

Kingston Single Malt Society

www.kingstonsinglemaltsociety.com

A social club for the appreciation of Single Malt Whisky since 1998
NOVEMBER 18th, 2019 VOLUME 13; NUMBER 5



GLENMORANGIE SINGLE MALT SCOTCH WHISKY



MENU

1st Course: House Smoked Salmon Belly, Fingerling Potatoes, Pickled Vegetables, Aioli

2nd Course: Roasted Winter Squash, Carrots, Pumpkin Seeds, Baby Kale,
Celtic Blue Cheese Tahini & Yogurt Dressing

3rd Course: Braised Beef Short Rib, Roasted Garlic Mashed Potatoes,
Braised Spinach Crispy Onions, Braising Jus

Dessert: Apple Crisp Cheesecake with Elijah Craig Small Batch infused Caramel Bourbon Sauce

SINGLE MALTS

GLENMORANGIE 10 YEAR OLD ORIGINAL SINGLE MALT LCBO 298638 | 750 mL bottle
Price **\$70.15** Spirits, Whisky/Whiskey, 40.0% Alcohol/Vol.

GLENMORANGIE LASANTA EXTRA MATURED SCOTCH WHISKY LCBO 241943 | 750 mL bottle
Price **\$92.85** Spirits 46.0% Alcohol/Vol.

GLENMORANGIE QUINTA RUBAN 12 YEAR OLD SINGLE MALT LCBO 241869 | 750 mL bottle
Price: **\$97.15** Spirits, Whisky/Whiskey 46.0% Alcohol/Vol.

GLENMORANGIE QUINTA RUBAN 14 YEAR OLD
(Aged in American Oak Bourbon Casks; Finished in Fine Ruby Port Casks)
LCBO 241869 | 750 mL bottle
Price **\$82.75** Spirits 46.0% Alcohol/Vol.

GLENMORANGIE 10th PRIVATE EDITION (2018) ALLTA VINTAGES 554584 | 750 mL bottle
Price **\$179.95** Spirits, Whisky/Whiskey, Scotch Single Malts 46.0% Alcohol/Vol.

GLENMORANGIE 18 YEAR OLD LCBO 398784 | 750 mL bottle
Price **\$198.90** Spirits, Whisky/Whiskey 43.0% Alcohol/Vol.

GLENMORANGIE 19 YEAR OLD LCBO 241869 | 700 mL bottle
Price: **\$162.50** Spirits, Whisky/Whiskey 43.0% Alcohol/Vol.

GLENMORANGIE SIGNET LCBO 327452 | 750 mL bottle
Price: **\$339.95** Spirits, Scotch Whisky 46.0% Alcohol/Vol.

GLENMORANGIE DUTHAC VINTAGES 410936 | 1000 mL bottle
Price: **\$120.00** Spirits, Whisky/Whiskey 43.0% Alcohol/Vol.

Upcoming Dinner Dates

November 18th, 2019 - Glenmorangie- Bryan Simpson
December 9th 2019 - Christmas Dinner -
Campbeltown / Lowland / Speyside /
Highlands / Islands / Islay
January 20th, 2020 - Robbie Burns - Speyside / Highlands / Islay
February 17th, 2020 - Deanston – Mike Brisebois
March 16th, 2020 - Irish / Speyside / Highlands
April 20th, 2020 - Campbeltown / Islands / Islay
May 25th, 2020 - Campbeltown / Speyside
June 22nd, 2020 - BBQ (Final Exam)
July 20th, 2020 - 9th “Matt” Night
Friday August 28th 2020 - 13th Annual Premium Night
September 21st, 2020 - Campbeltown / Lowland / Speyside /
Highlands / Islands / Islay
October 19th, 2020 - Speyside / Highlands
November 16th, 2020 - Speyside
December 7th 2020 - Christmas Dinner
January 25th, 2021 - Robbie Burns - Speyside / Highlands / Islay
February 15th, 2021 - Speyside / Highlands / Islay
March 15th, 2021 - Irish / Speyside / Highlands
April 19th, 2021 - Campbeltown / Islands / Islay
May 17th, 2021 - Campbeltown / Speyside
June 28th, 2021 - BBQ (Final Exam)
July 19th, 2021 - 10th “Matt” Night
Friday August 27th 2021 - 14th Annual Premium Night
September 20th, 2021 - Campbeltown / Lowland / Speyside /
Highlands / Islands / Islay
October 18th, 2021 - Speyside / Highlands
November 15th, 2021 - Speyside
December 6th 2021 - Christmas Dinner

OCTOBER - KSMS Financial Statement

(Money from 53 Sept. attendees @ \$70)	= \$3710.00
October dinner 53 persons = \$48.00/ea	= \$2544.00
(Money remaining for buying Single Malt)	= \$1166.00
Cost of Single Malts	= \$1459.55
Cost of Pours per Person = \$22.80	
KSMS Monthly operational balance	= (-\$293.55)
Cost per person (All inclusive)	= \$75.54

GLENMORANGIE DEBUTS ‘RARE’ CASK 1784 MALT

19 June 2019 by Matt Evans

Glenmorangie has released ‘one of its rarest single malts’, a 16-year-old finished in a Pedro Ximénez Sherry butt, as the first in a series of ‘highly limited’ distillery-exclusive bottlings.

Rare Cask: Just 636 bottles of Glenmorangie’s Cask 1784 have been created

[Glenmorangie](#) Cask 1784 has been aged for 10 years in separate ex-Bourbon casks before being transferred to the eponymous ex-Sherry butt for six years of secondary maturation.

Bottled at 55% abv, the whisky is said to be ‘brimming with coffee and walnut cake’ notes on the nose with ‘creamy fudge, toffee and old-fashioned boiled sweets’ on the palate.

[Dr Bill Lumsden](#), Glenmorangie’s director of distilling, whisky creation and whisky stocks, said: ‘We rarely release distillery exclusive whiskies like Cask 1784.’

‘I hope this intensely sweet and surprisingly rich Glenmorangie will give visitors a particularly special reason to make the journey to our distillery.’
Priced at £650 per 70cl bottle, just 636 bottles of Cask 1784 have been produced.
While most of the bottles are already on sale at the distillery, Glenmorangie is said to be ‘keeping a few back for special occasions’.
Cask 1784 is the first in a quartet of rare limited-edition whiskies, all distillery-exclusive bottlings, set to be released later in 2019.

GLENMORANGIE 16 YEARS OLD, CASK 1784

SCORE: 90
PRICE BAND: £ £ £ £ £
ABV: 55%
PRODUCTION TYPE: *Single malt whisky*
REGION: *Highland*
FLAVOUR CAMP: *Rich & Round*
NOSE: A sumptuous mixture of stewing red and black fruits alongside red cherry juice and pomegranate. In time there’s some oak, chocolate and heavy maple syrup. Water adds in some stewing citrus, while a coffee element starts to build alongside the almond-like quality of cherry stone. Mature and elegant.
PALATE: Really thick and unctuous, dripping with fruit syrups/jellied fruits. The tip is all purple berry fruits and melting chocolate that moves into sweetened coffee. There’s also noticeably more cinnamon/nutmeg spiciness. There’s just enough wood to add structure, which comes in handy when water is added as it adds a drying balance to the fruit-laden elements. Shows a lightly oxidised element.
FINISH: Ripe and decadent.
CONCLUSION: A sipper for contemplation. It might seem slightly showy, but there’s enough grip. It ain’t cheap though.
RIGHT PLACE, RIGHT TIME: Slide around like a [Slinky Thing](#).
(Dave Broom)



GLENMORANGIE TRIO HEADS TO TRAVEL RETAIL

30 September 2019 by [Becky Paskin](#)

Glenmorangie is introducing a new trio of single malts into travel retail, including a 16-year-old containing lightly peated whisky.

Glenmorangie The Accord, The Elementa and Tribute are three single malts inspired by the ‘distillery’s mastery of timeless techniques such as cask marrying and wood finishing’.

The Accord (€53) is a 12-year-old whisky matured in a combination of ex-Bourbon barrels and oloroso Sherry casks, which is said to have flavours of ‘sugar-coated plums and almonds, soft brown sugar, creamy vanilla, cappuccino coffee, dates and toffee apples’.

The Elementa (€75) is a 14-year-old whisky matured in ex-Bourbon barrels and finished in new charred oak casks ‘for woody depth and warm spice’.

Dr [Bill Lumsden](#), director of distilling, whisky creation and whisky stocks at [Glenmorangie](#), said: ‘As its name suggests, this whisky’s taste deliciously reflects the natural influences of the new wood.’

The Tribute (€115) is a 16-year-old whisky created to celebrate the distillery’s former use of peat to dry its barley.



Lumsden added: 'To celebrate our heritage, I distilled a rare, lightly peated spirit with a hint of smoke. 'Aged in Bourbon casks and united with Glenmorangie's signature spirit, our Tribute's citrus smoothness and rounded flavours are a zesty nod to the past.'

All three expressions have been chill-filtered and bottled at 43% abv. *Travel trio: Glenmorangie The Accord, The Elementa and Tribute will launch in Dubai airport*

The range will be given an exclusive launch in Dubai International airport in October 2019, before being released in Hong Kong International airport in November and given a global travel retail release in 2020.

It will also be available to purchase from the distillery visitor centre from next year.

Modern expressions to feature peated Glenmorangie whisky include Finealta, released in 2011, and Dornoch, which launched in 2014.

Glenmorangie's series of new travel retail exclusives begins with the Accord, a fruit bomb with 'enough structure to stop any flabbiness creeping in'. Sweet, thick and sticky.

The Elementa leaves the viscosity behind in favour of passionfruit and Jaffa cakes. 'Understated compared to Accord,' says Broom. 'It's 'morangie in quiet guise.'

Finally, the Tribute is a peated, smoky Glenmorangie designed to evoke the distillery's Highland peat-fuelled past. 'It has the effect of a comfortable old woollen jumper', says Broom, but ultimately becomes one for the ginger ale.

GLENMORANGIE THE ACCORD



SCORE: 88
[Scoring explained >](#)
 PRICE BAND: £ £ £ £ £
 ABV: 43%
 PRODUCTION TYPE: *Single malt whisky*
 REGION: *Highland*
 AVAILABILITY: *Travel retail exclusive*
 FLAVOUR CAMP: *Fruity & Spicy*
 NOSE: Thick, sweet and quite sticky, with syrups oozing from a rhubarb (maybe plum) crumble. Remains sweet with honey and metheglin, peach tart, then a tayberry-like fruit, ripe apple, orange or osmanthus and finally a drowsy hint of jasmine. Water reduces the thickness and brings out peach skin fragrance, redcurrant jelly and quince.
 PALATE: Very sweet, with those juices now showing a darker edge: blackberry, medjool date, melting chocolate. Chewy, but there's enough structure to stop any flabbiness creeping in.

FINISH: Light raspberry and chocolate.
 CONCLUSION: A fruit bomb. Grab one next time you are flying.
 RIGHT PLACE, RIGHT TIME: [How Sweet It Is.](#)

GLENMORANGIE THE ELEMENTA

SCORE: 86
[Scoring explained >](#)
 PRICE BAND: £ £ £ £ £
 ABV: 43%
 PRODUCTION TYPE: *Single malt whisky*
 REGION: *Highland*
 AVAILABILITY: *Travel retail exclusive*
 FLAVOUR CAMP: *Fruity & Spicy*



NOSE: Classic Glenmorangie passionfruit alongside some chamomile, tarte tatin, kumquat and a little touch of Jaffa cake (orange and chocolate for those of you not lucky enough to have tried them) and light honey. There's oak notes, even a touch of char, overall dry and lightly crisp. Water brings the citrus more into focus, along with the oak.
 PALATE: Soft and quite light. There's some chalkiness in the centre that's reminiscent of freshly-starched laundry which sets itself opposite the slightly floral top note. Best having water on the side, for it brings in more of the charred oak.
 FINISH: Banana bread and peach, then crisps up.
 CONCLUSION: Understated compared to Accord. It's 'morangie in quiet guise.
 RIGHT PLACE, RIGHT TIME: A moment for [Quiet Music.](#)

GLENMORANGIE THE TRIBUTE

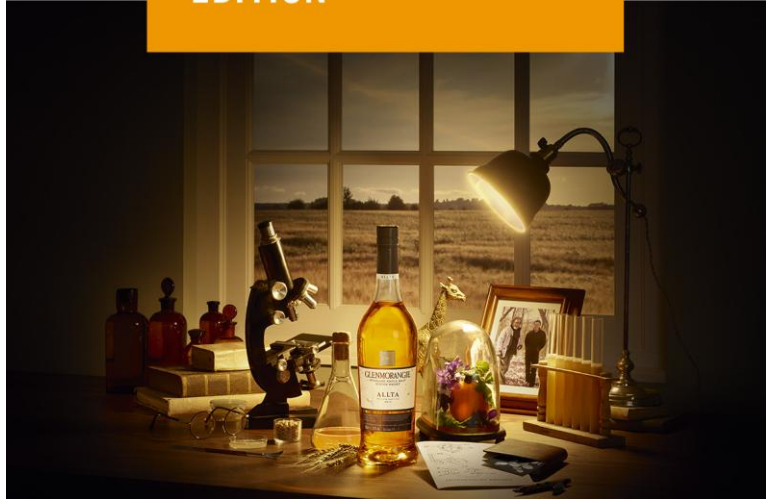
SCORE: 82
[Scoring explained >](#)
 PRICE BAND: £ £ £ £ £
 ABV: 43%
 PRODUCTION TYPE: *Single malt whisky*
 REGION: *Highland*
 AVAILABILITY: *Travel retail exclusive*
 FLAVOUR CAMP: *Smoky & Peaty*



NOSE: Smoky Glenmo? Why not. This starts quite funky with a slight cabbage, singed bubble and squeak note and some earthiness, alongside angelica root and horseradish. Water helps to sweeten things up, adding cooked apple and some Brazil nut, while the smoke is now more bonfire-like.
 PALATE: Less confrontational, with a maltier element than you are used to with Glenmorangie which takes it into, oddly, genever territory (a Netherlands liquor, albeit one with peat added). It has the effect of a comfortable old woollen jumper. There's some nuttiness, still the rooty elements and while there is some of the vegetal aspect, it is more controlled. Water sweetens things up – the smoke now rising from green sticks before balancing sweetly on the back palate.
 FINISH: Light smoke.
 CONCLUSION: Genever? Try with ginger ale or as a Martinez. Bet it works.

RIGHT PLACE, RIGHT TIME: [They Came From The North](#) bearing confusing news.

GLENMORANGIE ALLTA IS REVEALED AS THE TENTH PRIVATE EDITION



Glenmorangie goes wild to celebrate a decade of innovation. Every year since 2009, we have released a limited-edition single malt as part of the award-winning Private Edition series. And to mark its tenth anniversary, we continue the series with Glenmorangie Allta, our very first whisky to be fermented using a bespoke strain of wild yeast discovered growing on local Cadboll barley.

Scots Gaelic for “wild”, Allta showcases the forgotten influence of yeast on the flavour of whisky, defying single malt industry convention. Lending a rich and fruity character to the spirit, it opens up compelling possibilities for the future of Scotch whisky.



Allta 2019

Marking the tenth anniversary of our acclaimed Private Edition series, Glenmorangie Allta is the first Glenmorangie created from the yeast which grows wild on our own Cadboll barley. This rich, fruity single malt was inspired as Dr Bill Lumsden walked the fields near the Distillery, gathering precious samples of grain. Discovering that the barley nurtured a species of wild yeast unidentified before then, he

set out to bring the two together in the making of a creamy and aromatic whisky. Aged in bourbon barrels, including many second-fill casks to showcase the spirit's fruity character, Glenmorangie Allta (Scots Gaelic for ‘wild’ and pronounced ‘al-ta’) reveals the importance of yeast to the myriad flavours found in Scotch whisky and opens up compelling possibilities for the future.



Rounded, with biscuit tones, light, floral notes and scents of baking bread emerging alongside vanilla, raisins and mandarin orange.



A crisp, citrus texture brings tastes of butter candy, more creamy vanilla and orange syrup with a little yeast in the background. Then gentle mint and a suggestion of sweet chilli.



Long and earthy, with hints of bitter-sweet orange and peppermint.

Glenmorangie Allta

<https://www.whiskyandwisdom.com/glenmorangie-allta/>

The annual release of the new addition to Glenmorangie's Private Edition series is always a highlight of the whisky calendar, and 2019 sees the release of Glenmorangie Allta. This is the 10th anniversary of the Private Edition series and, like all the years and releases before it, Allta doesn't fail to delight.

The Private Edition series is an opportunity to explore and enjoy Glenmorangie in a new light. Whilst each annual release is a limited edition that comes and goes, there is certainly fun, interest, and tastebud-pleasure to be derived as the whisky makers play around with Glenmorangie's DNA.

Previous Private Edition releases have explored and experimented with unique maturation casks, or they've trialled unique varieties of barley. Each release never strays too far from the celebrated “house

style” of Glenmorangie’s whiskies, but they certainly present Glenmorangie in a different light and offer unique aromas and flavours to the discerning whisky drinker. In the case of Allta (*gaelic for “wild”*), the twist is in the yeast. Bucking the convention of using a traditional distiller’s yeast, Allta was distilled from a wash (beer) that was brewed using a wild yeast that was sourced from the barley being grown near the distillery. (For those interested in the biology, the yeast was cultivated off some ears of Cadboll barley – best known for its use in producing Glenmorangie Signet – and is *saccharomyces diaemath*. The locally grown Cadboll barley was also used for the production of Allta).

It’s the sort of innovation and twist in production that many whisky enthusiasts have been calling for and anticipating. On the surface, there’s not an awful lot that Scottish distillers can play with in the exploration of flavour: The only three ingredients are barley, yeast, and water, and the spirit has to age in oak casks for at least three years. So the raw materials are reasonably set. Of course, the massive diversity in whisky’s flavour spectrum comes about through the many variations in still shapes and sizes, the condensers, brewing methods and distillation techniques, plus the myriad of different cask types used for maturation. But it would be fair to say that fermenting with different yeasts is the one piece of uncharted (or, rather, under-utilised) territory. The pursuit of consistency and yield has driven the industry to use a near-universal yeast strain that achieves both those objectives. However, as brewers and craft-beer drinkers will understand and appreciate, different yeasts can make a world of difference to the flavour and character of beer, and thus the field is ripe for distillers, should they wish to pursue new flavours. On the question of yield, I spoke with Glenmorangie’s Dr Bill Lumsden, the man behind the whisky, and asked if using this wild yeast had resulted in a lower yield? Indeed, he advised that the yield was about 15% lower for the week’s worth of distillation in question. In truth, he was expecting an even lower outcome, so the final volumes produced were actually pleasing. But it’s possibly somewhat academic...in Bill’s words, “I’ll happily sacrifice yield for flavour!”

It’s not a new sentiment, either. In fact, I’d like to think Australia could even take some credit for this release? For it was way back in 2003 at the Australian Malt Whisky Convention in Canberra when a few of us asked Dr Bill (a guest speaker at the event) that very question: “Why aren’t distillers playing around with different yeasts to explore different flavours?” He explained that there were commercial realities at play, not to mention tradition, and the very fair and valid observation that “there’s nothing *wrong* with what we’re currently using.” It’s a good point: We rave about how delicious Scotland’s best whiskies can be, and yet it’s all been produced using a uniform yeast across the board. But, if our verbal urgings back in 2003 sowed any seeds, and if Allta is any indication, one suspects we may start to see more exploration with yeasts and fermentation in the years to come. Perhaps yeast will do for the industry in the 2020’s what *finishing* did for the industry in the late

1990’s and early 2000’s? You read it here first.

The final thing to know about Glenmorangie Allta is how it was matured. Many of the great Glenmorangie releases – and Astar quickly comes to mind – utilise 1st Fill ex-bourbon casks. The majority of the previous Private Edition releases have utilised exotic casks and wood types, e.g. Super Tuscan wine barrels (*Artein*), virgin white oak casks (*Ealanta*), Clos de Tart casks (*Companta*), deeply toasted red wine casks (*Milsean*), Malmsey Madeira casks (*Bacalta*), and rye whisky casks (*Sprios*). In contrast to all this, Allta was matured chiefly in 2nd-fill and refill casks, in order to prevent the wood from dominating. In a similar vein, Lumsden originally had a maturation target of 15 years, but after carefully monitoring and sampling the whisky’s development, he elected to bottle earlier than this so that the spirit’s fruity character would remain and not be overwhelmed by the oak.

So with all of this as background, how does Allta actually stack up?

Whisky & Wisdom sat down with a dram....

Nose: An instant outburst of both savoury and sweet: There’s an instant hit of sweet fruits – raspberries and red currants – but balanced simultaneously with doughy pastry aromas. Fruit flan, anyone? Cereal notes emerge in the form of sweetened porridge, followed by sandalwood and perhaps huon pine. The signature Glenmorangie citrus is never too far away from the action. Returning to the nose after the first sip, there are strong biscuity notes, particularly shortbread and Arnott’s Scotch Fingers. It’s a nose for contemplation...there’s plenty here to keep you occupied.

Palate: Toasted barley, date slice, toffee (perhaps coated in dark chocolate?), and bread-and-butter pudding. It’s obviously on the

sweeter side, but it never becomes cloying or overdone, and the balance is maintained by the input of pine nuts, oak, and a hint of grassiness.

Finish: There’s something fascinating about the finish – it’s got a “sparkle” in the tail; a savoury note that reminds me of chicken stock; and the slight bitterness of charred wood. Scorched almonds round out the mix. Even just a small sip leaves a seriously complex footprint. Comments: Previous Private Edition releases have been bottled at 46%, and the Allta’s much higher ABV of 51.2% is immediately apparent (and welcome). As we’ve become accustomed to with the Glenmorangie Private Edition range, the Glenmorangie DNA is never far from the surface, but there’s some significant complexity and diversity in this to make it notably different to the flagship 10yo “Original”. Regardless of any fancy gaelic name or exotic yeast treatment, the simple question to ask is, “Is this delicious?”. The answer is a resounding “Yes”.

Cheers,
AD

GLENMORANGIE ALLTA CREATED WITH WILD YEAST

29 January 2019 by [Becky Paskin](#)

Glenmorangie is releasing a whisky created using wild yeast as part of its Private Edition series of experimental malts.

Glenmorangie Allta – Scots Gaelic for ‘wild’ – is thought to be the first Scotch whisky produced using wild yeast.

The strain, called *Saccharomyces diaemath*, is said to have been discovered by [Dr Bill Lumsden](#), Glenmorangie’s director of distilling, whisky creation and whisky stocks, growing on ears of barley close to the distillery in Tain.

Lumsden said the yeast imparts more floral, bready notes to [Glenmorangie’s](#) new make spirit that ‘are not as accentuated in the house spirit, which has more herbal, fruity and pear drop aromas’.

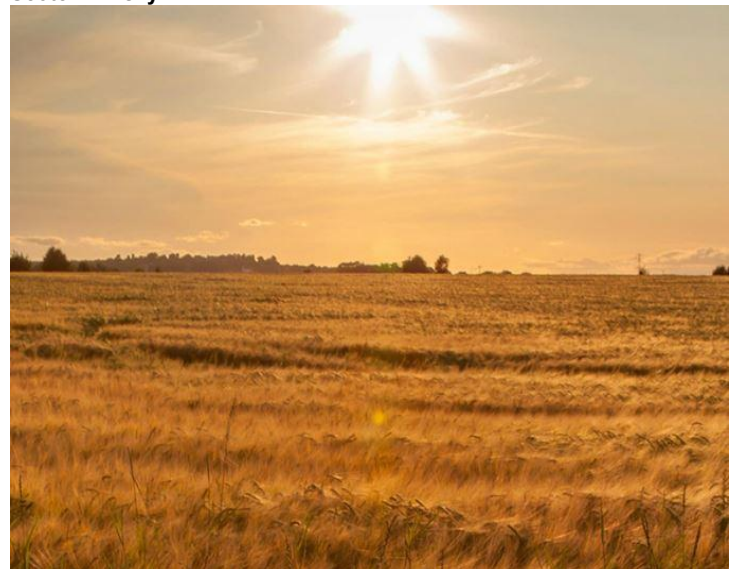
After maturation for around eight years in mostly second-fill and refill ex-Bourbon casks, Glenmorangie Allta (51.2% abv) is said to have aromas of ‘carnations and Parma violets, baking bread and very gentle vanilla’ with notes of ‘butter candy, creamy vanilla, orange syrup’ with a ‘slightly yeasty background’ on the palate.

Lumsden said: ‘Glenmorangie Allta is a worthy whisky with which to mark the Private Edition’s 10th anniversary.

‘Yeast’s influence on taste has been overlooked for years, but it’s an area ripe for exploration.

‘Ideally I’d have liked to age it for longer but I was concerned that with the ever-increasing influence of wood we’d lose the impact of the yeast itself, which was at its maximum in the new make. That’s why we used only second-fill and refill Bourbon casks.

‘Glenmorangie Allta opens up compelling possibilities for the future of Scotch whisky.’



Natural inspiration: Lumsden discovered the yeast strain on ears of Cadboll barley growing near the distillery in Tain

As one of the three ingredients used in the production of Scotch single malt whisky, alongside barley and water, [yeast plays a significant role](#) in the creation of flavour.

The majority of whisky distillers use distilling yeast to maximise yield, although some have been experimenting with less efficient strains that can produce different flavours.

Glenmorangie's exploration of yeast began at the turn of the century after whisky writer Michael Jackson laid claim that the distillery had cultivated its own house yeast in his book, *The World Guide to Whisky* (1987).

After finding no evidence that the strain existed, Lumsden, who has a background in yeast physiology and was at that point distillery manager, decided to cultivate Glenmorangie's own house strain of yeast.

The distillery began introducing the house strain into its production process around 2010, although it continues to use industry-grade yeast for the majority of its whisky.

Lumsden added: 'We wouldn't want to use it for everything; it would change the character of Glenmorangie.'

Now in its 10th year, the Glenmorangie Private Edition series has explored flavour innovation in Scotch whisky, with each expression released as an experimental twist on the Glenmorangie Original 10 Year Old.

Previous editions have included Glenmorangie Ealanta (2013), matured in virgin American oak casks; Glenmorangie Tusail (2015), made using floor-malted Maris Otter barley; and [Glenmorangie Spios](#) (2018), matured in ex-American rye whiskey casks.

Glenmorangie Allta is available for £79 a bottle from specialist whisky retailers worldwide from today (29 January).



GLENMORANGIE ALLTA

www.scotchwhisky.com

SCORE90

PRICE BAND: £ £ £ £ £

ABV: 51.2%

PRODUCTION TYPE: *Single malt whisky*

REGION: *Highland*

FLAVOUR CAMP: *Fruity & Spicy*

NOSE: Fresh, and slightly bready with some green apricot and a herbal (dill, rosemary), almost grassy edge. More cereal-accented than you expect from Glenmo' although there is still a perfumed backdrop (osmanthus, dried lemon peel) on top of dry earth. Steadily builds towards butterscotch and barley sugar. It needs time (and some water) to grow and show those fruits, proving bread, oatcake and macadamia. PALATE: There's the classic Glenmo' silkiness, but there's more spice and pizzazz, alongside red berry fruits, nutmeg and white pepper, this time given sweetness by agave syrup. Those atypical (and yeast-

driven) bready notes are retained. Carries its strength well – a good indication of complexity and balance. Water brings out more orchard fruit, ginger juice and fresh barley.

FINISH: Toasted almond, spice, some Fox's glacier mint and finally a return to the dry earth.

CONCLUSION: Their own yeast, their own barley. This is not just a great whisky it is also a really important one.

RIGHT PLACE, RIGHT TIME: Driving north in late summer the [Poppies are In The Field](#).

The wine and spirits arm of LVMH recorded an organic revenue growth of 5% to €5.1 billion (US\$5.8bn) in 2018, boosted by China, Europe and the US.



LVMH, the producer of Glenmorangie Scotch whisky, saw its total revenue increase by 10% last year

Profits for LVMH's wine and spirits business grew by 5% to €1.6bn (US\$1.8bn).

Hennessy Cognac's volumes increased by 3%, aided by "good growth" in the US despite a backdrop of tight supply. The Chinese market also experienced "good momentum".

Scotch whisky brands Glenmorangie and Ardbeg, meanwhile, "grew rapidly" in the year. The group also said a "key highlight" of 2018 was the "exceptional harvest both in terms of quantity and quality".

In total, Paris-based LVMH recorded a 10% increase in revenue to €46.8bn (US\$53.5bn) in 2018, while profit increased by 21% to €10bn (US\$11.4bn).

Bernard Arnault, chairman and CEO of LVMH, said: "LVMH had another record year, both in terms of revenue and results. In particular, profit from recurring operations crossed the €10 billion mark.

"In 2019 LVMH will continue its strong dynamic of innovation, targeted investments, combining tradition and modernity, long-term vision and responsiveness, entrepreneurial spirit and a sense of responsibility.

"In an environment that remains uncertain, we can count on the appeal of our brands and the agility of our teams to strengthen, once again in 2019, our leadership in the universe of high quality products."

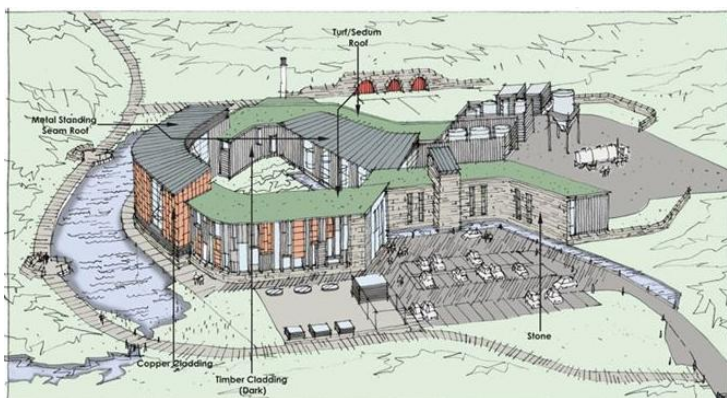
Looking ahead, LVMH said it enters 2019 with "cautious confidence" and is "well-equipped to continue its growth momentum across all business groups".

The firm will continue its strategy of building on "strong innovation and investments".

PLANS SUBMITTED FOR NEW ISLAY DISTILLERY

28 December 2018 by [Becky Paskin](#) -

Elixir Distillers has lodged plans to build a new 'contemporary' whisky distillery on Islay, capable of producing 'a whole family of spirits' with 'underground' warehousing.



'Contemporary' Islay: The unnamed distillery will produce a range of whiskies, rum and gin

The plans, submitted by the independent bottler to Argyll and Bute Council this month, include details for a single malt whisky distillery with the ability to produce up to 1.2 million litres of alcohol, as well as an 'experimental pilot plant' for creating 'other types of whisky'.

In addition to barley, the distillery will be set up to handle different grain types, as well as produce a range of spirits including gin and rum, with its own facilities for growing botanicals.

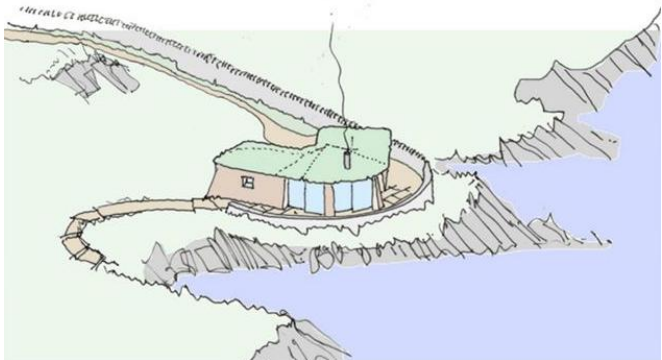
The distillery – which is yet to be named – will be situated on Islay's south coast at Farkin, half a mile from the village of Port Ellen.

It will sit at the western end of the Three Distilleries Pathway, a walking and cycle path

linking [Ardbeg](#), [Lagavulin](#) and [Laphroaig](#) distilleries.

Plans for the distillery, which has been designed to compliment the surrounding natural environment, include a 'path network' that builds upon the existing Three Distilleries Pathway, allowing passers-by the opportunity to more easily explore the coastal environment.

The pathway also incorporates an educational installation, providing information for users about Islay's whisky history, geography, geology and wildlife, utilising public art.



Function room: The whisky lodge is designed as a modern take on a traditional blackhouse

As well as including a visitor centre and shop, the distillery will also feature a small tasting lodge located near the shoreline for private parties.

Designs for the distillery itself have been based on a floor plan shaped into the letters CHO – the chemical formula for alcohol.

In its plans, [Elixir Distillers](#), which owns the [Port Askaig](#) and [Elements of Islay](#) brands, said: 'The vision is to establish a completely new, contemporary distillery which will incorporate the best of both traditional and new distilling methods to create a whole family of spirits.'

'The contemporary nature of the distillery and the cutting edge distilling processes being piloted has guided the contemporary design.'

The distillery will feature its own floor maltings, becoming the fourth on the island to malt its own barley on-site, alongside [Bowmore](#), [Kilchoman](#) and Laphroaig.

A tun room will hold 16 washbacks, while the still room will see four copper pot stills with shell and tube condensers arranged in a semi-circle, facing a window with views out across the Sound of Jura.

The pilot plant, comprised of a gin still and separate column and pot still set up to process vodka, rum, various cereals and 'Irish-style pot still whisky', will produce up to 300,000 litres of alcohol per year.

Warehousing will take the form of a series of 'underground maturation vaults' to the front of the distillery, which will mimic the surrounding hillocks.



Scenic route: If plans are approved, the Three Distilleries Pathway could welcome a fourth distillery (Photo: [Sustrans Scotland](#))

With accommodation on the island in short supply, Elixir Distillers also hopes to build on-site family housing for staff and distillery visitors, which will be lodged as a separate planning application.

Sukhinder Singh, co-founder of Elixir Distillers, said: 'We submitted plans for our distillery to Argyll & Bute Council in December. Once the plans are hopefully approved we would like to start building as soon as possible with a view to begin distilling in 2021.'

Once fully operational, the distillery is expected to employ 25 process and visitor centre staff, with a further 67 employed across the UK.

Elixir Distillers [outlined its initial plans in a public consultation](#) at Ramsay Hall in Port Ellen in April.

At the time, Singh said 'there was never any question that we wouldn't choose Islay to build our distillery'.

Islay is currently [home to eight operational distilleries](#) and the Port Ellen maltings, with a ninth distillery, [Ardnahoe](#), due to fill its first cask in early 2019.

[Diageo](#), which operates Lagavulin and Caol Ila distilleries on the island, is also working on [plans to revive the 'lost' distillery of Port Ellen](#) adjacent to the maltings.

ABHAINN DEARG RELEASES FIRST 10 YEAR OLD

Isle of Lewis distillery Abhainn Dearg has released a 10-year-old single malt, the distillery's oldest expression to date.

[Abhainn Dearg](#) became Lewis' first legal distillery for almost two centuries when it opened in 2008.

Its first 10-year-old single malt, released this winter, has been fully matured in ex-Bourbon casks originating from Kentucky's Buffalo Trace distillery.

The whisky, which is bottled at 46% abv, is said to possess 'a sweet nose and honeyed taste', and is priced at £79.99 per 70cl bottle.

Only 10,000 bottles will be released over the next two years, as Abhainn Dearg manages its stocks to release older bottlings in the future.

Marko Tayburn, founder and head distiller at Abhainn Dearg, said: 'The problem as a small producer is if you want to produce a 15-year-old or a 20-year-old, and you're selling a lot of 10-year-old, you're dipping into your stock.'

'It's a constant juggle, a balance to get it right.'

The distillery has also produced a limited edition single cask whisky, the Abhainn Dearg 10 Year Old Special Release.

Filled from the first 10-year-old cask tapped by the distillery, only 100 bottles of the limited edition have been produced.

Also bottled at 46% abv, the Special Release is priced at £475 per 70cl bottle.

Both bottlings are available in the UK and internationally from the [Abhainn Dearg website](#).

The distillery produces a mix of peated and unpeated spirit using custom-made stills based on the design of a now-defunct pot once used for making illegal whisky on the island.

Single malt Scotch exports to US could drop 20% after tariffs

18th October, 2019 by Nicola Carruthers

The 25% tariff on single malt Scotch imports to the US, effective from today, will be “particularly damaging” for smaller producers and will “diminish” consumer choice, the Scotch Whisky Association (SWA) has warned.

The SWA's Karen Betts says that smaller producers will be hit the hardest by the 25% tariffs on single malt

On 2 October, the US government [revealed its intentions to impose a 25% import tariff](#) on EU goods, including single malt Scotch whisky, single malt whiskey from Northern Ireland, liqueurs and cordials from Germany, Italy, Spain, Ireland and the UK and wine.

The tariffs, which were [formally given the go ahead](#) by the World Trade Organization (WTO) earlier this week, came into force today (18 October).

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

According to the SWA's chief executive Karen Betts, the move means that Scotch “is now paying for over 60% of the UK's tariff bill for the subsidies it provided to Airbus, eight times more than the next most valuable UK product on the tariff list”.

She warned that smaller producers will be hit the hardest by the tariffs.

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

Betts said: “This move undermines decades of hard work and investment, which has seen Scotch whisky sales boom in the US. It will impact both our industry and its supply chain.”

She added that the tariff on single malts “will see exports to the US drop by as much as 20% in the next 12 months, as Scotch whisky will become less competitive in the US market”.

Scotch whisky firms “would start to lose market share” and eventually “jobs could be at risk”, Betts warned.

“In Scotland and throughout our UK supply chain, we expect to see a dropping-off in investment and productivity,” she continued.

‘Weather the storm’

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

“We expect the damage to our industry to mirror the damage caused to exports of American whiskies to Europe since the EU imposed a 25% tariff in July 2018,” said Betts.

“Alongside American whiskey companies, we have called on the UK, US and EU governments for many months now to find a negotiated solution to the trade disputes that have given rise to these tit-for-tat tariffs, and to ensure that duty-free trade can resume between the UK and the US to the benefit of whisky producers, their employees, the communities we work in, and consumers everywhere.”

“We now need the UK and Scottish governments to work together to ensure distillers can weather the storm.

Betts urges that the two governments could consider “reducing the UK tax burden on Scotch whisky in the autumn Budget”, which will “provide an important lifeline while efforts continue to remove the tariffs”.

“Despite multiple pressures on the UK government, including Brexit, this issue must not fade from the minds of ministers,” Betts said.

“Scotch whisky has long been a standout export success. This is now at risk if government strategy does not urgently use all the powers at its disposal to remove these damaging tariffs.”

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

Douglas Laing & Co buys Strathearn Distillery

24th October, 2019 by Nicola Carruthers

Independent whisky bottler Douglas Laing & Co has moved into distilling with the acquisition of Perthshire-based single malt Scotch producer Strathearn Distillery.



Highland distillery Strathearn has joined Douglas Laing & Co's portfolio

The deal – terms of which have not been disclosed – marks the first operational distillery in the Douglas Laing portfolio.

Highland single malt whisky distillery Strathearn began production in 2013 and is a “pioneer of the craft distilling scene”. The site, which also produces Scottish gin and rum, encompasses distillation, warehouses and bottling.

Strathearn's gin and rum brands will be available under the ownership of newly established firm, The Whisky Garden.

The acquisition comes as Douglas Laing progresses with the [build of its £10.7 million \(US\\$14m\) distillery](#) in Glasgow. Clutha Distillery's signature whisky, which will bear the same name, will be a “high-end single malt with a heavy Sherry influence”.

According to the company's director of whisky, Cara Laing, the move gives the firm “the opportunity to create an extraordinary brand home for our family business and a global single malt brand steeped in our family firm's history, heritage and passion”.

She said: “Today marks a proud and historic landmark for Douglas Laing. For its first seven decades in the wonderful world of whisky, our family firm has been renowned amongst the finest independent bottlers, celebrated for our Remarkable Regional Malts and Exceptional Single Casks brands.

“2019, our 71st year in business, is the year we take a monumental leap, adding ‘distiller’ to our credentials and beginning a new chapter in our journey.”

Chris Leggat, CEO of Douglas Laing & Co, added: “Strathearn is a wonderful addition to our portfolio. The distillery's handcrafted and premium approach to single malt Scotch whisky production is entirely aligned with our own values, with no attention to detail spared.

“The acquisition comes at a time when Douglas Laing & Co is truly thriving. We are particularly proud to [report double-digit growth for a fifth consecutive year](#), plus nine new recruits to our team and several new markets opened recently for our core brands.

“Douglas Laing's Strathearn Distillery allows us opportunity to now invest further in our team, whilst becoming masters of our own destiny in terms of Scotch whisky distillation.”

[Established in 1948](#), Douglas Laing's Scotch whisky portfolio includes brands such as Xtra Old Particular (XOP), Old Particular, Timorous Beastie, Scallywag, Rock Oyster, Big Peat and The King of Scots.

Douglas Laing celebrated its 70th anniversary in 2018 and released numerous bottlings to mark the milestone. [A 10-year-old anniversary Scallywag single malt](#) Scotch whisky was released in May last year, while a [1982 vintage Port Ellen](#) and a [26-year-old Big Peat](#) were brought out in December.

Glen Scotia 45 Year Old is distillery's oldest whisky

24th October, 2019 by Nicola Carruthers

Campbeltown distillery Glen Scotia has released its oldest expression to date, a limited edition 45-year-old single malt priced at £3,795 (US\$4,890).



Glen Scotia 45 Year Old was distilled in December 1973

Limited to 160 bottles globally, Glen Scotia 45 Year Old is also “one of the most exclusive” bottlings from the distillery. It is said to reflect “the centuries of craftsmanship and experience associated with Campbeltown”.

Distilled in December 1973, the whisky was filled into refill Bourbon casks on 23 December. In 2011, the spirit was re-casked into first-fill Bourbon then bottled in 2019. It is non-chill-filtered and bottled at 43.8% ABV.

The expression is said to have maritime influences, with the nose presenting “bold coastal elements” and sweet notes of ripe pineapple, crisp green apple, rose and vanilla.

“Glen Scotia 45-year-old is one of the most magnificent expressions to be produced by our Campbeltown distillery and we are excited that after 45 years we are now able to unveil it to the world,” said master distiller Michael Henry.

“Distilled in 1973, this single malt is steeped in history and is extraordinarily rare. The liquid has been maturing in refill Bourbon casks, tucked away in our bonded warehouses, for over three decades before being finished in first-fill Bourbon.

“It embodies all of the unique elements which Glen Scotia is known for, delivering a long mouth-watering finish with notes of sea salt and lime citrus. On the palate, the liquid presents caramel sweetness at first, then juicy fruit with pineapple, mango and water melon rounded by vanilla and honey.”

Glen Scotia 45 Year Old is encased in a handcrafted walnut box with embossed leather lining, created by UK-based luxury packaging manufacturer Moran’s Wood Components. It contains a delicate tile engraved with the individual bottle number and tasting notes.

Glen Scotia 45 Year Old is available to buy from specialist retailers, including The Whisky Shop.

Scotch miniature ‘sets world record’ at £4,000

24th October, 2019 by Nicola Carruthers

A 50ml bottle of the Old Orkney Real Liqueur Whisky has set what is thought to be the world record for most expensive whisky miniature sold at auction after fetching £4,000 (US\$5,317).



This rare miniature was produced at the silent Stromness Distillery on the Mainland of Scotland’s Orkney islands

Bottled in the 1920s or 1930s, the Old Orkney ‘0.0’ Real Liqueur Whisky went under the hammer in an online auction held by Whisky.Auction, which was dedicated to miniature bottlings. The 50ml bottle was part of a collection of 84 miniatures from one seller who paid £100 (US\$129) for the whole lot during an auction in Brighton in 1979.

The collection comprised of mainly blended Scotch whiskies and single malts bottled in the first half of the 20th century.

“I thought they were worth something but had no idea,” the unnamed collector said. “I started collecting in 1979. I worked with a friend and we were talking about hobbies, he said that he collected Scotch whisky miniatures. I thought that was something different so I had a go and was hooked.

“I was lucky to find an auction that had a collection. I didn’t know what was in it so I bid £100 and they phoned me the next day to say I had won it.”

The whisky was produced at the silent Stromness Distillery in the south-western part of Mainland Orkney in Scotland.

Stromness Distillery, which operated from 1817 until 1928, produced 7,000 gallons annually. It made whisky called ‘Man O Hoy’, named after one of the island’s landmarks and was retitled ‘Old Orkney’ when it was revived in 1878 by the MacPherson brothers.

In the early 1990s, Stromness was purchased by J & J McConnell (McConnell’s Distillery), which operated the site until its closure in 1928. It was then moved to the ownership of Booths Distilleries and demolished in the 1940s.

Auction director for Whisky.Auction, Isabel Graham-Yooll, said: “As soon as this auction went live last week, there were some very keen bidders for this rare mini, but even we have been wide-eyed watching this one, seeing the bids gradually creep up over the course of the auction.

“This is the perfect illustration of the interest that exists in old and rare whisky. Much of the liquid we see coming to auction in miniatures is simply unavailable in full bottles, having been consumed many years before. Miniatures often outlive their full-size counterparts in ‘souvenir’ style.”

The auction closed on 22 October and featured rare miniatures from brands such as The Macallan, Johnnie Walker, The Tomatin and The Dalmore.

ARE ISLAY WHISKIES SUITABLE FOR BEGINNERS?

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

Islay’s whiskies attract a dedicated fan base of malt enthusiasts, yet these peaty drams have an unfair reputation as being too overpowering for beginners. A formative (and boozy) trip to the island has The Whisky Virgin questioning whether its notoriety should go up in smoke.



Whisky island: Islay has a rich source of peat, which influences the style of its whiskies

Word on the street is that Islay malt is serious stuff: super peaty and tasting all of tar, fish, coal and disinfectant. Challenging whisky, best tackled by the kind of Scotch drinkers with [Ardbeg](#) tattoos and a few army stories. The sort of people who’ve got bored of mainland hooch and gone over to the smoky, dark side. Definitely not for the likes of me.

‘Come away from the Islay section, Whisky Virgin,’ says the kindly whisky seller, ‘Let’s get you something that tastes of vanilla

from Speyside, lest you sprain your little palate on too challenging a dram. Perhaps when you're older, eh?' But then I'd also hear that thousands of people a year make the pilgrimage to check out [Islay's nine-or-so distilleries](#) and sample their wares straight from the source. It didn't look to me like the so-called 'Queen of the Hebrides' was somewhere you wound up by accident – so I figured there had to be something special coming off the stills out there. Deciding that my mission to get whisky-wise and dram-savvy would never be complete without a trip to this wild western island in Scotland, I set off for Islay.

Two trains, a plane, an overnight stay in Glasgow and a second – smaller – plane later I skipped gamely onto the tarmac at Islay airport with a head full of questions, such as: 'Is Islay whisky really too intense for Scotch beginners?', 'Are all your local whiskies total peaty smoke grenades?', 'Is there anywhere on the island you can buy an iPhone charger if you've left yours at home?'

While I was being driven to my first distillery my guide pointed out to me the big stretches of peat on either side of the road; freshly cut and laid out to dry, or else just sitting there in the ground, slowly doing its thing. I'd [experimented with peated whisky](#) a few months back, when I learned that Scotch makers burn this magical dirt to dry their barley and put a little smoky flavour in their spirits. With such a plentiful peat stash stretching across the island I can see how the booze in these parts might become synonymous with the smell of smouldering plant matter. It was something I'd often heard described as an acquired taste.

And for sure, that smoky, mineral, often even chemical smell was right there in a lot of the drams I knocked down over the course of my fact-finding mission. [Laphroaig](#) squeezed fresh from the Sherry cask has a definite 'I'm-smoking-a-rolie-dipped-in-iodine,' thing going on, for instance. Sure, it took some getting used to, but it wasn't the overwhelming punch in the tongue I'd been expecting. Not only did I get through the first of many scheduled tastings without having a flavour-induced breakdown, but I'd slurped drams that tasted of red grapes, sea air and green tea. I was starting to think that there was more to Islay malt than just big smoke and raw power.

As the trip went on, I discovered that not every whisky distilled out there is as heavy on the peat as Laphroaig. Some distilleries I dropped in on peddle a smoky style, but on the more relaxed end of the spectrum. As a peat-curious newcomer to the scene I had real fun slugging salty, tropical, campfire-like [Bowmore](#) and light, fresh [Caol Ila](#). I even found out there are distilleries in these parts with whole product lines that cater for the smoke-dodgers among us, like [Bruichladdich](#) and your boy [Bunnahabhain](#) way up on Islay's north-eastern coast.

Before my trip I'd definitely believed that all malts made there got a blast from the peat cannon. I mean, I'm pretty sure I'd been straight-up told that. But what I started to learn during my time there was that Islay whisky isn't one thing. Different distilleries show the character of the island in different ways, I guess. Some distilleries might use a whole load of local peat in their process and others might represent their regional style by being fruity and tropical, and having a nice sniff of the Atlantic about them. Different styles, all Islay.

Don't get me wrong, if I want a big, punchy dram with a lot of curious weirdness in it I can see myself browsing the Islay shelf – but I now know I can also go there looking for elegance and freshness.



Local variation: Islay's whiskies showcase a breadth of character from the island

It sort of makes me wonder if the people spreading rumours that Islay whisky isn't for newbies are just trying to hoard those good island

drams for themselves. Also, can you really know what to expect from a [whisky based on where it comes from](#)? Is that made up as well? But anyway, conspiracy theories aside, I need to figure out what I've learned from all this pretty sharpish. I never did find that phone charger and I write these things in the Notes app on my phone, so time is running out.

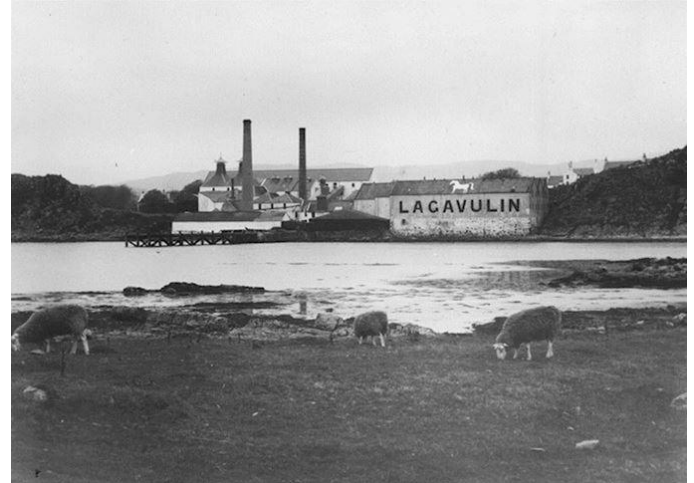
I reckon my take-home is that I shouldn't be put off a region, distillery or bottling because I've got preconceptions about it, or I'm worried I wouldn't get it. I'm not saying I loved every dram I sampled on Islay, but I think that had more to do with me finding my own taste, rather than anything being too advanced or whatever. Come to think of it, it wasn't too long ago that I thought that whisky in general wasn't for me – that it was *al*too intense for me and my drinking life would be better spent on the fruit ciders. And then there I was on bloody Islay, not missing out on all that Scotch goodness.

In the end I didn't make it round half the distilleries on the island. So, there's still lots to learn and see and drink on my next trip. To be honest, I can't wait to go back and see those famous distillery names from the bottles, on road signs and billboards. I hope I get surprised all over again by what I find when I get there.

ISLAY'S TURBULENT WHISKY HISTORY

27 May 2019 by [Iain Russell](#)

Despite centuries of warfare, taxation and changing economic tides, Islay's resilient population has kept whisky making alive on the island. Iain Russell explores Islay's tempestuous whisky history, and the island's recent peaty revival.

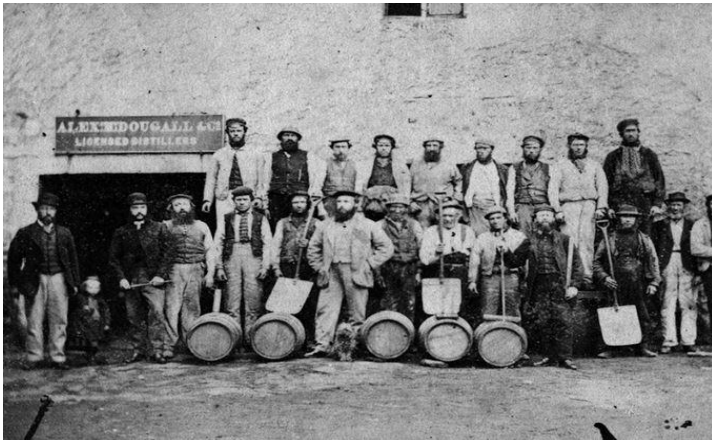


Whisky island: [Lagavulin distillery's iconic White Horse emblem](#) was a notable landmark for shipping to Islay

No one knows when the people of Islay – the Ileachs – began distilling, but commentators were noting the islanders' fondness for whisky by the 1770s. It was at this time that Islay's largest landowner, Walter Campbell of Shawfield, was actively encouraging diversification of the island's predominantly agricultural economy through the development of industries such as linen-making, mining and fishing. Campbell hoped distilling would boost demand for locally-grown barley, earn much-needed cash for his tenants through exports, and foster jobs in new and prosperous industrial communities.

Campbell 'farmed' the excise duties on Islay – he held the right to set and collect the payments on the island, in return for an annual payment to the government. However, when a national prohibition on distilling was introduced in 1795 during a period of crop failures, he did his patriotic duty: he confiscated and locked away at least 90 stills belonging to his tenants, to ensure they could not be used. In addition, he gave up the excise farm; in future, the islanders would have to pay duties set by the government.

In response, according to the report of a senior excise official in 1799, Campbell's tenants 'got over from Ireland tinkers, who fitted up for them cauldrons and boilers as stills'. When the prohibition on distilling ended, not a single Islay distiller applied to the Scottish Excise Board for a licence nor paid a single penny in duty – the industry had gone underground.



Strong workforce: Ardbeg's excisemen and distillery workers pictured in the 1850s (Photo: The Museum of Islay Life)

There was an explosion of whisky-related criminality on Islay during the late 18th and early 19th centuries. British historian [Alfred Barnard](#) wrote that 'smuggling was the chief employment of the crofters and fishermen, more especially during the winter... and large families were supported by it'.

Islay whisky flowed freely to Argyllshire, Inverness-shire, Mull, Lewis, Galloway and Ireland. It was smuggled across the Mull of Kintyre to Ayrshire. It was carried in the holds of small boats along the River Clyde, hidden under cargoes of potatoes, straight to the heart of Glasgow.

At first, the small band of [excisemen](#) stationed on the island was overwhelmed by the scale of the challenge. They complained of threats and physical assaults when they attempted to confiscate or destroy the illicit stills. They called for reinforcements.

Excise boats were sent to patrol the seas around Islay, and they landed armed raiding parties to search for and destroy stills hidden in houses and byres, in bothies and in caves. Hundreds of men and women were charged each year either with making or selling whisky without a licence, most notably on the Oa peninsula and along the south coast.

Yet the lleachs were not passive victims of excise persecution, as they are sometimes portrayed. Many offenders simply refused to turn up in court when summonsed. Members of the McEachern family, for example, were charged with breaking into an exciseman's cellar and stealing 125 gallons of whisky. Like others who failed to appear in court, they were outlawed. Reports suggest that, rather than flee from the island, they went into hiding and continued to make whisky illegally.

Those convicted of excise offences were hardly discouraged. Fines were deliberately set at a low level by the island's magistrates who knew the offenders as friends, tenants or customers. In 1824, the Scottish Excise Board received a complaint that 'some of the delinquents have been fined upwards of 30 times, which has no other effect than encourage them'.

After the Napoleonic Wars ended in 1815, greater efforts were made to stamp out the illicit trade and some of Islay's more 'responsible' tenants were encouraged to take out licences to distil. However, while these men might have mastered the art of distilling, most lacked the capital, the business skills or the market contacts – sometimes all three – required to survive the periodic crises which buffeted the industry.

One by one, these small distilleries failed or were acquired by members of the new breed of whisky brokers and blenders emerging on the mainland. [Port Ellen](#) was acquired by mainland interests in the 1820s, [Lagavulin](#) in 1836, and [Bowmore](#) in 1837 – the same year that [Ardbeg](#), which was effectively in liquidation, was rescued by its Glasgow agents.

Islay's population peaked at around 15,000 people around 1830, with most of the population still living by subsistence farming. During the second half of the century however, much of the rural population was lost through emigration. Many of those who remained were resettled in Port Ellen, Bowmore and other villages, and the distillers began to play an increasingly important role in island life.



Distillery decline: Ardbeg suffered from a lack of investment during the 1970s (Photo: The Glenmorangie Archive)

The distillers lobbied for and provided better piers and sea connections with the mainland. They supplied community leaders such as the Grahams of Lagavulin, the Hays of Ardbeg and, most notably, [John Ramsay](#) of Port Ellen. Small coastal villages grew up around the distilleries – Ardbeg, for example, was at one time home to around 200 people and had its own post office, school and billiards hall.

To what extent the people of Islay benefitted from whisky making is open to debate. The distilleries provided an income for hundreds of islanders and their families, but there were very few well-paid positions in management. Company profits were largely repatriated to the mainland. A social divide was exemplified by the fact that, while English was the language of the distillery office, Gaelic remained the predominant language in the maltings and warehouses until the 1960s.

Islay whisky hit new heights of popularity in the 1870s and 1880s, when it was highly sought after to provide body and big, peaty flavour for blended Scotch whiskies. Investment flooded in to the island to extend existing distilleries and to build new ones

at [Bruichladdich](#) and [Bunnahabhain](#).



Booming business: Ardbeg is now expanding its stillhouse to cope with increasing demand (Photo: Catriona Farquhar)

Yet Islay whisky was always at the mercy of international events. Two world wars, Prohibition in the US and the Great Depression of the late 1920s until the '30s resulted in long periods of closure for the distilleries. In the worst cases, Lochindaal closed forever in 1929 and Port Ellen, mothballed that year, did not reopen until 1967. There were years of extreme hardship for those who had been employed at the distilleries or in whisky-related jobs such as peat-cutting and transport.

A new boom in sales of blended Scotch in the 1960s and early '70s brought renewed investment in distillery plants and facilities on Islay, but also fuelled the period of overproduction which filled the infamous 'whisky loch' of the early 1980s. Islay whisky's rollercoaster ride continued; the surging worldwide demand for lighter spirits such as vodka, and the change in taste from big and peaty to light and delicate blended whiskies, accentuated the slump in orders for fillings from the island.

Ardbeg [closed entirely between 1981 and 1989](#) and hibernated through the 1990s with little investment. Bunnahabhain closed for two years in 1982 and Port Ellen was closed in 1983 and demolished. Bruichladdich shut in 1995. Job losses affected a significant proportion of a population that had fallen to under 4,000.



Cult following: Islay distilleries such as Lagavulin have enjoyed a resurgence of interest

And then came the single malts revival. A growing interest in traditional foods and drinks, and in products with bold, distinctive flavours, was exemplified by the success of the Campaign for Real Ale in Britain. Journalists like [Wallace Milroy](#), [Michael Jackson](#) and Jim Murray began to sing the praises of peaty single malts. Lagavulin acquired a cult fan base after it was included in the ground-breaking The Classic Malts of Scotland selection by United Distillers & Vintners in 1988. [Allied Distillers](#) launched the category-defining 'Love it, Hate it' campaign which promoted the cult of Islay, and encouraged whisky drinkers to visit the island on a peaty pilgrimage. Suddenly, Islay was on the rise again. Ardbeg and Bruichladdich reopened under energetic new management. Sales of Islay single malts have increased exponentially. [Kilchoman](#) and now [Ardnahoe](#) have opened, [Port Ellen is to be rebuilt](#) and at least two other distilleries are in the planning pipeline. Islay's annual Festival of Music and Malt has become one of the most eagerly anticipated events on the world's whisky calendar, and attracts tens of thousands of visitors.



New era: Young Ileachs, including Bruichladdich's Christy McFarlane, are choosing to work on Islay (Photo: Bruichladdich)

While the expansion of the whisky industry on Islay has brought [well-publicised challenges and inconveniences](#), there is no doubt it has made a huge contribution to a renewed confidence in Islay's economy and to the end of nearly 190 years of depopulation. [Whisky tourism](#) is a growing island industry. There is a strong interest in exploring 'traditional' ways of doing things on Islay; to rebuilding maltings, to working with local barley and to exploring other aspects of Islay 'terroir'. The distillers have begun grooming young Ileachs for jobs as brand ambassadors and in sales and management – jobs which have been dominated by mainlanders in the past. No one can better communicate the personality of Islay, than a person from Islay. Islay's international reputation as the home of big peaty whiskies is now well-established, and the fortunes of the people who live there will be inextricably linked with the industry for the foreseeable future. But the lessons of more than 200 years of boom and bust are that

popular tastes are cyclical, that demand for Islay's single malt whisky can plummet as spectacularly as it can rise. There is a realisation that the way ahead is to diversify – to produce [Islay whiskies that range in flavour](#) from extremely peaty to not peaty at all, as at Bruichladdich, and to develop and promote new types of whiskies and other products such as gin, always with a distinctive Islay character. Nothing should be taken for granted.

Laphroaig Cairdeas, NAS Glenmorangie Nectar D'Or & More New Whisky

JULY 19, 2019 | SUSANNAH SKIVER BARTON



Laphroaig is rolling out its annual limited-edition Cairdeas bottling. This year, it's a cask-strength version of Laphroaig Triple Wood. Missouri has joined Kentucky and Tennessee in regulating specific rules for its own style of whiskey—in this case, Missouri bourbon.

We [spoke to distillers about the measure](#), which includes an unusual requirement for barrels made of Missouri-grown oak. But for those of you heading to the liquor store (which you should be doing [every time you travel](#), by the way), there are several new whiskies to seek out.

[Laphroaig](#) is rolling out the 2019 Cairdeas. This year, it's a cask-strength (59.5% ABV) version of the distillery's Triple Wood expression. It's available in limited amounts for \$80.

Shortly after confirming that its [Quinta Ruban expression is going from 12 to 14 years old](#), [Glenmorangie](#) has revealed that it's dropping the age statement for Nectar D'Or, which was previously bottled at 12 years old. The whisky's price (\$77) and availability remain the same.

[Loch Lomond Distillery](#) has released a special-edition 2002 vintage single malt in partnership with pro golfer Cristie Kerr, finished in pinot noir casks from her winery, [Kerr Cellars](#). Priced at \$200, there are 4,000 bottles available. More details about the whisky and Kerr's collaboration with Loch Lomond can be found in my [in-depth article](#) published earlier this week.

Several new whiskies from the [Distell](#) family of scotch distilleries are about to hit shelves in the U.S. There's a 2006 [Deanston](#) finished in cream sherry casks (\$105), along with a Deanston that was finished in New Holland Dragon's Milk stout casks (\$70), and a 1988 [Bunnahabhain](#) finished in marsala casks. Plus, the Spec's retail chain is getting the full U.S. allocation of several other single malts, including a 1999 [Tobermory](#) (\$190), 1997 Ledaig (\$221), 2007 Bunnahabhain (\$125), 2002 Deanston (\$263), and 1997 Deanston (\$210). All of the whiskies are available in limited amounts.



about the whisky and Kerr's collaboration with Loch Lomond can be found in my [in-depth article](#) published earlier this week.



Meanwhile, Denver's [Leopold Bros.](#) is launching a straight bourbon at 4 years old, made using heirloom rye and house-malted barley. The bourbon is currently available in Colorado at \$50, with expanded distribution to come.

[Barrell's](#) latest batch of bourbon (Batch 020) is rolling out, comprised of bourbons from Tennessee and Kentucky aged 10-14 years. The whiskey is available in limited amounts, priced at \$90.

Finally, a new single malt from Finland's [Teerenpeli Distillery](#) is hitting the U.S. Teerenpeli Portti was finished in port casks. It's available in ten states for \$125.

Read on for full details.



LAPHROAIG CAIRDEAS CASK-STRENGTH TRIPLE WOOD

Style: Single malt

Origin: Scotland (Islay)

Age: Not stated

Proof: 59.5% ABV

Price: \$80

Release: July 2019

Availability: Limited edition

Need to know:

The 2019 release of Cairdeas is an amped-up version of Laphroaig Triple Wood: matured first in bourbon casks, then quarter casks, and finally European oak oloroso sherry casks. But rather than being bottled at 48% ABV, this is a cask-strength expression, clocking in at 59.5% ABV.

Whisky Advocate says:

Laphroaig Triple Wood scored [93 points](#) in the Buying Guide. This version has 24% more alcohol; logically (because alcohol contains lots of flavor

molecules, and thus higher alcohol = more flavor), it should be even tastier. Stay tuned for a review in the *Whisky Advocate* Buying Guide!

GLENMORANGIE NECTAR D'OR



Style: Single malt
Origin: Scotland (Highlands)
Age: Not stated
Proof: 46% ABV
Price: \$77

Release: July 2019

Availability: Widely available

Need to know:

Previously a 12 year old expression, this sauternes cask-finished whisky is now non-age statement.

Whisky Advocate says:

Most whisky fans are disappointed to see an age statement get dropped, and it remains to be seen whether Glenmorangie Nectar D'Or ([88 points](#)) will retain its high quality once it's no longer 12 years old. On the other hand, the brand just [raised the age of Quinta Ruban](#) from 12 to 14 years old, and kept the price the same—so it's not all bad news.

INTRODUCING GLENMORANGIE GRAND VINTAGE 1991

[Glenmorangie Grand Vintage 1991](#) marks the fourth release in Glenmorangie's Bond House No. 1 Collection. The collection began with [the 1990 vintage](#) which came out back in 2016. Glenmorangie Grand Vintage 1991 is comprised of two separate lots of single malts

aged in American oak. The first lot finished maturing in ex-Burgundy wine casks. The second finished maturing in ex-oloroso sherry casks. Some whisky which spent time in new toasted oak was also used. It is bottled at 43% ABV and has a suggested price of \$750.



Glenmorangie Grand Vintage 1991 / Photo Credit: Glenmorangie
Glenmorangie's Bond House No. 1 Series pays homage to the largest of Glenmorangie's 19th century Bonded Warehouses. Warehouse No. 1 was used to house the casks of aging Glenmorangie spirit. In 1990 it was transformed into the current still house during an expansion.

DISTILLERY SLEEPOVERS: WAKE UP AND SMELL THE SPIRIT

by [Thijs Klaverstijn](#) - June 23, 2019

A distillery visit is bound to end up on the bucket list of any burgeoning spirits lover. But what if we told you that some places actually let you stay at the distillery? It's true! You can sleep a stone's throw away from the pot stills, and practically wake up among the barrels. Make room for a new entry on your bucket list, because we've selected a few of the best distillery sleepovers.

[ARDBEG DISTILLERY ISLAY](#)

Without a doubt, Ardbeg is one of the most recognizable Scotch whisky distilleries. Located on Islay, easily the most iconic Scotch whisky island, the distillery's success mirrors the overall growth of the Scotch whisky industry. Along with it, we've seen the increase in whisky tourism on Islay. No matter the season, whisky enthusiasts swarm down on the island to migrate from distillery to distillery. During [Fèis Ile](#), the island's annual whisky festival, Islay's population triples.



Ardbeg Seaview Cottage / Photo Credit: Ardbeg

Providing breathtaking sea views on the south coast of Islay, Ardbeg's Seaview Cottage is nestled at the heart of the distillery. This distillery sleepover is the former home of the distillery manager, but it was completely refurbished in 2013. Today it sleeps up to six people in three en-suite bedrooms. Seaview Cottage is quirky and charming, and is the ultimate Ardbegian abode.

[THE DISTILLERY LONDON](#)

By far the most metropolitan option on this list is [The Distillery](#), a four-floor Valhalla for the discerning (gin) drinker. This working distillery in the center of London's Notting Hill neighborhood is the home of [Portobello Road Gin](#), as well as The Ginstitute, a gin-blending experience.



The Distillery / Photo Credit: The Distillery
Then there are the bars. [GinTonica](#) has a menu of 100 gins from all over the world which are expertly matched with mixers and garnishes. Or if you fancy a change of scenery, hop on over to the other signature bar, The Resting Room. Of course, you'll also find three boutique rooms situated on the top floor of The Distillery.

[GLENORA DISTILLERY](#)

NOVA SCOTIA

Probably as famous for its [legal battle with the Scotch Whisky Association](#) as for its whisky, Glenora Distillery is maybe the most Scottish distillery outside of Scotland. Located on the remote Cape Breton Island, it's easy to see why Scottish immigrants flocked to this part of Canada in the 1800s. Its beauty resembles the Scottish Highlands.



Glenora Distillery / Photo Credit: Glenora Distillery
Accommodation for a distillery sleepover at Glenora is plentiful. All located on the distillery grounds, you'll find self-contained log chalets, as well as a country inn with a restaurant and a pub. If you're lucky, you're there on a night with live music, or maybe even a traditional ceilidh.

[TARNISHED TRUTH DISTILLING COMPANY](#)

VIRGINIA BEACH

When you think of coastal distilleries, Virginia is probably not the first place that comes to mind. However, inside a 5-star working hotel, you'll find the Tarnished Truth Distilling Company; crafting spirits under the watchful eye of the Atlantic.



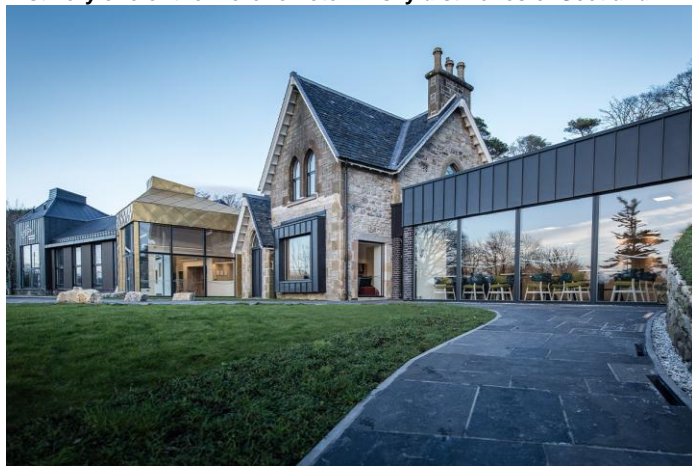
Tarnished Truth Beach Club / Photo Credit: Tarnished Truth Distilling Company

The oceanfront Cavalier Hotel is over a century old and has welcomed ten U.S. presidents, countless celebrities and distinguished guests from all over the world. The hotel itself is an architectural beauty, and has a spot on the National Register of Historic Places. It recently reopened after an \$85 million renovation. The distillery sits where the original laundry facility of the hotel used to be. Here it produces vodka and gin, along with rye and bourbon whiskey. From the hotel's The Hunt Room Restaurant you can see the distillers at work thanks to a giant window that looks into the distillery.

[ISLE OF RAASAY DISTILLERY](#)

ISLE OF RAASAY

Legal distilling only arrived on Scotland's Isle of Raasay in 2017. But once it finally arrived, it did so in style. Isle of Raasay is a small island with just a few hundred residents. Located across from the Isle of Skye, a small ferry crosses only a few times each day, making Raasay Distillery one of the more remote whisky distilleries of Scotland.



Isle of Raasay Distillery / Photo Credit: Isle of Raasay Distillery
But once you've arrived, there's no need to worry about missing the last boat. Raasay offers luxury accommodation within the same building as the distillery, a Victorian-era villa called Borodale House. Some of its bedrooms are blessed with the most stunning views of the Cuillin mountains across the sound on Skye.

[MARBLE DISTILLING CO.](#)

COLORADO

Marble Distillery is a zero-waste facility at the base of the Elk Mountains in Colorado. It lends its name from the process of filtering its spirit through crushed Yule marble. Located in the heart of Carbondale, this is the paragon of tranquility, especially compared to the busy slopes of Aspen or the bustling city of Denver.



The Distillery Inn / Photo Credit: Marble Distilling Co.

The Distillery Inn is housed within the distillery, so guests can truly sleep with the stills. The Marble Bar (cut from, what else, Yule marble) is where you can try Marble Distilling's different spirits—which range from vodka and liqueurs to whiskey—either neat or in a cocktail. Naturally, there are also two Tesla charging spaces available on the distillery site.

SCOTTISH OAK'S BRIGHT YET UNCERTAIN FUTURE

04 September 2019 by [Dave Broom](#)

'Let the light in,' says George Broadhurst. 'Light is life in a forest. It feeds biodiversity.' Somewhere deeper in the grove, a woodpecker drills, while the eyes of young deer warily regard us from their shelter. We're in a managed plantation at Killearn, near Glasgow, where George is the forester, gazing up the trunk of an oak tree selected for potential felling. If the wood is suitable, it will be used to make a cask for [Whyte & Mackay](#).

Time expands when you look at a tree, unravelling backwards to when it was planted – this tree would have gone into the ground in 1880 – then leaps forwards to an unimaginable future. The oak saplings which will be planted here this year won't be harvested until 2140. Laying down whisky for use in 30 years is nothing compared to planning and managing a forest.

I started to thinking of all I'd been told about Scottish oak: some folks said that there wasn't any, others claimed that, if there was, it was unsuitable for whisky. And yet, here it is being felled, seasoned and coopered, one element in a wide-ranging project initiated by Whyte & Mackay's blender Gregg Glass.

Each forest is part of a complex network of roots and fungi, a mycorrhiza, sharing food, nutrients, and resources, communicating and warning. A forest is not a collection of trees and plants, but a single organism — the Wood Wide Web.

This linkage has not been mirrored above the leaf litter. Symbioses have been fractured as economics and warfare impinged on Scotland's ancient hardwood forests. As they have declined (replaced by faster-growing softwood monocultures) so sawmills have disappeared, and cooperages have become places for repair rather than cask construction. Building a sustainable future for Scottish oak necessitates creating new connections.

For Glass to find the oak, he first must speak with landowners and foresters, seek out the dwindling number of small-scale specialist sawmills, explaining the specific requirements needed for building a cask which they may have not encountered before, then work out which cooperages can process the wood.

There's also the matter of what to do with the rest of the tree. Only a small amount of the wood can be used for casks, so on a long night drive to Invermoriston we try to think up other ways of using oak (other than firewood). There's alliances with furniture- and cabinet-makers, but what of ink, dyes, perfume, tanning, cocktail bitters, tiny cups made from acorns (it was getting late by the time that one emerged)?

If it had been light outside we'd have been revelling in the wildness and emptiness of our surroundings, the bare hills, the heather, the isolated lochs, those solitary pines. Instead we should turn that on its head and see it as an unnatural landscape, rather than a natural one; a desert, denuded and devastated by deer and sheep.

'This is what a Scottish woodland should look like,' says Alex Baxter the next morning. We're at Dundreggan where the charity Trees For Life (for which he's corporate development officer) is revitalising the Scottish wild forest. We're standing beneath a waterfall among a rich layering of bracken and heather, juniper, birch, oak and pine. Trees For Life shows what is possible and by also working with them, Glass has shifted the project away from being for commercial gain – a gimmick, a PR exercise – into something richer.

Later that day, we're at the Speyside Cooperage to see its apprentices assembling Scottish oak casks and ends. 'Scottish oak?' says general manager Andrew Russell. 'It's interesting... because it's Scottish. There's no reason not to do it, and we're the only ones able to do it because we have the equipment.' He is now amassing a reserve of wood for the future – and the wider industry. Though the species may be the same [*Q. petraea* and *Q. robur*] as in mainland Europe, how will each express itself in terms of flavour? Only time will tell. Perhaps the aroma might not be substantially different, but that wouldn't negate the need to use and plant oak in Scotland. It should be done because it is good for biodiversity, because it is the right thing to do.

'You don't find out until you open it,' Kenny Brodie, sawmill owner and bespoke joinery specialist had told me as we looked at the inside of a trunk the day before. 'What looks promising might be unuseable.' The same applies here. You don't know what might happen until you try it, but that's not reason not to do it.

Scottish oak won't compete in volume terms with the US or mainland Europe, but that's not the point. This isn't whisky riding into town saying 'we will save you', but being another element in the slow, precarious revival of the country's forests as they move away from the dark blanket of Velcro-needed Sitka spruce and return to a richer biodiversity. It is a reconnection. Let the light in.

William Grant 'reinterprets' Balvenie Classic for TR

3rd October, 2019 by Melita Kiely

William Grant & Sons has unveiled a trio of travel retail-exclusive Balvenie single malt whiskies as part of its Stories range – including a "reinterpretation" of The Balvenie Classic.



The Balvenie Stories range will be available exclusively in global travel retail from June 2020

The three new whiskies in The Balvenie Stories collection were unveiled at the TFWA World Exhibition & Conference in Cannes, France, on Monday (30 September), and will launch exclusively in global travel retail in June 2020.

The range will comprise of The Creation of the Classic, The Week of Peat and The Second Red Rose.

The Creation of the Classic is a no-age-statement whisky that pays homage to [David Stewart MBE, The Balvenie malt master](#) and longest serving malt master in the industry. Stewart created the first cask-finished whisky back in the 1980s with The Balvenie Classic.

The Creation of the Classic has been matured in American oak casks and finished in oloroso Sherry casks. It has an ABV of 43% and will be priced at RRP of £57 (US\$70).

"The idea was to bring the Classic back and revisit those flavours," Stewart said about its creation.

The Week of Peat is an "evolution" of the brand's 14-year-old [The Balvenie Peat Week](#), which launched worldwide in 2017.

The latest whisky was inspired by the production break taken by Stewart and former distillery manager Ian Millar once a year, for a week, to add peat to the barley drying process.

Bottled at 49.4% ABV, the whisky is said to balance sweet peat smoke with notes of citrus and honey. It will have an RRP of £115 (US\$142). Completing the collection is The Second Red Rose, which has been aged for 21 years and finished in Shiraz casks.

The whisky was inspired by Mary Douglas, who lived in Balvenie Castle and paid rent to King James II by payment of a single red rose each year. It will have a pink – or “rosy” – tinge due to the influence of the red wine casks.

The ABV is yet to be confirmed, but it will “probably be in the low 50s”, according to Stewart. It will be priced at £235 (US\$290).

“The Balvenie Distillery is built on stories,” said Stewart. “It’s what sets us apart and makes our whisky what it is.

“Each expression in the Stories range has a distinct narrative as to how it came to be, and each whisky tells its unique tale in liquid form through first-hand recollections of the many characters involved.”

Bruichladdich to release youngest Octomore to date

4th October, 2019 by Melita Kiely

Islay distillery Bruichladdich has revealed a new series of Octomore single malt whiskies – including the brand’s youngest whisky to date.



Octomore 10 comprises four single malt whiskies, including the brand’s youngest release yet

Octomore 10, as the series is called, features four heavily peated single malts. Three were released on 1 October, while the fourth will be released in January 2020.

The first whisky in the range is Octomore 10.1, which was distilled from Scottish barley harvested in 2013. The whisky was then matured in ex-American oak barrels for five years and bottled at 59.8% ABV. Octomore 10.2 has been matured for equal periods in first-fill ex-American oak casks and third-fill French oak casks, the latter of which previously held Sauternes wine.

This is said to give the whisky tropical fruit notes to complement the floral, fruity Octomore spirit. Bottled at 56.9% ABV, Octomore 10.2 is available exclusively in global travel retail.

Meanwhile, Octomore 10.3 was distilled in 2013 from a 2012 barley harvest. It has been matured for six years exclusively in ex-American oak casks.

Described as a single field, single vintage, single malt, Octomore 10.3 has been bottled at 61.3% ABV.

Completing the series is Octomore 10.4. Distilled in 2016 from a 2015 harvest, at three years old this whisky is the youngest Octomore released to date.

It has been matured in Limousin oak casks that were heavily toasted before being filled with new-make spirit.

Octomore 10.4 has been bottled at 63.5% ABV and will be available to purchase next year.

The Supernova was first created in 2009 for the Ardbeg Committee, the brand’s “fan club” of sorts. It is the peatiest whisky that Ardbeg produces, at 100ppm—versus 55ppm for the Ardbeg 10 Year. Now in 2019 Ardbeg has announced that [Ardbeg Supernova](#) is back once again for the fifth (and presumably actual final) time. It matured in ex-bourbon barrels, but carries no age statement. While the peat level has stayed the same for every Supernova release, the ABV has slowly decreased with time. The 2009 release was bottled at 58.9% ABV, while the “final” release in 2015 came in at 54.3%. The 2019 release is bottled at 53.8%, making it the lowest proof Supernova ever.

Ardbeg has not divulged the total number of bottles that will be made available, but they are up for purchase now to members of the [Ardbeg Committee](#) for £140 (~\$172 USD) per 70cl bottle.



BRUICHLADDICH LAUNCHES OCTOMORE 10S SERIES

This week Bruichladdich announced the launch of the latest Octomore series. The 10th edition of this line features four “super heavily-peated” whiskies, two of which are available to purchase now from Bruichladdich’s website. The four whiskies in the 10th edition are peated at significantly lower levels than those in the 9th edition line. All of the whiskies are non-chill filtered and have no color added.

[OCTOMORE 10.1/107 SCOTTISH BARLEY](#)

Peat Level: 107ppm

Barley: Concerto variety, 100% from Scotland

Aging: 5 years in first-fill American oak from Jim Beam, Heaven Hill, Buffalo Trace, and Jack Daniel’s

ABV: 59.8%

Availability: 42,000 bottles available now

[OCTOMORE 10.2/96.9 SCOTTISH BARLEY](#)

Peat Level: 96.9ppm

Barley: Optic and Oxbridge varieties, 100% from Scotland

Aging: 4 years in first-fill American oak whiskey barrels, 4 years in ex-Sauternes wine barrels

ABV: 56.9%

Availability: 42,000 bottles available in travel retail



[OCTOMORE 10.3/114 ISLAY BARLEY](#)

Peat Level: 114ppm

Barley: Concerto variety, 100% from Octomore Farm on Islay

Aging: 6 years in first-fill American oak whiskey barrels from Jim Beam, Heaven Hill, Buffalo Trace, and Jack Daniel’s

ABV: 61.3%

Availability: 24,000 bottles available now

[OCTOMORE 10.4/88 VIRGIN OAK](#)

Peat Level: 88ppm

Barley: Concerto variety, 100% from Octomore Farm on Islay

Aging: 3 years in virgin French Limousin oak casks

ABV: 63.5% ABV

Availability: 12,000 bottles expected to have January 2020 release

Membership and Dinner prices for 2019-2020

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

Reservation policy

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

Cancellation policy

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

Assigned / Reserved Seating

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

Perfume / Cologne and Whisky

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

- To be fair to all we ask all our members to please refrain from wearing scented products and perfumes to our KSMS evenings.

Dinner Payments

- Please consider sending your payment by e-transfer prior to the dinner. The password will be "KSMS", to whatever your security question is. Receiving payment in advance will allow everyone the opportunity to socialize before the dinner as well as reduce the accounting work required after.

- For e-transfers, Members are responsible for collecting from their guests, and then forwarding one payment in total by e-transfer.

Just a note because we care.

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



Kingston Single Malt Society

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