distilling, whisky creation and whisky stocks at Glenmorangie, the historic Highland distillery in LVMH's luxury spirits portfolio.

For almost four decades now, the 61-year-old master distiller has been at the forefront of innovation in scotch. He's the man who kickstarted the trend for "finishing" whisky in fine wine casks, extra-ageing Glenmorangie malts in barrels from Sauternes, Madeira and Burgundy grand cru Clos de Tart. And the one who created Glenmorangie Signet, the world's first malt made with high-roast chocolate malt – a nutty, mocha-flavoured variety of malt usually reserved for making stout.



The main building of the Glenmorangie distillery © Benjamin McMahon



Glenmorangie warehouses beside the Dornoch Firth © Benjamin McMahon

Armed with a PhD in the workings of yeast, Lumsden has delved into the minutiae of fermentation, unpicked barrel-ageing – two crucial steps in the formation of flavour – and even blasted whisky into space in a bid to understand maturation in a micro-gravity environment. Lumsden's rampant creativity has seen him dubbed the "Willy Wonka of whisky" and "the mad scientist of scotch". But behind the carefully cultivated air of eccentricity, the Gucci sneaker-wearing Scot is also a savvy marketer – one who has succeeded in turning what was once an underperforming Scotch whisky brand into the fourth-biggest single malt in the world. Now, that creativity is being put in the spotlight by the Glenmorangie Lighthouse – a cutting-edge new "whisky lab" in the heart of the 178-year-old distillery.

"If I'd had my way it would have been a windowless, corrugated-iron shed with no visitors allowed," grumbles Lumsden as we make our way to the site on the shores of the Dornoch Firth. "When I first had the idea to do this, it wasn't how I imagined it at all!"



Dr Bill Lumsden, Glenmorangie's director of distilling, whisky creation and whisky stocks © Benjamin McMahon



The Lighthouse distillery's spirit safe © Benjamin McMahon

Designed by Barthélémy Griño – a Franco-Uruguayan practice better-known for creating premises for Berluti, Dior and Louis Vuitton – the 20m-high glass tower takes its inspiration from the lighthouses that dot the Dornoch coastline. Here and there, the Lighthouse makes reference to the old distillery: there are details fashioned from reclaimed stone and slate, and wall panels embedded with wood from Glenmorangie casks. But its mirror-like cladding is what stays in the memory: as gleaming and smooth as the neighbouring sandstone buildings are weathered and rough, it reflects the racing clouds so crisply that the Lighthouse, at times, almost seems to disappear. Inside, it is equipped with everything Lumsden needs to make Glenmorangie – but also a whole lot more. “We’ll be doing things that have never been done before in Scotch whisky,” he says. “Nothing is off the table.”

The focal point of the building is a pair of 8m-high copper pot stills that sprout up through the three floors. Designed to be exact replicas of Glenmorangie’s famously lofty stills, these will allow Lumsden to craft “new make” – or unaged malt spirit – in the signature Glenmorangie style: fruity, elegant, light. But these stills can also be adapted, with the help of temperature-controlled “cooling jackets”, to create other styles of new make too. “We can make them act as if they are shorter, so they create a heavier spirit more like Ardbeg [the Islay distillery also owned by The Glenmorangie Company], or taller, so they produce a spirit that’s even lighter than classic Glenmorangie,” explains Lumsden. “They are capable of producing standard Glenmorangie spirit, yes. But if we ever end up just making standard spirit then I will have failed.”



The new Glenmorangie Lighthouse distillery seen from the banks of the Dornoch Firth © Benjamin McMahon



Senior operator Alan Duff Sr (right) with his son Alan Duff Jr, one of Glenmorangie distillery's warehouse team leaders © Benjamin McMahon

For the first time in Glenmorangie's history, its stills will also be used to make whisky from things other than malted barley. There are plans to distil wheat and maize and oats – and possibly even make spirit from things that aren't cereals at all. In his new HQ, Lumsden will also be able to take a deeper dive into his favourite subject, fermentation – a step that gets a lot of air-time in winemaking and brewing, but historically not so much in scotch. “I’ve always had an interest in the primary production of wine,” says Lumsden, “and the Lighthouse may allow me to put those things I’ve learned from the wine world into making things that would be a first in the scotch industry.” Does that mean Lumsden will be fermenting and distilling actual grapes? “If I did, I couldn’t legally call it whisky, but that doesn’t mean I couldn’t come up with something,” he says, with a wink.

At the top of the Lighthouse is the lab, a sea-facing penthouse where Lumsden and his team will do their nosing, blending and analysis. "It's wonderful because you get so much wildlife here," says Lumsden, looking out of the window at the panoramic Dornoch Firth. "Seals on the sand spits, pods of dolphins, kites, buzzards, eagles, deer... It's going to be a lovely place to work."



Senior operator Jean Mackay with one of Glenmorangie distillery's mash tuns © Benjamin McMahon



One of the two state-of-the-art copper pot stills in the Lighthouse © Benjamin McMahon



Glenmorangie House's morning room © Benjamin McMahon

Jean MacKay, a senior operator at Glenmorangie, cannot wait to get in either: "We get to see amazing sunrises at the distillery – the sunrise from inside the Lighthouse is going to be spectacular." From their lofty position, Lumsden and his team will also be able to keep an eye on the Dornoch Environmental Enhancement Project (DEEP), a marine regeneration scheme that Glenmorangie helped to start in 2014. In 2018, this partnership with Heriot-Watt University and the Marine Conservation Society began to re-introduce 20,000 oysters to the Dornoch Firth in a bid to boost water quality and biodiversity in the local area. A study of the project published at the end of last year was hailed as a "milestone for marine environmental restoration" by Dr Bill Sanderson, associate professor at the Institute for Life and Earth Sciences at Heriot-Watt. Similar initiatives, spearheaded by the Native Oyster Restoration Alliance, are now being rolled out across Europe.

Distilling at the Glenmorangie Lighthouse begins this autumn – but it's likely to be several more years before any aged spirits reach the market, says Lumsden: "We're looking at three to five years minimum before any of these products are anything like ready so it's a very long-term project. I've just turned 61 so I probably won't see the launch of some of the products I'm working on, but it will be a legacy for the company." Instead, the launch will be marked with the release of Glenmorangie The Lighthouse, a limited-edition malt from Glenmorangie's existing stocks. Priced at £85 and limited to 4,782 bottles on sale at the distillery, the 12-year-old malt has been aged in the very same bourbon and sherry casks that are now embedded in the Lighthouse distillery's walls.

Not everyone on the workforce is bowled over by LVMH's shiny new building. "Changes the face of the place" is the gruff verdict of warehouse team leader Alan Duff Jr, 27. His father, Alan Duff Sr, 58, however, is clearly delighted by the prospect of having a dedicated space in which to experiment. "I've been working at the distillery for over 25 years now," he says, "and have seen the size and capacity more than double in the past 12 years. The Lighthouse is an exciting new project – I look forward to trialling new products and ideas."



The wash and spirit stills in the Still House at Glenmorangie Distillery © Benjamin McMahon



A view across the Dornoch Firth © Benjamin McMahon

Scotch whisky is one of the most tightly regulated spirits in the world, which means innovation can often be quite difficult. There are rules governing where it can be made, what it can be made from, how it is distilled, what it's aged in, and how long it must be aged for. These rules have been key to building its cachet, ensuring a baseline of quality – and provenance – that many other spirits categories can only

dream of. But some now believe that those rules risk holding the category back by stifling innovation at a time when Scotch whisky's pre-eminence is being challenged by an influx of maverick New World whiskies from producers unbound by traditional rules.

A potential sign of industry unease came a couple of years ago when there was a very slight relaxation in the rules surrounding the type of casks that distillers could use for ageing. But the pace of change is slow. And more distillers than ever are now straining at the leash to try new things. In 2019, William Grant & Sons – the company that makes Glenfiddich, Grant's and The Balvenie – unveiled the latest genre-bending experiments from Kininvie Works, a micro-distillery in Speyside that describes itself as “a collective of determined free-thinking distillers that go against the grain to challenge what we know about Scotch whisky”. Diageo's new Port Ellen distillery, set to open on Islay in spring 2023, will also boast a set of stills dedicated to making more experimental drams.



Orkney hand-dived scallops at The Copper Dog at The Craigellachie Hotel



Oysters at The Copper Dog



The new shell and tube condensers in the Still Room at the Lighthouse Distillery © Benjamin McMahon “

Of course we're feeling the heat from other whisky categories,” says Lumsden. “But I view that as positive competition. I think we're going to see Scottish distilleries releasing more and more spirits that are not actually Scotch whisky in the coming years.” Recommended How To Spend It How To Spend It in... the Highlands

Frustratingly, the Lighthouse isn't open to the public. Visitors on the regular Glenmorangie tour – which attracts 30,000 people in a normal year – will have to content themselves with admiring it from the outside. But I get the impression that, just occasionally, really V, V, VIPs may be given a glimpse within. A warm welcome will, however, await anyone who wishes to stay at the revamped Glenmorangie House, the distillery's handsome nine-bedroom lodging that lies a 20-minute drive along the coast. The house is a fully fledged boutique hotel, with three additional cottages, restored gardens and a whimsical, multicoloured interior by Russell Sage Studio.

I've visited on a few occasions in the past. And call me a stick-in-the-mud, but I actually rather liked it the way it was before: an old-fashioned Highland retreat where you could go for a blustery walk along the beach and then curl up by the fire with a tray of shortbread and tea. I'm not sure I want a tiger trompe-l'oeil in my cupboard or a knitted cake stand in my room. But that is exactly the quandary the Scotch whisky industry is now facing: modernise and potentially jettison the credibility that the spirit has spent more than two centuries building? Or cling to the past and risk getting left behind? I don't know what the answer is – but hopefully Lumsden, his team and the Lighthouse will shed some light on it.

The Lighthouse: Glenmorangie's new distillery

10 SEPTEMBER 2021 By Melita Kiely

Single malt Scotch producer Glenmorangie has opened The Lighthouse, the brand's new multi-million-pound innovation distillery.



The Lighthouse: Glenmorangie's new innovation centre

Located on the same site as the original Highland distillery, The Lighthouse is a 20-metre-high glass still house, designed for innovation and experimentation rather than yield.

The still house is home to two custom-made stills, built to the same specs as the brand's original 'giraffe-high' stills. However, the new stills have certain additional features that can be used to alter the spirits character by making the stills behave as if they are taller or shorter than they are.

Adjacent to the still house is the brew house, which has also been built in keeping with the main distillery. Here, Glenmorangie will experiment with mashing and brewing. The brew house will include a custom-designed mash tun that will be able to make different clarities of wort.

Meanwhile, above the still house sits a sensory laboratory that overlooks the [Dornoch Firth](#). It will give the brand's director of whisky creation, Dr Bill Lumsden, and his team space to assess their experiments after each six-hour spirit run. The sensory lab also includes a tasting room and a terrace.

To ensure The Lighthouse ties in with Glenmorangie's sustainable goals, it will be partially powered by biogas, which will be generated in Glenmorangie's anaerobic digestion plant.

Lumsden said: “The technology in [The Lighthouse], particularly in the still house, is not revolutionary, but I can't think of any other still house in the Scotch whisky industry where you have split condensers, copper and stainless steel, you've got a water-cooling jacket on the neck, you've got a purifier on the lyne arm; essentially, we can recreate any style of distillation that we want in that.

“New make spirit in the Scotch whisky industry is usually categorised, so Glenmorangie’s classic flavour profile is floral and fruity, whereas others might be waxy, sulphurous, peated, all these things. So The Lighthouse will allow me to create the full spectrum of spirit styles.

“The necks of Glenmorangie are the tallest in the Scotch malt whisky industry, but by using, for example, the water cooling jackets on the necks to increase the rate of reflux, it’s almost like metaphorically, I will be able to double or treble the height of the stills.

“I can’t off the top of my head think of any other malt whisky distillery that has a built-in water cooling jacket on the neck of the stills – probably if you looked it’ll be somewhere in the world, but this is the first time I’ve seen it.”

Limited edition Glenmorangie Lighthouse whisky

To celebrate the opening of The Lighthouse, Glenmorangie has created a limited edition whisky: Glenmorangie Lighthouse.



Glenmorangie Lighthouse is a limited edition whisky to mark the new distillery’s opening

The whisky combines liquid matured in Bourbon and Sherry casks, whose staves now adorn the walls of The Lighthouse.

Bottled at 48% ABV without chill-filtration, only 3,000 bottles of Glenmorangie Lighthouse will be available to purchase exclusively from the distillery visitor centre for £85 (US\$117).

Tasting notes include aromas of vanilla, red apples, honeycomb and a ‘whisper’ of oak. On the palate, flavours of honey, almond, milk chocolate, apricot, fudge, baked oranges, honeydew melon come through, leading to more orange, vanilla and oak notes on the finish.

Melita Kiely, editor of *The Spirits Business*, was given a preview of The Lighthouse in August. She sat down with Dr Bill Lumsden to learn more about the new facility, and his plans for the site.



From afar: The new Lighthouse distillery overlooks the Dornoch Firth
How did the idea for The Lighthouse come about?

I went to the former CEO, Marc Hoellinger, six or seven years ago, and I was playing a little bit of a game with him and I said, Mark, I’m bored, I need a new challenge, I want to do something else. I said, off the top of my head, if you give me £25 million I will go and build a completely new malt whisky distillery, and I guarantee you I will make spirit even better in quality than Glenmorangie. I explained to him how I would do this.

He thought about it and said, Bill, I like your idea, but he said to start a completely new brand – and that’s what I was talking about doing, it was going to be a completely standalone brand, separate from Glenmorangie or Ardbeg – he said it takes many, many, many years to successfully establish a new brand. So he said, how about I give you this much, and you do something at either Glenmorangie or Ardbeg. So that’s where the idea came from. And it took two or three years to refine my thought process to plan it all out, and that’s when we got to The Lighthouse. And it was kind of a no-brainer to site it at Glenmorangie distillery so we could label the output from that as Glenmorangie.

What was the inspiration behind the name, The Lighthouse?

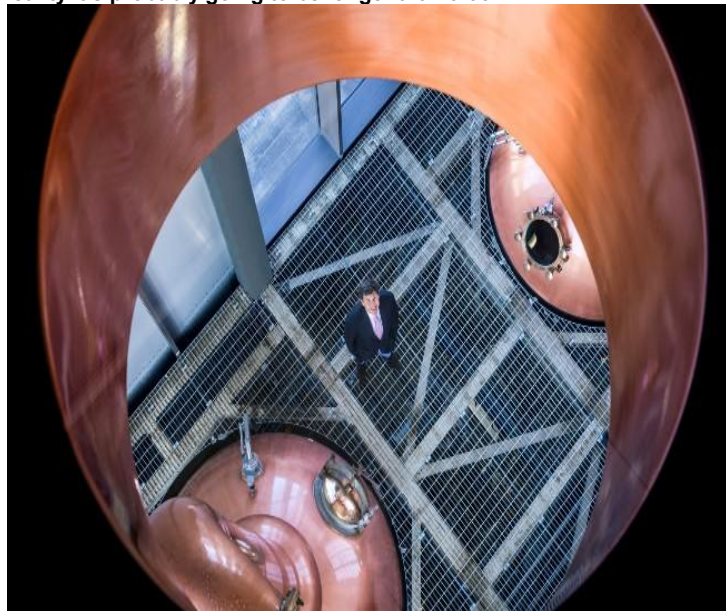
Once we started working with the architects from Paris, a company called Barthélémy Griño, who’d been involved in the design of Louis Vuitton boutiques and things like that, and we met with them several times, they came back with this idea of a tower. When we looked at it and saw that it was a tower beside the sea, we thought that it looked like a lighthouse, and I honestly can’t remember who it was who first said the word ‘lighthouse’ but that’s where it came from. We were originally going to have a big lamp at the top but we decided to have the laboratory at the top of the building so you would get that magnificent view. And that is the laboratory where only myself and my team will analyse the spirit.

What will you do first at The Lighthouse?

We will proof the system by testing all the equipment; we’ll run the stills and distil, and make sure the condenser and the purifier and all these things are working. The next thing I will do is persuade Eddie [Thom], the distillery manager, to give me one full wash back from the big distillery, so 48,000 litres of wash, and I’ll actually run that through the stills. What I’ll be trying to do is just to make classic Glenmorangie spirit. Once I’ve done that, I’ll use some classic lightly peated malted barley, the malted barley we use in the big distillery to make Glenmorangie, and I will use that to test the brewing side of the kit. So we’ll mill it, mash it and ferment it, and then we’ll put it through the stills. If we get all of that done in two months, we’ll be doing well.

Only once I’ve satisfied myself that the distillery is capable of making classic Glenmorangie spirit, then I’ll start to do lots of different things. I have a 12-point, confidential plan of the first experiments I will carry out at the distillery, and while we’re doing that we’re all going to be just getting to know the plant and learning how it works.

So once we go into 2022, I will be seriously doing things that will create actual products. Quite when these will hit the market depends, and obviously if I’m planning on making and calling it single malt Scotch whisky – which I may not always be doing in there – then it’s going to be a minimum of three years before that’s launched in the market. In reality it’s probably going to be longer than that.



Inside scoop: SB spoke to Dr Bill Lumsden (pictured) about The Lighthouse and his future plans

You said you won't necessarily be making single malt Scotch. What else do you plan on creating? Obviously, there's a lot of things out there in the world of whisky. There's single malt Scotch, there's blended Scotch, there's single grain Scotch, Kentucky Straight Bourbon, and all these good things. It's highly likely that I will be looking to make my own version as a homage to some of these other categories of whisky. But I can't say too much because there's a lot of confidentiality in there.

What is the full capacity of lighthouse?

If The Lighthouse was only used to distil classic Glenmorangie, we have the capacity to do up to one million litres of alcohol [annually]; it's about a sixth of the main distillery. The main distillery has six pairs of pot stills, and we can do just over six million. I don't honestly believe I will ever be using it for that purpose, if I do then something's gone wrong. But nominally it can make that.

What do you anticipate the output will be in first year or two?

Again, it's a little bit difficult to say because we won't really know until we've started to use the brewing plant, which is a bit different. It'll be a few hundred thousand litres.

You're known for being experimental with your whisky creation. How does it feel to have this new space?

It's very, very exciting. I used to say to people when they came to Glenmorangie that this is not a malt whisky distillery, this is my big experimental laboratory. So now I actually do have a genuine experimental laboratory where I can try lots of different things.

Gordon & MacPhail releases 'world's oldest' single malt Scotch
03 SEPTEMBER 2021 By Kate Malczewski

Whisky specialist Gordon & MacPhail's 80-year-old expression, claimed to be the oldest single malt Scotch ever bottled, is now available for purchase.



Just 250 bottles of Gordon & MacPhail Generations 80 Year Old have been made

The rare whisky hails from The Glenlivet Distillery, drawn from a single cask that was laid down in 1940 under the watch of George and John Urquhart, members of the family that founded Gordon & MacPhail. The independent bottler [teased the release back in June](#), and has now made the expression available to buy through its website, with price on application.

Just 250 bottles have been produced, complete with a decanter and oak case designed by architect Sir David Adjaye OBE.

"The ambition was to create a vessel in which Gordon & MacPhail's unique experience and tradition is transmitted and incorporated," Adjaye explained.

His design features a 'jewel-like' decanter that was developed to look like it was made from a single block of crystal. Each bottle was hand-blown by Scottish manufacturer Glencairn Crystal Studio.

Meanwhile, the cases were produced by furniture maker Wardour Workshops, from sustainably sourced oak trees grown within five miles of the business.

Ewen Mackintosh, managing director at Gordon & MacPhail, said: "It is often quoted that the maturation of whisky over very long periods of time is more art than science. The decanter and oak pavilion that David has created for our historic release is a true reflection of this art; the presentation is itself a work of art.

"I'm sure George Urquhart and his father John, who had the extraordinary foresight to lay down spirit from the Glenlivet Distillery in a bespoke Gordon & MacPhail cask to be enjoyed after their lifetime, would love the design. It pays tribute to their craft and vision."



The bottling's decanter and oak case were designed by Sir David Adjaye OBE

Auctioning the world's oldest single malt

Decanter #1 will go under the hammer at Sotheby's Hong Kong on 7 October, complete with a framed cask end from the original barrel and a lithograph of Adjaye's design. Proceeds from the auction will be donated to Scottish charity Trees for Life, which aims to rewild the Caledonian forest.

Jonny Fowl, Sotheby's spirits specialist, commented: "Joining forces with Gordon & MacPhail to auction the world's first 80-year-old single malt whisky is a genuine thrill. To have expertly matured this whisky for eight decades and maintained the vibrancy of the exquisite liquid is remarkable.

"Decanter #1 represents a landmark moment in Scotland's liquid history and the cask end and signed 1-of-1 lithograph further elevate this unique and very special lot."

Keen to see the bottle yourself? The decanter and oak case will be on display from early September in Sotheby's New Bond Street galleries in London, as well as at Sotheby's headquarters in New York City and at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre.

How to Develop Your Whisky Palate

In Partnership with [The GlenDronach](#) - [JAKE STONE](#), 2 SEP 2021

More than an indulgence, whisky is a gateway into a deeper experience of adulthood. If the idea of sampling a complex single malt over the course of the afternoon sounds ideal, but you have no experience drinking anything beyond an entry-level blended drop mixed with cola, there's room to grow. While the single malt variety might be an intimidating start for the novice, a great single malt is the true reflection of whisky excellence, and what better time to experiment with Father's Day around the corner.

[Grab a bottle](#) for yourself and one for your Dad, sit back, relax and enjoy learning more about your single malt journey.



The Cask of Choice

When it comes to premium whisky, even the slightest of changes make a major difference. Scotch has a tailored history of tradition handed down over many years, and as such, finding ways to expand and develop upon the existing flavour profiles can be challenging, but as many a distiller has learned, it comes down to the casks, and rightfully so.

Between 40-70 per cent of the character of a malt whisky develops during the ageing process, with the type of cask used playing a significant role. Will it take on sweet characteristics? Earthy notes? Vanilla flavours? Despite what you may think, the vast majority of a whisky's flavour profile is developing from the cask, not the distillation process itself.

On one hand, bourbon barrels like those used by Benriach generally add vanilla, honey and fruit to the dram, finishing with a light, dry sweetness, while sherry casks, like the ones used by Highland Scotch producers such as The GlenDronach contribute richer sweetness with vanilla and dried fruit notes including raisins and prunes. These differences may be subtle to the novice, but to distilleries that birth these releases, cask selection is key.

For The GlenDronach, in particular, the art of sherried cask whisky is core to the distillery's identity. For close to 200 years, the Scottish icon has carried forth the tradition of founder James Allardice, maturing its whisky in the finest Spanish Pedro Ximenez and Oloroso sherry casks from Andalucía. The combination allows the brand to dabble in different worlds, with the Pedro Ximenez casks offering sweet fruity flavours, while the Oloroso casks provide dry and nutty notes. Throw that change of profile in with the complexity of Highlands Style whisky and it's little wonder the dram has remained a fan favourite for close to two centuries.



Highlands Style

The Scottish Highlands gave birth to the legends like Rob Roy and William Wallace, as well as a long history of classic whisky distilleries. There is an exciting history to the single malt that encompasses the Gaelic people and their clans.

To the east of the northern highlands boundary line, The GlenDronach distillery in Aberdeenshire has established a reputation for its delicious range of sherried single malts since 1826.

[The GlenDronach](#) whisky maker James Allardice inherited the Boynsmill Estate in 1800, paired with his chemist nephew Robert Davidson, and expanded their yeast sales interests into whisky distilling.

Within several years they were doing a brisk face-to-face business, and establishing their reputation as a new face in the whisky business. The master distillers used a traditional floor malting process when drying malted barley until the mid-1990's, adding smoke to the rich dark chocolate and fruit flavours imparted by The GlenDronach's signature Pedro Ximenez and Oloroso sherry oak casks.

Changing hands over the last twenty years, [The GlenDronach distillery](#) under new ownership is currently producing a devilish, deliciously spicy and sweet range of single malt whisky. Their GlenDronach Original 12 Years Old is a great place for the single malt enthusiast to get started, and an ideal present for your dad on Father's Day.



The Glass

First thing is first, you're going to need something beyond a shot glass if you're really going to savour a neat single malt whisky. There are a

few options, but generally you're going to want a lower volume glass. For instance, a highball wouldn't make sense when you're trying to really smell and taste the contents of the whisky. Here are some examples to consider:

- A tulip glass, aka the 'copita-style' glass, is ideal for drinking the single malt, as the tighter neck of the glass concentrates the taste and smell (or the 'nose') of the whisky.
- A standard lowball, or old fashioned glass, a brandy balloon or 'snifter', or purpose-built whisky glasses like the NEAT glass and the Glencairn Crystal are also ideal.
- The NEAT or Naturally Engineered Aroma Technology glass has a wide-set mouth, resembling a shorter, fatter science beaker. The result of a misfire during production, the wide glass helps to spread the alcohol in a single malt whisky's nose, making it more palatable.
- The Glencairn Crystal Whisky Glass is purpose-fired solely for drinking whisky. It has a beautiful tapered neck, comes in a pair and retails for about eleven dollars, so you and your dad can have a drink together or via social media during this pandemic-affected Father's Day.

If you're feeling particularly extra and need a goblet, the premium version is cut crystal embossed with Scottish tartan, and cost around one hundred dollars. Whatever you choose, you'll be able to find your ideal glass to order online.



How to Develop Your Whisky Palate

Like many things in life, there's no right or wrong way to enjoy whisky, and the key to developing your whisky palate is simple – Try a lot of whiskies. By creating a reference point for what you do and don't like, you'll better understand how to articulate your preferences and slowly over time, you'll identify flavour profiles. But aside from simply diving into dram after dram, there are a few terms every whisky drinker should be aware of.

Rich vs Light

Perhaps the most straightforward of tasting notes, rich and light refer to the depth of flavour in a whisky. Specifically, rich whiskies tend to evoke a strong flavour characterised by the wood it has been aged in. These whiskies will have deep flavour notes, such as spice and vanilla, where light whiskies will be very much the opposite. The lighter the whisky, the more likely you are to taste fruits and fresh flavours, from the outset and throughout.

Delicate vs Bold

It's often hard to understand how one could refer to a 40% Scotch as delicate, but it's not so much about strength and flavours. Delicate whiskies tend to exhibit more grounded tastes such as barley, whereas bold flavours might refer to peat, smoke and robustness. It can take

some time to get your head around these terms, but knowing the difference between them can safeguard you from buying a dud dram. Tasting Notes

If you've bought a bottle of whisky, you would have no doubt stumbled across the funny descriptions written on the back. These tasting notes refer to the stages of the flavour profile and can be extremely helpful in determining a whisky's taste. These include:

- The Nose – The flavour profile distinguished by a whisky's scent or aroma. To properly 'nose' a whisky, swirl your glass to release the aromas, gently take a waft by holding the glass about 20cm from your nose and breathe in through both your nose and mouth.
- The Palate – The initial taste flavours. Now, the tongue is divided into four main areas: the tip for sweet, either side for sour or salty, and the middle for bitter. Let the whisky linger in your mouth for a while, hitting all points of reference. Try to wade past the burn and unearth the more complex flavours.
- The Finish – Once you taste the whisky, the finish is the lasting imprint it leaves on your mouth. A short finish refers to a flavour that quickly dissipates after swallowing, whereas a long finish can sit in your mouth well after the dram is done.



The Dram Itself

Ah yes, the whisky itself. Now that you have your glass and know what you're talking about, it's finally time to drink! The GlenDronach whisky range offers a novel experience of the single malt variety, and the best place to start is their flagship [GlenDronach Original 12 Year Old](#). With all the robust flavours of the Highlands, The GlenDronach has a fruity, drinkable quality that isn't overly smokey, making the [Original 12 Year Old](#) expression a great first drop for a new fan. When trying the whisky, open your mouth as well as your nose to the drink, breathing it in before you take your first sip. With practice you'll identify the various scents and flavours present – sherry, oak, fruit like ripe apples and pears, and of course the deliciously complex spice of the alcohol.



Part of that fantastic taste comes from the masterful process of sherry cask maturation, which marries robust Highland whisky with the sweetness and spiciness of Spanish oak. The rich flavour imparted by famous Pedro Ximenez and Oloroso sherry oak casks contains hints of nuts, dried fruits and dark chocolate with a medium length 'finish' or lingering note, a quality found across The GlenDronach range. The GlenDronach is very well-regarded in the Scotch Whisky community, a hidden gem that is emerging as a competitive first drop for new whisky fans. Whether you're developing your personal palate, or sharing a dram with dad this Father's Day, The [GlenDronach Original 12 Year Old](#) is a complex and affordable start to your single malt collection.

Tobermory Distillery names new manager

19 AUGUST 2021 By Melita Kiely

Cara Gilbert has been appointed manager of Scotch whisky and gin producer Tobermory Distillery on the Isle of Mull in Scotland.



Gilbert previously held the role of assistant manager at Tobermory Distillery. The 27-year-old is one of the youngest distillery managers and will be responsible for overseeing production at the whisky and gin facility. Tobermory produces more than one million litres of whisky and gin annually.

Gilbert said: "It's an honour to be given the opportunity [to] take on this role, helping to etch the next chapter for such a historic distillery. "In my head I always knew I wanted to be in a managerial position before I was 30 and a combination of hard work, seizing every opportunity thrown my way and learning from the best has made this vision a reality.

"I've worked with so many inspirational people over the last five years and have joined an incredible team. Being able to create unbelievable

malts, a range of island-inspired gin and our more peated Ledaig brand means no two days will ever be the same – with the added benefits of living and working on this gorgeous island. It's been an incredible journey but I know the best is yet to come."

Gilbert graduated from Heriot-Watt University in 2017 with a degree in biological science. After completing a diploma and a Master's degree in brewing and distilling, Gilbert worked in a distillery just outside of Dublin in Ireland in a process support lab-based position.

The role saw Gilbert look at improving processes in the lab and upscaling from there.

Gilbert then moved to Bunnahabhain distillery on Islay, Scotland, to work as a process lead.

She relocated to the Isle of Mull in February this year as process lead at Tobermory. Gilbert was promoted to assistant manager in March, before her most recent ascent to distillery manager.

Gilbert will report to master distiller [Brendan McCarron](#).

McCarron said: "Cara's absolutely bursting with talent, passion and knowledge about distilling so it's incredible to watch her tick off another career milestone.

"Whether it's peated or unpeated malts, limited editions or an enticing range of gin, it's the dream job for anyone and she's going to do amazing things."

Laphroaig debuts third Ian Hunter whisky

17 AUGUST 2021 By Nicola Carruthers

Islay Scotch brand Laphroaig has released the third whisky in its Ian Hunter Story series – a 33-year-old single malt.



The third bottling in the Ian Hunter Story series is a 33-year-old single malt. The Beam Suntory-owned brand [unveiled its first expression](#) in a new series of whiskies that honour Ian Hunter, the last member of the founding Johnston family to run the Islay distillery. The range will consist of five whiskies, each released annually.

The first bottling, Book One: Unique Character, paid homage to Hunter's decision to introduce American white oak barrels to the maturation process at Laphroaig.

Book Two: Building an Icon, [released last year](#), was matured in Sherry casks for 30 years. The expression marks Hunter's work on expanding the distillery and his "innovative approach to whisky making".

This year's expression, Book Three: Source Protector, is a 33-year-old whisky from 1987 that has been matured in ex-Bourbon barrels.

The new single malt charts the history behind the Kirkbride stream. Following a long-running dispute, Hunter purchased the land leading up to the source of the stream to ensure the distillery would be powered by steam.

The resulting liquid has notes of pears, peaches and apricots on the nose, while the palate offers aniseed and liquorice.

John Campbell, Laphroaig distillery manager, said: "You cannot enjoy Laphroaig's exquisitely smoky and complex liquid, without paying homage to the legendary Ian Hunter."

“His influence in our whisky production techniques and our iconic brand as a whole is undeniable. The third book in our Ian Hunter Story celebrates his legacy in shaping Laphroaig to what it is today.” The limited edition whisky is available from Laphroaig.com and specialist retailers for an RRP of £920, US\$1,250 and €990.

Aberlour A'bunadh whisky set goes on sale

17 AUGUST 2021 By Nicola Carruthers

Whisky broker Mark Littler will offer a collection of 66 bottles of Aberlour A'bunadh single malt for £15,884 (US\$21,900).



The Aberlour A'bunadh collection features a bottle from every batch ever produced

The collection was built up over 10 years by biologist Jon O'Connell from York, UK. He discovered the whisky while on a fishing trip in Scotland, where he enjoyed a dram with a fishing enthusiast. O'Connell then spent a decade collecting a bottle from every batch ever made from auctions and whisky shops across Europe.

O'Connell said: “What a day it was meeting that fisherman and sharing a dram of Aberlour A'bunadh. I'd never seen anything like it before so I decided to buy myself a bottle and from there, I set myself a challenge to collect a bottle from every batch ever produced.”

“It took 10 years to track all the bottles down, with batch 15 being undoubtedly the most difficult. When I finally got my hands on the last bottle to complete my collection, I felt a real sense of achievement.” Aberlour A'bunadh, which means ‘the original’ in Gaelic, was introduced in 2000 and released in limited batches. The collection originates from a bottle buried in the foundation of its still room from 1898. It was found in 1973 by workers who were rumoured to have consumed half the bottle before sending the remaining contents to a lab for analysis.

The 66-strong collection contains two highly sought-after special edition batch bottlings: the A'bunadh Silver Label Millennium Edition, bottled in 1999 ahead of the millennium celebrations, and the Silver A'bunadh, an extremely limited range consisting of only 37 bottles. Mark Littler, founder of the namesake broker, added: “This vertical collection of A'bunadh whisky is the largest whisky collection that we have ever sold – having a bottle from every batch ever produced makes this truly unique. Jon's decision to start collecting bottles of whisky was a great one and we are seeing more people invest in whisky the way that Jon has.”

Auctioneer Sotheby's recently [entered a six-year partnership](#) with The Distillers' Charity to sell whiskies to support disadvantaged young Scottish people.

GLENFIDDICH INTRODUCES GRANDE COURONNE, THE LATEST EXPRESSION IN ITS GRAND SERIES

Glenfiddich Scotch whisky has announced the launch of [Grande Couronne](#), the newest expression in its Grand Series. Grande Couronne, French for “great crown”, is a 26-year-old whisky which is matured in American and European oak casks at the Glenfiddich Distillery in Dufftown, Scotland. It then receives an extended finish for up to two years in French Cognac casks.

“The Grand Series perfectly encapsulates Glenfiddich's spirit of innovation and our ability to experiment with aged liquid and intriguing finishes. Grande Couronne is the latest to exemplify that approach,” says Glenfiddich Malt Master, Brian Kinsman. “It is the only Glenfiddich single malt that has matured in American and European oak casks and finished in rare French Cognac casks. The length of the finish, two years, is highly unusual and adds extra layers of sweet toasted oak and velvety aromas of café crème, brown sugar and soft spice.” Grande Couronne is fittingly exhibited in an ornate glass bottle wrapped in a filigree gold print. Additionally, it is packaged in an embossed box. Bottled at 43.8% ABV, Glenfiddich Grande Couronne is available nationwide at an SRP of \$600.



Glenfiddich Grande Couronne

LAPHROAIG ANNOUNCES 2021 CÀIRDEAS US RELEASE

Càirdeas is an annual series created by John Campbell, the Laphroaig Distillery Manager, to celebrate Friends of Laphroaig. Càirdeas (Gaelic for “friendship”) began in 1994 for friends, fans and followers to join from all over the world. This year, the release was announced internationally on Laphroaig Day during its second ever virtual iteration of [Feis Ile Festival](#).

The [2021 Càirdeas Pedro Ximenez Casks](#) edition is tripled-matured. First it's aged in American oak ex-bourbon barrels, then in Quarter Casks. Finally, it's aged in European oak hogsheads containing PX sherry. It is bottled at a cask strength of 58.9% ABV. The whisky is currently available for purchase on the [brand's website](#) and in US stores for an SRP of \$99.



2021 Càirdeas Pedro Ximenez Casks /Photo Credit: Laphroaig

GREAT JONES DISTILLING CO., MANHATTAN'S FIRST AND ONLY LEGAL WHISKEY DISTILLERY SINCE PROHIBITION, OPENS IN NOHO
There have been no whiskey distilleries in Manhattan for at least 100 years. That changes now as [Great Jones Distilling Co.](#), Manhattan's first and only legal whiskey distillery since Prohibition, opens its doors in NoHo.

It took over 6 years for Great Jones Distilling Co. to work through rigid city regulations and centuries-old fire codes, not to mention a global pandemic, to come to fruition. The 28,000 square-foot space is located at 686 Broadway, with a custom-built and engineered distillery where people can enjoy distillery tours and tasting experiences starting Saturday, August 21. The venue also includes a restaurant, speakeasy and event venue, which will open starting in September. Great Jones Distilling Co. was founded by Proximo Spirits and is the vision of 11th generation spirits maker Juan Domingo Beckmann. The whiskeys are made exclusively with grains grown in the Black Dirt region less than two hours north of Manhattan in upstate New York.



Great Jones Distilling Co. /Photo Credit: Great Jones Distilling Co.

BEING A PART OF IT, AS NEW YORK WHISKEY

"The opening of Great Jones Distilling Co. represents a landmark moment for spirits and New York City history, bringing the craft of whiskey distillation back to Manhattan after 100 years," said Beckmann. "For 11 generations my family has crafted some of the world's leading spirits, and we are proud to introduce a bourbon that truly embodies the best of New York State ingredients and the 'lightning in a bottle' energy of Manhattan. The Great Jones Distillery will give the city a new spirits legacy, and is dedicated to the resiliency and hustle that New Yorkers have shown to the world over this past year."

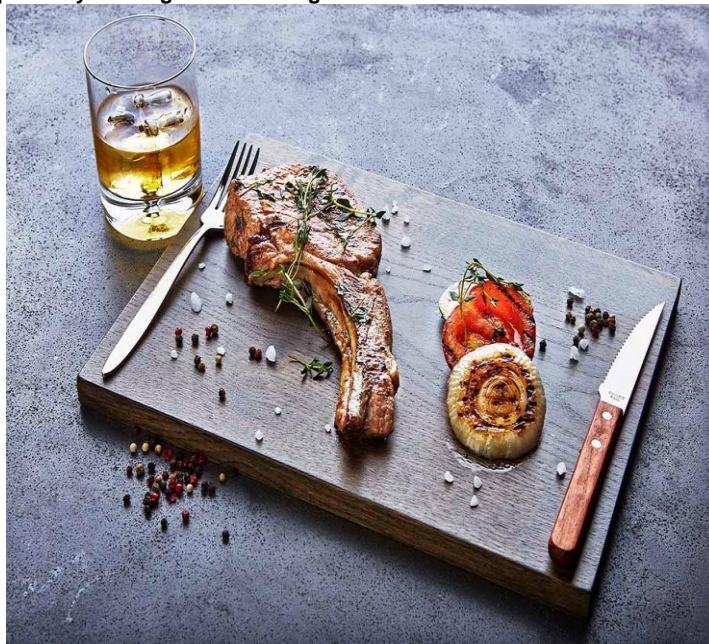
Great Jones Distilling Co. is introducing three new whiskeys: [Great Jones Straight Bourbon](#) (86 proof, \$40), [Great Jones Four Grain Straight Bourbon](#) (90 proof, \$50) and [Great Jones Straight Rye](#) (90 proof, \$40). The liquids have been aging for the past five years in new, charred American oak barrels in upstate New York in preparation for the distillery opening.

The renovation of the 82-year-old building was designed in partnership with Groundswell Design Group. Bringing it back meant conquering many challenges unique to NYC, including reinforcing the floor to support the stills. This involved navigating the subway system that runs below the building. Bonus: a secret tunnel was discovered (they apparently like to think it was used to transport whiskey and other spirits under the streets of New York)! Naturally, this tunnel will be a feature of the speakeasy-style bar.

A Beginner's Guide to Cooking With Whiskey

[COOKING](#) | AUGUST 23, 2021 5:14 AM

Meats, sauces, desserts — your favorite single malt or bourbon is probably also a great dinner ingredient



Whiskey with food? Great. Whiskey in food? Better.

Baranov Dmitriy / iStock / Getty

BY [KIRK MILLER](#)

A good whisk(ey) doesn't have to be enjoyed neat or on the rocks. You can obviously add it to a cocktail. Or pair it with good food. And you can even use it to cook, which isn't sacrilege. You don't even have to be that precious about it.

"It doesn't really matter how expensive the whisky is, what you need to look at is the flavor profiles," says Paul Wedgewood of Edinburgh's award-winning [Wedgewood The Restaurant](#). "For example, if you want to add smokiness to a dish, you could buy a cheap bottle of peat whisky."

That said, you ideally would look to use a quality whisky that you'd also enjoy drinking. "You want to show it off as well as what you're cooking," says Chef Paul Green of 1887 restaurant in Scotland's [The Torridon](#). In other words, you have some flexibility with price, as long as there's a level of quality.

Your next step is figuring out what whisk(ey) goes with what dish.

"Each whisky has its own unique characteristics and flavors, so it needs to be paired with the right ingredients," says Wedgewood "There are so many whisky flavor profiles you can choose from like salty, fruity and smoky. For example, if I were cooking a salmon dish, I would choose a whisky with orange in it, as orange compliments salmon really well."

Green agrees. "Talisker is a whisky we use that's very close to us here in the highlands on the Isle of Skye," he says. "It's noted for its smoky and sweet taste — which works great with the fattiness of the fish we use it with." (You'll find that recipe below.)

The good news is that whiskey is versatile when it comes to cooking (side note: if you go to a distillery with a restaurant on-site, you're bound to find some food that incorporates their own whiskey; it's certainly true with NYC's just-opened [Great Jones Distilling Co.](#)). You can also swap it in when a recipe calls for other spirits ("Brandy is usually used for making peppercorn sauce, but in my opinion, whisky works better," says Wedgewood).

Just be sure follow a few simple rules when you're using it for sauces, desserts or marinades:

1. Whisky can overpower a dish if you use too much. Less is more.
2. Taste the dish constantly. Add just a bit of whisky at a time.
3. Treat it like gasoline ... when it comes to safety. "It's highly flammable," notes [KDB Group](#) Chef Joshua Lanning. "Make sure you have plenty of room, and keep it away from oils. I'd suggest starting on a low flame [if you're adding flame and

are using a [flambé technique](#)]. Tilt the flame on low for a couple of minutes. When the flame goes away, it means the alcohol has dissipated quite a bit. If you taste it and it's still boozy, keep cooking."

And again, the one note that every chef we spoke with — whether they were discussing Scotch or bourbon, dinner or dessert — is to use a bottle that means something to you. As Chef Ashley Thomas, the culinary director of specialty food retailers and cheese experts [Di Bruno Bros.](#), told us: "When it comes to adding booze to your cooking, whether it's wine, bourbon or beer ... if you don't enjoy drinking it, don't cook with it."

Below, all the chefs we spoke with provide a recipe that involves whisky or whiskey.



Talisker Cured Sea Trout
The Torridon
Talisker Cured Sea Trout

Courtesy of Chef Paul Green (1887 restaurant in The Torridon)

- 1 side sea trout or salmon
- 75g caster sugar
- 75g sea salt
- 20g lovage or parsley
- 25 ml Talisker whisky

Start by making sure there are no pin bones in the fillet of fish, then pour on the whisky. Leave for 20 minutes and blitz the sugar, salt and herb in a food processor or mix by hand. Spread this mixture across the skin then cover and leave for up to 2 days, turning the fish over every 12 hours.

You can cure the fish for as little as 2 hours — the longer it cures, the longer the shelf life. After the curing time, wash off the mixture and pat dry and cling film till ready to eat. In the restaurant we serve it with seaweed crackers, pickled cucumber and lovage mayonnaise.



Di Bruno Bros. & Coopers' Craft Bourbon Cheese Fondue
Cooper's Craft
Di Bruno Bros. & Coopers' Craft Bourbon Cheese Fondue

Courtesy of Chef Ashley Thomas of Di Bruno Bros.

- .5 lb Reading Raclette
- .5 lb. Seven Sisters
- .5 lb. Cabot Cloth Bound Cheddar
- 2 tbsp. Cornstarch
- 1 Cup Dry White Wine
- .5 Cup Coopers' Craft Bourbon
- Few drops Of Pickle Juice
- 1 tsp. Mustard
- Black Pepper

In a bowl, lightly coat the cornstarch into the cheeses. Over a medium heat add the wine, half of the bourbon and the pickle juice. Gradually add the cheese, stirring all the time. Once a smooth mixture is obtained add the mustard, black pepper and remaining bourbon. Enjoy with fresh crusty bread, crostini, salamis and anything else you would like to dip into the Fondue.



Cranachan with Brambles
Wedgewood

Cranachan with Brambles

Courtesy of Paul Wedgewood of [Wedgewood The Restaurant](#)

Bramble cream: 300ml Double cream, 200g White chocolate, 100g Brambles (frozen are fine!)

Place the cream in a pan and bring to the boil. Place the chocolate in a bowl and pour over the heated cream, whisk until combined. Cool in the fridge for a minimum of two hours (ideally overnight). Whip the mixture to soft peaks, then add brambles and whip to firm peaks.

Oat Crumble: 60g Butter, 53g Demerara sugar, 40g Plain flour, 40g Oats, 2g Bicarbonate of soda. 2g Salt

Cream together the butter and sugar, add the dry ingredients and mix well. Roll out like a sheet of biscuit to about 1cm thick. Bake at 180 C, checking after 15 mins, take out when it is a nice golden brown. Cool then break into a crumble.

Anglaise: 250ml Milk, 250ml Double cream, 150g Egg yolk, 250g Sugar, 100g Honey, 50ml Whisky, 1 Vanilla pod or tsp of essence

Bring milk and cream to the boil; whisk egg and sugar together. Take the milk and cream mixture off the heat and carefully whisk into the egg and sugar mix, add the vanilla. Whisk slowly on a gentle heat until it thickly coats the back of a spoon, cool.

Whisky honey: Add the honey to a small pan and bring to the boil for one minute then deglaze with the whisky. Blend into the Anglaise when cool (but set a bit of the syrup aside to drizzle over the finished dessert). Churn in an ice cream machine. Pipe or spoon the Bramble cream into glasses or bowls, sprinkle the crumb mix over and drizzle with whisky honey. Serve with Whisky honey ice cream and garnish with brambles and mint leaves

Dijon Vinaigrette (for your salads)

Courtesy of Chef Joshau Lanning (as part of a collaboration between Old Elk bourbon and [Heritage Steel](#) cookware)

- 1 tbsp Dijon
- 1 tbsp Bourbon Reduction*
- 3 tbsp White Vinegar
- .5 Cup Extra Virgin Olive Oil
- 1 garlic clove, Minced
- 1 tbsp Minced Shallot
- .25 tsp Salt
- Black Pepper

Combine the garlic, shallots and white vinegar in a bowl. Let sit for 30 minute to infuse. Add Dijon and bourbon reduction along with the salt and a few grinds of black pepper to the white vinegar mixture. Slowly whisk in the olive oil to create the vinaigrette. Adjust with more salt, vinegar or oil if needed.

*Bourbon Reduction: 1 Cup Old Elk Bourbon, 2 Tbsp Maple Syrup.

Combine the bourbon and maple syrup in a pan. Cook on low until the bourbon is the same consistency of maple syrup.



Bourbon Glazed Pork Tenderloins

Heritage Steel/Old Elk

Bourbon Glazed Pork Tenderloins

Courtesy of Chef Joshau Lanning

- 1 to 1.5 lbs pork tenderloin, trimmed and seasoned
- 1 bunch of thyme
- 1 spring of rosemary
- 4 cloves of garlic
- Half of a small onion, chopped
- .5 cup of Old Elk Wheated Bourbon
- 1 cup Chicken Broth
- Chili Flakes
- Butter
- Neutral Oil
- Cornstarch Slurry (equal parts cornstarch and water)

Season the pork tenderloin with the pork seasoning at least one hour before cooking. (Save some seasoning to make succotash.) Place a pan on medium high heat. Starting with a couple tablespoons of neutral oil, place the seasoned pork into the pan and sear on high heat to get a good color on all sides. Then turn the heat down and add two big spoons of butter along the thyme, rosemary, garlic and onion. As the butter melts, it should be frothy and bubbly.

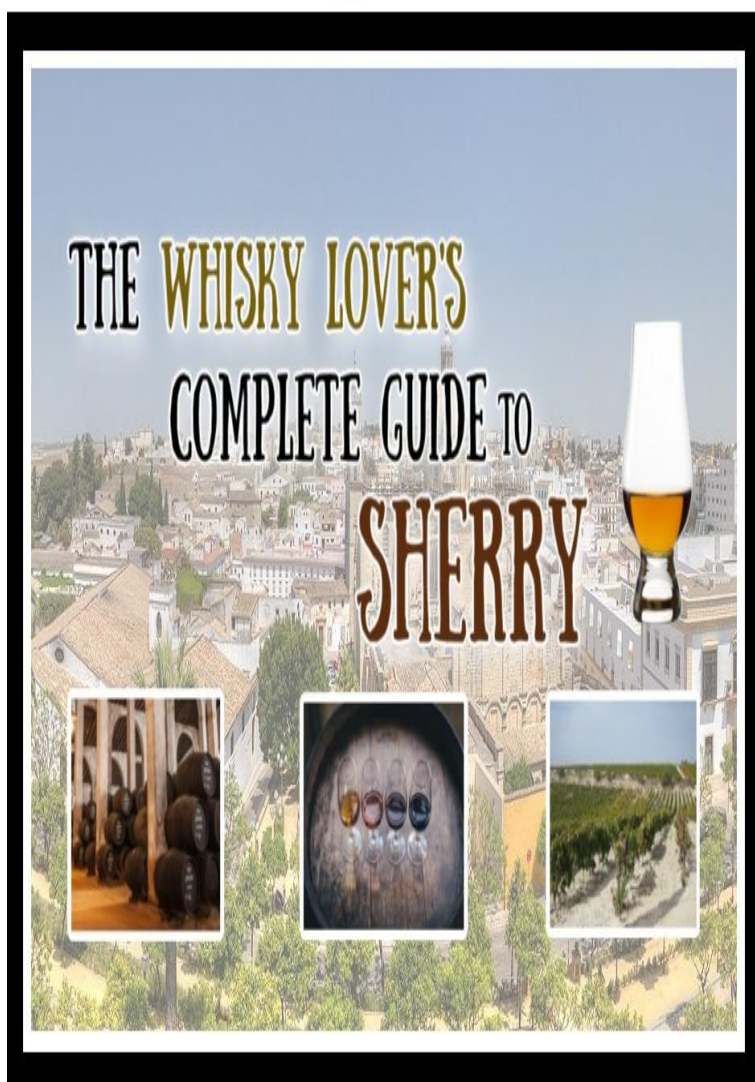
Baste the pork roasts with the butter. Cook until the internal temperature reaches 135F. Remove from the pan, place on a tray and tent with foil. Pour out 75% of the fat in the roasting pan, also removing the garlic, thyme, rosemary and onions. Set the onions and garlic aside to use in the finished glaze.

Turn the pan back on medium heat and add two big spoons of butter. When the butter turns brown and smells nutty, turn the flame off and carefully add the bourbon to the pan, deglazing all the flavorful bits off the pan and starting to build a pan glaze for the pork. Turn the flame back on under the pan and carefully let the bourbon ignite while it reduces into a buttery syrup. Once a syrup is achieved, add the chicken broth and cook for a few minutes. Check the seasoning and adjust with salt and black pepper. Whisk in a very small amount of cornstarch slurry and bring the glaze to a boil. If it's too thick, add a small amount of chicken stock. If too thin, add a small amount of cornstarch slurry. Reserve until ready to serve.

The whisky lover's complete guide to sherry

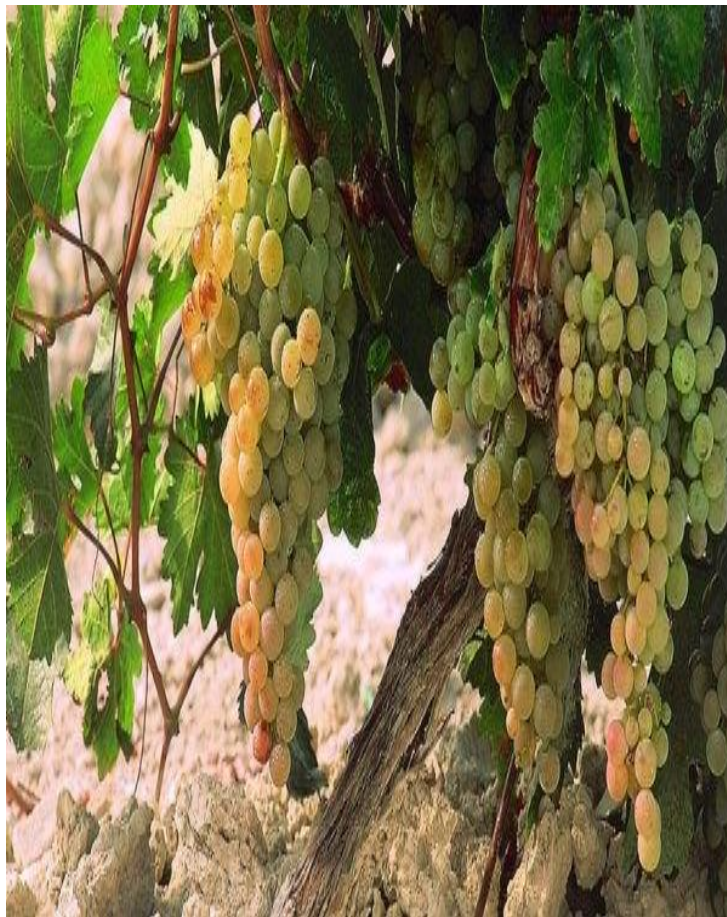


WHISKY & WISDOM



When you first start to explore the world of single malt Scotch whisky, you learn early on that the *vast majority* of whisky is matured in two different types of casks: Casks that previously held bourbon, and casks that previously held sherry. With further exploration and perhaps some self-education with your nose and palate, you'll probably begin to be able to identify when a whisky's maturation journey has been influenced by sherry casks. In other words, you'll either smell or taste the sherry cask influence on the spirit. And, like many people, you might even find yourself favouring the *sherried* style of whisky, and you'll have a preference for the

distilleries that make sherry cask maturation a feature of their house style and portfolio. (Glenfarclas, Glendronach, and Macallan arguably being the three main front-runners in this regard, although the Aberlour's *a'Bunadh* release is also a long-time favourite). Whilst many people understand and appreciate the concept of using *second hand* sherry casks to mature whisky, few people actually understand or appreciate sherry by and of itself. What is sherry, as a drink? What are the different types of sherry? Do some sherry types work better with Scotch whisky than others? If you're one of the many whisky lovers who enjoys a *sherried dram*, Whisky & Wisdom presents this complete guide to sherry to help you understand more about what you're actually enjoying and why.....

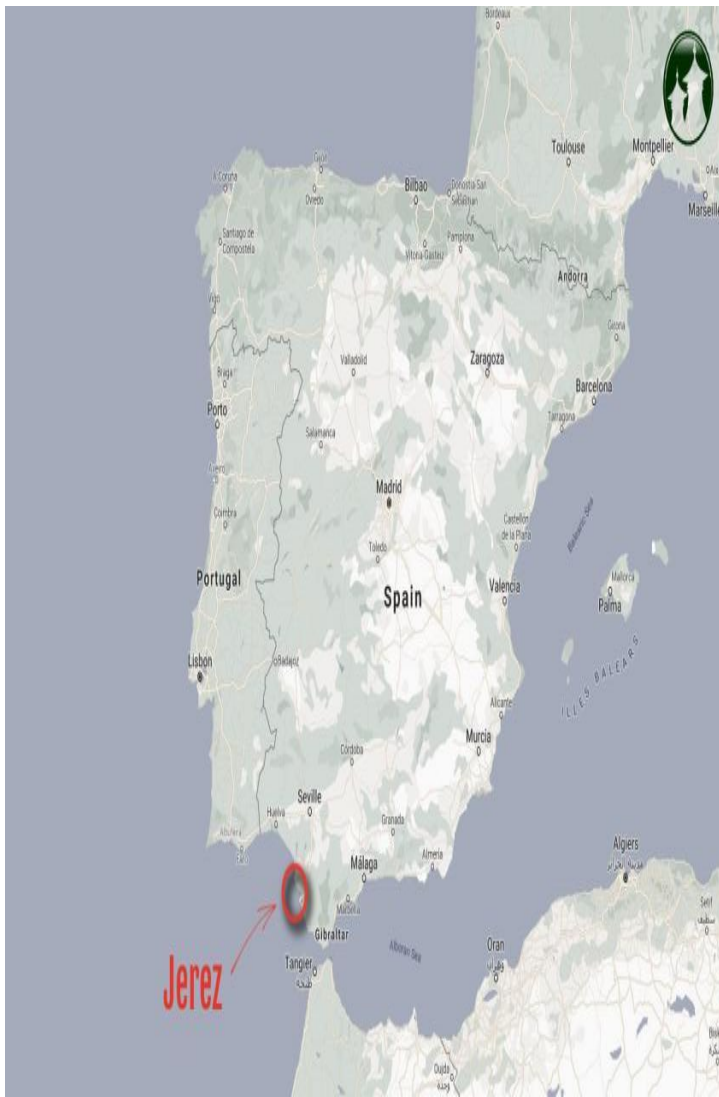


Palomino grapes on the vine

What is sherry?

Sherry is a wine, made from grapes. Strictly speaking, courtesy of *appellation control* restrictions (aka *protected designation of origin*, aka *Denomination of Origin*), the term "sherry" officially denotes the drink as produced in the small region of Spain from which it originates. (This is similar to why *champagne* can now only be used to describe the product made in the Champagne region of France, and the rest of the world now has to call their version of it *sparkling wine*. In Australia, a country which has a long history of producing sherry, the locally-made product is now known as *apera*. Canada has also adopted the term *apera*).

Originating in the city of Jerez de Frontera in the province of Cadiz, but often simply referred to as the Jerez region, the word *sherry* is actually the anglicised form of Jerez. It's a bit like *whisky* being the anglicised form of *uisge beatha*.



Made predominantly from *palomino* grapes, sherry is a **fortified wine**, meaning that it has distilled spirit added to it to increase the wine's alcoholic strength. The grape spirit is added after fermentation, and the liquid is then aged in oak casks.

What's unique about sherry?

Sherry is, initially at least, a dry wine, as the grape spirit is added *after* fermentation, meaning *all* of the sugars in the grape juice (referred to as *must*) have converted into alcohol. This is in contrast to port, where the spirit is added halfway through fermentation. (In port production, fortifying with spirit halfway through arrests the fermentation process, thus leaving a portion of the sugars behind and resulting in a sweet drink).

Different types and styles of sherry are produced by manipulating the *must*, the amount of fortifying spirit added, and the aging process and methodology.

What are the different types of sherry, and how do they relate to the whiskies we enjoy?

The different types of sherry – most of which you'll encounter in the Scotch whisky industry – are fino, manzanilla, amontillado, palo cortado, oloroso, moscatel, and pedro ximenez. All but the last two are typically made from the palomino grape; moscatel and pedro ximenez (often denoted PX) are named after the grapes from which they're made. Let's look at each sherry in order from driest to sweetest and see where they fit in the world of whisky....

Fino & Manzanilla

When the grapes are processed to produce the *must*, at least two pressings are carried out. Must from the first pressing will be used to make both Fino and Manzanilla. (And also Amontillado, but we'll get to that in a moment).

Once the fermentation is complete, the wine will be sitting at around 11% ABV or so. The wine is then fortified by adding grape spirit

(essentially a brandy), increasing the alcohol content up to around 15-16% ABV. The fortified wine is then filled into casks, leaving space or a gap at the top. A natural film or "cap" of yeast will subsequently form on the surface at the top, known as *flor*. This layer of yeast serves to seal or protect the liquid underneath it from contact with the air, and thus prevents oxidation.



Guide to sherry: A sherry cask with clear heads, enabling us to view the film of flor on the surface of the liquid. Image courtesy Tio Pepe, Gonzales Byass

The wine will typically be aged in a [solera system](#) for a minimum of two years, although ageing for up to ten years is not uncommon. Fino & Manzanilla are produced in much the same way, however, Manzanilla is protected by *Denomination of Origin* and can only be produced in the town of Sanlúcar de Barrameda. Manzanilla is a lighter style, and its coastal location imparts a light salty or maritime character to it – much in the same way we associate a brininess or maritime character with the coastal or island Scottish distilleries.

Contrary to a common misconception in the whisky community, the majority of sherry – and particularly Fino – is aged in American oak, and not Spanish oak. Ex-Fino casks are frequently used in the Scotch industry, and plenty of distilleries have put out releases that were either wholly matured or finished in ex-Fino casks. Laphroaig, Tomatin, Tobermory, and Kilchoman have all had recent examples.

Amontillado

Amontillado effectively starts life out as a Fino and is initially aged under *flor*. The yeast is then allowed to die off, or is deliberately killed by adding more fortifying spirit to take the ABV up to around 17-17.5%. The wine is then allowed to continue aging, but will now have contact with the head of air in the cask, and thus will age with oxidation. It will thus begin to take on more colour, and will also develop more complex, richer flavours.

Ex-Amontillado casks again feature in the Scotch whisky industry – the Glenkinchie Distillers Edition is perhaps the best known.



Palo Cortado

Palo Cortado is relatively rare and makes a virtue of an unintended accident. The wine is originally intended and prepared as a Fino or Amontillado. At some point down the track, the *flor* inadvertently breaks down or dies undetected, and the wine starts to age with oxidation. If this is then subsequently discovered, the winemaker adds additional fortifying spirit to increase the ABV to around 17.5%, in order to prevent the wine from spoiling. It is then allowed to continue aging oxidatively. The final result is a sherry that combines some of the yeasty crispness of Fino with the richness of Oloroso. It's estimated that only 1-2% of Finos & Amontillados experience the unintended breakdown of the *flor*, and thus it's perhaps the one style of sherry you won't hear much about in the Scotch industry, owing to its rarity.

Oloroso

Oloroso is produced from the *must* obtained from the second pressing. When the initial fortifying spirit is added, the ABV is taken straight to a higher amount of at least 17%, which both (i) prevents the yeast *flor* from forming, and (ii) prevents the wine from spoiling. It is thus aged under oxidation, and will usually be aged through the solera system for between five and 25 years, resulting in a darker liquid that is particularly rich, spicy, and nutty. Again, contrary to common whisky folklore, Oloroso sherries are still dry. As a result of the maturation process, climate, and natural evaporation of water over the longer time period, Olorosos can occasionally be bottled at higher ABV's of around 20-22%.

Oloroso is seemingly the most common sherry style of choice for the Scotch whisky industry. [Macallan](#) evidently carried out a series of taste trials in the early 1970's and determined that ex-Oloroso casks worked best with their spirit; this laid the foundation for the releases and the reputation the distillery established in the 1980's and 90's.

Moscatel

Made from Moscatel grapes, Moscatel sherries are made in the same way as port, that is, the fermentation is cut short by adding fortifying spirit before fermentation is complete – thereby leaving residual sugars behind and producing a particularly sweet liquid. (Pedro Ximenez, as outlined below, is also made this way). Some Moscatels are also produced by first sunning the grapes – a process that evaporates some of the water and increases the sugar concentration. Sunning the grapes – a process known as *asoleo* – is a feature of Pedro Ximenez production.

Arran, Tomatin, and Glenallachie have released Moscatel-matured or finished whiskies in recent years, although the front-runner and consistent player in this regard is the Caol Ila Distillers Edition.

Pedro Ximenez

Made from Pedro Ximenez grapes, rather than palomino, the grapes are first dried in the sun to concentrate the sweetness – the *asoleo* process. The grapes can take on a raisin-like appearance, and a short fermentation delivers a dark, extremely sweet, raisin-tasting

liquid that is then fortified with grape spirit and aged oxidatively. The resulting sherry is a rich, unctuous, syrupy, dessert wine. How sweet is sweet? Well, even the *dry* sherries might still have a tiny smidgeon of residual sugar in the bottled product, measured in terms of grams per litre. Fino and Amontillado might have anywhere between zero and five grams of sugar per litre. In contrast, Pedro Ximenez will typically have a minimum of 200g per litre. For comparison, a typical port will contain around 100g/L.

Not surprisingly, PX casks have great appeal in the whisky industry, as the flavours from the cask influence, together with the natural wood sugars, can impart sweetness to the maturing whisky. Lagavulin was the front-runner in this field, with the Lagavulin Distillers Edition the first commercial release to make a virtue of PX-finishing in the mid-1990's. Laphroaig has also put out a PX release, whilst Glendronach has had a field day releasing a long line of PX single cask releases.



The Lagavulin Distillers Edition was an early release that used Pedro Ximenez casks for finishing.

What about sweet sherries and cream sherries?

Cream sherries are the "blended whiskies" of the sherry world, in that different sherries are blended to create a particular flavour profile. Almost invariably, the dry sherries are "sweetened up" by being blended with Pedro Ximenez or, occasionally, other sweet wines. Depending on the wines used and the resulting level of sweetness, these sherries fall into three designations: *Pale Cream*, *Medium*, and *Cream*. Pale Cream achieves a balance between the dry bitterness of Fino and some sweetness; Medium will have sugar contents of between 5-115 grams per litre; and Cream is typically a blend of Oloroso and Pedro Ximenez.

The use of sherry casks in the Scotch industry

As discussed above, sherry is typically aged in a solera system, meaning that – generally speaking – the casks are in continuous use and part of a perpetual process of being partially emptied and partially filled as the sherry makes its way through the solera. Such casks are not the ones employed in the Scotch industry!



Guide to sherry: Inside a solera ageing warehouse. Image courtesy Tio Pepe, Gonzales Byass.

Traditionally, it was the *transport casks* that found their way to Scotland and were used to mature whisky. In the days when sherry was a popular and heavily consumed drink in the UK, the wine was filled into casks and shipped in bulk to the UK. Instead of the casks being returned to Spain once they'd been emptied, they were nabbed by the Scottish distilleries who then put them to good use. The days of shipping sherry in casks to the UK in bulk have long gone, due chiefly to Spain introducing new production laws in the 1980s that require the wine to be bottled in its country of origin. This, coupled with a worldwide decline in sherry's popularity and consumption, means that the Scotch industry now has to take matters into its own hands to source sherry casks. The distillers now commission the bodegas in Spain to produce sherry specifically for the purpose of "seasoning" the casks. The casks will typically be filled with *must* and given three months' primary fermentation. They'll then be filled with maturing sherry (e.g. fino or oloroso) and typically seasoned for two to three years with the wine before being sent to Scotland to be filled with new-make spirit. The seasoning wine emptied from the cask will either be distilled; go towards vinegar production; or – according to some whispers in the industry – simply get tipped down the drain. The distilleries therefore tailor or specify the sherry casks they seek for their production. They'll specify either American or European oak, and the type of sherry to be used for the seasoning. Distilleries obviously form business relationships with specific bodegas and producers or, in some instances, the whisky company actually has a financial interest in or part-ownership of the bodega to secure their sherry cask requirements. The universal constant in the industry is that sherry remains a waning and unpopular drink (certainly compared to its heyday in the mid-20th century), and so production levels are down. Making sherry purely for the purposes of seasoning a cask and then having to process or discard the unwanted wine – for which there's no market – is an expensive exercise, and so sherry casks carry a huge premium. From figures prepared by the Scotch Whisky Industry Review for 2020.....

- A refill bourbon hogshead[#] has a price tag of around £50.
- A 1st fill bourbon hogshead costs around £200.
- A 1st fill sherry hogshead costs around £250.
- A 1st fill sherry butt costs around £500.

[#] The figures above have been normalised for a hogshead, but it's worth noting that the practice of re-coopering ex-bourbon barrels into hogsheads by inserting additional staves, effectively increasing their capacity from 200 litres to 250 litres, is generally in decline. An increasing number of distillers are choosing to keep the 200 litre barrels intact, but now fill them at a higher filling strength, rather than

water them down to the traditional filling strength of 63.5% ABV. In an illustration of the complex nature of market forces, this is essentially a fallout of the USA's housing crash in 2007, which had flow-on effects to the American lumber industry and caused a shortage of bourbon casks and a corresponding price increase spike of 200% for bourbon casks in 2015!

Note also that the above figures perpetuate the oft-quoted "fact" that an ex-sherry cask costs ten times that of an ex-bourbon cask, but it's rarely understood or appreciated that the ten-times multiplier is unfairly comparing a 250 litre used cask with a 500 litre new cask. And that's before we get into the price variations associated with European oak versus American oak, etc.

It is for these reasons that sherry-cask-matured whiskies generally carry a price premium and are the more expensive bottlings on the market. Some might also suggest that scarcity and cost is one of the reasons why sherry casks are increasingly being used for *finishes*, rather than full-term maturation.

The impact of sherry casks on flavour

As a very general comment and guideline, sherry casks typically impart aromas and flavours of dried fruits, spices, and tannin to whisky.

"Christmas pudding in a glass" is an oft-used descriptor, and it reflects the general characteristics of sultanas, raisins, glace cherries, currants, dried figs, dates, prunes, plums, and so on. Such notes are all the more prevalent when the sherry casks are European oak (*quercus robur*, or occasionally *quercus pyrenaica*, aka Spanish oak), as opposed to American oak (*quercus alba*). European oak is less dense than American oak, and so the spirit has more interaction with the wood, which drives enhanced extraction and the more pronounced woody/oak notes.

In contrast to this, whisky matured in ex-bourbon casks will lean more towards notes of vanilla/caramel, citrus, coconut, and some tropical or orchard fruits.

The other consideration to bear in mind when discussing the use of sherry casks in the Scotch whisky industry is the issue of sulphur. That's a whole other topic that deserves its own article or chapter, but for a clear and simple account of sherry casks and sulphur, you can read Whisky and Wisdom's short piece on the topic [here](#). In the meantime, the next time you pour yourself a sherried dram...you'll now have a better understanding of the sherry industry and the work that took place in Spain before our friends in Scotland did their part to produce a delicious drop.

Cheers,

AD

PS: For further reading, you might also like:

- [Glenfarclas 105 versus Aberlour a' Bunadh](#)
- [The highs and lows of Macallan](#)
- [What makes a whisky a "Christmas whisky"](#)
- [Glendronach vs Glenfarclas vs Macallan](#)
- And, if you enjoyed our Complete Guide to Sherry, you might also enjoy Whisky & Wisdom's ["Complete Guide to Peat"](#)

Diageo Launches New Round Of Prima & Ultima Collection Of Single Vintage Malts

[SCOTCH](#)

By [Gary Carter](#) / August 17, 2021

Diageo recently opened registration for whisky collectors to snatch up the second release of Prima & Ultima, the spirit company's series of ultra rare single malt scotch whiskies.

This collection of cask-strength bottlings compose the second release of eight bottles drawn from some of the oldest stock of Diageo's distilleries across Scotland, including Talisker, Mortlach, The Singleton of Glendullan, and Brora.

The Prima & Ultima collection features single vintage malts that are either the first or last bottling of their kind.

Each release is curated by Diageo Master Blender Maureen Robinson, who takes up the mantle from the curator [of the inaugural Prima & Ultima](#), Dr Jim Beveridge.

With more than 40 years of whisky expertise, Robinson hand-selected each bottling to make up the second release, "each a piece of distilling history offering collectors and connoisseurs the opportunity to build an expertly curated liquid library over time," Robinson said [in a prepared statement](#).

Robinson noted that this selection of single malts contains some that have never before seen the light of day and others that are the fleeting and final examples of their kind.

"I remember choosing to hold back the cask filled at Auchroisk knowing it would be special for the future and the anticipation and excitement of the maturation trials we undertook with Linkwood and The Singleton, now realized in these releases," she said. "Some of these casks I helped to lay down, and have taken great pleasure in tending to them since, so I chose them with rich memories in mind."

Each full set of eight Prima & Ultima single vintage malts is accompanied by eight bespoke glasses, engraved with a design that reflects the story behind each whisky, created in collaboration with two glass artists. Individual 20ml samples of each whisky are also included with a booklet of personal stories told by Robinson.

In all, 376 full sets are available for purchase, directly through appointed Prima & Ultima agents, at a recommended retail selling price of GBP 23,500 (including tax and duty – around \$32,450 USD) in the UK. You can check out the online registration page at www.theprimaandultimacollection.com for more information.

Once registration ends on Aug. 23rd, there will be a chance to obtain set #1 of the second release of Prima & Ultima, each signed personally by Maureen Robinson, when it goes under the hammer in an online auction at Sotheby's from Sept. 15-24 in Hong Kong, with all proceeds of the sale going to humanitarian charity CARE International.

Tamdhu Batch Strength No. 006 goes on sale

23 AUGUST 2021 By Melita Kiely

Speyside single malt Scotch producer Tamdhu has unveiled the sixth whisky in its Batch Strength series.



Tamdhu Batch Strength No. 006 was matured exclusively in oloroso Sherry casks

Tamdhu Batch Strength No. 006 is a non-chill filtered single malt, bottled at 56.8% ABV.

The single malt whisky was matured exclusively in oloroso Sherry casks. Tasting notes include aromas of roasted nuts and vanilla, leading to summer berry pudding, crème anglaise, and orange, lemon and oak spice with water.

The finish is said to be 'long and lingering' with fruit, spice and Sherry notes.

Sandy McIntyre, Tamdhu Distillery manager, said: "The Batch Strength series is one of our most popular releases – and Batch Strength No. 006 is sure to appeal to our fans old and new.

"The high proportion of first-fill oloroso Sherry casks give this whisky a rich, complex taste and long, rewarding finish."

The new release is available to purchase via the Tamdhu website and specialist retailers for RRP £79.99 (US\$109) per 700ml bottle.

Ian Macleod Distillers is the owner of Tamdhu Distillery. Earlier this month, the company released a gift collection comprising [three miniature Tamdhu whiskies](#).

In other whisky news, Diageo unveiled the second release of its collectable [Prima & Ultima single malt Scotch series](#), priced at RRP £23,500 (US\$32,720).

Meanwhile, trade body the Scotch Whisky Association released figures showing the [value of Scotch whisky exports rose by a third](#) during the first half of 2021.

Fettercairn unveils second small batch release

23 AUGUST 2021 By Nicola Carruthers

Whyte & Mackay has revealed the second whisky from its Fettercairn Warehouse Collection, a single malt matured in ex-American rye and ex-Bourbon barrels.



Limited to just 6,000 bottles, the single malt is bottled at 48.5% ABV

The new Warehouse 2, Batch No.002 was released after the 'overwhelming success' of the inaugural whisky from Fettercairn's Warehouse Collection.

The Warehouse Collection uses 'unusual and interesting' casks to create small batch, limited releases.

The second bottling in the range showcases the Highland distillery's 14 dunnage warehouses.

The spirit was distilled in 2009 and matured in a combination of first-fill ex-American rye barrels and first-fill ex-Bourbon barrels. To create the whisky, 29 casks were hand-selected from Warehouse 2, which combines high humidity with a fairly cool and temperate environment. The resulting liquid highlights the distillery's tropical style, with sweetness and soft spice on the nose and layers of tropical and citrus fruits.

Gregg Glass, whisky maker at Whyte and Mackay, said: "This second release takes us on a deep dive into further exploration of the unique Fettercairn flavour, as we have bottled spirit matured in ex-American rye barrels, allowing us to show a more experimental side to our approach.

"I never cease to be inspired and enthralled by the diversity and quality of the amazing stock we have in our warehouses, and this itself creates a brilliant canvas to work from.

"The more I discover, the more excited I get about just what we can do as we continue to create exceptionally refined whiskies and offer something truly unexpected and different."

Limited to 6,000 bottles, the expression sits at 48.5% ABV.

Fettercairn Warehouse 2, Batch No.002 will be available to buy for RRP £55 (US\$75) from select specialist outlets this week. It will launch in key global markets including the UK, the Netherlands, Germany, Belgium and France.

Last month, Whyte & Mackay [partnered with artist Rob Mulholland](#) to mark the expansion of its Scottish Oak Programme.

Old Forester's 'Warehouse K' The Latest Bourbon From The 117 Series

By [Gary Carter](#) / August 18, 2021

Old Forester recently announced it is releasing the second expression in the 117 Series, a blend of barrels from historic Warehouse K.

The 117 Series is a limited-expression lineup that debuted this spring, directed by the palate of Old Forester Master Taster Jackie Zykan.

The whiskeys are the first Old Forester bourbons to feature a woman's signature on the bottle when they debuted [with a high angel's share release in April](#), now followed by the "Warehouse K" release.

[This release](#) is sold in 375mL bottles and is crafted to pay homage to Old Forester's homeplace located on Whiskey Row in Louisville, Kentucky.

Zykan said in a prepared statement that in the world of Old Forester brand fans and bourbon connoisseurs, Warehouse K has gained a cult following for featuring a blend of barrels aged on different floors. She noted that the 117 Series: "Warehouse K" features a blend of barrels aged on different floors from a particular warehouse known to produce exceptional liquid. Built in 1953, Warehouse K employs the old-fashioned method of heat-cycling and has long said to have been one of Old Forester's go-to places for single barrel expressions. "Warehouse K ... a blend across multiple floors and locations within this warehouse, gives a more holistic example of the profile its barrels yield," she said.

Old Forester Warehouse K is bottled at 110 proof and is available at the retail shop at Old Forester Distilling Co. for \$49.99 in limited quantities, and at select Kentucky stores. Official tasting notes are below.

- **Color:** Rich honey
- **Aroma:** On the nose, creamy chocolate, caramel, and brown sugar lead, with a hint of golden raisin and a foreshadowing of the pepper the finish will unveil.
- **Taste:** The palate brings with it a full-bodied and rich viscosity, peripheral spice, and a touch of black cherry alongside bitter molasses.
- **Finish:** The robust yet balanced spice finish completes the story of the well-known complexity which is the K warehouse.

8 classic single malts that every whisky enthusiast should know
Picking a single malt – especially for whisky beginners – can turn into a case of information overload. We cut through the clutter to bring you eight whiskies that you can rely on. Thank us later.



Auchentoshan claims to be the only distillery in Scotland to triple distil its whisky – most Scottish distilleries distil twice. (Photo: Auchentoshan)

[Lin Weiwen](#)

03 Mar 2021 06:30AM(Updated: 19 May 2021 06:27PM)

For newcomers to [whisky](#), navigating (or Googling) the [world of whisky](#) and trying to decide which [Scotch single malt](#) would suit your taste can be a mind-boggling exercise.

First, you'd have to deal with the geography and the styles. Invariably, you'd come across the trends. Then your bartender gives you a discourse on ["ghost" distilleries](#), which have nothing do with spooks but everything to do with lost spirits.

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But, as in everything in life, you won't go wrong by relying on the classics. Focus on the flagships. The latest whisky trends are like the return of baggy pants – they won't last. Classics, solid classics, will give any whisky newbie his bang for the buck.

Here are the regional stalwarts you can count on.

AUCHENTOSHAN 12 YEARS OLD

[Auchentoshan](#) (pronounced "Ock-un-tosh-un") claims to be the only distillery in Scotland to triple distil its whisky – most Scottish distilleries distil twice – a process that results in a smoother, more delicate taste. It is one of the few remaining distilleries located in the Lowlands, a region known for its lighter style of whiskies.

ADVERTISEMENT



(Photo: Auchentoshan)

Since its founding in 1823, Auchentoshan has changed hands many times – it is currently owned by Beam Suntory.

The Auchentoshan 12 Years Old remains the distillery's flagship. Aged in bourbon and sherry casks, the spirit offers a rich profile of maple and citrus, a touch of nuttiness, and a smooth texture. A hint of cinnamon in the finish rounds off this sip with a delicately spiced note.

\$5109, from [1855 The Bottle Shop](#)

BENROMACH 21 YEARS OLD

The region of Speyside is known for producing sweet, fruity whiskies. In this respect, [Benromach](#)'s peaty flavour (a smoky accent derived from burning peat or partially decayed vegetable matter; a style more associated with whiskies from the Islay region) may come across as an oddity to some drinkers.



(Photo: Benromach)

But it's a practice from the old days, when Speyside distilleries smoked their own barley over a peat fire.

Matured in first-fill sherry and bourbon casks, the Benromach 21 Years Old is a whirl of honey, cinnamon, raspberry, and gentle smoky notes. It's ideal for those looking for a rich Speyside character but with an edgy, savoury touch of peat.

\$5300, from [La Maison du Whisky](#)

BOWMORE 18 YEARS OLD

With a history that dates back to 1779, [Bowmore](#) is the oldest licensed distillery on Islay, an island sitting off the west coast of Scotland and known for its smoky whiskies.



(Photo: Bowmore)

As you might expect, Bowmore's whiskies have that distinctive Islay smokiness, but it's more of a whiff of peat than, say, a gust of stinging smoke you'd find in the Laphroaig, another Islay bottling (more on that later).

The Bowmore 18 Years Old is arguably the standout in the core range. Left to slumber in ex-bourbon and sherry casks, the spirit is rich and complex. This is a maple syrup-drenched pancake breakfast served in a patio fronting an autumnal forest: Notes of apple, cedar and raisins are wrapped by a delicate thread of smoke.

\$5199, from [iShopChangi](#)

THE GLENDRONACH ALLARDICE 18 YEARS OLD

The [GlenDronach](#) Allardice is named after its late founder, James Allardice, who built the distillery in 1826.



(Photo: GlenDronach)

Located in the Scottish Highlands, the GlenDronach was one of the last to heat its stills by coal fire until 2005, when drinks giant Pernod Ricard, which took over the distillery, changed the coal-fired stills to the modern steam-heated coils.

Producers in the Highlands make whiskies in a variety of styles. The GlenDronach Allardice leans heavily towards the fruity style, thanks to its Oloroso sherry cask-matured spirit. The spirit flaunts a dark hue, and offers flavours of creme brulee, cherries, ginger, and dark chocolate.

If you like your whiskies sweet like a fruitcake, look no further.

\$5298, from [Malt & Wine Asia](#)

GLENMORANGIE, THE ORIGINAL 10 YEARS OLD

It's easy to get carried away by age statements, but older whiskies may not always be better. Younger whiskies can offer a more balanced profile that is more approachable for drinkers.



(Photo: Glenmorangie)

The [Glenmorangie](#) 10 Years Old is one such spirit, having set a high standard for Highland whiskies over the years.

The 10 Years Old is aged in first- and second-fill American white oak casks, a combination that lends it a gentle character of vanilla, toffee, and apple notes. The finish is soft and fruity. Enjoy this one neat.

\$5106, from [Bottles and Bottles](#)

LAPHROAIG 10 YEARS OLD

You'd either love or hate the [Laphroaig](#) – some choke on it, others cheer – there's no middle ground. This is Islay's unofficial flag-bearer; a very smoky, peated whisky that boldly represents the region's style.



(Photo: Laphroaig)

Peat from Islay is placed below malted barley and lit, its smoke lending the Laphroaig its distinctive smell of wet bogs. It's not all bitter and medicinal like grandpa's old vermouth, though. There are hints of citrus and vanilla, and an oily texture that lingers on the palate.

\$5129, from [iShopChangi](#)

THE MACALLAN, DOUBLE CASK 18 YEARS OLD

The Macallan label needs no introduction, its presence reinforced by a strong marketing campaign and show-stoppers at auctions where rare bottles fetch over a million dollars.



(Photo: The Macallan)

Building on the success of the Double Cask 12 Years Old, which was released in 2016, The Macallan introduced the 15 Years Old and 18 Years Old editions last year.

The Double Cask 18 Years Old – an exotic potion of raisins, ginger, caramel, vanilla, and nutmeg – is a combination of spirits from American and European sherry-seasoned casks.

According to The Macallan's whisky maker Sarah Burgess, the casks used are a mix of American and European oak hogsheads, sherry butts and puncheons.

\$549, from [The Macallan](#)

TALISKER 18 YEARS OLD

[Talisker](#) is the only distillery on the Isle of Skye, an island located in the Inner Hebrides archipelago off Scotland's west coast. Like Islay's drams, Talisker rustles up a smoky style but one that is marked by a distinctive pepperiness that fans love so much.



(Photo: Talisker)

The Talisker 18 Years Old earned the Best Single Malt title at the World Whiskies Awards 2007. There is much to love in this dram, a finely tuned spirit flaunting sweetness and smokiness in equal measure. This is a sip that captures the wild sea sprays of the island's coastline.

\$208, from [iShopChang](#)

Hidden Treasures: The 10 Best-Kept Secrets of Single Malt Scotch

AUGUST 24, 2021 | [SUSANNAH SKIVER BARTON](#)



Much like Robert De Niro, Meryl Streep, and Sir Ian McKellen, the marquee names of single malt scotch are whiskies you can bank on, delivering captivating performances in the glass time after time. They've built a reputation for quality that always delivers. But plenty of lesser-known single malts have fascinating stories to offer too. Scotland has over 120 single malt distilleries that exported nearly 129 million bottles in 2020, according to the [Scotch Whisky Association](#). Yet the average American liquor store might have just a couple dozen single malt scotch brands, and often these don't vary no matter where you shop. There's nothing wrong with that if those are the whiskies you like to drink, but the world of single malt scotch is much bigger—and some of its best whiskies are still undiscovered by a great many drinkers.

There are several reasons why distilleries might fly under the radar. Some of them mainly produce whisky for blends, bottling only a small amount of their output as single malt. Others, like [Benromach](#), are simply small, making relatively little whisky—a few hundred thousand liters, compared to tens of millions for big guys like [Glenfiddich](#) and [Glenlivet](#). “We’re never going to be a Macallan” because of limited production capacity, says Robert Fleming, distilleries director at [Angus Dundee](#), which owns [Glencadam](#). “But the spirit we produce is all wanted by the blenders. We can compete with the best.” Many of these distilleries are located off the beaten path, even for rural Scotland—places you’d want to visit armed with both GPS and an atlas. Others are relatively new, still building their reputations in an industry where 50 years old is considered youthful. It’s difficult to generalize about what makes each of these whiskies special. Most are bottled at higher strengths—usually 46% alcohol by volume (ABV) and above—with no chill-filtration or added coloring. Many are matured primarily in bourbon casks, allowing the distinct character of the spirit, rather than strong wood influence, to shine through. And some may be characterized as “old fashioned” in style, whether deliberately, through production methods or equipment, or simply because of inertia. Those distilleries haven’t reacted much to trends among whisky drinkers, continuing instead to just do what they’ve always done well.

The names of these whiskies may be unfamiliar, and they might even be tough to find, but the effort is worth it. Just as Dustin Hoffman was unknown until “The Graduate,” one of these single malts could very well be the next big thing. You heard it here first.

ANCNOC: RETHINKING THE DETAILS MAKES A SINGULAR MALT

The distillery's name is Knockdhu, and its single malt is anCnoc. Don't worry too much about pronunciation: Just try the whisky, whose clean, clear flavor comes from [ingenious production quirks and a skillful staff](#).

ARRAN: THE UNDISCOVERED ISLAND WHISKY

One of Scotland's most accessible islands is home to not one, but two distilleries owned by Isle of Arran Distillers. Often adeptly cask-

finished, Arran's single malt offers full flavor and distinct character at great prices—making it a wonder that the [whisky isn't better known](#).
BALBLAIR: A SLEEPER TUCKED AMONG HIGHLANDS GIANTS
 Located a stone's throw from Glenmorangie Distillery, Balblair has lingered in obscurity, tucked away off the main road without even a sign pointing the way until recently. Its whisky, however, is [every bit the equal of its famous neighbor's](#).



Glen Garioch is surrounded by a town, constrained from growing larger and not easy to find.

BENROMACH: A TIME CAPSULE OF HAND-CRAFTED SCOTCH
 If your model train layout included a distillery, it would look like Benromach: small, quaint, and much as it was in 1898, its founding year. The distillery's modern mission: [to make Speyside single malt as it used to be](#).

DEANSTON: A SMALL-TOWN WHISKY SHOWCASES BIG POWER AND COMPLEXITY

Though a whisky distillery is usually the biggest tourist attraction in town, Deanston plays second fiddle to film-famous Doune Castle. Thankfully, that doesn't hold it back from turning out some of the Highlands' [most flavorful single malt](#).

GLEN GARIOCH: A HIDDEN HEAVYWEIGHT IN THE HEART OF BARLEY COUNTRY

Tucked discreetly away among neat cottages in the village of Oldmeldrum, Glen Garioch (GEAR-ee) isn't a distillery you just stumble upon; you have to want to find it. Once you're in on the secret, you'll recognize the singular qualities that [make Glen Garioch's whisky so appealing](#).

GLEN SCOTIA: THE OTHER CAMPBELTOWN WHISKY
 Springbank usually gets all the credit for propping up Campbeltown's signature style, but to overlook Glen Scotia is to miss out on another dimension of this [historic and still vibrant whisky region](#).



A worker fills casks at Glencadam Distillery.

GLENCADAM: A DISTILLERY WHERE TIME STANDS STILL

From the outside, Glencadam still looks much as it did when founded in 1825; inside, 20th-century equipment has replaced older tools, and the waterwheel that once powered the operations is gone, but there's still a sense of stepping back in time. (The graveyard next door [reinforces the feeling](#).)

LOCH LOMOND: ONE DISTILLERY MAKING A MULTITUDE OF MALTS
 Most single malt distillers are specialists: They aim to do one thing well. Enter Loch Lomond, a whisky wonderland that produces multiple styles and profiles—including both single malt and grain—[under one roof](#).

TAMDHU: BEHIND THE CURTAIN LIES A SHERRY LOVER'S DREAM
 Tamdhu has its fair share of Victorian-era dunnage warehouses and stillman's cottages, but it also has a distillery building from the 1970s that can only be described as borderline Brutalist in style. The environs may not be a thing of beauty, but [the whisky that emerges from them certainly is](#).

THE RAREST TREASURES

Many of Scotland's malt distilleries make whisky intended only for blending; if you encounter them as single malt, it's through independent bottlers—companies that purchase whisky from distilleries, age it, and bottle it under their own name, like [Gordon & MacPhail](#), [Signatory](#), and [Duncan Taylor](#). Look for whiskies from Benrinnes, Glen Elgin, Glenlossie, Glenburgie, Glentauchers, Linkwood, and Teaninich—all delicious and unique single malts that are sure to surprise even the most seasoned scotch drinker.



Glenmorangie Barrel Select Release 13 Year Old Cognac Cask Finish (70cl, 46%)

Add to a Wishlist
 Glenmorangie 13yo
 Cognac Bottling Note
 Unveiled in August 2021, this expression from the Glenmorangie Distillery brings together the fruit-forward fabulousness of Glenmorangie's single malt with the rich, spicy depth imparted by Cognac casks! Glenmorangie's head of whisky creation Dr. Bill Lumsden had experimented with Cognac casks before, but found they would overshadow the spirit's character. For this expression, however, Dr. Bill used Cognac casks that had been filled several times, resulting in a more subtle wood influence on the whisky. It was initially aged in ex-bourbon casks for eight years, before being finished in the aforementioned Cognac casks for a further four years, and then bottled up at 46% ABV. Tasting Note by The

Chaps at Master of Malt

Nose: Spiced apple, soft cedar, and a smidge of earthy forest floor. Hints of yellow plum and leather.

Palate: Orange oils, buttery biscuits, clove, flaked almonds atop warm pastries, caramelised fruit.

Finish: Lingering oaky spices and a touch of red fruit sweetness.

Distell debuts latest limited edition whiskies

25 AUGUST 2021

By Nicola Carruthers

South African drinks group Distell has revealed four new limited edition whiskies from its Bunnahabhain, Tobermory and Deanston distilleries, including a peated Ledaig 1999 bottling.



Distell's limited edition whiskies

Distell's new limited edition range includes bottlings from Deanston and Bunnahabhain

Islay distillery Bunnahabhain has unveiled a 2011 Aonadh (meaning 'union' in Scottish Gaelic), a 56.2% ABV blend of Sherry-matured and Port-finished whisky. The resulting liquid is described as 'rich, creamy and subtly spicy'.

Tobermory Distillery on the Isle of Mull will release the 'sweet and ginger spiced' Tobermory 2004 Oloroso Cask Matured (55.9% ABV), and peated Ledaig 1999 Pedro Ximénez Cask Matured. Bottled at 55.6% ABV, the Ledaig whisky is 'subtly smoky, with deep notes of dark fruits'.

Meanwhile, Deanston will release a 2008 Oloroso Cask Matured (52.7% ABV) bottling that offers flavours of cherries, dark fruits and gingerbread.

Travel writer Robin McKelvie visited each of the distilleries as they emerged from lockdown, documenting their reopening to the public through a short film. The documentary has been released to mark the launch of the whiskies.

Julieann Fernandez, master blender at Distell, said: "Each new expression showcases the very best of our single malt whisky portfolio here at Distell, passionately crafted by our distillery teams. Robin has created some beautiful prose that truly captures the spirit of each of the three distilleries, their link to the local communities and their surrounding landscapes – from the Southern Hebrides of Islay, the Inner Hebrides of Mull to mainland Scotland.

"To be able to tell the stories behind each distillery, and showcase the team who have worked so hard behind the scenes to keep our whisky flowing, is a real honour for us. These film clips pay tribute to these teams and our distillery homelands."

All four limited edition single malts will be available to buy from 1 September 2021 from each distillery's website.

Bunnahabhain 2011 Aonadh is priced at RRP £120 (US\$165), Deanston 2008 Oloroso Cask Matured costs £80 (US\$110), Tobermory 2004 Oloroso Cask Matured is available for £130 (US\$178) and Ledaig 1999 Pedro Ximénez Cask Matured has an RRP of £250 (US\$343).

Last week, Cara Gilbert was appointed manager of Scotch whisky and gin producer Tobermory Distillery.

Spirit of Speyside to host in-person event

25 AUGUST 2021

By Alice Brooker

The Spirit of Speyside Festival has confirmed it will host an in-person event in November, which will be overseen by a new chairman.



New chairman for Spirit of Speyside Whisky Festival George McNeil and former chairman James Campbell

L-R: New chairman for The Spirit of Speyside Whisky Festival George McNeil and former chairman James Campbell

The whisky festival was launched in 1999 and has become an 'annual celebration of Scotland's national drink'.

It is one of the biggest whisky festivals in the world, allowing attendees and distillers to explore and learn about the Speyside region. Speyside is home to more whisky distilleries than any other region in the world.

The 2020 festival was cancelled because of the Covid-19 pandemic, while the 2021 iteration was held virtually in April due to ongoing restrictions worldwide.

James Campbell has been chairman of Spirit of Speyside Whisky Festival for the past 10 years.

He said: "It's been my pleasure to act as chairman of Spirit of Speyside for the last decade and give visitors from around the world a taste of Scotland in miniature."

Campbell has seen the festival transform into a six-day event involving more than 50 distilleries from around the region.

"Over the years, we've seen the festival grow to become an important part of the region and to help support the local economy," he added.

"Earlier this year we brought the Spirit of Speyside Whisky Festival online with 688 guests from 15 countries around the world logging in, but nothing beats being together to celebrate the world's largest producing whisky region."

New chairman

Taking over Campbell's position for the November festival this year will be newly appointed chairman George McNeil.

McNeil, who is also managing director of the Johnstons of Elgin retail division, has lived in Speyside for 14 years.

He said: "I'm looking forward to giving something back to this amazing region by looking after this iconic festival.

"The Spirit of Speyside is onto a winning formula by bringing together a huge variety of whisky companies with local communities and nearly 140 business members in the region, and I'm really looking forward to continuing that legacy."

The spirits industry is seeing a number of in-person events resurface again this year, including Tales of Cocktail 2021, which will host a hybrid in-person and online festival next month.

Earlier this week, Tales of the Cocktail's annual Spirited Awards announced the top 10 nominees in this year's writing and media categories – and The Spirits Business has been listed in the Best Cocktail & Spirits Publication.

Furthermore, The Spirits Business is looking forward to welcoming consumers and trade professionals back to its Wine & Spirits Show this October.

Macallan celebrates pioneers with new whisky line

25 AUGUST 2021

By Nicola Carruthers

Edrington-owned The Macallan has released the first single malt in a new range inspired by the brand's legacy – a whisky enclosed in a Lalique decanter and distilled in 1950.



Macallan Volume I whisky

Macallan Volume I comes in a handmade Lalique crystal decanter and is concealed in an almanac book. Tales of The Macallan Volume I, The Laird of Easter Elchies (1659-1715), is the inaugural limited edition whisky in a new collection that recounts the story behind the brand's pioneers.

Created by lead whisky maker Sarah Burgess, the single malt was distilled in 1950 and bottled in 2021.

The new expression pays homage to Captain John Grant, who recognised the potential of the Easter Elchies Estate in 1700, when it was refurbished to become the home of The Macallan. Grant had 'set new standards of excellence' for the Scotch brand.

The estate had been owned by the Grant family since 1543 and was transformed by the soldier when he returned from the war. Grant ensured the land could grow barley and sustained a small farming community.

She said: "Tales of The Macallan tells of remarkable individuals and an exceptional spirit. Each of these people left their mark on The Macallan with their unique contribution and legacy alive in our brand's DNA and in every drop of our whisky to this day.

"Tales of The Macallan Volume I is a tribute to Captain John Grant, who paved the way for The Macallan and brought the influence of nature and community spirit. As custodians of the estate, we are continuously inspired by our environment, upholding our responsibility to nurture and protect the wonderful natural habitat that is home to our distillery.

"Just like The Macallan Estate and Easter Elchies House, this precious whisky echoes of a very old tale. Wood spices, sweet wood smoke and antique oak are omnipresent and make a perfect liaison with the delicate symphony of ripe fruits and spices."

The 44.6% ABV single malt offers a nose of grapefruit zest, antique oak, vanilla, melon, wood smoke, nutmeg, ripe plum and almond. The palate provides notes of peach and apple, wood spice with ginger and hints of clove, sweet wood smoke and yuzu, followed by a finish of citrus and sweet oak.

The whisky comes in a handmade Lalique crystal decanter and is concealed in an almanac book. The book, which is made with leather and 42ct gold leaf, features Grant's story, along with illustrations from Andrew Davidson.

Limited to 350 decanters worldwide, Tales of The Macallan Volume I has an RRP of US\$80,000/£60,000/€65,000 and is available from the distillery, The Macallan Boutiques and premium off-trade retailers from August 2021.

Last month, The Macallan and luxury automotive manufacturer Bentley Motors entered into a global brand partnership.

Jack Daniel's bottles 10-year-old whiskey

25 AUGUST 2021 By Alice Brooker

Brown-Forman will release the first aged-stated whiskey from Jack Daniel's in more than 100 years in the US.



Jack Daniel's master distiller Chris Fletcher with the whiskey, which will be available from early September in the US. The whiskey was crafted by maturing of the brand's flagship Jack Daniel's Old No. 7 Tennessee Whiskey in oak barrels for 10 years. Jack Daniel's 10 Years Old Tennessee Whiskey will be rolled out to US markets with limited availability, and will become an annual release. "Over the last decade, we've been experimenting to craft a product that would properly honour the whiskey Jack Daniel was bottling at the end of the 1800s," said Jack Daniel's master distiller Chris Fletcher. The 10-year-old spirit is said to pay tribute to the brand's history and founder while celebrating the modern whiskey-making at the Jack Daniel Distillery. Fletcher continued: "All of us at the Jack Daniel Distillery are thrilled to release an age-stated whiskey for the first time in over 100 years to be enjoyed by all. "This product has been hand-crafted by our distillery team in Lynchburg over the last 10 summers, all while keeping up with the growing demand for Jack Daniel's Tennessee Whiskey around the world." Described as a 'more complex' expression, the 48.5% ABV liquid contains notes of dry fig and raisin, and aromas of oak on the nose. With a palate of butterscotch, soft fruit and smoke, the whiskey gives way to a long finish of sweet tobacco and spice. The bottle design was inspired by the history of the brand, displaying a hand-drawn cartouche – an oblong traditionally used in Egyptian

hieroglyphics – which appeared on Jack Daniel’s aged-stated bottles more than a century ago. The 750ml bottling can be purchased for RRP US\$70 from early September in the US. Last month, Brown-Forman said it would [end its distribution agreement with Bacardi](#) in Austria at the end of 2021 after more than 15 years.

Brown-Forman hires assistant blender

27 AUGUST 2021 By Melita Kiely

Benriach owner Brown-Forman has appointed Kirsten Ainslie as assistant blender to Rachel Barrie.



Kirsten Ainslie will work alongside Rachel Barrie as assistant blender. Ainslie will work closely with Barrie, who is master blender for single malts including The GlenDronach and Glenglassaugh. Before joining Brown-Forman, Ainslie worked as a distiller at John Crabbie & Co in Edinburgh for three years.

Ainslie said: “I feel very privileged to be taking on the role of assistant blender and working alongside Rachel Barrie, who is renowned in the whisky industry.

“Working closely with Rachel, I hope to build on the legacy of maturing and marrying different casks, and crafting whiskies to be enjoyed by newcomers and connoisseurs alike.”

Together, Ainslie and Barrie will oversee spirit quality, product development and innovation, cask selection, and whisky and wood management.

Barrie commented: “It’s a really exciting time for Benriach, The GlenDronach and Glenglassaugh and welcoming Kirsten to the team signals our long-term commitment to investing into and growing our wonderful single malts.

“Kirsten will be a great addition to the team. Nurturing young talent is an important part of what we do at Brown-Forman and Kirsten has certainly proven she has the best nose for the job.”

Earlier this month, [Benriach revealed a whisky](#) made entirely from barley malted at its floor maltings – the first bottling of the sort from the distillery in a century.

Meanwhile, in June this year, Highland distillery [Glenglassaugh released a 50-year-old single malt](#), priced at £5,500 (US\$7,652) per bottle.

Taste Test: A 43-Year-Old Single Malt Flavored by a 3,000-Mile Ocean Journey

Our whisky critic tries to taste the difference some barrel staves’ maritime expedition makes on Talisker’s oldest expression yet.

By [JONAH FLICKER](#)

One more time for the people in the back—old whiskey doesn’t equal good whiskey! But it does mean expensive whiskey, or in this case, [whisky](#), as we’re talking [single malt](#) scotch here. That being said, a carefully monitored, decades-old whisky can be rather delicious, although the dominant notes often have a throughline from bottle to bottle: tropical fruit, dry tannic spice and a healthy dose of oak. Usually, a lengthy age statement is enough to get whisky fans with

deep pockets salivating to procure a bottle, but sometimes a gimmick can activate pleasure centers as well. Such is the case with the oldest expression of [Talisker](#) released by the distillery to date, a 43-year-old single malt that underwent a special secondary maturation.



Photo: courtesy Talisker

The whisky comes from just ten casks with a yield of 1,830 bottles, a number that is also meant to honor the distillery’s founding year, and bottles are priced at \$4,000. Here’s the hook—the whisky was finished in casks that were made in part using 100 wooden staves that crossed the Atlantic Ocean. Adventurer James Aiken took these staves onboard his yacht *Oaken Yarn* as he followed the path of the annual Talisker Whisky Atlantic Challenge, a 3,264-mile voyage that took 24 days to travel from La Gomera, Spain to Antigua. The staves were then sent back to Scotland and inserted into casks for an unspecified finishing period, ten staves added to each of the ten casks.

This of course raises the question: What effect did this nautical journey have on the wood, and in turn what effect did that wood do have on the whisky? I honestly don’t know the answer to that, but supposedly the salty spray of the ocean seasoned the staves and added notes of brine and daring. The whisky itself is quite good, with the tropical fruit notes actually subdued considering its age, the smoke that the distillery is known for on the softer side, and prominent notes of green apple and relatively big spice on the palate. But it seems like this cask finish is more symbolic than substantial, which makes sense given the liquid’s age and scarcity. That being said, \$4,000 is kind of a bargain considering that some whiskies aged for a similar amount of time might cost closer to [50 grand](#).

Talisker will auction off the first bottle of Xpedition later this year to benefit Parley for the Oceans, an environmental group dedicated to preserving marine life and the world’s oceans. And whisky and wilderness fans can register online [here](#) to try to win a three-day land and sea adventure with Aiken around the Isle of Skye in 2022 (dates TBD due to Covid-19), along with a distillery tour and presumably some drams of whisky. But if you’d like to sample this 43-year-old single malt for yourself, better jump on it now as supplies are pretty limited.

Score: 86

New Benromach 40 Year Old Single Malt Will Be An Annual Release
By [Hannah Kanik](#) / September 1, 2021

[The Benromach distillery](#), located in Scotland’s fabled Speyside whisky making region, recently unveiled the first annual batch release of its 40 Year Old, with just over 1,000 bottles available worldwide. It is bottled at a cask strength of 57.1% and was laid down in 1981 before spending four decades maturing in first-fill Oloroso sherry casks. The single malt result is the oldest expression released in Benromach’s new look lineup, which launched in June 2020. Benromach is a traditional Speyside distillery that produces single malt whiskies via what the brand says are time honored methods. Its small

team of distillers manage the small number of casks maturing in its dunnage warehouses, selected for this first annual batch release, with a further release planned each year.



Benromach 40 Year Old (image via Benromach)

“This is the first time we have added a higher aged expression into our portfolio as an annual batch release. Each batch will be bottled at natural strength and will reflect the nuance and character of the casks selected for bottling each year,” Keith Cruickshank, Distillery Manager, said [in a prepared statement](#). “Our first Benromach 40 Years Old displays rich ginger and stewed fruit aromas, Seville orange, red apple and demerara sugar flavours before finishing with citrus zest and a subtle hint of charred oak. It truly is something special.”

The single malt is presented in what’s described as the bespoke Benromach bottle with a heavily embossed and gold foiled label to complete the look. Benromach 40 Years Old is priced at £1,500. Prices in international markets may vary due to local taxes and import duties. [Benromach 40 Years Old](#) is available online and at selected retailers worldwide now. Official brand tasting notes are below.

- Colour: Deep Amber
- Aromas: Rich ginger and stewed fruit aromas followed by citrus, cinnamon, toffee and beeswax polish.
- Palate: Intense Seville orange flavours with red apple and demerara sugar
- Finish: Citrus zest and a touch of charred oak

New Benriach Whisky First In A Century Crafted Entirely From Historic Distillery Floor Maltings

By [Allyson Nichols](#) / September 3, 2021

[Benriach Distillery](#) is keeping Scotch whisky tradition alive with a recent new release, a first in a century single malt bottling created entirely from using barley malted from the distillery’s historic floor maltings.

[The floor malting method](#) requires a highly skilled craftsman. After being steeped in water, the barley is spread across the malting room floor and turned by hand over several days to allow for optimum germination of the barley. The malting team then decides when the barley is ready to move to the kiln.

“Passed from distiller to distiller throughout the generations, the floor malting process keeps a traditional part of the whisky making process alive with Benriach being one of only seven distilleries in Scotland to continue the practice of floor malting,” Global Brand Ambassador at Benriach Stewart Buchanan said [in a prepared statement](#). “Distilling spirit from barley malted here on site is a true labour of love and something we are passionate about keeping alive here at Benriach as an ode to our creative whisky making heritage.”



Benriach Malting Season (image via Benriach)

The first edition of Benriach Malting Season is two-cask matured in bourbon and virgin oak barrels and is gold in color with an aroma of barley sugar, almond fudge and poached orchard apple with smooth, rounded flavours of vanilla and honeyed pear, with a lasting nuttiness of slowly kilned malt, according to official tasting notes.

“At Benriach, we never stop exploring how fruit, oak and barley flavours intertwine and mature in our broad range of eclectic casks,” Master Blender at Benriach Distillery Rachel Barrie said. “The unique process behind Malting Season allows the cereal flavour from the concerto barley to pull through and when married with the creamy, wholesome flavour from being two-cask matured in bourbon and virgin oak barrels, creates a truly unique expression.”

For each new edition of Malting Season, Barrie will carefully select the type of barley and bottling strength. This inaugural release from [the Speyside distillery](#) is made from concerto barley and has a bottling strength of 48.7% ABV. It is comprised of 23 barrels, all distilled in November 2012, with 6672 bottles created in total. Availability will vary by country, with the UK version out now for £99 and the US version coming to market in October.

Tomatin launches The Cognac Edition

06 SEPTEMBER 2021 By [Melita Kiely](#)

Highland Scotch whisky producer Tomatin has completed its French Collection with the addition of The Cognac Edition.



Tomatin The Cognac Edition is the fourth and final addition to The French Collection

The fourth and final bottling in the series was matured for a total of 12 years. The whisky was first aged in oak casks from 2008 to 2018, before being matured further in Cognac casks.

Tasting notes include lavender, fresh fruit and Scottish heather on the nose, with hints of cranberry, orange zest and rose water on the palate. The finish is long with notes of Earl Grey tea and poached pears.

Tomatin The Cognac Edition sits at 46% ABV and will retail for RRP £65 (US\$90) per 700ml bottle. It will be available to purchase through Tomatin's online shop and specialist retailers.

Graham Eunson, master distiller, said: "The fourth and final release from Tomatin's French Collection is the jewel in the crown."

"The Cognac Edition, along with the rest of the collection, showcases our innovative dedication to the craft and excellence and is the perfect illustration of the art of comparative final maturation, a concept championed by Tomatin in the Cuatro series released in 2014, which was also very well received."

"We have been overjoyed by the response from the whisky community to the earlier releases, and by introducing the Cognac finish as the final edition, we hope to attract a wider audience to our unique concept allowing them to better understand the art of cask maturation."

The first three expressions in The French Collection were The Monbazillac Edition, The Sauternes Edition and The Rivesaltes Edition. To support the launch of The Cognac Edition, Tomatin has also released the final part of an immersive four-part campaign on the Tomatin website.

Visitors to the website will discover 'stunning' visuals and an innovative soundboard using ambisonics, which has been designed to transport the viewer to the whisky's beginnings through binaural sound.

Last year, [Tomatin released a 21-year-old whisky](#), matured in ex-Bourbon barrels, exclusively for the travel retail channel.

Glenturret debuts 2021 single malts

06 SEPTEMBER 2021 By Nicola Carruthers

The Glenturret has released its 2021 core range of Scotch whiskies, including a new Peat Smoked bottling.



The new Glenturret line for 2021 includes a higher-ABV Triple Wood. The launch of this year's expressions follows the release of Glenturret's [new core collection in 2020](#) and a refreshed design. It has been created by Glenturret's whisky maker Bob Dalgarno.

The new range comprises of six new whiskies: Triple Wood (44% ABV), 10 Years Old Peat Smoked (50% ABV), 12 Years Old (46% ABV), 15 Years Old (53% ABV), 25 Years Old (44.3% ABV) and 30 Years Old (41.6% ABV).

John Laurie, managing director, said: "One of the most beautiful aspects of single malt Scotch is that every cask delivers unique nuances in whisky aroma, flavour and colour."

"These differences can be driven from numerous sources: new make spirit character, cask – wood type, cask size, the spirit the cask has previously held; and the temperature, humidity and location of the warehouse in which the cask sits during maturation."

"When looking forward as a brand, we felt we had two choices for the 2021 range: the first was to use the skills of our whisky maker to take

these different casks and replicate the flavour profile from last year; the second was to celebrate the uniqueness of our casks, as well as the skills of our whisky maker and his team and set ourselves the challenge of creating a different range each year, featuring subtle variances for the whisky lover to explore."

Each expression carries the same ABV as the bottlings in the 2020 line, apart from Triple Wood, which has been increased from 43% ABV to 44% ABV.

Laurie added: "We prefer to present our whiskies at their flavour optimum ABV rather than a pre-determined target. You will also note a colour difference in this year's 15 Years Old, which is more ruby than last year's release – I love the way the colour progresses through our 2021 range."

The Scotch producer said stocks of its whisky are limited, particularly the 25-year-old and 30-year-old bottlings. There are only 204 bottles of Glenturret 25 Years Old and 750 bottles of Glenturret 30 Years Old available this year.

Triple Wood offers notes of candied orange peel, sweet vanilla and ginger cake. The 10-year-old bottling provides warm spices and citrus fruits, while the 12-year-old single malt has hints of oaks, sultanas and cinnamon.

Glenturret 15 Years Old is described as having toffee apple and tropical fruit, as well as layers of coconut and vanilla sponge.

The 25-year-old features a palate of cinnamon bun, sweet pastry and dark fruits. The 30-year-old bottling has a 'citrus edge' with notes of oak, vanilla, wood spices and toffee.

The whiskies can be purchased online from The Glenturret's website.

Global whisky market to reach \$108bn by 2031

06 SEPTEMBER 2021 By Kate Malczewski

Sales of whisky worldwide will nearly double over the next decade to hit US\$108 billion by 2031, according to a new report.



The super-premium segment will lead growth in the global whisky market

The study from market research firm Fact MR said the global whisky market will increase at a compounded annual growth rate (CAGR) of 6% between 2021 and 2031.

Growing at this pace, whisky revenues, which reached US\$60bn this year, will hit US\$108bn in 10 years' time.

The prediction represents an acceleration from previous growth rates. From 2016 to 2020, the category expanded at a CAGR of 4%.

Fact MR said it expects the US to account for 30% of whisky revenues over the next decade, and that American drinkers have taken a particular interest in the super-premium segment.

Indeed, sales of super-premium products [accounted for 40% of spirits revenue growth in the US in 2020](#), according to the Distilled Spirits Council of the United States (Discus).

Fact MR forecast that the demand for super-premium whiskies will continue to climb, ultimately gaining a market share of two-fifths by 2031.

Meanwhile, South Korea will continue to be an important market for whisky sales. According to the report, whisky in the country grew by 16% in terms of value and 22% in terms of volume between 2016 and

2020. Fact MR said the market provides an opportunity for a 'home-grown' whisky brand to excel. Malt-based whiskies are 'significantly' driving the market, Fact MR said, and will match the overall category's CAGR of 6% over the next decade. The report attributes this popularity in part to consumer perceptions of malt whisky's purported "health benefits". "Increasing awareness about health benefits of whiskey in comparison to other forms of alcohol will improve sales prospects through the assessment period," said a Fact MR analyst. "With rising disposable income in developing economies, consumption of whiskey is expected to accelerate over the forthcoming years."

How to Taste Coffee Flavors in Whisky

JULY 15, 2021 | [JONNY MCCORMICK](#)



Whether you wake to the wafting aromas from your neighborhood roaster or are content to start the day gulping down a bottomless cup of joe at the diner, coffee flavors are at once quotidian and invigorating. In fact, they've even coined a word for the tendency to not start anything until you've had a cup of coffee: procaffeinating.

While they might inhabit different parts of our day, coffee flavors and whisky find delightful ways to intersect, including [classic Irish Coffee](#), whisky-flavored coffee beans, and [coffee-flavored whiskey](#) like Jameson Cold Brew. Likewise, coffee flavors appear in many whiskies, particularly sherry cask-matured scotch, whiskies made from dark-roasted grains, and those finished in stout casks. They can also be found mingled with the caramel and spice in bourbon and rye. The flavors of coffee usually appear midway into the taste of a whisky and extend through the finish, frequently overlapping with the taste of chocolate. Coffee itself includes a wide spectrum of flavors and coffee specialists use a flavor wheel to help them describe and grade the aromas and flavors, which can be fruity, spicy, floral, sweet, nutty, or fermented, among others. Consider whether the whisky has flavors of strong black coffee, mounds of moist grounds tapped out by the barista, nutmeg-sprinkled cappuccino, or the bitter edge of dark espresso.

Where do these coffee flavors come from in a whisky? Just as coffee beans are roasted to alter their flavor, coopers char the inner surface of barrel staves to enhance the flavor in whisky. Toasted staves of new oak release furfural, which can lead to the formation of a compound with strong coffee aromas called furfurylthiol.

When grains are roasted to the point of developing rich brown colors, the Maillard reaction promotes the release of similar flavors. Roasted grains are common in dark beers, but relatively novel for whisky production. [Glenmorangie](#) Signet is made with a portion of chocolate malt, named for its dark brown color and known to lend coffee notes to porter and brown ale. [Balvenie 26 year old A Day of Dark](#) [Barley](#) showcases its heavily roasted barley, and American single malt distilleries like [Westward](#) are also experimenting in this area. A small amount of high-roast grains can have a big impact on whisky flavor. When it's done to perfection, they can deliver dark, sultry, sophisticated flavors imbued with rich coffee. A perfect nightcap

whisky, blessedly free from the stimulant effects of caffeine, so you can sleep soundly, saving the real coffee for the morning. PERK UP: WHERE COFFEE MEETS WHISKY



Taste espresso in [Hudson Do The Rye Thing](#), with flavors of purple fruits, rich spices, tobacco, and dark chocolate.



Indulge in a café mocha with [Glenmorangie Signet](#), which offers milk chocolate, sultana, and orange marmalade.



Go classic and have a coffee with cream in [The Whistler Imperial Stout Cask-Finished](#), full of fruity dark chocolate, ginger, and black cherry.

Glenturret bottles first single malt for Gleneagles

08 SEPTEMBER 2021 By Melita Kiely

Perthshire-based Gleneagles has partnered with The Glenturret Distillery to create the hotel's first single malt whisky.



Glenturret and Gleneagles are planning additional future releases. The Perthshire-based hotel and country estate have created 750 hand-numbered bottles of an 11-year-old single malt, the first batch of whiskies from the partnership. Sitting at 46.5% ABV, the whisky is available to buy now from Gleneagles' whisky boutique, The Still Room, priced at RRP £79 (US\$109).

The 11-year-old single malt is said to taste of toffee, cinnamon, vanilla, spice, fruit cake and ginger.

Daniel Baernreuther, hotel manager at Gleneagles, said: "We have always been committed to working with the finest Scottish food and drink producers, but when the opportunity arose to work with our close neighbours at The Glenturret to create our own limited edition product, we jumped at the chance.

"There have been so many changes over the last few years at Gleneagles. As a natural progression and evolution of our beverage and whisky programme, creating our own whisky was the next logical step and because of our shared location, I feel like this is really a match made in whisky heaven."

To mark the launch, guests who buy a bottle will be offered a complimentary tour of The Glenturret Distillery, which recently reopened following a 'substantial' 18-month refurbishment.

John Laurie, managing director of The Glenturret, added: "The Glenturret is Scotland's oldest working distillery and really important to Scottish history and heritage; and Gleneagles is such an icon of hospitality, that we sincerely felt there was something special to be celebrated here."

Earlier this month, The Glenturret released its [2021 core range of Scotch whiskies](#), including a new Peat Smoked bottling.

Meanwhile, last year, the distillery unveiled a new flagship collection of single malts and [a revamped look for the series](#), as Glenturret's previous range was discontinued.

Like many in the industry, 2020 proved to be a difficult year for Glenturret, [as sales fell by 30%](#).

And yet, in spite of all this plummeting, the distilleries have stayed off the ropes and managed to keep the whisky flowing. Their counterpunches have included drawing upon their reserves of aged single malts to release new bottlings, such as Benriach's 21 Year Old, producing special vatting like Macallan's Double Cask pairing of American oak with their traditional sherry barrels, and noteworthy finishing techniques like Talisker's sherry-barrel finished Distiller's Edition, all of which you'll discover below. But if you want further proof—in the most literal way—that Scotch whisky has held onto its championship title, here are nine of *uisge-beatha's* best new offerings. Benriach The Twenty One



Photo: courtesy Benriach

In September 2020, after more than 120 years, this Speyside distillery completely revamped its core expressions and, guided by master blender Rachel Barrie, added some ultra-premium whiskies to round out its portfolio. One of the most distinctive of these is their 21 Year Old, a vatting of bourbon, sherry, virgin oak and red wine casks. Peaty smoke immediately makes its presence known, followed by dried fruit and leather, with heavy cedar emerging in the finish, making this an evening dram that calls for a full-bodied cigar such as our 2021 Best of Best J.C. Newman Maximus Robusto.

[BUY NOW: \\$163](#)

The GlenDronach Cask Bottling Batch 18 1994 CASK 5287



Photo: courtesy Peter Dibdin

This is one of four different single malts from the distillery's Cask Bottling Batch 18 collection that are being released exclusively to the United States. Cask #5287—which was distilled in 1994—is arguably the best. Aged for 26 years in Port pipes, it has a distinctive Highland toffee and chocolate truffle richness that lingers on the palate long after the

The 9 Best New Scotch Whiskies You Can Buy Right Now

Pour yourself a dram of an outstanding blended or single malt whisky.

By [RICHARD CARLETON HACKER](#)



Photo: Courtesy of Highland Park

In spite of being a heavyweight champion in the spirits world, the [Scotch whisky](#) industry has been suffering some pretty heavy body blows these past few years. The first punch landed on October 19, 2019, when the previous administration imposed a [25 percent tariff](#) on Scotch whisky (along with a few other European Union spirits exported to the United States) as part of a still-simmering trade kerfuffle. Some of Scotland's distilleries have absorbed this financial hit, while others raised prices. Although these sales-crimping whisky tariffs have now been suspended for five years while they are being re-negotiated, the Scotch Whisky Association estimates they have resulted in over [\\$850 million](#) in lost revenue to the whisky industry in 2020 alone.

Also in 2020, the Covid-19 pandemic landed a one-two punch, shutting down restaurants and bars, thus turning off the taps on Scotch consumption, plus grounding U.S. citizens planning on visiting Scottish distilleries with their popular tours and lucrative gift shops. As yet another pandemic-induced blow, Scottish government-mandated Covid-19 precautions—including social distancing among distillery workers and wearing personal protection gear, coupled with the tragic loss of numerous distillery workers contracting the virus—has not only reduced whisky production, but has affected distribution. In fact, the Distilled Spirits *Council of the United States* estimates imports of Scotch whisky were down by nearly 37 percent last year, which is why you may now be having a hard time finding some of your favorite brands.

last drop in the glass has been drained. Only 638 bottles have been produced.

[BUY NOW: \\$500](#)

Johnnie Walker Year of the Ox



Photo: courtesy Johnnie Walker

Johnnie Walker Blue Label has a rich history of Chinese New Year releases. This year it's The Year of the Ox, the second in the twelve-year cycle of the Chinese zodiac. The ox is believed to symbolize endurance and feminine energy—both remarkably fitting qualities for 2021. The richness of Johnnie Walker Blue Label, crafted with some of the rarest casks in the vast Johnnie Walker warehouses, including irreplaceable casks from long-closed “ghost” distilleries, normally suggest this ultra-premium whisky be savored in a snifter. But with more people drinking at home this year, Johnnie Walker Scotch Whisky Ambassador Alistair Reynolds suggests they create an upscale version of an Asian Highball by mixing 50ml of Johnnie Walker Year Of The Ox whisky with a 100ml blend of green and oolong teas, all poured into a tall, ice-filled glass.

[BUY NOW: \\$270](#)

Compass Box Glasgow Blend



Photo: courtesy Andy Carson Photography

In his just-released book, *Everything You Need To Know About Whisky (but are too afraid to ask)*, former Diageo executive Nicholas Morgan bemoans the fact that many people do not appreciate the intricacies in creating a blended Scotch. “Think about the complexities of blending too long,” he writes, “and you might actually wonder why a 12-year-old single malt would cost more than a 12-year-old blend. Compass Box (embraces) to a large extent transparency in place of secret recipes, and an artisanal language rather than one bogged down by marketing clichés.” Indeed, on his Compass Box website, master blender John Glaser readily lists the distilleries sourced for this high malt content, old-school peaty blended Scotch, which includes whiskies from Clynelish, Glen Moray, Tomatin, Balmenach and Laphroaig. Bold spice and fruitcake-like notes of sherry cask aging are the result.

[BUY NOW: \\$38](#)

Talisker 2020 Distiller's Edition



Photo: Courtesy of Talisker Single Malt Scotch Whisky

Located on the western shore of the fjord-like Loch Harport, just a few miles from the open sea, Talisker is one of only two distilleries on the Isle of Skye, a scenic island off the western coast of Scotland that has achieved fame not only for frequent triple rainbows, but for this almost 200 year old distillery. Their 10-Year-Old single malt is known for its bourbon-barrel-aged gentle smokiness, thanks to barley dried with peat dug up directly from the island. But Talisker's latest release of their 10 Year Old Distiller's Edition takes this whisky to another level, as it has been finished for up to an additional six months in bespoke ex-bodega Amoroso casks, which impart a haunting depth of rich and fruity sweetness that rounds out the already peppery punch of this malty dram. To further your Distiller's Edition experience, try dribbling a few drops of Distiller's Edition into a half dozen fresh oysters, then sip the whisky straight from the shell, followed by the bivalve, and wash it all down with a sip of room temperature Talisker. The whisky's iconic smokiness, pepper, and dried fruit flavors are tantalizingly harmonious with the salt and sweetness of the oysters.

[BUY NOW: \\$100](#)

Highland Park Scotch in the City



Photo: Courtesy of Highland Park

Talk about drinking for a good cause: The Instagram influencers behind [Scotch in the City](#) (they go by Kevin and Nick, but otherwise wish to remain anonymous) are New York-based first responders who wanted to give back to their community. So they teamed up with Highland Park to create this limited-edition, single-cask whisky, with \$15,000 from the sales to be donated by Highland Park to The First Responders Children's Foundation Covid-19 Emergency Response Fund. To determine which one of Highland Park's many exceptional single casks would be worthy of this altruistic endeavor, Kevin, Nick and Highland Park master whisky maker Gordon Motion blind tasted some of the best barrels. Cask No. 150 came out on top, with its deep russet color, crème brûlée aroma, and flavors of vanilla, rose, cedar

wood, lemon peel and a lingering finish of woody spices. Bottled at 130.8 proof, it yielded just 594 bottles.

[BUY NOW: \\$156](#)

The Glenlivet 12 Year Old Illicit Still



Photo: Courtesy of The Glenlivet

Who wouldn't want a bottle of single malt that actually says "Illicit Still" on the label? But there's more to it than that. The expression draws inspiration from its 19th century founder, George Smith, who illegally distilled whisky in Upper Drumin, a lofty, hidden location where he could spot the King's tax-collecting soldiers before they spotted him. But the passage of the Excise Tax in 1823 legalized whisky making for private citizens, and having gotten advance word of this, in 1824 (the date now embossed on Glenlivet bottles) Smith became one of the first "legal" distillers. Needless to say, the 12 Year Old Illicit Still, although a reinterpretation of Smith's original recipe, is much more refined, and is also markedly different from Glenlivet's regular 80 proof 12 Year Old. For one thing the whisky is non-chill filtered, plus its higher 92 proof enhances Glenlivet's iconic fruity and floral taste profiles, while adding some sweet tropical nuances.

[BUY NOW: \\$69](#)

The Glenrothes 18 Year Old



Photo: Courtesy of The Glenrothes

Sherry-seasoned oak casks define The Glenrothes whiskies, as almost 90 percent of all casks maturing at this Speyside distillery have previously held sherry. Consequently, this is the latest release from The Glenrothes Soleo Collection—a range of aged single malts that acknowledges the traditional sun-drying process used to create the finest sherries, especially those made from grapes grown near the city of Jerez de la Frontera in Andalusia, Spain. This is an extremely complex single malt, loaded with thick fruit—predominantly apricots and pears—with a bit of spicy citrus and maple syrup, and a long, velvety finish. Just the drink for a good book by the fireside as autumn's chill approaches.

[BUY NOW: \\$185](#)

The Macallan 18 Year Old Double Cask 2020



Photo: Courtesy of The Macallan

Although this is one of the distilleries that has restarted its weekend tours (if you can get there, and advanced reservations are recommended), the actual distillery operations are still on reduced capacity. But that hasn't stopped this Speyside award-winner from releasing one of its most significant expansions of their highly successful Double Cask Range to date. A harmonious union of 18 year old whiskies that have been aged in both American oak and European oak sherry-seasoned casks, Macallan's traditional flavors of dried fruits, ginger and toffee intermingle with rich raisin, caramel and a touch of vanilla and wood spice.

[BUY NOW: \\$350](#)

GlenAllachie unveils 14YO whisky

10 SEPTEMBER 2021 By Kate Malczewski

Speyside distillery The GlenAllachie has added a cask-strength, Sherry-finished 14-year-old single malt Scotch whisky to its Wood Finish series.



Master distiller Billy Walker personally selected the oloroso Sherry casks used to age the whisky

The creation of GlenAllachie Aged 14 Years Oloroso Wood Finish was led by master distiller Billy Walker, who has worked in the whisky industry for 50 years.

The spirit was first aged in first- and second-fill American oak barrels before being transferred to oloroso Sherry puncheons for a further two years' ageing. Sitting at 55.4% ABV, the limited edition bottling is non-chill-filtered and contains no added colouring.

"As soon as we [acquired The GlenAllachie distillery](#), I knew exactly what direction I wanted us to take the liquid in; a single malt known for its bold, indulgent Sherried character," explained Walker.

"This UK bottling is no different, with all those archetypal oloroso tones you would expect – rich cocoa, cinnamon sticks, tangy orange and fresh ginger, all alongside a warming mocha depth. [It's] a sophisticated single malt that exemplifies the exciting direction that we have been taking The GlenAllachie in."

The limited edition expression is said to deliver Sherry-influenced notes of sticky raisins, dark chocolate pudding, orange zest and espresso, against a 'classic GlenAllachie honeyed' backdrop. It is now available to purchase exclusively in the UK from specialist retailers, with an RRP of £89.99 (US\$124.82).

THE GLEN GRANT ANNOUNCES THE RELEASE OF THE DENNIS MALCOLM 60TH ANNIVERSARY EDITION AGED 60 YEARS

[The Glen Grant Distillery](#) has announced a limited edition 60-year-old single malt Scotch whisky in celebration of the six-decade-long career of Dennis Malcolm — one of Scotland's longest serving distillers. It is bottled from a single ex-oloroso sherry cask (#5040) that was filled on October 24th 1960, making it the oldest bottling in the brand's 181-year history. Accordingly, there will be only 360 decanters of the liquid available worldwide.

As an extremely rare liquid, The Dennis Malcolm 60th Anniversary Edition, is a tribute to The Glen Grant's long, rich history and the expertise of Dennis Malcolm, marking the sixth decade of his career as Master Distiller.

The numbered, hand-blown glass decanters, designed by Glencairn Studio, resemble the design of the distillery's tall, slender pot stills. Additionally, each presentation case features the Master Distiller's engraved signature and includes a Certificate of Authenticity, signed by Malcolm.

A LIQUID CULMINATION OF THE GLEN GRANT'S HISTORY

Fun fact: Malcolm was actually born at The Glen Grant distillery in 1946. He got his start at age 15 as apprentice cooper and later, as a manager supervised the growing company's nine distilleries. In 2016, he was named as an Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth, and has also won numerous high profile whisky accolades over the years.

Reflecting on his diamond anniversary, Malcolm remarks, "It's never been a job to me, it's been a way of life. I don't like my actual birthday—that makes me a year older. But I like my milestones with Glen Grant because it's a year longer than I'm here. I can keep doing what I was destined to do."

[The Glen Grant 60 Year Dennis Malcolm 60th Anniversary Edition](#) is bottled at 52.8% ABV and is non-chill-filtered. It's priced at €25,000.00 and will be available in select retailers in global markets beginning in October, 2021.



The Dennis Malcolm 60th Anniversary Edition Aged 60 Years /Photo Credit: The Glen Grant Distillery

THE HOUSE OF SUNTORY INTRODUCES YAMAZAKI 55 YEAR

According to the press release, the global release of Yamazaki 55 Year is the House of Suntory's way of "paying tribute to the passage of time and the legacy of the founding family of Japanese whisky." The 55-year-old liquid was bottled in 2020, and is the House of Suntory's oldest release in its history. Speaking of history, the whisky was barreled during the Japanese "Showa" era of the 1960s that represented a significant turning point for the House of Suntory.

As one can imagine, quantities are extremely limited. 100 bottles were initially released in Japan in 2020. Availability in select global markets including the US, the UK, Mainland China and Taiwan will begin later this month.

In addition, Beam Suntory will donate \$5,000 USD for every bottle released in this year's 100-bottle collection, totaling \$500,000 USD, to [The White Oak Initiative](#), a group committed to the long-term sustainability of America's white oak forests.

SAVING TIME IN A BOTTLE

Yamazaki 55 Year is a historic blend of single malts with two distinct components: One was distilled in 1960 under the supervision of Suntory's founder Shinjiro Torii and then aged in Mizunara casks, another in 1964 under Suntory's Second Master Blender Keizo Saji and then aged in White Oak casks. Suntory's Fifth-Generation Chief Blender Shinji Fukuyo worked closely with Third-Generation Master Blender Shingo Torii in creating the final product.

"Throughout the process of blending Yamazaki 55, I used as inspiration the passage of time and 'Wabi-sabi'—the Japanese belief that imperfections can help to ultimately contribute to perfection," said Fukuyo. "While I often view other extra aged whiskies as art, I consider Yamazaki 55 to be more like a Buddhist statue: calm and mysterious, requiring time to truly enjoy the inner beauty."

The packaging for Yamazaki 55 Year is fittingly stylish. It's presented in a crystal bottle with "Yamazaki" engraved in calligraphy. Additionally, the bottle features real gold dust and lacquer on the age marking. Handmade Echizen washi paper and a Kyo-kumihimo plaited cord adorn the bottle top. Furthermore, each bottle comes in a box made from native Japanese Mizunara wood coated with Suruga lacquer. [Yamazaki 55 Year](#) is bottled at 46% ABV and available in extremely limited quantities for a suggested price of \$60,000.



Yamazaki 55 Years Old /Photo Credit: House of Suntory

The Scottish isle all whisky drinkers need to visit

BY - [RACHEL KING](#) - September 12, 2021 9:00 AM EDT

While Scotland is undoubtedly a must-visit location for whisk(e)y lovers, the Scottish isles are the true heart of the industry. True Scotch aficionados might already know this, but some of the most well-known and beloved producers are based on and source their ingredients from the isle of Islay (pronounced "eye-la") in the Inner Hebrides. With a population of more than 3,000 full-time residents, the island—just a 30 minute flight from Glasgow—most frequently attracts tourists from the rest of the U.K. as well as Germany, Sweden, and the United States. With nine distilleries (and another one expected to break ground soon), Islay is particularly known for its peaty, smoky whiskies, and the producers use peat cut from the bogs here, resulting in a distinct single malt flavor.



A view of the coast on the Isle of Islay, Scotland.

The fastest way to get to Islay is by air from Glasgow. There are only two flights per day in and out of the airfield at Islay via [Loganair](#), Scotland's national airline. Beware, though, that weather conditions—notably heavy fog—can cause significant delays and cancellations, so give yourself some extra time in your itinerary for making connections. (Pre-pandemic, there was a direct flight to and from Edinburgh, although it was discontinued during lockdown, and it is unknown if the carrier will bring the route back.)

The alternative is the car ferry from [Caledonian MacBrayne](#). The crossing itself runs between two and three hours, depending on conditions, and runs at least three times per day. Fares start at £7.50 (\$11) one-way.

[Travelers](#) who wish to bring a car can, of course, bring their own or rent one on the mainland. For those who board the ferry without a car or arrive by air, you can pre-book both airport shuttles and full-day tour guides via [Islay Taxis](#). Their friendly drivers can provide plenty of information about all of the sights on the island and also safely transport you between the distilleries (there are nearly a dozen on the island, including Bowmore, Lagavulin, and Laphroaig.)



The Caledonian MacBrayne vessel MV Finlaggan at Kennacraig harbour

in the west coast of Scotland. The ferry takes passengers, cars and lorries on the voyage between Kennacraig on the mainland, Port Askaig and Port Ellen on Islay, the island of Colonsay, and the town of Oban.

Where to stay

The Machrie Hotel: While whisky might be one of the biggest draws to Islay (and Scotland, at large), the other would be golf. Opened in late summer 2018 after a complete renovation and expansion, [The Machrie Hotel](#) hosts 47 modern rooms, suites, and lodges—some with their own outdoor terraces—with stunning views across golf links, one of the top twenty golf courses in Scotland by *Golf Digest*. The hotel also has a posh restaurant full service breakfast as well as a gym, a spa, a movie screening room, and a terrace ideal for a pint outdoors when the weather permits. (And, crucially, for guests able to travel with pets, the hotel is pet-friendly.)

ADVERTISING

Islay House: For those looking for more Scottish charm, this is the closest you'll get to living like a proper laird for a night. After an extensive renovation, [Islay House](#) opened in 2016. Every room has a view of the sea or the grounds, while the furniture is more traditional, all of the amenities are as modern as could be. Along with a full restaurant onsite, guests should schedule in time for afternoon tea as well as a dram in the hotel bar, The Peat Cutter. Whilst The Peat Cutter is primarily a whisky bar, it also stocks a range of local beers, Hebridean gins, and a selection of fine wines.



Founded in 1828, Port Charlotte is a village on the island of Islay. A cluster of traditional white houses nestle at the water's edge alongside a small beach with a green meadow in the foreground. Islay is the southernmost of the Inner Hebrides islands, off the west coast of Scotland.

Where to go

Ardbeg Distillery: Among one of the most popular brands with Scotch drinkers worldwide, [Ardbeg](#)'s expressions have won a number of prestigious titles over the years, including World Whisky of the Year, Scotch Whisky of the Year, and World's Best Single Malt. The sister brand of Glenmorangie in the Scottish Highlands, Ardbeg just started using four brand new copper stills this March, which will help the brand continue to meet rising demand. Along with tastings and a gift shop, visitors can enjoy lunch outdoors on the patio with meals from a food truck based out of an airstream, playfully named "Ardstream."

Bunnahabhain Distillery: Pronounced "Bunn-na-ha-venn" (translating to "mouth of the river" in Scots Gaelic), [Bunnahabhain Distillery](#) produces a signature style of whisky that is unpeated, which is unusual for an Islay malt. The distillery also sits right on the water overlooking the Isle of Jura, offering a dramatic and breathtaking backdrop to tastings in the site's new visitor center that opened this year.



A close-up of a man's hands holding a taster dram of Ardbeg whisky, with a distillery building in the background. Ardbeg has produced whisky on Islay since 1798.

Ardnahoe Distillery: The newest distillery on the island at only a few years old, [Ardnahoe Distillery](#) also boasts the most state-of-the-art facilities. Along with the distillery tours and tastings, there's also a massive gift shop and a welcoming café and restaurant with stunning views overlooking the Isle of Jura on a clear day. This is the perfect spot for an afternoon coffee with a slice of peanut butter and jelly cake. **Islay Woollen Mill:** For the most authentic and utile of souvenirs, the family-owned [Islay Woollen Mill](#) produces high-quality, sophisticated (it's also available via [Savile Row](#)) wool products from capes to coats to blazers to scarves to even dog collars. All of the fabric is produced in house, and has been a popular source for Hollywood costumes, with its work being used in a number of blockbusters, including *Braveheart*, *Rob Roy*, and even *Forrest Gump*.

Tamdhu's New Cigar Malt Scotch Features A Unique Limited Edition Humidor

By [Gary Carter](#) / September 19, 2021

To mark the recent launch of a new Cigar Malt, [Tamdhu Distillery](#) created a very limited edition, bespoke cigar humidor, inspired and infused by the whisky itself.

The Cigar Malt whisky was hand-picked from a small selection of first-fill European oak Oloroso sherry casks at the Speyside distillery, and the distillers say it was chosen for its ability to support and complement the rich, aromatic and spicy flavors of top shelf cigars. Bringing cigar and whisky even closer together, Tamdhu used wood from those sherry oak casks to create a luxury cigar humidor.



Tamdhu Cigar Malt with limited edition humidor (image via Tamdhu)

In collaboration with wood maker and silversmiths Anthony Holt & Sons, the use of the sherry cask wood within the build will fill the humidor, and the cigars it contains, with a subtle sherry cask aroma. Tamdhu's Cigar Malt whisky is non-chill-filtered at 107.6 proof, giving it a rich texture and strength of flavor, as Tamdhu intended the whisky to mirror the spice, aroma and mouthfeel of aged tobacco leaves of its smoking companion.

"While whisky and cigars have long been enjoyed together, we wanted our Tamdhu Cigar Malt to cement that bond with a marriage of flavour and craft befitting of the two worlds," said Sandy McIntyre, Tamdhu Distillery manager [in a prepared statement](#). "This whisky, exclusively matured in first fill European Oak Oloroso sherry casks, provides the perfect accompaniment to the finest cigars. That we were able to use those sherry casks to continue the legacy of the Cigar Malt through the humidor is very special indeed."

Tamdhu created two of its whisky-infused humidors to support the launch of the Cigar Malt. These are made with European oak sherry cask staves, sterling silver, and walnut wood to mirror the whisky's dark, rich color. One of these bespoke boxes will be auctioned for charity in 2022.

Bottles of Tamdhu Cigar Malt No. 01 are now available to purchase from specialist retailers in the UK, USA, Netherlands, Germany, Taiwan and China.

Speyside whisky maker Tamdhu has announced the global launch of its limited-edition Cigar Malt No. 01.

The expression celebrates the time-honoured pairing of whisky and cigars - and Tamdhu has also created two bespoke humidors, inspired by and infused with its whisky, to celebrate its release.

The Cigar Malt No. 01 was hand-picked from a small selection of first-fill European oak oloroso sherry casks at the distillery, a whisky style which Tamdhu says was selected for their ability to support and complement the rich aromatic and spice flavours of top-quality cigars. It is bottled at 53.8% ABV without chill filtration.

The humidors were created in collaboration with wood maker and silversmith Anthony Holt & Sons. They were built with walnut wood, sterling silver, and some staves from the sherry casks to imbue the humidors with a subtle aroma of sherry - the variety of cask that Tamdhu exclusively ages its whisky in. One of these humidors will be auctioned for charity in 2022.

Sandy McIntyre, Tamdhu distillery manager, said: "While whisky and cigars have long been enjoyed together, we wanted our Tamdhu Cigar Malt to cement that bond with a marriage of flavour and craft befitting of the two worlds."

"This whisky, exclusively matured in first-fill European oak oloroso sherry casks, provides the perfect accompaniment to the finest cigars. That we were able to use those sherry casks to continue the legacy of the Cigar Malt through the humidor is very special indeed."

Gill Holt, director at Anthony Holt & Sons, said: "Combining a European oak sherry cask with a handmade limited-edition humidor was a truly enjoyable venture. The rich aroma of the humidor is perfectly complemented by subtle notes from the sherry cask wood."

Bottles of Tamdhu Cigar Malt No. 01 are available to purchase from specialist retailers in the UK, USA, Netherlands, Germany, Taiwan and China and from [www.tamdhu.com](#) (RRP £180 per 70cl bottle).
10 September 2021 - Bethany Whymark

Discover the Malts Behind the Most Iconic Scotch Blends

SEPTEMBER 13, 2021 | [TED SIMMONS](#)



Chivas Regal uses Strathisla, along with Longmorn, single malt to form the base of its blend, master blender Sandy Hyslop says. (Photo by Jonny McCormick)

Many of the best cooks rely on a secret ingredient, or if not literally a secret, something that is absolutely vital to a delicious outcome. This is also true of the master blenders behind blended scotch whiskies, which are a combination of malt and grain whiskies from two or more different distilleries. In blended scotch, lighter grain whiskies lend drinkability, while malt whiskies are responsible for much of the backbone and flavor. It's often one single malt scotch, sometimes referred to as the heart malt, that serves as the starting point—the defining ingredient behind some of the world's most successful blended whiskies.

"A heart malt is something that is integral to the blended whisky and gives it its DNA and gives the brand its family style," Sandy Hyslop, master blender for [Chivas Regal](#) and [Ballantine's](#), says. "For me, it's the inspiration," Stephanie Macleod, master blender for [Dewar's](#) adds. "It's the style of the blend and that always has to be there."

Blend recipes, malt proportions, and certain components remain closely guarded secrets for many companies. But for those willing to divulge, it provides a look inside the blender's lab to see not only how blends are made, but to draw a direct line between a blend and its heart malt, which could be sitting but a few bottles apart on a liquor store shelf.

THE HEART OF THE STORY

Aberfeldy Distillery was built by the Dewar family in 1896 expressly to supply malt whisky to their growing blended scotch brand, and it remains central to the Dewar's blend today. In 1899, A.J. Cameron, Dewar's first master blender, created [White Label](#). "I always imagine that when A.J. Cameron was creating White Label, that the style of Aberfeldy was a source of inspiration for the blend," Macleod says. "Because when you compare White Label with Aberfeldy, you get that approachability that you find in both of them."

From a flavor standpoint, [Aberfeldy](#) contributes fruity notes, toffee, honey, and a slight smokiness that can be identified in older expressions, such as [Dewar's 18 year old](#). In Dewar's 18, Aberfeldy is joined by all the malts under current Dewar's owner Bacardi, including Glen Deveron, Royal Brackla, [Craigellachie](#), and Aultmore.

While all expressions of Dewar's share a similar foundation, each one is a distinct blend. "We are keeping true to the house style, but each one has a slightly different take on it," Macleod explains. Like other blenders, Dewar's includes whiskies produced by other companies, generally in much smaller amounts, to add greater complexity. There is no telling the full range of malts in each blend, but Macleod says one constant is a must: "Aberfeldy is non-negotiable, that has to be there. So we can't substitute anything in for that."



Johnnie Walker has a vast array of single malts at its disposal, relying on Cardhu and Clynelish as the heart malts. (Photo by Angus Bremner)

Dewar's and Aberfeldy are so closely linked that there is a blending component to the Aberfeldy Distillery tour. "Obviously we talk about how Aberfeldy is made and how malt whisky is made, but we're also bringing in, 'This is how we blend, this is the heritage behind Dewar's,'" Macleod says. "It's really important for us to celebrate the single malt, but also to celebrate what happens when you combine lots of different single malts with grain to make our blend."

RUNNING THE OPTION

"Cardhu's at the heart of [Johnnie Walker](#)," says Emma Walker, one of 12 master blenders that work on Johnnie Walker. "Cardhu was always a blender's favorite," she adds. "It was essential to Johnnie Walker. They always created high-quality spirit and it became a partnership even before Cardhu joined the Johnnie Walker family."

Owned by Diageo, [Cardhu Distillery](#) is just one of the global corporation's 29 whisky-producing distilleries in Scotland alone. This gives the Johnnie Walker blending team a vast library of stocks to work with. For the blended scotch whisky [White Walker](#), the blenders elected to use [Clynelish](#) as the heart malt, due in part to its location as a northern distillery. The taste of Clynelish is also familiar to fans of the popular [Johnnie Walker Black Label](#). "That waxy character is one of the reasons Clynelish is so important to Johnnie Walker Black Label," Walker says, "and it's important to [Jane Walker](#) as well because you get a lovely mouthfeel." Walker used Black Label as an inspiration for Jane Walker, a blended malt, and calls Clynelish and Cardhu "key whiskies" for the Johnnie Walker brand.

According to Walker, the blending team works closely with each distillery to ensure they have the proper single malts available, but the fact that she and her co-blenders are able to make adjustments when necessary offers a lot of flexibility in constructing the iconic blends. Walker explains that if a particular single malt grows in popularity, it may not be available for use in blending "But part of the reason we have so many distilleries is that we can work with that," she notes. "We can work around that. We're used to distilleries coming and going."

[Taste These Scotch Blends Alongside Their Heart Malts](#)

Master blender Jim Beveridge has been working on Johnnie Walker for 40 years, and explains how, rather than using a base formula for Black Label, he strives for a consistent profile. "That flavor profile is defined. And then you think, how do I achieve that flavor and which malts will I use to achieve that?" he says, "And then, in achieving that, there are some malts that will be particularly important in getting to that destination."

PUTTING THE PIECES TOGETHER

There are of course other factors that influence a blend's final outcome, such as cask treatment, age, and the grain whiskies used. These elements help shape the whisky, but blenders are largely manipulating the core ingredients, and as Hyslop explains, Chivas Regal starts with two malts in particular.

"Strathisla and Longmorn are in every single expression of Chivas Regal. They help form the character of the blend; they make the blend multi-faceted. They build up the layers of flavor," he says. "I always liken it to building a house: These are the foundation. Everything else is finery and makes it a fabulous-looking house at the end of the day, but it's those signature malts in there at the base that build that house." Strathisla contributes fruity pear notes, while Longmorn adds to the sweetness with creamy toffee flavors.

It can be challenging for blenders to find the right combination of malts, with Walker likening the process to waves that can either merge together or clash. "Those strong individual malts, you bring them together; it can take a little bit more care and a bit more time to figure out how they slot together," she says.



Aberfeldy single malt is so important to the Dewar's blend that there is a blending component to the Aberfeldy Distillery tour. William Grant & Sons master blender Brian Kinsman doesn't disclose the malt at the heart of [Grant's](#) blended whiskies, but says that he looks to pull out flavors from multiple malts. "I want the final blend to be greater than the sum of the parts," he says, noting that Grant's has 25 different whiskies in its blend. Of course a blended scotch is the result of the combined quality and flavor of every component, including grain whiskies, which often go unacknowledged or are thought of as lesser products. "I think it's so sad that they are not appreciated as much as they should be," Walker says. "They're beautiful." For fans of single malt scotch, being able to identify the single malts that make up a blend is a fun endeavor that is sure to bring new appreciation for the craft of blending. "I think [consumers] think a blend is somehow dumbing down the whisky, but it's not," Macleod says. "It's adding complexity, and doing things like finishing just showcase the versatility of blending." Likewise, fans of blended scotch may want to seek out the heart malts that form their flavor foundation. Both have lots of pleasure to offer. The secret is out.

Column: Scotch Whisky Brands Are Starting To Bet On Mixing Single Malts With Mixers

By [Felipe Schrieberg](#) / September 14, 2021

In his 2014 book *Whisky: The Manual*, the excellent whisky writer [Dave Broom](#) takes a lot of time, effort, and pages to conduct an experiment with heretical implications. He gathers a selection of 102 whiskies, applies six different mixers to each one, and takes detailed notes on the organoleptic results. The selection includes single malts and blends from Scotland, Ireland and Japan, as well as bourbons and ryes amongst others.

While mixing things like Jack Daniels or blended Scotches with mixers is not a novelty, doing so with single malts, a practice normally regarded with scorn by whisky geeks, is now happening on a larger scale than Broom's book.

The best examples at the moment? Peated single malt Scotch whisky brand [Smokehead](#) now offers the first ever pre-mixed [single malt in a can](#), with two drinks combining its whisky with cola as well as ginger lime. Highland single malt distillery Glenmorangie also sells a new single malt, [simply titled 'X'](#), which may be the first created and marketed with the specific purpose of having mixers added to it.



X by Glenmorangie (image via Glenmorangie)

Other single malt brands were already heading in similar directions. Following on from a craze that began in Japan, some single malt Scotch brands have promoted highballs (whisky and soda water), following in the footsteps of many other blended whiskies. This includes Glenfiddich, Glen Grant and newcomer Nc'nean, Broom is [also responsible](#) for a drink that is unofficially pushed hard by Diageo's whisky brand ambassadors, and is now well known within the whisky community – the Smokey Cokey: Lagavulin and coca-cola.

This recent push to make single malts accessible is a reflection of the category's success – the single malt Scotch market, and the proportion of the overall global Scotch market it occupies, is growing rapidly. This means brands want to shape changing perceptions about the category, especially as new budget-friendly single malts are released in larger quantities. The Glenlivet Founder's Reserve is a good example of this. Though historically Scotch single malt is a signifier for luxury or an aspirational lifestyle choice, Glenmorangie X and the Smokehead cans are more ambitious forays to make the category a hip and affordable casual liquor, presenting consumers with a tempting alternative to gin and vodka. If someone is willing to pay pretty good money for nice gin, why not a single malt whisky? However, it also means stepping into territory occupied by other whisky brands. Smokehead may be the first canned single malt, but it is far from the first whisky brand to offer a canned mixer offering.

Whisky Magazine editor Christopher Coates outlines this conundrum as the single malt market goes through these big changes: "By pushing highballs and whisky mixers as a viable alternative to beer or wine, single malt brands can try to compete in spaces previously reserved for blends, while also piggybacking on the category's more premium cachet."

Ultimately, if Scotch single malt as a category is to gather up demand as a casual drink, it would do well to follow [the example of Jack Daniel's](#) in the 1960's and 70's. Back then, it was only available on allocation, and it still is marketed as first outlined in an internal one-page marketing memo from 1955 — as a product "made by real people in an out-of-the-way place". From this successful campaign musicians, rock stars, and other famous figures gravitated to it during a time of wide social, economic, and cultural upheaval. It is not hard to see how that past example could therefore translate itself into a modern context for single malts. If Smokehead and the Glenmorangie X are received with a resounding success, expect to see more canned single malts announced by other brands soon.

Effects of Climate Change On Whiskey Taste Being Studied By Distilleries

By [Hannah Kanik](#) / September 14, 2021

An Irish distillery and family-run whiskey operation in Colorado teamed recently up to study how weather conditions and climate affect the taste of whiskey matured 7,000km apart.

Both [Boann](#) in Co. Meath and [Talnua](#) in Colorado simultaneously filled a total of 14 casks due to mature in 2026. They are both using the same recipe, containing ingredients from their local environments.

The experiment will explore how the Irish and American climates will influence the finished, single pot still whiskey once it's bottled in five years.



Boann in Co. Meath and Talnua in Colorado (image via Talnua)

"This is much more about experimentation than a commercial enterprise," said Peter Cooney, co-founder of Boann, whose World's Best mashbill recipe is being used by both distilleries, [in a prepared statement](#). "We are sharing exactly the same recipe and types of barrel. But Colorado has a dry climate in a high-altitude, desert environment with low humidity, as opposed to our more stable mild, wet climate. The maturation conditions will be very different so we want to see exactly how that will influence the flavours in five years' time."

Talnua owners Patrick and Meagan Miller met the Colorado-based distillery when Boann's Global Export Sales Manager, Matt Healy, met and interviewed the Millers in Arvada, Colorado, while on business in the US.

Both distilleries kept in touch and in early August of this year they started the project. They both filled their casks with spirit containing 40% malt, 55% unmalted barley, 3.75% oats and 1.25% rye.

"These kind of projects are what distillers really get excited about," said Patrick Miller. "A collaboration bringing a Single Pot Still Whiskey project across the Atlantic showcasing the difference in flavour profiles between Ireland and Colorado is truly special. It's an amazing project that highlights the Irish-American bond."

Around 2,800 litres will be available by the autumn of 2026, and whisky enthusiasts will be able to buy two 375ml bottles, one from each distillery, paired together in one pack.



Glenmorangie 18 Years Old's Dancing Flowers of Glenmorangie design Inspired by the floral notes of Glenmorangie, Makoto created a floral work of art in his studio in Tokyo, Japan, called *Dancing Flowers of Glenmorangie*.

The masterpiece consisted of almost 100 blooms. Makoto chose flowers with scents that can be found in the whisky, along with Scottish flowers and additional blooms from countries where Glenmorangie is available.

The artwork will debut at Chelsea's Saatchi Gallery in London, UK, from 6pm-9pm on Thursdays 23 and 30 September.

The sculptor said: "When I first tasted Glenmorangie 18 Years Old, each sip of the whisky unfurled as if it was a flower in bloom.

"I could taste so many blossoms dancing on my tongue, that I was inspired to reimagine the whisky in *Dancing Flowers of Glenmorangie*.

"I hope that through this limited edition design, my work brings as much joy as the delicious tastes which inspired it."

Makoto's design was then translated onto the packaging of Glenmorangie 18 Years Old to create limited edition design.

Glenmorangie 18 Years Old's limited edition Azuma Makoto design will be available from 1 November via [clos19.com](#), whisky specialists and Amazon. It will cost RRP £100 (US\$138).

Dr Bill Lumsden, Glenmorangie's director of whisky creation, said:

"Azuma Makoto's stunning work deliciously translates the sweet, floral lushness of Glenmorangie 18 Years Old.

"A mere glimpse of his limited edition design brings to mind the whisky's scents of geranium, tuberose and jasmine, and tastes of honeysuckle and sweet pea, figs and nuts. Since it looks as wonderful as it tastes, this limited edition is sure to delight whisky lovers old and new."

Glenmorangie is supporting this year's RHS Botanical Art & Photography Show in partnership with Saatchi Gallery, from 18 September to 3 October.

Earlier this month, Glenmorangie unveiled its new innovation distillery: [The Lighthouse](#). *The Spirits Business* got a preview of the facility and an interview with Dr Bill Lumsden.

Glenmorangie 18 Years Old reveals floral design

17 SEPTEMBER 2021 By [Melita Kiely](#)

Highland Scotch whisky Glenmorangie has partnered with botanical sculptor Azuma Makoto to create a floral-inspired bottle for its 18-year-old expression.



Botanical sculptor: Azuma Makoto, who created the Dancing Flowers of Glenmorangie design



Talisker 43-Year-Old Xpedition Oak is Inspired By a 3,264-Mile Journey

[BEN MCKIMM](#), 17 SEP 2021

Headline numbers meet headline flavour with the release of the Talisker 43-Year-Old Xpedition Oak. A special bottle for the modest whisky collector, this release is drawn from just 10 casks and bottled in a limited quantity of just 1830 as a tribute to the distillery's founding year. It was in this same year that the MacAskill brothers rowed from the Isle of Eigg to the Isle of Skye and established the Talisker Distillery. You'll also like:



Image: Talisker

Inspired by the original journey in 1830, the 33 Years Old Xpedition Oak: Atlantic Challenge was created using the same casks and 100 wooden staves from the original journey. Adventurer James Aiken took these staves with him as he followed the Talisker Whisky Atlantic Challenge – a 3,264-mile voyage from La Gomera, Spain to Antigua – doing so aboard his yacht *Oaken Yarn*. Once ashore, the staves were carefully returned to Scotland to complete the final maturation process, with 10 staves being inserted into each cask.

The effect of the salty sea breeze is said to have added an element of brine and daring to the whisky that accompanies the traditional fruit, spice, oak and smoke dominant flavours found in something of this age. While we are yet to formally taste the whiskey ourselves, we can comfortably say the Talisker 43-Year-Old Xpedition Oak offers a reasonable value for money proposition for collectors and drinkers alike. With an RRP of AUD \$5,750, it comes in at less than half the price of many other rare whiskies of this age. And represents the oldest release from Talisker to date.

Later this year, Talisker will be auctioning off the very first bottle to benefit the Parley for the Oceans environmental group. You might recognise the name from its Adidas sneakers, Parley is a well-recognised industry figure dedicated to preserving marine life and the world's oceans.

As for a few lucky Australian's, you'll have to get your clicking fingers ready as the Xpedition will be available in Australia at Dan Murphy's and other leading independent liquor stores nationwide from Monday 20th September for AUD \$5,750.

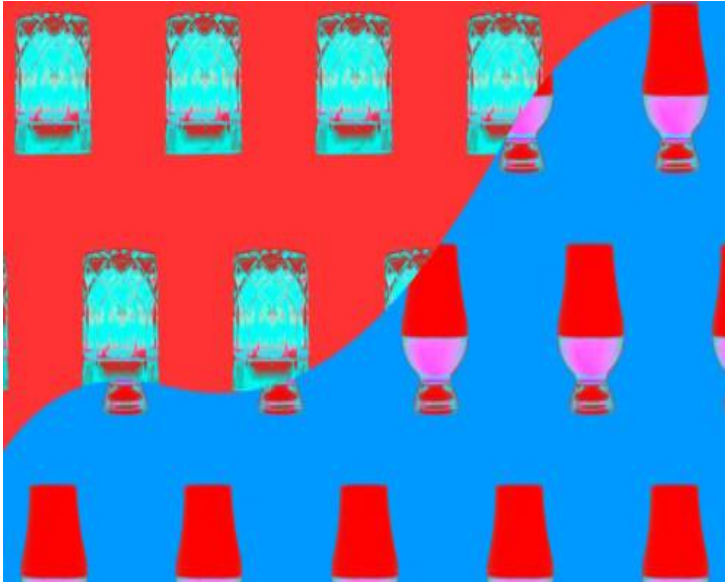
[Buy it here](#)



Image: Talisker



Image: Talisker



The Differences Between Bourbon and Whiskey, Explained

words: [ASHLIE HUGHES](#) - illustration: ARIELA BASSON

All September on VinePair, we're turning our focus to America's spirit: bourbon. For our third annual [Bourbon Month](#), we're exploring the industry legends and innovators, our favorite craft distilleries, new bottles we love, and more.

From Ireland and Japan, to Scotland and Canada, whiskey — or whisky, depending on where you're drinking it — is crafted around the world. With each country using its own manufacturing and aging processes, though, the resulting liquid is as unique as its country of origin. Just as [Scotch whisky](#) can only hail from Scotland, [bourbon](#) is a type of whiskey made only in the United States. But what sets the storied American hooch apart from other whiskeys enjoyed across the globe? Keep reading to learn more about how bourbon distinguishes itself from the pack.

ORIGIN

The origins of whiskey are murky, with both the Irish and Scottish claiming to have been first to the still. Some [sources](#) suggest that the first written record of whiskey can be found in the Irish Annals of Clonmacnoise, purportedly written in 1405, [predating](#) Scotch production by about 90 years.



Whatever whiskey's true origin, the creation of bourbon was still centuries away. [According](#) to bourbon historian Michael Veatch, Americans didn't begin producing the native spirit until the 1820s. Veatch notes that the first written account of bourbon occurred in 1821, when it was mentioned in an issue of the Western Citizen, a [Kentucky-based](#) newspaper.

Five years later, a letter from a Lexington grocer to a distiller detailed the benefits of charring a barrel to improve whiskey's flavors. But it was Dr. James C. Crow, a Scottish immigrant, whom Veatch credits with refining the quality of bourbon in the 1830s.

PRODUCTION

A major difference between whiskey on a broad scale and bourbon lies in the ingredients. In order for a bourbon to be labeled as such, it must include a mixture of at least 51 percent corn, whereas whiskey's ingredients can run the gamut from wheat, rye, barley, and corn. But there's more: Bourbon must also be made in the U.S., aged a minimum of two years in new, charred oak barrels, and cannot contain flavor or color additives. While Kentucky, bourbon's birthplace, is the center for [a majority of its production](#), the spirit can technically be made around the country.

Whiskey can hail from literally anywhere in the world and depending on the country, is made using a wide range of production, regulatory guidelines, and aging processes. Even in America, there is plenty of whiskey distilled that does not fall into the bourbon category, such as [Tennessee whiskey](#) and [rye whiskey](#).

FLAVOR

Featuring corn as the predominant ingredient in its mash, bourbon has a perceived sweeter overall profile than most whiskey, but can still develop remarkable complexity. Depending on the origin and [mash bill](#), bourbon can display notes of baking spices, black pepper, fruit, vanilla, caramel, and even cocoa.



Whisky's flavors vary wildly, from a full-bodied and smoky Scotch, to a more delicate and mellow [Japanese whisky](#). Even Tennessee whisky has a distinctive profile, imparted during its unique charcoal-filtering method known as the [Lincoln County Process](#).

COCKTAILS

Bourbon makes a wonderful sipper on its own (bonus if you're anywhere near a fireplace), but it really shines in classic cocktails such as the [Old Fashioned](#) and the [Boulevardier](#). It's enduring appeal as a cocktail ingredient means it's also a feature in more modern creations like the [Paper Plane](#), a refreshing mix of bourbon, Aperol, Amaro Nonino, and lemon juice.

Scotch whisky also makes a terrific cocktail base, showing off its versatility in the [Penicillin](#), [Rob Roy](#), and the [Blood and Sand](#). For the Irish whiskey lover, an [Irish Coffee](#) is always a good choice, and if you have a bottle of Japanese whisky, a perfectly constructed [Highball](#) is the way to go.

WHAT THE PROS THINK

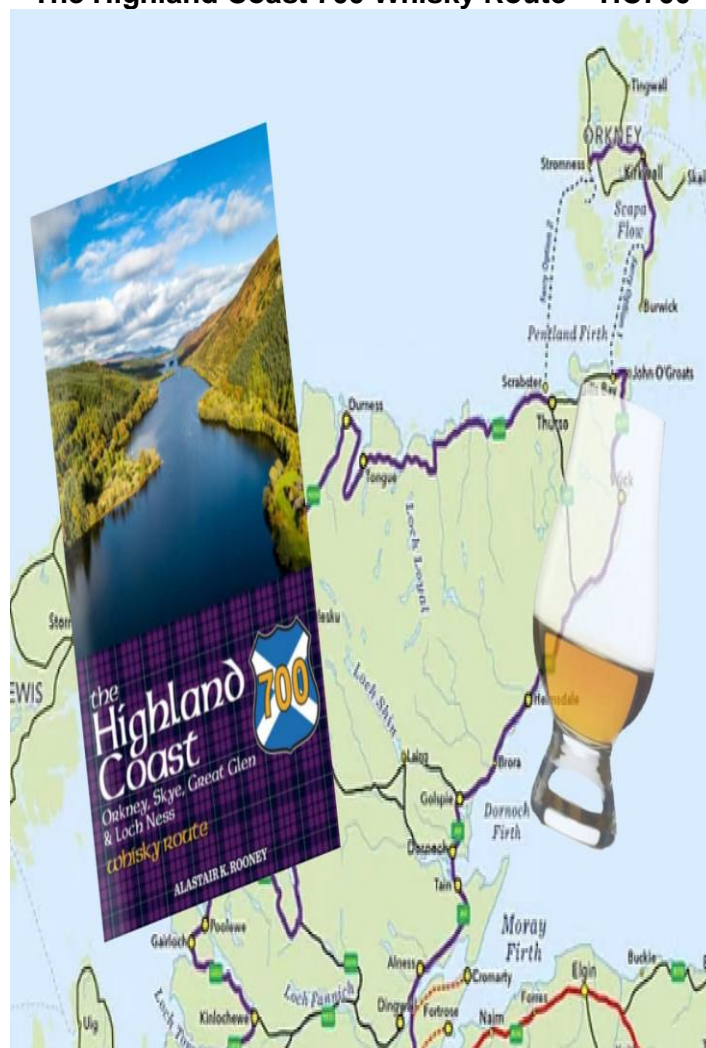
For [Erick Arce Marin](#), the mixologist at Costa Rica's [Tabacón Thermal Resort & Spa](#), bourbon is a great starter spirit for drinkers looking "to try whiskey for the first time," due to its sweeter notes. While bourbon is often a popular choice with younger customers, Marin notes that other whiskeys can present "stronger and more complex flavors," making them somewhat of an acquired taste, best appreciated "once a more comprehensive understanding and knowledge of the spirit have been achieved."

Published: September 16, 2021



WHISKY & WISDOM

The Highland Coast 700 Whisky Route – HC700



If you're planning a trip to Scotland and you're reading this blog, then there's a good chance that visiting a whisky distillery or two will be part of your itinerary! Notwithstanding the whisky aspect, most guides or books for Scottish tourism naturally focus on the attractions of Edinburgh and the usual historic sites beyond such as Stirling Castle, etc. Unfortunately, when it comes to tourist guides and even online resources, it would be fair to say that there's not a lot that gets devoted to the far north and the Highlands. Which is a great shame, since it's the far north that boasts some of Scotland's most stunning and dramatic landscapes, scenery, and attractions. The Highland Coast 700 is a fantastic resource and journey that addresses this imbalance, and is a must-have for any serious whisky enthusiast exploring Scotland.



The far north of the Highlands, beyond Inverness. The “Highland” region of Scotland officially starts much further south of the area circled – roughly 120km (75 miles) south of Inverness, in fact. But it’s the remote northern Highlands where the HC700 / NC500 road trips take in some spectacular sites and sights.

Despite Scotland’s relatively small size, it’s a challenging and difficult exercise for whisky tourists to fit everything into a short trip, and most enthusiasts find themselves making several visits to Scotland over the years in order to tick off the Edinburgh/Glasgow belt; the Lowlands; the Perthshire region; the big-hitters of Speyside; Islay; Campbeltown; the islands (e.g. Arran, Mull, Skye, the Orkneys); and the all-expansive Highlands. By virtue of sheer geography, the distilleries north of Inverness receive less visitors than their southern counterparts, and there’s an irony in that the distillery experiences, their remoteness, and the beauty of the land makes getting to these northern attractions all the more worthwhile. The Highland Coast 700 is your travel buddy for the journey, and for those travelling with a spouse/partner who may not quite share *your* enthusiasm for whisky, the Highland Coast 700 caters for your partner and will also open your eyes to the plethora of *other* activities, attractions, sights, dining, and accommodation on offer in this part of Scotland. So what’s it all about?.....



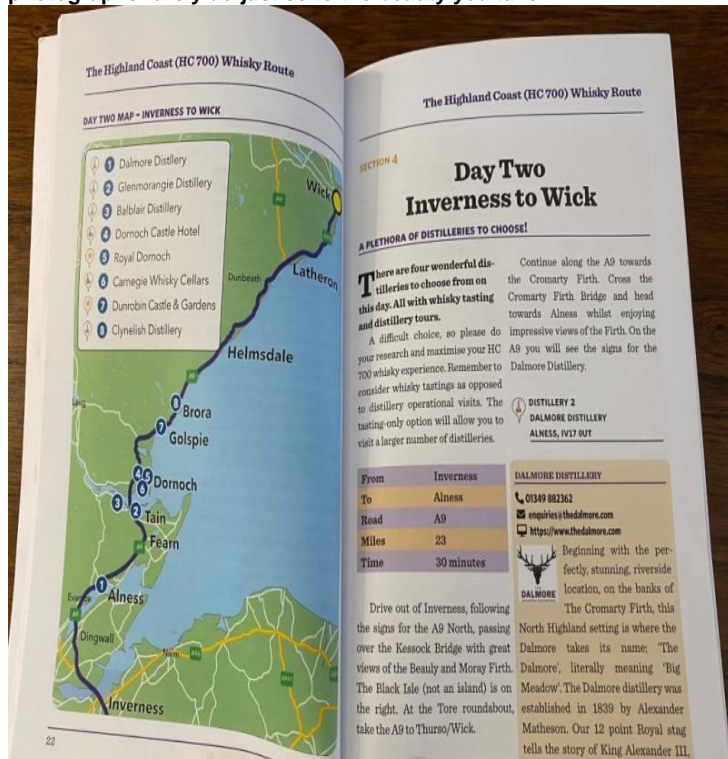
The book’s cover on the left, and the map & total route on the right. The Highland Coast 700 – also styled the Highland Coast 700 *Whisky Route* – is a book by Alastair K. Rooney that explores this northern and north-west corner of Scotland with a series of day trips and itineraries that capture the best of what the region has to offer. It’s effectively an extension of the NC500, or the North Coast 500, which is a well-known road trip around this region of the mainland. The North Coast 500 – aptly named because it covers roughly 500 miles of driving – has been established for some time and even has its own website (www.northcoast500.com), however, the Highland Coast 700 *Whisky Route* extends the North Coast 500 to also incorporate Orkney, Skye, and the Great Glen / Loch Ness. (And extends the journey up to approximately 700 miles, if you were to drive the full course). As the name implies, it’s a route that builds whisky into the journey: Tomatin, Dalmore, Glenmorangie, Balblair, Clynelish, Pulteney, Highland Park, Scapa, Torabhaig, Talisker and Glen Ord make up the 11 “official” distilleries covered on the HC700 that have established visitor centres, although you’ll pass at least seven other distilleries on the route (most of which don’t or can’t readily cater for visitors, although the book still gives information on each).

The book – 90 pages long, and smaller than an iPad-Mini – is a one-stop guide that covers all you need to know, delving into each area’s history, geography, sites and sights, as well as giving great recommendations for accommodation, dining, and drinking options. The suggested route and itinerary is a six day affair that starts in Inverness and heads north, then up and around the Highlands in an east-to-west or counter-clockwise direction before returning back to Inverness. Obviously, you can follow as much or as little of the suggested route and itinerary as your time and interest will permit, but it’s a genuinely full and comprehensive journey that leaves little left unexplored.



Sites and sights you'll encounter on the HC700. (Images (c) Whisky & Wisdom)

Make no mistake, the region – particularly the north-western run from Tongue down to Lochcarron – is stunning in its dramatic landscapes and coastal aspects. Whisky & Wisdom has driven through and around this area several times across multiple trips to Scotland, and the photographs rarely do justice to the beauty you take in.

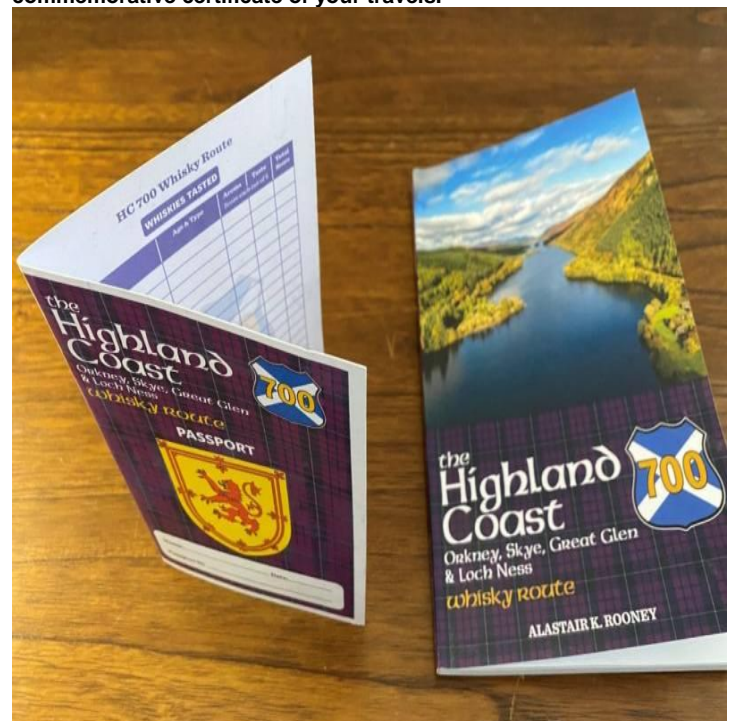


Each section starts with a summary of the area covered and the main attractions you'll encounter on the route. The following pages in each section give more background information, contact details for each attraction, and accommodation/dining options. In addition to the itinerary itself and attractions on the way, there are chapters dedicated to travel guidelines and Scotland's road rules;

planning tips; other spirit/distillery attractions en route (e.g. gin distilleries); a guide to Scottish slang; the history of Scotland; the history of Scotch whisky; the whisky making process; supplementary reading and recommended websites; a guide to Scottish cuisine; road safety and driving tips; and more. And, of course, useful maps!



More sites and sights on the journey. (Images (c) Whisky & Wisdom) For the whisky enthusiast, the HC700 also includes a Whisky Passport, which you can get stamped at the various participating distilleries, pubs, and hotels along the way. Once you've got your passport filled, you can send it into the publishers and redeem it for a special commemorative certificate of your travels.



The passport that accompanies the book. For more information, and to get your copy of the book, swing by www.hc700.co.uk – Whisky & Wisdom is pleased to endorse and commend this publication. It's more than just a tremendous travel guide, it's a great whisky book in its own right.

And for one last bit of reading before you head off on your travels, you might like to check out this helpful article: [10 things every whisky lover should know before visiting Scotland](#)

Cheers, AD

Membership and Dinner prices for 2021-2022

Membership Fee:	\$50 (singles)
	\$75 (couples)
One Time Initiation Fee:	\$15
Standard Dinner Fee:	\$90 (member)
	\$100 (non-member)

Reservation policy

- The agreement with the Kitchen's requires that we provide five (5) 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 five (5) 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 20th, 2021 dinner date as an example:
 - Dinner invitations will be sent out Friday August 20th, 2021. 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 or until capacity is achieved.
 - Once payment is received I will send a confirmation and your seat will be guaranteed reserved.
 - An RSVP **only does not guarantee** the seat and if there is a waiting list, you run the risk of losing your seat.
 - Please keep in mind until further notice our maximum attendance will be capped at 40. So delays run the risk of you missing out.

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 "KSMS2021RDF", 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.



Kingston Single Malt Society

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