

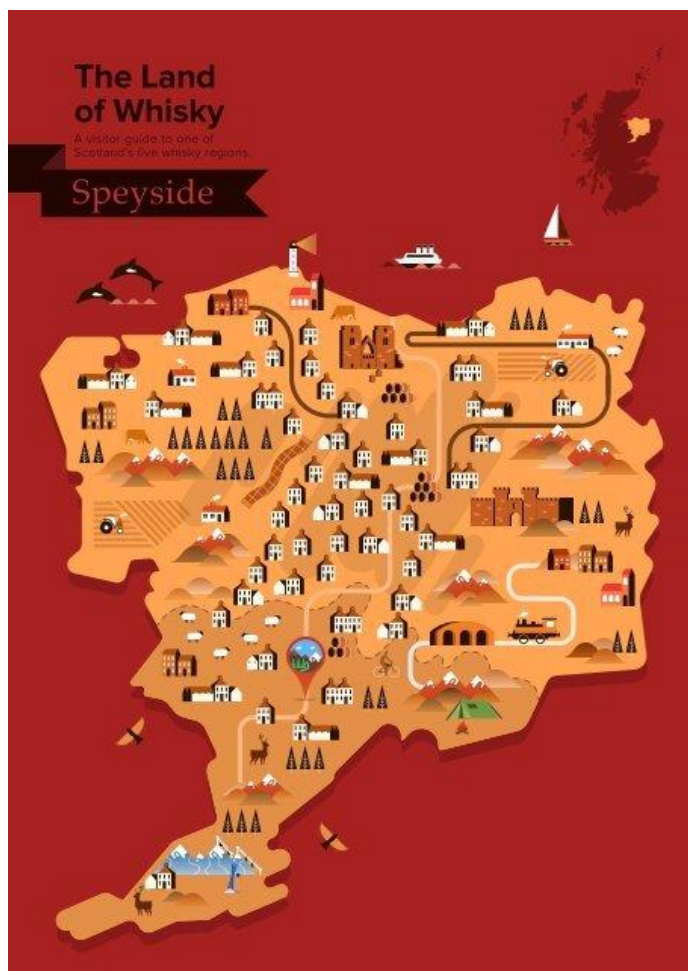
# Kingston Single Malt Society

[www.kingstonsinglemaltsociety.com](http://www.kingstonsinglemaltsociety.com)

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

May 30<sup>th</sup>, 2022

VOLUME 15; NUMBER 11a; No. 197



**Entrée: Hoisin Short Ribs with Braised Bok Choy**

**5<sup>th</sup> Nosing: FIRST EDITION MORTLACH**

**11 YEAR OLD; DISTILLED: 2009; BOTTLED: 2021**

**(introduced by: Paul Charbonneau)**

**Dessert: Dark Chocolate Espresso Torte**

**6<sup>th</sup> Nosing: MORTLACH 25 YEARS OLD**

**(introduced by: Elsabe Falkson)**

## COST OF THE MALTS

**MORTLACH 15 YEARS OLD VINTAGES 262873 | 700 mL bottle Price: \$175.95** Spirits, Whisky/Whiskey, Single Malt Scotch 46.0% Alcohol/Vol.

**MORTLACH 15 YEARS OLD: GAME OF THRONES LCBO 15799 | 700 mL bottle Price: \$199.25** Spirits, Whisky/Whiskey, Single Malt Scotch 46.0% Alcohol/Vol.

**MORTLACH 25 YEARS OLD VINTAGES 262873 | 700 mL bottle Price: \$375.95** Spirits, Whisky/Whiskey, Single Malt Scotch 43.0% Alcohol/Vol.

**FIRST EDITION MORTLACH 11 YEAR OLD; DISTILLED: 2009; BOTTLED: 2021; ONE OF 180 BOTTLES FROM CASK HL18507 LCBO 286814 | 700 mL bottle Price: \$143.70** Spirits, Whisky/Whiskey, Scotch Single Malts 52.1% Alcohol/Vol.

**FIRST EDITION CRAIGELLACHIE 13 YEAR OLD; DISTILLED: 2008; BOTTLED: 2021; ONE OF 180 BOTTLES FROM A BOURBON BARREL HL18506 LCBO 286814 | 700 mL bottle Price: \$137.70** Spirits, Whisky/Whiskey, Scotch Single Malts 57.1% Alcohol/Vol.

**FIRST EDITION BEN NEVIS 23 YEAR OLD; DISTILLED: 1997; BOTTLED: 2020; 095 OF 243 BOTTLES FROM A REFILL SHERRY BUTT HL17330 LCBO 286814 | 700 mL bottle Price: \$247.70** Spirits, Whisky/Whiskey, Scotch Single Malts 57.8% Alcohol/Vol.

## MENU

**1<sup>st</sup> Course: Caldo Verde: a Soup with Baby Kale, Local Chorizo & Yukon Gold Potatoes**  
**1<sup>st</sup> Nosing: MORTLACH 15 YEARS OLD**  
**(introduced by: Elsabe Falkson)**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Course: Smoked Salmon Roulades**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Nosing: MORTLACH 15 YEARS OLD: GAME OF THRONES**  
**(introduced by: Elsabe Falkson)**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Nosing: FIRST EDITION CRAIGELLACHIE 13 YEAR OLD; DISTILLED: 2008; BOTTLED: 2021**

**4<sup>th</sup> Nosing: FIRST EDITION BEN NEVIS 23 YEAR OLD; DISTILLED: 1997; BOTTLED: 2020**  
**(introduced by: Paul Charbonneau)**

## March 11<sup>th</sup> Dinner - KSMS Financial Statement

(Money from 39 December attendees @ \$90)	= \$3510.00
March dinner 39 persons =	= \$2574.54
(Money remaining for buying Single Malt)	= \$935.46
Cost of Single Malts:	= \$1191.70
Cost of Pours per Person = \$29.79	
KSMS Monthly operational balance	= (-\$256.24)
Cost per person (All inclusive)	= \$96.57
Money for Heels	= \$365.00
Money Raised from Raffle	= \$ 0.00
KSMS Monthly operational balance	= \$108.76

---

## Upcoming Dinner Dates

Monday June 20<sup>th</sup> 2022 - June BBQ - Cigar Malts & Sherry  
Monday July 25<sup>th</sup>, 2022 - Speyside / Highlands  
Friday August 26<sup>th</sup>, 2022 - 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Premium Night  
Monday September 19<sup>th</sup>, 2022 - Lowland / Islands (Kyle)  
Monday October 17<sup>th</sup>, 2022 - Speyside / Highlands / Islay  
Monday November 14<sup>th</sup>, 2021 - Campbeltown / Highlands / Islay  
Monday December 12<sup>th</sup> 2022 - Christmas Dinner  
Monday January 23<sup>rd</sup> 2023 - Robbie Burns  
Monday February 13<sup>th</sup> 2023 - Speyside / Islands / Islay  
Monday March 20<sup>th</sup> 2023 - Speyside / Islands / Islay  
Monday April 17<sup>th</sup> 2023 - Speyside / Islands / Islay  
Monday May 15<sup>th</sup> 2023 - Speyside / Islands / Islay  
Monday June 19<sup>th</sup> 2023 - June BBQ - Speyside / Islands / Islay

---

## Glencairn tackles glass shortage

12 APRIL 2022 By Nicola Carruthers

Crystal glassware manufacturer Glencairn is offering premium glass bottles to spirits producers in response to the packaging shortage.



Glencairn offers glasses in all shapes and sizes

Glencairn said the spirits sector is currently facing a challenge in the sourcing and availability of premium glass.

As such, the Scotland-based company said it has large quantities of premium glass bottles available to the industry.

The firm said it is a particular problem for companies in the premium malt whisky category aged 18 years and over, as well as other spirits of significant age and value.

Furthermore, Glencairn noted that the pandemic, as well as increased energy costs and transport issues, has hiked up the price and extended lead times of premium glass bottles. It said there are delays of up to a year, with new projects taking up to 18 months to bring to production.

Scott Davidson, new product development director at Glencairn, said: "We've been [evolving our offerings for over 40 years](#) to provide an unparalleled range of premium cosmetic glass bottles and lead-free crystal bottles and decanters.

"We have worked hard to take the learning from some of the most expensive decanters in the world and supply this on more affordable, and importantly, more readily available, premium glass bottles.

"Our talented team of craftspeople can decorate cosmetic glass and bottles to the highest standards with bespoke designs developed by our in-house design team.

"Our decoration facilities are at the cutting edge of the market, with industry-leading production processes in engraving, decoration and precious metal and materials application."

Glencairn said it is able to meet demand at short notice, offering fully recyclable glasses in all shapes and sizes. It also makes crystal decanters.

---

## GlenAllachie debuts two whiskies

12 APRIL 2022 By Alice Brooker

Speyside distillery GlenAllachie has added two core whiskies to its portfolio: an eight-year-old and a 15-year-old.



The eight-year-old GlenAllachie whisky offers notes of stem ginger and mint chocolate

Each bottled at 46% ABV, GlenAllachie 8 Year Old Single Malt Scotch Whisky and White Heather 15 Year Old Blended Scotch Whisky were developed by master blender Billy Walker.

He commented: "From the outset, it has been my aim to release quality whiskies at fair and accessible price points. This can be a significant challenge when you also choose to deploy an extensive and costly wood management policy, however I believe The GlenAllachie eight-year-old fits the bill without any compromises or corner-cutting."

The eight-year-old marries together spirit aged in Pedro Ximénez and oloroso Sherry puncheons, along with virgin oak casks and red wine barriques.



White Heather 15YO is a blend of peated and unpeated malts



The liquid boasts a heather honey character, and delivers rich notes of stem ginger, mint chocolate and chewy raisins. Meanwhile, the White Heather bottling contains both peated and unpeated malts blended together, along with grain whiskies. In March last year, GlenAllachie [recreated the White Heather blended Scotch brand](#), which was discontinued in the 1980s. Walker added: "In terms of White Heather, this has been a real passion project for me. It takes me back to my first forays in the industry and allows me to select and blend whiskies from across Scotland in order to achieve the intended flavour profile. "I hold a strong belief that interest in the premium blend category is growing, and we very much want to be at the forefront of it with White Heather."

The whisky underwent dual maturation in Sherry butts and American oak barrels, followed by being re-racked into Pedro Ximénez and oloroso Sherry puncheons, as well as American virgin oak casks for an additional three years. On the nose, White Heather presents waves of butterscotch, orange peel and pineapple, while the palate delivers the taste of grapefruit, almonds, mocha and ginger. The eight-year-old can be purchased for RRP £42.50 (US\$55.27), while the 15-year-old retails for RRP £59.99 (US\$78.02) through global specialist retailers. Earlier this year, the brand added [three new limited edition bottlings](#) to its Virgin Oak Series, also crafted by Walker who celebrates his 50th anniversary in Scotch whisky this year.

European oak casks results in two distinct styles, which we combine to show the amazing character of this fantastic distillery." The announcement of the 18 Years Old release comes as the brand is celebrating its 125th anniversary. On the milestone, Dundas added: "It's apt that such a ceremonial age statement - the 18 - is unveiled during the brand's 125th anniversary. We've had well over a century of dedication to craftsmanship, and the launch of this exquisite dram paves the way for the years to come."

The Tamdhu 18 Years Old will be available through the Tamdhu website, and through specialist retailers in markets across Europe, the US, Asia and Australia, from April 2022 (RRP £139.99). The distillery is opening its doors to the public during the Spirit of Speyside Whisky Festival, with tours, tastings and a luxury 'Spain to Speyside' experience. Festival visitors will be among the first to try the 18 Years Old.

5 April 2022 - Bethany Whymark

## Exclusive: The Macallan Just Released a Limited-Edition Single Malt Inspired by New York City's Food Scene

Limited to just 1,000 bottles, Distil Your World New York starts at \$4,200.

By [RACHEL CORMACK](#)



### The Macallan

The City that Never Sleeps sure sounds like a good starting point for a [Scotch](#). The [Macallan](#) thinks so anyway. The Scottish distillery has just unveiled a limited-edition single malt inspired by the cultural mecca that is [New York](#). Crafted in collaboration with the Roca brothers, [Distil Your World New York](#) aims to capture the essence of the city by paying tribute to its eclectic culinary scene and singular architecture. In honor of the Big Apple, the expression builds upon the subtle apple notes already characteristic of The Macallan. Created from six European and American oak casks, it offers the sweetness of classic American candy with hints of chocolate and peanuts sure to evoke memories of the "Nuts 4 Nuts" carts found throughout Manhattan. The uplifting citrus flavor, meanwhile, represents the city's towering skyscrapers.

## Tamdhu launches 18 Years Old single malt



Tamdhu has announced the launch of its hotly anticipated 18 Years Old single malt. The Speyside distillery, which exclusively uses oloroso sherry-seasoned casks to mature its whiskies, has combined American and European oak oloroso casks for the new limited release. Bottled at 46.8% ABV and non-chill filtered, Tamdhu says the 18 Years Old delivers "layers of indulgent flavour and a deep natural colour which reflects the quality of the oak". Sandy McIntyre, Tamdhu distillery manager, said: "Tamdhu has rightfully earned a reputation for producing the very best sherry-matured whiskies, so crafting, bottling and launching our 18 Years Old will go down as a true career highlight. "The entire distillery team has an innate understanding of the Tamdhu sherry maturation process - so we selected a combination of casks that deliver a truly special drinking experience, befitting such an important age statement." Gordon Dundas, Tamdhu global brand ambassador, said: "Across our entire range, we are dedicated to full-term maturation in the very best oloroso sherry casks. The combination of both American and



**Distil Your World New York captures the essence of the Big Apple.** Chloé Lambert/The Macallan

"We really looked towards the quintessential tastes of New York—sweet candy, waffles, peanut brittle, chocolate, and pecans," The Macallan's [whisky](#) maker Polly Logan said in a statement. "The city's thriving street food scene was a great source of inspiration."

The bottle itself, which features blue accents inspired by the water surrounding New York, comes housed in an elegant presentation box engraved with an aerial map of the city. Collectors will also receive a book showcasing the inspiration for the single malt and all the work that went into creating it.

For the unacquainted, the Roca brothers together helm Michelin three-star restaurant El Celler de Can Roca in Girona, Spain. (Oldest brother Joan Roca is the head chef, middle brother Josep Roca is the sommelier and youngest brother Jordi Roca heads up desserts.) To develop the new expression, Joan headed stateside with The Macallan's Polly Logan and met the visionaries driving the city's inimitable creativity.



The single malt was created in collaboration with the Roca brothers. The Macallan

"This project is a homage to the people of New York. The daring, creative and diverse characters we've met along the way," Logan adds. "This whisky is bold, flavor vibrant and uplifting—just like each of them."

The entire process has been captured in a new documentary, too. This actually marks the fourth episode of the [Distil Your World](#) series in which The Macallan and the Roca brothers

explore famous cities around the globe. Scotland, Jerez and London have already been covered, with a corresponding whisky released in each destination's honor.

To top it off, the Roca brothers have also created an NYC-inspired menu at the twice-named Best Restaurant in the World in Spain. Highlights include waffles with chicken pâté, cured and smoked strip steak, and a caramel-filled apple, of course. The dishes are also showcased within the book that comes with the Scotch.

*Limited to just 1,000 bottles, The Macallan Distil Your World New York will be available starting April at select boutiques and retailers. The 700 ml bottle will set you back roughly \$4,200, while the 750 ml version costs \$4,500.*

-----

**Taste Test: The Macallan's Solid But Not Spectacular NYC-Inspired Whisky Doesn't Live Up to Its Market Hype**  
It's a great find at its regular price. Whether you pay five times as much is up to you.

By [JONAH FLICKER](#)



The Macallan

The [Macallan](#) is a scotch whisky distillery best known for two things—pretty much all sherry cask-aged whisky all the time, and bottling some really expensive old whiskies. For example, the distillery recently released its oldest whisky to date, the 81-year-old "The Reach" priced at \$125,000 a bottle.

It's fun to read about these ultra-mature and unobtainable-to-most whiskies, but there's something to be said for actually being able to try the whisky you're reading about. The Macallan's new [Distil Your World New York Edition](#) seemed to be a limited-edition but collectible whisky at first blush, priced at \$4,300 with just 1,000 bottles available. But look around online and you'll find it going for quadruple that, with prices hovering around the \$20,000 mark. So what gives?

New York is the second bottle release in the Distil Your World series from The Macallan (the first was London). The point of this new whisky is to capture the spirit of New York City, but how does one actually do that in liquid form? Well, a bit of imagination and creative license from the whisky makers is involved, and fortunately for The Macallan, the distillery has a decade-long relationship with famed Michelin-starred Spanish chefs the Roca Brothers.

Joan Roca and Macallan whisky maker Polly Logan traveled to New York City to fill all of their sensory receptacles with the smells, flavors and visions of this iconic city. They met with jazz musician Wynton Marsalis, street artist Lady Pink and clothing designer Zero Waste Daniel, to soak up the flavor of New York City. Logan has said she was inspired by street foods like "sweet candy, waffles, peanut brittle, chocolate and pecans." Personally, I'd go with pizza and Halal cart chicken and white sauce, but that



might not make for good whisky notes. Other aspects of the city that inspired them were the smells of the hot nut carts and pretzel vendors, and the minerality of the streets after a rainfall.



Distil Your World New York captures the essence of the Big Apple. Chloé Lambert/The Macallan

Logan then selected six casks to assemble this whisky, both European and American sherry-seasoned oak (the age range is not revealed), based on the specific notes that inspired her and Roca. The color, a dark copper, is described as “city sunrise.” On the nose, there is indeed some apple, which was an obvious note to go for, along with a burst of citrus. The palate is very recognizably Macallan, with the sherry influence bringing out flavors of dark chocolate, some burnt orange, a bit of cherry syrup and just a touch of spice on the finish. The bottle comes with some extra bells and whistles, housed inside a white box with an aerial map of New York City engraved on it, and a book detailing the inspirations behind the whisky via some very nice photography. There’s also a documentary that you can watch about the whisky on YouTube.

You’ll have to have some very deep pockets in order to sample the whisky for yourself, something that is enticing to well-heeled whisky collectors but ranges from annoying to infuriating for the average whisky drinker. There’s no point in arguing about whether the whisky is worth any particular price, because it’s all subjective and circular—the product is limited, the consumer covets, the product becomes more limited and expensive, the consumer covets harder, repeat. Distil Your World New York whisky would be a nice find at its suggested retail price, but whether or not it’s worth \$20,000 is really based on what that amount of money means to you. Besides, there’s always that bottle of Double Cask 15 you can drink instead.

Score: 87

[BUY NOW: \\$18,999.99](#)

What Our Score Means

- 100: Worth trading your first born for
- 95 – 99 In the Pantheon: A trophy for the cabinet
- 90 – 94 Great: An excited nod from friends when you pour them a dram
- 85 – 89 Very Good: Delicious enough to buy, but not quite special enough to chase on the secondary market
- 80 – 84 Good: More of your everyday drinker, solid and reliable
- Below 80 It’s alright: Honestly, we probably won’t waste your time and ours with this

15 April 2022 Ruben [Glen Moray](#)

Glen Moray Manzanilla / Tokaji / Madeira Cask



Today we’re having three cask experiments from Glen Moray distillery. All three were released as a UK exclusive. This Speyside distillery has been trying out a series of adventurous cask types in the past, including a [Cider cask](#) that was later banned by the SWA. I’ve also reviewed the [Rhum Agricole Cask](#) bottling for instance.



First up is the Glen Moray Tokaji Finish, the second bottling in the Warehouse 1 series following the Sauternes version from 2020. After an initial ageing in ex-bourbon casks, it was given a finish in sweet Hungarian Tokaji Aszú (five casks in total) before being bottled at cask strength. The second review will look at the Madeira Cask Project, matured entirely in Madeira hogsheads for 13 years and 10 months, whereas these casks are typically used for finishing. Last but not least we have the Glen Moray 2008 Manzaniella Finish. The finishing length isn't disclosed in this case.

Did you know Manzaniella is technically not a sherry wine? It shares a whole list of similarities of course, but since it is exclusive to the nearby town Sanlúcar de Barrameda (instead of Jerez) and controlled by its own denomination of origin, it is strictly a separate wine

region. Some winemakers in Sanlúcar are truly offended when you say Manzaniella is a sherry wine.

Glen Moray 'Tokaji Finish' 15 yo 2005 (53,9%, OB 'Warehouse 1' 2021, UK exclusive, 1244 btl.)

Nose: a sumptuous, very candied profile (albeit a little synthetic) on marzipan, peaches on syrup, candyfloss and honey. Candied ginger, vanilla sponge and a faint floral note. Cardamom. Gingerbread. It's easy to recognize the sweet wine, but it's also easy to recognize the firm American oak in the background.

Mouth: sweet again, but overall a little greener than I expected (unripe pineapple). Lots of malty notes, fresh oak shavings, with a good dose of ginger and white pepper. Almond notes and honey. Shortbread. Lemon zest as well. The wine type would be harder to guess now.

Finish: medium length, with nutty notes and ginger cake. The expected candyshop aromas are present, resulting in a nice nose but a slightly less convincing palate. Compared to something like [A Tale of Cake](#), this falls short and feels a little, well... experimental.

Glen Moray 'Madeira Cask Project' 13 yo 2006 (46,3%, OB 2020, UK exclusive, 1468 btl.)

Nose: again a slightly synthetic banana aroma at first, mixed with a hint of glue even. Cellulose. Sweet, poached pears and toffee, as well as some honey and sawdust. Biscuity notes and a hint of candied ginger. A couple of leafy notes as well, like green tobacco. The jury's still out. Mouth: sweet again, with a syrupy texture but also a spicity edge. More green bananas, plenty of honey coated cereals and muesli. Baked apple. Mid-palate some fresh oak comes out, with nutmeg and all-spice. Ginger cake. A hint of bitter cocoa and hickory too.

Finish: long but not entirely pleasant, leaving a lot of room for the ginger and nutmeg to overpower the fruity side.

I tend to like Madeira finishes, and I expected a supercharged version due to the full maturation, yet it doesn't really correspond to what I'm expecting from Madeira casks. A slightly harsh whisky with a firm

woody footprint. Score: 81/100

It's funny how both whiskies share so many tasting notes, while the wine types and maturation periods are so different...



Glen Moray 'Manzanilla Finish' 2008 (54,6%, OB 'Warehouse 1' 2021, UK exclusive, 1240 btl.)

Nose: there's a lot of dried grass, straw and wood dust, as well as a funny sweet side. Funny since Manzaniella is so dry. Also chamomile tea (of course), grain biscuits and dried apple peelings. Hints of vanilla and an underlying savoury layer. Sweet seaweed perhaps?

Mouth: starts with the unripe fruits of the other two (pears, unripe peach), leading to orange peels and firm cereal notes. Then it becomes green, herbal and frankly bitter. Think dried rosemary, green tea, ginger and a hint of chalky dryness. A clear salty edge too.

Finish: good length but really grassy and herbal, with bitterness and spicy notes.

The dryness, saltiness and herbal character of the Manzaniella really comes out. That's not always the case with Manzaniella casks, so well done. Really educational whisky, though perhaps too harsh to down a whole bottle. This one is still available from [The Whisky Exchange](#) or [Tyndrumwhisky](#) for instance.

Score: 85/100

## Balvenie Unveils Three New Cask-Finished Whiskies

[Gary Carter](#) - [Scotch](#) | April 1, 2022

[The Balvenie Distillery](#) has added to its Cask Finishes range, with two of the expressions launching exclusively to Global Travel Retail on April 1st.

The new whiskies feature what's described as the Speyside distillery's honeyed character, and dive deeper into flavor using Malt Master David Stewart's finishing process he pioneered back in 1982.

Noted as being inspired by flavors of the wine making regions of Europe, the new global retail expressions feature finishing casks from Madeira and Pedro Ximénez from Jerez, as well as Pineau from the French Charentes vineyards for the domestic offering.



The Balvenie Pedro Ximénez Cask Aged 18 Years (image via The Balvenie) Malt Master Stewart said in a prepared statement, "It's no secret that I enjoy sweet wines like Madeira and when introduced to Pineau, I was instantly impressed by the flavor profile and interested to see what these casks would bring to The Balvenie."



Charles Metcalfe, Global Brand Ambassador for The Balvenie, said the Pineau casks are a rare sight in the Scotch whisky industry, and here they've paired with the Balvenie spirit, adding orchard fruits and a citrusy zing.

"The extra sweetness and richness from the Pedro Ximenez cask adds a lovely, rich weight to the palette of our 18 Year Old, with all of those delicious dark fruits coming through," he added. The Madeira Cask 15 Year Old is a single malt finished in casks which previously held sweet Madeira wine. Having used casks from the volcanic island for older whiskies in the past, a recent holiday there reignited Stewart's passion for Madeira's versatile dessert wine and complex casks.

Throughout the cask's journey, it was exposed to the heat of the sun, naturally sweetening the wine it held, and in turn leading to the creation of what's described as a light and lively whisky. The second sherry finish for the Cask Finishes range is The Balvenie Pedro Ximénez Cask Aged 18 Years. The sweet wine from the Pedro Ximénez casks gets its intensity from the sun-ripened vines, making what's said to be a sweet fusion for The Balvenie's signature honeyed core.

Both expressions will be listed by all key retailers through major airports including Hainan, Seoul Incheon and Jeju Taoyuan in Asia. In Europe, the whisky will be in airports that include Amsterdam Schiphol, Frankfurt, Berlin, Budapest, Copenhagen, Vienna and Munich. Lindsay Hitzeroth, customer marketing for Global Travel Retail, said, "The channel has always been about discovery, offering consumers the opportunity to find something new and different, yet with the confidence of brand knowledge and integrity. As travel now begins to show real recovery in the aftermath of Covid, we will continue to inspire and engage consumers with The Balvenie 15yo Madeira Cask and 18 yo Pedro Ximénez Cask, both delivering the quality of liquid and iconic appeal that luxury shoppers will be searching for."

Distiller's notes:

#### *The Balvenie Madeira Cask Aged 15 Years*

- **Nose:** Overflowing flavors of blackcurrants and brambles slowly layer upon gingery syrup and delicate spice.
- **Taste:** Ripe fruitiness from fresh peaches lead to a citrus orange zing, hazelnuts and crisp oakiness coating the pallet.
- **ABV:** 43%
- **First Cask:** Several years of maturation in traditional American oak whisky barrels imparts warming layers of honey and vanilla for our sweet signature honeyed core flavor.
- **Second Cask:** Finishing in Madeira casks increases complexity, bringing notes of fresh peaches, oranges zing and hazelnut.

#### *The Balvenie Pedro Ximénez Cask Aged 18 Years*

- **Nose:** A medley of flavors from raisin and bursting currants, intertwine oak and subtle clove, concealing smooth sweet lavender.
- **Taste:** A modern classic fruit fusion of tart grape skin, mandarin and fig flow together with oak to coat the mouth with a delicate oil and honeyed sweetness.
- **ABV:** 48.7%
- **First Cask:** Many years of maturation in traditional American oak whisky barrels mellows the maturing spirit and imparts warming layers of honey and vanilla.
- **Second Cask:** Finishing in Pedro Ximénez sherry butts creates a fusion of sweet lavender, mandarin, fig and subtle clove.

#### *The Balvenie French Oak Cask Aged 16 Years*

- **Nose:** Balanced light floral notes from lotus and geranium flowers dance between hints of fresh meadow grass and peeled apple skin.
- **Taste:** A zing from tangy lemon rind and grapefruit meet the delicate subtle sweetness of glazed fruits and spice from root ginger.
- **ABV:** 47.6%
- **First Cask:** Years of maturation in American Oak casks brings an abundance of vanilla spice and warm honey notes.
- **Second Cask:** Finishing in Pineau casks creates notes of energizing grapefruit, geranium, glazed fruit and ginger.

## Ardbeig Goes 'Ardcore' With New Punk Rock Limited Edition

[Gary Carter](#) - [Scotch](#) | April 13, 2022

Ardbeig Day is held annually on the final Saturday of Islay's Festival of Music and Malt (Fèis Ile), and generally it's a celebration of all things Ardbeg. It's set for June 4th this year, online and at the [Ardbeig Distillery](#). And to celebrate the upcoming events, Ardbeg launched a new "punk rock" expression, Ardcore, made from roasted black malt. [In a statement from Ardbeg](#), Distillery Manager Colin Gordon said Ardcore draws inspiration from Islay's little-known punk past, celebrating the characters of "Punk Ellen," a nickname for Islay's main port, Port Ellen, in the 1970s.



Ardbeig Ardcore (image via Ardbeg)

"This year will be my first physical Ardbeg Day. We know not everybody can make it to Islay, so we're delighted to be broadcasting all the day's antics online too," Gordon said. "Whether at the distillery or at home, we hope lots of you rock up, punked out and ready to party come June 4th." Bill Lumsden, Ardbeg's head of distilling and whisky creation, said Ardcore was created with roasted black malt, charred to new levels, and this spirit is all about substance. "Notes of charcoal and sweet smoke make for an in-your-face nose, while potent notes of aniseed and dark chocolate stamp this bottle out as one fit only for the most 'Ardcore of fans," he said.

Ardcore will be available to buy from Ardbeg embassies, whisky specialists, online retailers and from the distillery visitor center in the near future.

For more information on Ardbeg Day 2022 and more, check out [Ardbeg.com](https://www.ardbeg.com).

## Bladnoch Distillery receives prestigious international trade award

21 APRIL 2022 *By Georgie Pursey*

Lowland distillery, Bladnoch, has been honoured with the Queen's Award for Enterprise for excellence in international trade.



The Bladnoch distillery is the southernmost distillery in Scotland. The 204-year-old Bladnoch Distillery is one of 226 organisations nationally to be recognised with the Queen's Award for Enterprise.

Now in its 56th year, the Queen's Awards for Enterprise is regarded as the most prestigious business award in the country, with winning businesses able to use the esteemed Queen's Awards emblem for the next five years.

In addition, Bladnoch Distillery will also be awarded a Grant of Appointment (an official certificate) and a commemorative crystal trophy, which will be presented at the distillery by one of the Queen's representatives, a Lord-Lieutenant.

Previous winners have reported benefitting from worldwide recognition, increased commercial value, greater press coverage and a boost to staff morale.

Following the distillery's acquisition in 2015 by Australian businessman David Prior, the brand embarked on a new chapter in the history of what is the oldest privately owned scotch whisky distillery, and the first to be owned by an Australian. Bladnoch said it was in the top three Lowland whiskies sold in almost all of its export markets, with Germany, China and the US all growing at more than 100% in both volume and value in the last year alone.

In addition to the flagship Bladnoch single malts, the brand has also created Pure Scot, an award-winning blended Scotch inspired by the Australian and Scottish environment. The

company said the brand has found success in both traditional and developing export markets, including Israel, Nigeria and Indonesia, finding favour with premium blended whisky consumers.

Head of commercial Will Pitchforth remarked: "The growth of the Bladnoch Distillery business has been a reflection of the dedication to quality and exceptional whisky making, combined with a philosophy, core to our way of working, to conduct business with integrity and fairness, recognised by our network of trusted distributors around the world."

[Bladnoch secured a £10 million \(US\\$13.8m\) loan](#) to expand into new markets across the world last year.

## Bonhams to sell Yamazaki 50YO First Release

14 APRIL 2022 *By Melita Kiely*

Auction house Bonhams is preparing to sell a selection of rare Japanese whiskies, including a bottle of Yamazaki 50-Year-Old First Release.



Bonhams will auction a selection of rare whiskies on 20 May. Yamazaki 50-Year-Old First Release was launched in 2005, and at the time it was the oldest bottling from the distillery. Only 50 bottles were released.

Since then, the expression has set two auction records, one in 2018 and one in 2019. Only 12 bottles are thought to still be intact.

One bottle will go under the hammer at the Bonhams Fine and Rare Wine and Whisky Sale in Hong Kong on 20 May. It is expected to sell for between HK\$3.5 million and HK\$4.5m (US\$446,338-US\$573,884).

Shinjiro Torii founded the Yamazaki distillery in 1923, which became Japan's first commercial whisky distillery.

There are three editions of 50-year-old Yamazaki, bottled in 2005, 2007 and 2011.

Christopher Pong, head of sales at Bonhams wine and whisky department, said: "The first edition of Yamazaki 50-Year-Old is always eagerly sought after by collectors. I am expecting a lot of interest."

Yamazaki's oldest whisky to date, a 55-year-old bottling, will also be auctioned in May. It is expected to fetch between UK\$4m-HK\$5m (US\$510,115-US\$637,644).

Scotch whisky collection



Furthermore, one of Asia's leading whisky collectors, Aaron Chan, owner of Club Qing, will auction his personal Scotch whisky collection over more than 220 lots.

Bottles will include Bowmore 1995 in Ceramic Jug, Tormore Samaroli-1966, and Laphroaig Osteria Apostoli-1970 #4367. Pong added: "Bonhams' long-standing rapport with Aaron Chan is founded on our shared vision to develop whisky collecting in Asia."

"After a momentous sale of Club Qing's Hanyu Full Card Series in 2020, which set a new auction record for a collection of Japanese whisky, Aaron has now consigned with us his personal Scotch collection, offering many old bottlings from the 1950s through the 60s, all in pristine condition."

"It is rare to have a private Asian Scotch collection come to the global market and this is surely one to watch out for."

[The world's largest private whisky collection](#) to be offered on the secondary market reached a total of £3.36m (US\$4.5m) after 23 auctions were held over two years.

## BE SURE TO GET YOUR HANDS ON IT

Those lucky enough to lay their virtual hands on the whisky will receive a digital version of their purchase, which can then be traded and redeemed to receive their actual bottle. So they can, ahem, 'dig' Ardbeg Fon Fhòid whenever they like, in all its smoky glory.

Sláinte

## Ardbeg launches buried whisky as NFT

14 APRIL 2022 By Melita Kiely

Islay-based distillery Ardbeg has released its first NFT (non-fungible token) single malt whisky, which was buried in a peat bog for nearly three years.



### A GROUNDBREAKING ENDEAVOUR

Dear Committee Member

Years ago, under the cover of darkness and aided by the then Distillery Manager, we buried two already matured ex-Bourbon barrels of Ardbeg beneath the peat bogs of Islay.

But why? Our naturally inquisitive nature got the better of us. We wanted to discover the effects an oxygen-deprived, water-laden, boggy place would have on our beloved Ardbeg. This is more than likely the first ever recorded subterranean maturation experiment.

### THE DRAM

The result of our dig is 456 bottles of astonishingly rare, one-of-a-kind NFT whisky bottles.

"I think it's safe to say we've unearthed a truly special Ardbeg here. Ardbeg Fon Fhòid is the epitome of Ardbeg - earthy, mucky and smoky with one hell of a nose!"

Dr Bill Lumsden, Ardbeg Master Distiller

### ABOUT THE ARDBEG X BLOCKBAR PARTNERSHIP

Ardbeg Fon Fhòid's limited release of 456 virtual bottles are available exclusively on BlockBar.com, anywhere in the world from 19th April 2022. BlockBar has sold thousands of NFTs - digital assets - from a wide variety of other distillers.



Ardbeg Fon Fhòid was bottled from casks buried for nearly three years. Two casks of Ardbeg whisky, aged in second-fill Bourbon casks, were buried in a peat bog for two years and 10 months near the distillery.

The whisky's name, Ardbeg Fon Fhòid, takes inspiration from this, and means 'under the turf' in Scottish Gaelic.

Bottled at 45.5% ABV, Ardbeg Fon Fhòid will be priced at 1 ETH, which at the time of writing equates to roughly £2,363 (US\$3,105).

The time spent underground is said to have given the whisky a 'earthy, mossy and herbal' flavours, rather than Ardbeg's trademark 'intense smoky notes'.

Ardbeg's head of distilling and whisky creation, Dr Bill Lumsden, said: "I think it's safe to say we've unearthed a truly special Ardbeg here. Ardbeg Fon Fhòid is earthy and mossy with one hell of a herbal nose. "Good luck to those hoping to secure some of Ardbeg's buried treasure – I hope you land a bottle."

Ardbeg Fon Fhòid is limited to 456 bottles, which will be available to purchase exclusively on blockbar.com at 10am EST on 19 April. Successful buyers will receive a digital certificate that will verify their ownership and the authenticity of the bottle.

Bottles will be stored at Block Bar's facility in Singapore until they're redeemed. Buyers can also trade their NFT within the blockbar.com marketplace, store the bottle in their virtual bar, or offer the NFT through the company's new gifting platform.

Dov Falic, CEO and co-founder of Block Bar, said: "We hope whisky fans new and old will take the opportunity to join our community and discover this peaty experiment, which Block Bar will keep in perfect condition until the owners are ready to enjoy it."

Earlier this month, Ardbeg revealed a limited edition [single malt called Ardcore](#) to mark this year's Fèis Ile festival.

---

## Macallan unveils Distil Your World New York

19 APRIL 2022 By Georgie Pursey

The Macallan, in collaboration with the Roca Brothers, has released Distil Your World New York, a single malt whisky and documentary designed to capture the essence of the iconic city.



The Distil Your World New York whisky by The Macallan  
The Distil Your World New York whisky, which is the latest release in a series of limited edition single malt whiskies and gastronomic creations exploring leading locations around the globe, was crafted by The Macallan whisky maker Polly Logan using a combination of six European and American oak casks. It builds on the characteristically subtle apple notes of The Macallan, while also offering the sweetness of classic American candy alongside nods of peanut butter and chocolate. The whisky was released alongside a 30-minute documentary that premiered in New York before being made available on Amazon Prime Video and YouTube in April 2022.

The documentary follows the travels of Logan and Joan Roca in New York, as they spend time with the artists and visionaries who fuel its vibrant culture, including globally acclaimed jazz musician Wynton Marsalis and legendary street artist Lady Pink. Logan said: "This project is a homage to the people of New York. The daring, creative and diverse characters we've met along the way. This whisky is bold, vibrant and uplifting – just like each of them."

"We really looked towards the quintessential tastes of New York – sweet candy, waffles, peanut brittle, chocolate and pecans. The city's thriving street food scene was a great source of inspiration."

The city also offered inspiration for the Roca brothers to create a unique menu for El Celler de Can Roca, twice named Best Restaurant in the World, designed to take diners on a journey through New York. Their creations include a potato cronut with salsa brava, waffles with chicken pâté and sugarcane syrup, and cured and smoked strip steak. The Big Apple, their masterpiece dessert, features a caramel apple filled with fresh apple purée and milk chocolate.

Joan Roca said: "The originality of New York is endless, it's impossible to portray it with just one creation, so we needed to express it through an extended menu, where every dish tells a story. The city grabs hold of you instantly. Its energy pushed us to create a complex and daring menu, with ideas that we explored for the very first time."

Distil Your World New York is housed in a white presentation box featuring an engraved aerial map of New York. The water surrounding the city and the skyscraper buildings are both represented by bold touches of blue on the box, which also contains a book documenting the different inspirations behind

this single malt, and the craftsmanship involved in its creation, alongside New York photography.

The Macallan Distil Your World New York is a limited edition release with an RRP of \$4,200 (£3223.52) for the 700ml bottle and \$4,500 (£3453.77) for the 750ml version. It will be available at select The Macallan Boutiques around the world, in premium specialist retailers and in exclusive premium non-specialist retailers from April 2022.

---

## The World's Best Scotch Whisky—According To The 2022 International Wine And Spirits Competition

[Brad Japhe](#) - Senior Contributor

Apr 17, 2022, 04:15am EDT



Tomatin Warehouse 6 Collection: The 1976 Vintage  
[The International Wine and Spirits Competition](#) is among the biggest—and oldest—annual awards show in all the alcohol industry. In late March, the 53-year-old confab announced its 2022 results, consisting of more than 4,000 liquor entries from across more than 90 different countries. Liquids are judged by a 100-point system, although no expression received higher than 99 points this time around. In fact, only 14 total labels across *all* categories of spirit earned that enviable distinction—five of them whiskies.

And would you believe that one specific scotch distillery actually recorded two separate 99-point entries? You'd have to believe it, because it's true. That distillery: [Tomatin](#). Although they haven't received a ton of recognition stateside, this Highland workhorse has been proudly producing world-class malt since 1897.

Traditionally, most of that malt has gone into blends of varying repute. But a modern marketing push has helped buoy their reputation as a single malt worth watching.

After this year's IWSC results, any self-styled connoisseur would be wise to open their eyes wide. Their first 99-pointer was the Tomatin Legacy, an 86-proof non-age-statement liquid that graciously only retails for around \$40 a bottle. The judging panel offered the following tasting notes for the expression:

**PROMOTED**

*"Ripe honeyed lemons and sweet vanilla fudge characterise the nose, while a pleasant fresh grapefruit flavour comes through wonderfully on the palate creating a superb lift. Fragrant and complex, with a harmonious, lingering finish."*





12th July 1965, Loading casks of whisky into a lorry at Tomatin's Distillers Company. Scottish whisky ... [+]

Given the price point and availability of this particular bottle, it's a spectacular entry point for anyone keen on familiarizing themselves with the house style: unpeated, soft and fruity. But I was just slightly more curious about the *other* Tomatin 99-pointer. Especially considering that it has yet to be released to the general public and the IWSC [website](#) provided scant information about its technical details. So, I managed to score the inside scoop on this 43-year-old gem that some will say is the best scotch single malt of 2022. Do with this intel what you will...

The Tomatin 1976 is slated to be the 6th and last ever expression released as part of the brand's [Warehouse 6 Collection](#). As you might have guessed from the name, this collection consists of whiskies pulled from one special dunnage warehouse on the property, known for storing some truly treasurable casks. Master distiller Graham Eunson called this 2 barrel vatting "extraordinary," standing apart from all the others he has tasted across a 30-year career. That's high praise.

The IWSC judges, for their part, had this to say: *"Seductively round, with delicious aromas of rich linseed and sweet honey, and ripe tropical fruit notes on the palate. Guava, papaya and mango all make an appearance, interspersed with star anise and fine oak tones which linger on the finish."*

You can judge for yourself if you're lucky enough to take home a decanter of the 92-proof stunner, which was only bottled on April 4th of this year. 350 bottles are set to sell in mid-May, retailing for £3,800 in the UK. Your best bet for bagging it is to be in and around Inverness to purchase one directly from the distillery during that time period. But if you don't want to drop \$5000 on a bottle of booze, at the very least, don't sleep on Tomatin anymore. It's a costly mistake for any scotch fan to make.



The Tomatin Warehouse 6 Collection, 1976 Vintage  
JOHN PAUL PHOTOGRAPHY

What's the difference between Scotch and whiskey? How  
Scotch is different from other types of whiskies

[Dylan Ettinger](#)

Apr 14, 2022, 4:53 PM



Scotch is a type of whisky made in Scotland. Adilson Sochodolak/Shutterstock

- Whiskey is a broad term for distilled grain that's been aged in casks.
- Scotch is a term used outside of Scotland to refer to Scottish-made whiskey.
- "Whiskey" is the spelling for American-made whiskey, while "whisky" is the spelling for Scottish-made versions.
- [Visit Insider's Home & Kitchen Reference library for more stories.](#)

What's the difference between Scotch and whiskey? The answer is at once simple and complex.

The simple part: Whiskey is a distilled spirit made from fermented grains and aged in wooden barrels. There are many different types of whiskey based on style of production and country of origin.

The complex part: In the US, the most popular types of whiskies are the ones made at home — bourbon and rye. Canada and Ireland are also known for their whiskies. Scotch whisky, referred to as just "Scotch" outside of Scotland, is a type of whisky made in Scotland. Within Scotland, the spirit is simply referred to as whisky.

As a type of whisky, Scotch has its own set of specifications to be called Scotch, not to mention a rich history and tradition surrounding the spirit. These unique requirements result in an incredibly nuanced spirit that's worthy of any discerning palate. Here's what you need to know.

Important: The "whiskey" spelling is used for American and Irish whiskey. Meanwhile, "whisky" is used by the rest of the world, including Scotland, Canada, and Japan. The complicated part is matching the correct spelling with the correct country of origin. You'll see both versions through this story. What is whisky?



Whisky is a distilled spirit made from fermented grains and aged in wooden barrels. barmalini/Shutterstock

"Whisky is a very broad category of spirit that can be divided up into many subcategories," says David Allardice, Scotch whisky expert and long-time brand ambassador for [Glenfiddich](#). "There's bourbon, rye, Irish whiskey, Japanese whisky, and of course, scotch."

"Whisky is basically a spirit that is distilled from fermented grains," Allardice says, "which is a fancy way of saying you make a beer with grains and then boil it to create a more concentrated alcoholic liquid."

The grains commonly used in making whisky are barley, corn, wheat, and rye. The combination of grains used to make an individual whisky is known as the mash bill. Each grain imparts the finished whisky with slightly different flavor characteristics. Once distilled, whisky is always aged in wooden barrels, which are often oak barrels that have been charred on the inside. Barrel-aging contributes heavily to the flavor and overall character of the whisky. The contact between the distillate and the wood of the barrel causes the whisky to darken, taking on an amber color. The contact with the wood also adds caramel and vanilla flavors to the whisky.

What is Scotch?

Scotch is a specific style of whisky in the same way that [bourbon is a type of whiskey](#). "The name 'Scotch' broadly describes any whisky produced in Scotland," Allardice says.

Scotch is a diverse subcategory of whisky with many local traditions, regional variations, and legal restrictions that produce a huge variance in flavors. Some Scotches are sweet, with notes of caramel and vanilla, while others are smoky, briny, and more savory.

Unlike American whiskeys, which are mostly made from corn and rye, Scotch whisky is primarily made of malted barley, which is barley that has been soaked in water, partially germinated, and then dried. This stops the germination at the right moment to

produce the most flavor, giving Scotch a distinct malty aroma that separates it from bourbon and rye whiskies.

What makes Scotch a Scotch

Generally speaking, Scotch whisky has strict legal requirements that distillers must meet before their whisky is allowed to be called Scotch. These laws were put in place to maintain the quality and reputation of Scotch. There are laws dictating many aspects of production, export, labeling, geography, and most importantly, distilling.

- **Geographic region:** To be considered Scotch, the whisky must be fermented, distilled, and aged in Scotland.
- **Ingredients:** The only ingredients allowed in the production of scotch are grains, yeast, water, and caramel coloring.
- **Mash bill:** Scotch must be distilled primarily of malted barley. Other cereal grains like corn, rye, and wheat may be added in blended scotch whiskies.
- **Proof:** Scotch must be distilled to at least 190 proof (94.8% ABV), and after aging, must be bottled at no lower than 80 proof (40% ABV).
- **Aging:** Scotch must be aged for no less than three years in oak barrels. When a bottle of Scotch displays an age statement, the youngest whisky blended in that bottle must be at least as old as the displayed age statement. It's common for Scotch whiskies to have age statements of 12 years and higher.

Types of Scotch whisky

"You can break Scotch into two main categories, single malts, and blended Scotches," Allardice says. "There are some very fundamental differences in how they're made." These two types of whiskies account for the overwhelming majority of scotch consumption.

- **Single malt Scotch:** Single malt whiskies are prized for their richness and complexity. To be considered a single malt, the Scotch must be produced only from malted barley, then distilled and aged at a single distillery using copper pot stills. The Macallan, Glenfiddich, and Lagavulin are all examples of distilleries that produce single malt scotch.
- **Blended Scotch:** Blended scotch is made by combining a single malt whisky with what's known as a grain whisky. "Blended scotches are the backbone of the industry," Allardice says. "About 80% of scotch consumed globally is blended." Popular brands like Johnnie Walker and Dewars are blended scotches.

Scotch whisky regions





The most well-known regions to make scotch in Scotland are Islay and Speyside. Rebecca Schochenmaier/Shutterstock  
There are five legally recognized regions in Scotland where whisky is produced: the Highlands, the Lowlands, the Islands, Speyside, and Islay. Single malt whiskies from different regions can have dramatically different flavor profiles. These differences are caused by production decisions.  
The two regions most familiar to drinkers in the US are Islay and Speyside.

"The majority of single malt Scotch whisky comes from Speyside," Allardice says. "Some of the biggest brands in Scotland, like Glenlivet, Glenfiddich, Balvenie, and The Macallan, all come from that small area." Speyside scotches tend to be more accessible, with sweet notes of fruit, caramel, and vanilla with a floral fragrance.

The most distinctive Scotch whiskeys come from the Islay region. "In Islay many of the distilleries are still making whisky in the traditional way where they use peat to dry the barley," Allardice says.

The smoke from the burning peat is infused in the barley, and gives Islay whiskies their classic strong smoky aroma. Along with smoke, these whiskies generally have complex flavor notes of brine and iodine, which can be a bit challenging for beginners. Popular peated whiskies come from the Ardbeg, Laphroaig, Bruichladdich, and Lagavulin distilleries.

How to drink Scotch whisky

Scotch is predominantly consumed neat, without ice or mixers. A single serving of scotch is often called a dram. It can also be served on the rocks or with a few drops of water. "If you're trying to get the most out of a whisky, I suggest trying it neat first, then adding a splash of water and see how that changes the flavor," Allardice says.

Scotch is known for its complexity and nuance, so it isn't often used in mixing cocktails. In most whisky cocktails, it makes more sense to use more affordable, spicier, high proof whiskey like bourbon or rye.

There are a few popular cocktails that use scotch as a base spirit, however. The Bobby Burns is a classic blended scotch cocktail made with sweet vermouth and is similar to a Manhattan. The Penicillin is a modern classic invented by Sam Ross that mixes blended scotch with lemon juice, ginger syrup, and honey syrup with a float of Islay scotch on top to add a hint of smoke.

The best places to buy alcohol online



Reservebar/Instagram

If you're looking to try out some Scotch whisky for yourself, here are some [great places you can order from](#) to get it delivered right to your door.

- The best on-demand alcohol delivery: [Drizly](#)
- The best place to buy alcohol gifts: [ReserveBar](#)

- The best spirits subscription: [Flaviar](#)

Insider's takeaway

Steeped in history and tradition, Scotch is one of the most diverse and iconic styles of whisky. Whether you enjoy a floral, and fruity Speyside or a smoky and briny Islay Scotch, every time you take a sip, you're tasting centuries of Scottish craftsmanship distilled into one bottle.

## Beer and spirits have more detrimental effects on the waistline and on cardiovascular disease risk than red or white wine

Published: April 20, 2022 8.17am EDT

Author - [Brittany Larsen](#)

Ph.D. Candidate in Neuroscience & Graduate Assistant, Iowa State University

*The [Research Brief](#) is a short take about interesting academic work.*

The big idea

Drinking beer and spirits is linked to elevated levels of [visceral fat](#) – the harmful type of fat that is associated with an increased risk of cardiovascular disease, metabolic syndrome, and other health complications – whereas drinking wine shows no such association with levels of this harmful fat and may even be protective against it, depending on the type of wine consumed. In fact, we found that drinking red wine is linked to having lower levels of visceral fat. These are some of the key takeaways of [a new study](#) that my colleagues and I recently published in the Obesity Science & Practice journal.

Although white wine consumption did not influence levels of visceral fat, our study did show that drinking white wine in moderation might offer its own unique health benefit for older adults: denser bones. We found higher bone mineral density among older adults who drank white wine in moderation in our study. And we did not find this same link between beer or red wine consumption and bone mineral density.

Our study relied on a large-scale longitudinal database called [the U.K. Biobank](#). We assessed 1,869 white adults ranging in age from 40 to 79 years who reported demographic, alcohol, dietary and lifestyle factors via a touchscreen questionnaire. Next, we collected height, weight and blood samples from each participant and obtained body composition information using a direct measure of body composition called [dual-energy X-ray absorptiometry](#). Then, we used a statistical program to examine the relationships among the types of alcoholic beverages and body composition.

Aging is often accompanied by an increase in the problematic fat that can lead to heightened cardiovascular disease risk as well as by a [reduction in bone mineral density](#). This has important health implications given that nearly 75% of adults in the U.S. [are considered overweight or obese](#). Having higher levels of body fat has been consistently linked to an increased risk for acquiring many different diseases, including [cardiovascular disease](#), [certain types of cancer](#), and [a higher risk of death](#). And it's worth noting that national medical care costs associated with treating obesity-related diseases total more than [US\\$260.6 billion annually](#).

Considering these trends, it is vital for researchers like us to examine all the potential contributors to weight gain so that we can determine how to combat the problem. Alcohol has long been considered one possible driving factor [for the obesity epidemic](#). Yet the public often hears conflicting information about the potential [risks](#) and [benefits](#) of alcohol. Therefore, we hoped to help untangle some of these factors through our research.

What still isn't known

There are many biological and environmental factors that contribute to being overweight or obese. [Alcohol consumption](#) may be one factor, although there are [other](#)

[studies](#) that have not found clear links between weight gain and alcohol consumption.

One reason for the inconsistencies in the literature could stem from the fact that much of the previous research has traditionally treated alcohol as a single entity rather than separately measuring the effects of beer, cider, red wine, white wine, Champagne and spirits. Yet, even when broken down in this way, the research yields mixed messages.

For example, [one study has suggested](#) that drinking more beer contributes to a higher waist-to-hip ratio, while [another study](#) concluded that, after one month of drinking moderate levels of beer, healthy adults did not experience any significant weight gain.

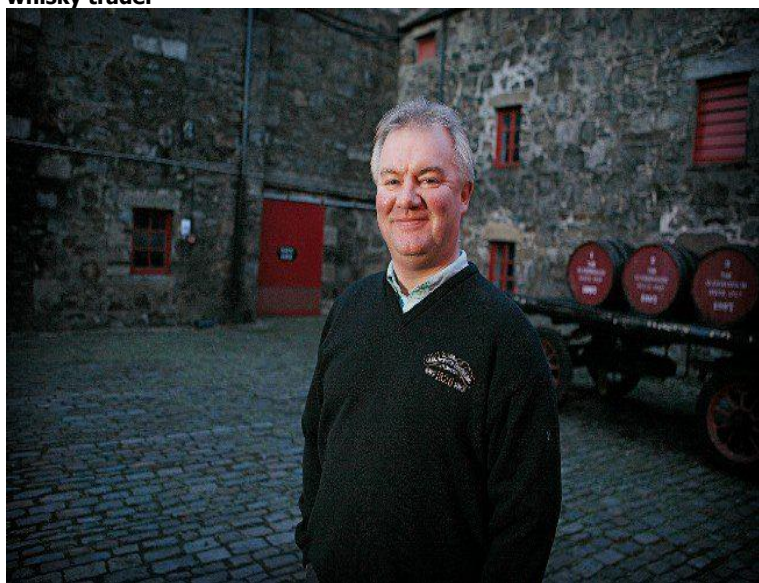
As a result, we've aimed to further tease out the unique risks and benefits that are associated with each alcohol type. Our next steps will be to examine how diet – including alcohol consumption – could influence diseases of the brain and cognition in older adults with [mild cognitive impairment](#).

---

## Benriach distillery manager retires after 50 years in whisky

22 APRIL 2022 *By Melita Kiely*

Alan McConnochie, manager of The GlenDronach, Benriach and Glenglassaugh Scotch distilleries, is retiring after 50 years in the whisky trade.



Alan McConnochie is retiring after 50 years in the whisky industry

The distillery manager has been in charge of Brown-Forman's Scotch whisky sites since 2004.

McConnochie began his whisky career in the bottling hall of White Horse Distillers in 1973. He was made a keeper of the quai in 2018.

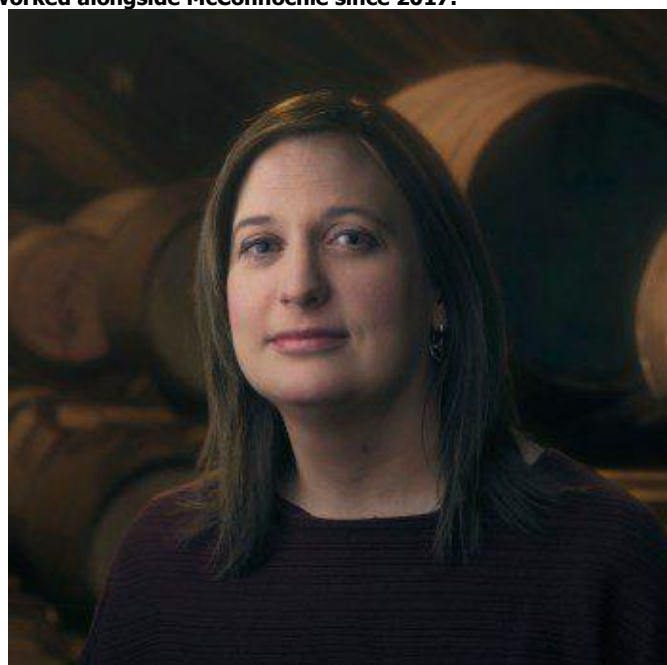
His distillery career started in the role of assistant manager at Plymouth Gin in Devon, England, before he moved to Laphroaig on Islay, Scotland.

He said his greatest moment was overseeing the reopening of the Benriach Distillery for Billy Walker before it was [bought by Brown-Forman in 2016](#).

McConnochie said: "It's been an incredible privilege to oversee the distilleries of some of the industry's finest single malt whiskies. The one element I will miss the most is the camaraderie of both the distillery team and the whisky industry as a whole.

"Being a part of the launch of The GlenDronach Aged 50 Years in January was a particularly proud moment, having personally helped to nurture those casks over the years."

Laura Tolmie, the company's current distilleries production manager, will take over as distillery manager from April. She has worked alongside McConnochie since 2017.



Laura Tolmie will take over as distillery manager "I couldn't be happier to hand over the reins to Laura, who is very well suited to continue to build the future of our skilled and passionate distillery team," McConnochie added. Tolmie has extensive experience in maltings and distilleries across Scotland, and has a background in chemical and process engineering. She said: "It's an absolute honour to be given the opportunity to be the custodian of these three stunning single malt distilleries, each with their own unique character and history and so highly regarded in the industry. "Combined with the passion and drive that the distillery teams have for the whiskies, I am extremely excited to be a part of the amazing futures of Benriach, Glenglassaugh and The GlenDronach."

---

## Premium spirits sales soar in US bars

22 APRIL 2022 *By Nicola Carruthers*

Drinkers in the US are trading up to more expensive spirits in bars, with the premium price tier taking a 40% share of on-trade sales, according to new CGA data for February 2022.



Super-premium and ultra-premium whisk(e)y sales jumped by triple digits



CGA's On Premise Measurement (OPM) service looked at how spirits performed by price tier across US bars and restaurants in February 2022, compared with the same month-long period last year.

The premium price tier of the spirits market took a 40% share of on-trade sales by value in February 2022, while super-premium brands took 18%.

Ultra-premium spirits had a 4% share, with sales soaring by 180% year on year. As such, the three premium categories now account for 62 cents in every dollar spent on spirits, CGA noted. However, CGA warned the shift towards premium is creating challenges for some spirit brands in the mid-priced bracket, which saw its share dip by 2% to 23% in February this year, compared with the same period in 2021.

Patrick Bannon, CGA client director, Americas, said: "Celebration and treat occasions are crucial to the US on-premise, and the data suggests that more and more consumers are looking for more premium offerings after two years of disruption from Covid-19.

"However, mid-priced brands still have a big role to play too, and beverage suppliers and operators that can respond to ever-changing tastes and preferences with the optimal spirits assortment will have a significant competitive advantage."

Looking at spirit categories, 50% of gin sales now come from the premium price tier, CGA found. Premium and super-premium segments have seen their sales skyrocket by 137% and 167% respectively in February 2022.

Meanwhile, super-premium Tequila's share of total sales has climbed from 28% to 32%, while the mid-priced tier's share has dropped from 32% to 28%.

Premium vodka has increased its share from 42% to 44%.

Whisk(e)y's super-premium and ultra-premium sales jumped by 163% and 165%, respectively, in February 2022.

Furthermore, CGA noted that brandy and rum – categories that have typically been dominated by mid-priced brands – have also made significant steps towards premiumisation.

Bannon added that CGA will continue to watch how this trend develops in 2022.

## Nc'nean launches first spring seasonal release

25 APRIL 2022 By Georgie Pursey

B Corp-certified whisky brand Nc'nean has launched the first release from its new spring series, called Huntress 2022.



Nc'nean's seasonal release is inspired by the Queen of Spirits, and fierce protector of nature, Neachneohain.

Inspired by the 'queen of spirits', Neachneohain, Huntress 2022 is the first expression to feature one of Nc'nean's yeast trials, which uses three different yeast varieties.

Founder Annabel Thomas said: "We've been talking a lot about sustainability recently, but now it is the turn of some of our spirit experiments to take the spotlight.

"Yeast is something I've been fascinated with since day one.

We've been running yeast trials every year, and this is the first one to be let loose in the world – it was a favourite of mine when I tasted the new make in 2018.

"We've used the same ratio of casks as our normal Nc'nean Organic, so you can really tell the difference the yeast has made. I can't wait to hear what people think."

One of the yeast strains used, Distila Max RM, is most commonly used in rum production and develops notes of tropical fruits, coupled with a rich minerality, bringing a new complexity to this whisky.

Distilled in August of 2018 on Scotland's western Morvern Peninsula, [this whisky was launched to coincide with Earth Day](#) (April 22) to reflect Thomas' mission to create a whisky that works in harmony with nature, by putting the planet first.

It was aged for three years in a combination of STR-Red wine and ex-Bourbon oak casks, and bottled at 48.5% ABV.

Last year, [Nc'nean became the first whisky distillery in the UK to be verified as having net zero carbon emissions](#) from their own operations (scopes 1 and 2).

The Huntress seasonal release is now available in the UK on ncnean.com and through select retailers priced at £85 (US\$109), with a limited run of 4,447 bottles.

It will be released over various dates (not yet confirmed) via Nc'nean's distributors in Germany, France, Belgium, the Netherlands, Italy, Denmark and Sweden.

## Whisky Review: Talisker 30 Year Single Malt Whisky

Jerry Jenae Sampson

Reviews, Scotch | April 24, 2022

*Editor's Note: This whisky was provided to us as a review sample by Diageo. This in no way, per [our editorial policies](#), influenced the final outcome of this review. It should also be noted that by clicking the buy link towards the bottom of this review our site receives a small referral payment which helps to support, but not influence, our editorial and other costs.*

When it comes to shelling out upwards of a thousand dollars for a Scotch whisky, I imagine it's imperative to know that the goods are worth the investment. This typically requires a previous knowledge of what makes a Scotch whisky valuable as well as a distillery with a well-established reputation, and [Talisker](#) is just that.

Many elements contribute to a [Scotch whisky's](#) value. One reason is import costs, as Scotch is not made in the U.S., and there are taxes, tariffs, shipping costs, and other fees that affect the final price of the product for the customer. Another factor to consider when it comes to price is the quality of ingredients as Scotch is made from barley, a more expensive product to work with. Other factors affecting the price of Scotch include the slower aging process and high levels of demand. And perhaps the most important, especially when it comes to a very old whisky like this one, is that a significant portion of the contents of a cask evaporates over the course of several decades.

Based out of Carbost, Scotland, on the Isle of Skye, Talisker is a single malt Scotch whisky distillery operated by spirit industry titans [Diageo](#). Established in 1830 by the MacAskill brothers, Talisker has gone through many transformations over its nearly 200 years of production, but one thing that hasn't changed is the consistency of the whisky that Talisker produces.

[Talisker 30 Year Single Malt Whisky](#) is a rare cask-strength expression and is non-colored and non-chill filtered. Lieke Hompes, the Global Marketing Manager for Talisker, says of the expression, "These bottles come from highly limited casks that were selected and set aside due to its unique profile. Each bottle holds an individual number and its vintage year making it the perfect opportunity to build a progressive collection." Cask strength Scotch is special, entirely unadulterated (not diluted with water), and offers purity of flavor and maturation.

Talisker 30 Year Single Malt Whisky is surprisingly lower ABV, coming in at 48.5%, and while it's not the higher proof cask strength common in the United States, I found that the levels of dilution were perfect, allowing for a broad range of flavors to emerge.



#### Talisker 30-Year-Old review

Tasting Notes: [Talisker 30 Year Single Malt Whisky](#)

Vital Stats: 48.5% ABV/750 mL. SRP \$999.99 (USD). American oak cask. Released 3,216 bottles globally/498 in the U.S.

Appearance: Lemon-yellow

Nose: The Scotch is peaty, smoky, beastly – like a cured meat. Then it opens up to the warm sweetness of dried fig.

Palate: The taste of vegetation, clover and bitter lemon peel, with coffee notes in the finish. The smokiness is surprisingly mellow and dry.

5 / 5

#### Summary

Absolutely perfect. I loved every moment of this tasting, and this comes from someone who isn't always in the mood for Scotch. Of all the higher priced Scotch whiskies, this 30 year is a treat that I'm honored to have been able to experience.



## Glengoyne launches The Spirit of Time travel-retail collection

Ian Macleod Distillers is launching an exclusive global travel retail range for its Highland single malt whisky brand Glengoyne. The Spirit of Time - Travel Exclusive Collection is being introduced in April as part of Glengoyne's global relaunch. Comprising three single malt expressions, the collection is presented in fully recyclable or reusable gift packs which bear the signature of Glengoyne distillery manager Robbie Hughes. Ian Macleod Distillers' global travel retail director, William Ovens, said: "We are delighted to introduce to global travel retail The Spirit of Time, a collection which captures the very essence of Glengoyne, Scotland's slowest distilled malt whisky."

The Spirit of Time collection includes: Glengoyne 10 Years Old First Fill Edition (46% ABV), a first for the brand focusing on first-fill bourbon and sherry casks; Glengoyne 15 Years Old Pedro Ximénez Cask Edition (48% ABV), a follow-up to the Glengoyne Pedro Ximénez Cask from the Spirit of Oak range, limited to 3,000 bottles a year; and Glengoyne 26 Years Old Limited Edition (46.8% ABV), exclusively matured in oloroso sherry casks and limited to 1,400 bottles a year.

As well as the introduction of the new collection, Glengoyne's global relaunch includes a refreshed brand identity, with an updated illustration of its namesake goose and subtle new design cues alluding to its connection to time.

The packaging for the Glengoyne 10 Years Old and 15 Years Old expressions is locally sourced, fully recyclable and free from plastic and magnets, while the Glengoyne 26 Years Old is presented in a wooden box with removable fittings and a plaque that can be replaced and personalised.

Ovens continues: "The Spirit of Time celebrates the role time plays in making whisky at Glengoyne Distillery, where for every minute other whiskies spend in stills ours spends three, all in the name of outstanding fruity flavour.

"This travel-exclusive collection gives consumers a unique opportunity to explore whiskies with time-honoured craft at the heart. As one of Scotland's greenest distilleries, it was also extremely important to us that our commitment to sustainability was reflected in the striking new packaging."

The Spirit of Time collection launches exclusively with Dufry in the UK from April.

20 April 2022 - Bethany Whymark



## Loch Lomond unveils new whisky pack designs

Loch Lomond Whiskies has unveiled a new livery for its range of spirits as it pursues greater international expansion.



The independent distiller says its bold new packaging underlines the ambitions of the brand, and its parent company the Loch Lomond Group, to grow its sales and presence internationally. Both the primary and secondary packaging have been redesigned, with the use of deeper colours and bolder fonts to improve on-shelf visibility, and a new contemporary bottle design with detailed embossing.

Loch Lomond has also undertaken work to update the pack copy, to reinforce its brand story and heritage and to highlight its signature flavour notes.

The new design will be rolled out across Loch Lomond's whole whisky portfolio, including its collection of three 12-year-old expressions, its limited-edition "The Open" whiskies, and its older-age single malts. The premium aged range has been updated with an elevated bottle style, with metalised labels, shoulder coins and heel embossing.

The new packaging will be rolled out across Loch Lomond's products in domestic, international and GTR channels from 20 April.

Colin Matthews, CEO of the Loch Lomond Group, said: "Since the founding of the business more than 200 years ago, the generations of people behind our brands have been doing things differently with great success.

"We continue to have this incredible ambition and passion to not only produce fabulous award-winning whiskies but to always be imaginative and innovative in our approach to creating exceptional whisky, and striking and relevant packaging has always been part of this.

"Over the past few years, we've seen very significant growth in our brand across the world, and as we look to continue to both excite existing consumers and engage new ones, both at home and abroad, it is important that our products stand out from the rest and clearly communicate our heritage, history, quality, brand story and signature style of fruit, honey and soft smoke. "This major refresh and investment is an important step in our continued growth strategy which underpins our position as an exciting, accessible and high-quality malt brand. It also supports our partners, and our sales and marketing teams, across the world as we continue to engage all consumers and build on our quality reputation and awareness across all markets."

22 April 2022 - Bethany Whymark



### The Macallan Estate Pioneers Experience returns

The Macallan Estate has announced the return of an immersive theatre experience telling the story of its rich heritage.

The Macallan Estate Pioneers Experience, incorporating live performance on the banks of the River Spey, is the first experience of its kind launched by a single malt Scotch whisky distillery.

It explores The Macallan's 485-acre estate and brings to life notable characters from its past. These include Captain John

Grant, the man who realised the whisky-making potential of the Easter Elchies Estate (home to The Macallan Distillery since 1824), and Roderick and Katherine Kemp, who took over The Macallan Distillery in 1892.

The outdoor experience launches on Saturday 16 July and will run until Sunday 7 August, with tickets available to purchase now at [www.themacallan.com](http://www.themacallan.com). As well as live performance, the three-hour experience will also see guests explore areas of The Macallan Distillery not usually open to the public, including Warehouse No 7, one of its oldest traditional dunnage warehouses.

Stuart Cassells, general manager of The Macallan Estate, said: "The Macallan Estate Pioneers Experience is one of the most exciting events in our calendar, and we're proud to announce its return for 2022. Last summer's run was a huge success, with plenty of fun along the way, and we're sure this year will be no exception.

"There is no finer way to delve into our fascinating heritage here at The Macallan, with the help of Debora Weston and a team of extraordinary actors from across Scotland."

22 April 2022 - Bethany Whymark



### The Glenlivet unveils Distillery Reserve collection

The Glenlivet has unveiled a new whisky range, the Distillery Reserve Collection, which launches with three iconic whiskies. The 10, 14 and 22 Years Old single-cask expressions are designed to showcase the Speyside distillery's finest craftsmanship.

In a first for The Glenlivet, each of the Distillery Reserve editions will be available for pre-order from [theglenlivet.com](http://theglenlivet.com). Ordinarily, such releases would only be available to purchase at the distillery.

The three expressions are bottled at cask strength without chill filtration. Each bottle in the collection has been individually numbered to identify the age, cask type and bottling date. New stylised labels have been designed for the collection, which aim to illustrate the journey of each expression before it was drawn from the cask.

The Glenlivet Distillery Reserve Collection 10 Years Old is taken from a first-fill sherry cask, with 849 bottles available. Also from a first-fill sherry cask and presenting with more mature flavours, the 14 Years Old is limited to a run of 700 bottles. Completing the trio is the 22 Years Old, from a first-fill American barrel, of which just 277 bottles will be available.

Linda Brown, brand home manager at The Glenlivet, said: "Usually, these limited-edition collections would be available only to guests visiting the distillery in person. However, we've taken this opportunity to make them available for pre-order through our website for advocates and collectors of The Glenlivet across the world.

"The rare collection celebrates the best the distillery and Speyside has to offer and is a testament to the rich, bold flavours our makers can achieve. The Distillery Reserve Collection offers something truly unique in terms of taste, quality and experience."

11 April 2022 - Bethany Whymark

## GlenAllachie unveils Spirit of Speyside 2022 whisky

27 APRIL 2022 By Alice Brooker

Speyside distillery GlenAllachie has debuted an exclusive whisky for the Spirit of Speyside Festival, plus three single cask bottlings for the UK.



L-R: The 11YO, 15YO, 9YO, and 10YO single cask bottlings  
The Spirit of Speyside Festival will run from 27 April to 2 May this year.

The Spirit of Speyside 2022 bottling from the brand has been named The GlenAllachie 15-Year-Old Cask #3292 Ex-Solera Oloroso Butt. Meanwhile, three other bottlings have been selected for the UK specialist retail channel, making up Batch 6 from the producer.

All new whiskies rolled out by the brand, including the Speyside exclusive, were hand-selected by master distiller Billy Walker. He commented: "At GlenAllachie, we are deeply passionate about sourcing unique and innovative casks, particularly from premium, niche producers. Each of these casks selected reflect this; from the French fine wine barrique to the antique Sherry butt, which dates back to the middle of the 20th century, each brings considerable character and charm to the table.

"We now look forward with great delight to welcoming whisky fans from across the world to our hidden gem for the Spirit of Speyside Festival, with these spectacular drams getting the limelight they deserve."

Clocking in at 59.4% ABV, the Spirit of Speyside 2022 whisky was aged in a Bourbon barrel, before being decanted into a first-fill oloroso puncheon. This was followed by being re-racked into an antique oloroso Sherry butt, previously used as part of a solera system for 55 years.

The single cask expression will only be available to purchase from the brand's distillery shop for RRP £175 (US\$220). Meanwhile, Batch 6 comprises: The GlenAllachie 11-Year-Old Premier Cru Classé Barrique; The GlenAllachie 10-Year-Old Tawny Port Hogshead; and The GlenAllachie 9-Year-Old Peated Bourbon Barrel.

The Premier Cru Classé Barrique is bottled at 59.9% ABV, and has been matured in a cask that previously matured Bordeaux red wine before holding the GlenAllachie spirit for 11 years.

The resulting whisky boasts flavours of Turkish delight, cinnamon stewed apples and summer berries.

The 11-year-old will be available for RRP £100 (US\$125).

Meanwhile, the 10-year-old Port hogshead bottling was matured in a cask that previously held vintage Tawny Port, and is bottled at 56.5% ABV. The expression delivers a fruity flavour profile, and will retail for RRP £95 (US\$119).

Finally, to make the nine-year-old, which rests at 60.1% ABV, peated spirit was filled into an ex-Bourbon barrel.

The cask has imparted notes of burnt sugar and root ginger on the whisky. It will retail for RRP £90 (US\$113).

Batch 6 will be available across the UK from the week commencing 2 May.

Earlier this month, GlenAllachie [added two core whiskies to its portfolio](#), an eight-year-old and a 15-year-old.

## Macaloney's renames whiskies after SWA dispute

27 APRIL 2022 By Melita Kiely

Trade body the Scotch Whisky Association (SWA) and Canadian whisky maker Macaloney's Caledonian Distillery have settled a lawsuit over the latter's name.



Macaloney's Caledonian Distillery will rename its whiskies  
In March 2021, the SWA [filed a civil lawsuit](#) against MacMhaol-onfhaidh (Macaloney) Brewers & Distillers, the owner of Macaloney's Caledonian Distillery & Twa Dogs Brewery in British Columbia, Canada.

The SWA accused the producer of breaching Scotch whisky's geographical indication (GI) by using words associated with Scotland on its bottlings.

The trade body objected to the use of the words 'Caledonian', 'Macaloney', 'Island whisky', 'Glenloy' and 'Invermallie' on the distiller's products.

The dispute has now been settled, and Macaloney's Caledonian Distillery has agreed to rename its products.

A joint statement from the SWA and the Canadian producer said: "Macaloney Brewer & Distillers Ltd and the Scotch Whisky Association have resolved their dispute after reaching agreement on the re-labelling of Macaloney Brewer & Distillers' Canadian whiskies."

Macaloney's Caledonian Distillery was [established in 2016](#). It produces Canadian single malt and triple-distilled pot still whiskies, made using traditional Scottish and Irish methods. The distiller originally said it 'strongly' disagreed with the SWA's lawsuit, and claimed to have never used the Scotch GI on its products.

Macaloney's Caledonian Distillery argued the name was a nod to the founder's surname, Macaloney. Furthermore, it claimed Caledonia was importuned to the brand's story because of the founder's heritage and home in British Columbia, which was originally called New Caledonia by settlers in the early 19th century.

In February this year, the Canadian producer contemplated [filing a trade complaint against the SWA](#) after it prevented the company from distributing its products in Germany.



---

## World's biggest Scotch heads for auction

28 APRIL 2022 By Nicola Carruthers

The world's largest Scotch whisky bottle, containing 311 litres of a 32-year-old Macallan single malt, will go under the hammer at the end of May.



The Intrepid is the world's biggest whisky bottle at 180.3cm. Edinburgh-based auction house Lyon & Turnbull will offer the bottle, named The Intrepid, during a live online sale at 12pm GMT on 25 May.

The Intrepid was officially certified by Guinness World Records in September 2021. The 5ft 11 vessel contains the equivalent of 444 standard 700ml bottles.

The record was previously set by a 228-litre bottle of The Famous Grouse whisky in 2012.

After maturing in two sister casks at The Macallan's Speyside warehouse for 32 years, the 43% ABV liquid was bottled last year by independent bottler Duncan Taylor Scotch Whisky. The auctioneer said The Intrepid could break the world record for the most expensive bottle of whisky sold at auction, which is currently documented at [US\\$1.9 million for a Macallan 1926 bottle](#).

Colin Fraser of Lyon & Turnbull, who will lead the auction, said: "I'm sure there will be significant global interest in the auction of The Intrepid, a unique collection spearheaded by the record-breaking bottling standing at an incredible 5ft 11 inches tall. "Bidders will have the chance to buy a piece of Scotch whisky history. They will become the owners of an exclusive 32-year-old single malt Scotch from what is widely regarded as one of the world's best distilleries, The Macallan."

For any amount the sale achieves above £1.3m (US\$1.6m), a quarter will be donated to the Marie Curie charity.

The Intrepid is named in honour of the record-breaking achievements of 11 of the world's most pioneering explorers who are featured on the bottle.

The bottle design includes Sir Ranulph Fiennes, Sir Robin Knox-Johnston, Dr Geoff Wilson, Karen Darke MBE, Olly Hicks, Sarah Outen MBE, Dwayne Fields, Levison Wood, Felicity Aston MBE and past Scottish Adventurers of the Year Jamie Ramsay and Will Copestake.

To commemorate this significant event, a small number of exclusive bottle sets were also produced. These comprise a collection of 12 bottles, each filled with the remaining 32-year-old Macallan whisky from the same casks used to fill the 311-litre bottle.

Each set includes a replica of the main bottle design, along with individual versions dedicated to each explorer.

---

---

## The Glenturret – New Regime

[MARK JANUARY 15, 2021](#)



It's an interesting exercise to scan down a brand's Instagram feed. More often than not, it's a neat idea of how they consciously – or unconsciously, sometimes – wish to present themselves. Perhaps, like our own clothing, such a digital feed tends to suggest who we are, what we are, our status, or job; these images reflect *personality*. Sometimes a very noticeable thing occurs: the images change their style completely – a new campaign, a new direction, a new brand agency at the helm. But with the distillery in question today, it isn't just the imagery that has changed style, but everything in the frame, including the whisky and the bottle it's housed in. A total makeover. [A new regime has begun at the Glenturret.](#)

There would be more than the whiff of a young [Citizen Smith](#) to instantly barge in at this point and declare capitalism has gone mad, the quality of whisky will take a nosedive, it just isn't the same as it used to be etc etc etc. I'm sure some may lament that whenever a whisky distillery overhauls itself it's a sign of the end times. [We fear change](#) etc.

Without a doubt, a brand's whisky can get more expensive when a new owner breathes new life into a distillery, but show me a whisky that has gone *down* in price in recent years. This is also, more often than not, the occasion when armchair experts kindly gift us their opinions on marketing to declare that any price increase is there to cover the costs of the designer... which is not at all how money flies about the whisky business.

A new bespoke glass bottle will probably set you back in the region of £100,000, when you factor in the designs, sure; but the industrial moulds are 50% of that initial cost simply to be able to manufacture a bottle – it doesn't appear out of thin air. A single day's run on glass at the factory tends to be for a minimum of 30,000 bottles (that's what they make in a day, furnaces and molten glass don't really negotiate on time) and the unit cost is anywhere between £1-1.50, which you would need to pay for an off-the-shelf bottle anyway, just without the additional mould and design work.

Assuming you have distribution in place, you'll need significant quantities to ease into several dozen markets, enough to provide a steady flow so that gaps don't appear on the shelf, which means significant quantities – hundreds of thousands of bottles. You'll probably need to have three or four days to run the glass through the furnace (more if you wanted a different size, like 75cl for USA and South Africa). Plus the label costs, box costs, case costs, cork costs, and... you get the idea. You're already knocking on the door of half a million quid to be able to get something out there at decent scale.

Suddenly paying a designer a few quid at the start isn't so spicy in the grand scheme of things. (I don't know how much Lalique decanters cost to make, however, but they're not cheap to buy.) What I mean by all of this, is that the whisky business is an

expensive one when it comes to setting up shop; the brand work is a minor part of that, and notice I haven't even mentioned the alcohol distillation costs yet, the staff wages to make the whisky, let alone the vast sums of advertising and promotional money required to get that bottle in front of your eyes.

And the very fact that a bottle is in front of your eyes at all means someone, somewhere, somehow, paid for it to be there. None of this is a crime, of course; it is just life. The cost of making a brand stand out – creating that intriguing proposition to catch people's eye in a very cluttered marketplace, with new brands rising up with compelling concepts every five minutes – is to avoid the cost of failure, where ultimately good people might lose their jobs. I'm sure you'll agree, that is not anything to celebrate at any point, let alone during a pandemic. So to rebrand, like the Glenturret have done, is a serious business.



Which means I'm actually quite impressed when someone goes whole-hog into things, a total makeover, and I was very intrigued to observe the Glenturret step into this new era. From what I can see so far, this includes new whisky assemblages, new bespoke bottle design, new livery, new restaurant driven by Michelin-star ambitions. Restaurants are becoming an ever-more important part of the distillery scene, particularly for those on the tourist trail – [Wolfcraig, a new distillery](#), is planting itself on a prime spot for just this purpose.

Whisky is no longer, for many distilleries, about just making spirit, but rather about a package of offers: membership to a club, fine dining, tourism and cask sales (so, people becoming an investor), all in addition to the whisky. It's a bit more highbrow than the packet of fudge and a free Glencairn of yesteryear. Sure, in some places, the whisky begins to feel like an afterthought on such a menu, but it will be possible to do all of these things very well.

We're living through the great transition, in slow motion, of the whisky industry. As an entirely new generation of drinkers is brought into the fold, fresher and more diverse faces, not just tastes but cultural expectations change. For the drinker of yesteryear, the above probably sounds disappointing; to the drinker of tomorrow, to *not* offer several of the above will be a let-down. We must therefore be receptive to changing times. For the Glenturret, their project has taken a little while; the new regime takes an awfully long time and a lot of effort, and no doubt the pandemic hasn't helped in logistics. The [distillery was purchased by the Lalique Group](#) – well, a 50% stake – back in the spring of 2019, two years ago nearly. Plans were to increase production, create additional new decanters (handy, being part-Lalique), construct a new visitor centre, hire ex-Macallan guru Bob Dalgarno as blender and more – and they're well on the way. It wasn't much of a gambit to ditch the old bottle livery, which possessed a somewhat quotidian feel. It was inoffensive, the sort of thing that appeals to everyone and, in my mind, no one. A hint of rustiness, old-world sensibilities. Ironically that itself was [a fairly recent rebrand](#) so what we have today is the *rebrand of a rebrand*. Questions: was the old one clearly not working in its job to speak out to drinkers? Was this the new ownership

firmly putting its new stamp on things? Both, I'd wager, in equal parts.



From the old to the Lalique is quite the leap, but the decanter pictured here is just an alternative spin on the main show, the new bespoke bottle made from commercial-grade glass, which is also shown at the top of this article. At this point, a few of you at the back will no doubt spark into life to boldly declare that you're immune to design, that only you and perhaps the Dalai Lama are able to fully understand the meaningless of branding. But for the rest of us mortals, whether we are in control of the thought or not, aesthetics *do* matter, all the time. We make snap judgements on appearance without even knowing it; we are walking talking floppy disks full of files saved over our lifetimes that we load up – consciously or otherwise – to make value judgements on *everything*.

I confess: I was less inclined to really talk about Glenturret's whisky recently *until* the rebrand. The previous aesthetics were a bit of an also-ran, their online content was 50% cats, *seriously*, which I'm fine with being a cat man, but I was never moved to really sniff out their whiskies. The new designs have caught my attention firmly.

The bottles *are* striking. At first, the aura of art deco didn't compute; it felt a bit too retro, a nod to the drinks tray of yesteryear, and there was a dissonance between that and the distillery positioning of being the "oldest". The agency behind the design was [Appartement 103](#), based in Paris, though the bottle itself – according to the stamp on the base of the bottle,



was designed by Lalique. Plenty of nice nuances from whoever actually brought this all together, one can tell a bit of *thought* has gone into it. The embossed coat of arms seems to be the only nod to the distillery's history, and the bottle is clearly look at home on a sideboard rather than locked in a cupboard. A large front label (*take note, Adelphi*) gives a lot of opportunities to communicate different things at different scales, and will no doubt be a good platform for spin-off ranges such as for travel retail and special editions, whilst retaining overall design consistency, and a coherent architecture rather than a mess. I find white a *touch* bland these days. But the more I stare at it, the more I admire it. The bottle is a grower. It feels nice in the hand. What will the typical whisky drinker think of it? Well, if she does exist (for I think the community has totally fractured now with radically different palates and preferences – there is no typical drinker, not by a long way), she might think it is at least refreshing. She might think it is a gamble. And in my mind, difference is to be welcomed.

Elsewhere, the Glenturret is keen to make the most of its brand collaboration with Lalique, which I suppose is something of a sister brand anyway, and the [first of those rather inaccessible whiskies](#) has recently been released. That crystal-encased whisky costs the better part of £10,000. I sense many old timers holding their nose at that, but I suppose these whiskies are really about attention, association, promotion, as much as something collectable to own.

Do you remember those hyper-expensive The Dalmore whiskies in Harrods years ago? Bottles lasting on the shelf for far, far too long, eventually selling after *four whole years* to a young [Chinese collector](#)? But The Dalmore brand will have benefitted from all of the associations to grow its share of the ultra-premium whisky market in that four-year period. The brand halo positively glowed under its gathering dust, and perhaps the single malt genre itself benefited from this added allure. We've seen skyrocketing interest during that period; more money, more options, more customers with more wallet sizes. A few more jobs might even have been created in the process – that's not a bad thing. I'm no apologist for this sort of pricing, but given this period was the heart of the Syrian conflict I found it hard to get too upset about something that didn't affect me in the slightest.

Just like there are one or two more troubling things in the world right now, I'm not going to find negativity for a £10,000 Lalique thingy – it's there for a purpose, to make a targeted statement, create brand awareness with a new audience (which is possibly a world away from these fair pages) and elevate the brand as a whole. It's not to my tastes, sure. But I'm betting half of you wouldn't turn your nose up at it if you were gifted one.

By hiring an ex-Macallan whisky maker, an ex-Macallan marketing director in Ken Grier, and by putting out a whisky in a Lalique decanter – itself [right out of the Macallan playbook](#) – the strategy is perhaps a bit *too* obvious. It wouldn't work for every distillery, though many will try. Only time will tell if it can work; I'm almost certain that in time it will.

Anyway, back to Glenturret's more accessible range, which has also recently begun to appear on shelves for us mere mortals. My notes, then JJ jumps in... the Triple Wood will set you back [£51.49](#) via Master of Malt, or [£47.45](#) from The Whisky Exchange, who also stock the Peat Smoked for [£52.45](#) and the 12 year old for [£64.95](#).

## Glenturret 12 Year Old – 2020 Maiden Release – Mark's Review

Colour: deep copper.

On the nose: very alluring. And, dare I say it, very Macallan... Classic warming dried fruits, at the lighter end with sultanas and raisins, a few redcurrants tucked underneath. Toffee apple, bread and butter pudding. Camphor, sandalwood, old school-room desks. Cranberry sauce.

In the mouth: lovely texture, with warming wood spices (you wouldn't want much more) and lashings of those dried fruits. A little coffee bitterness, salted caramel. Things fade a little on the back end, the finish just leaves warming cloves and pepper, hints of blackcurrants, with some herbal notes, thyme. Perhaps a little sour or bitter on the finish, with bitter dark chocolate. Nicely autumnal. It feels very *polished*. It has class.

Snap Conclusion

Go out (well, stay in, Covid etc) and buy this. It's excellent. A lovely, warming everyday dram, great for 12 years of age. If you thought Macallan was losing its edge, step this way (though I suspect fans of the Edition series will like this a lot.)

Glenturret folk would be very interested too.

## Glenturret Triple Wood – 2020 Maiden Release – Mark's Review

Colour: amber.

On the nose: a hint of funk, light, fresh, yeasty, but it's quite harmonious with the rest. Simple, vanilla led (the American oak feels more dominant in that sense). Pears, quite honeyed and mead-like, with some dried apricots and old roses.

In the mouth: plenty going on for the ABV (I do tend to think 43% is quite stingy these days), though it does lack presence somewhat. Some gentle warmth, though it's not spicy – Assam tea, no more, along with stem ginger in syrup, lime juice. Honey and vanilla again, with Malted Milk biscuits and a slither of lemon meringue pie. Quite a short finish.

Snap Conclusion

Pleasing, but rather a gentle affair. A lot more could be gained by increasing the strength, without losing much on margins. I'd say plump for the 12 year old, without a doubt.

## Glenturret Peat Smoked – 2020 Maiden Release – Mark's Review

Colour: pale gold.

On the nose: A little lavender note, perhaps laundry detergent, which is lost to the smoke and becomes very citrusy, woody and vanilla. I'd say hints of tea, something mossy and vegetative rather than sweeter smoke and a pleasing meatiness of bacon fat.

In the mouth: a breakfast of Rose's Lemon & Lime marmalade smeared over wholemeal toast, followed by a cigar. Silky texture still – one of the consistencies among all three is the pleasing oily texture. Bitter dark chocolate with coffee; fried mushrooms; lot of spiciness, cloves and coriander warmth on that tobacco finish.

Snap Conclusion

Not quite as harmonious, a little too savoury for peat, but that's totally a personal preference for me. It's certainly good fun and worth a punt at £50 a bottle, especially for the usual blind tasting lols it would bring.

## Glenturret 12 Year Old – 2020 Maiden Release – Jason's Review

Colour: worn copper.

On the nose: a lovely blend of sherry influence, fudge notes and apples – each in poised tandem. A Red Velvet Cake, soft red grapes, honeycomb and malted loaf. A gentle waft of molten chocolate, the richness of gravy and marzipan. Also, some warmed hazelnuts and tobacco.

In the mouth: more fudge and a touch of smoke, chocolate once again and leathery sherry-dynamic. Some earthiness mixed up with nutmeg, sultanas and Muscovado Sugar. Very drinkable, effortlessly enjoyable and a touch luxurious in places.

Score: 7/10

## Glenturret Triple Wood – 2020 Maiden Release – Jason's Review

Colour: rubbed brass.

On the nose: thankfully not sherry heavy and nicely balanced with some style even at 43%. Yeah, red fruits and the sherry poking through occasionally, but its more apples, honey and figs with vanilla. Nicely orchestrated. Butterscotch, orange, marzipan and a touch of rubber just to ground it all. Strawberry jam as well. A splash of water releases tobacco and more jam.

In the mouth: now it does suffer a touch at 43% here, but it dampens down any enthusiastic casks. There's some woodiness, tangerine and lemon. Grated ginger, kumquat and cranberry with raspberry tea. More jamminess and a touch of leather on the finish. Adding water brings out more smokiness.

Score: 6/10

## Glenturret Peat Smoked – 2020 Maiden Release – Jason’s Review

Colour: a golden sunset.

On the nose: yeah there’s peat, of an earthy variety. At first, it is ferocious, but time allows it to dissipate, giving rise of caramel, damp wood and black pepper. Sugar Puffs, honey roast ham, bruised apples and a metallic burnt note. Toffee apples, creamy and zesty with some burnt ginger and praline. Returning later, some kindling, maple syrup and plums.

In the mouth: all that peaty tar and embers you’ll enjoy with moss and sooty flavours. Chip fat, apple puree and raw pastry dough. This has more to say than several of the big-name Islay’s I’ve had recently. Cracked black peppercorns, beef stock, Yorkshire pudding – I’m thinking of that crispy initial bite and cloves on the finish.

Score: 7/10

### Jason’s Conclusions

It goes without saying that some of the recent new brands or relaunches we’ve seen have been somewhat underwhelming, slight *meh* and more often than not, more expensive. You’ll know the ones. But I’m surprised by these new Glenturret’s, mainly because they show that someone actually cares. After years of being treated like a second class citizen by Edrington, the distillery is showcasing its qualities in admirable fashion. The 12 is a classy thing, more Macallan in places than Glenturret, which depending on your point of view is a good thing, or maybe not? I’ve not had an official bottling as good since the 1980s release. Edition-like at times, mesmerising and thought-provoking for the remainder. Maybe this is *the* version before the quality slips in later batches? For now, you do have to check this out.

The branding isn’t for me entirely, but the bottles do have a robust and tactile aspect to them. The packaging is a little golfing tourist and takes me back to the distillery shops of the 90s. But what really stands out and delivers isn’t the glassware or the royal blue. No, it’s what that truly matters at the end of the day – the blending and quality of the liquid for a reasonable price. These showcase what can be achieved with care, attention, and possibly, a little love as well.

### Mark’s Overall Conclusions

Though I don’t score now (a numbers to emotion thing for me; doesn’t compute; back to the old days) Jason seems to be there or thereabouts with my sentiment, so we’re in agreement that the new regime at Glenturret is off to a good start indeed. These are good whiskies, simple as that, and I for one will be looking to explore the range further.

Of course, one can’t help wonder if it was the brief or of it’s just the signature ex-Macallan blender style, to create something that (peat aside) feels very, well... Macallan. There, I’ve said it. I should probably have rooted out some older Glenturret styles for side-by-side comparison – perhaps a later article. Bringing the old team back together makes me wonder just what a brand is in the first place; is it some mobile thing that is defined by the people who created it? Or the design, the image, the distillate, the associations? As marketers will tell you, a brand goes well beyond a logo; but a brand must stand for something *unique* in order to reach out to drinkers across the world, to have beliefs, not to not be afraid to do something bold.

Otherwise who’s going to pay for the glass?

## Glenturret reveals new core whisky line and redesign 17 SEPTEMBER 2020 By Nicola Carruthers

The Glenturret has unveiled a new core collection of Scotch whiskies and a refreshed look for the series, as it discontinues its previous range.



The new core Glenturret range features the founding family’s coat of arms

The Glenturret in Perthshire, which claims to be Scotland’s oldest working distillery, [originally planned to launch its rebrand in June](#). However, it was pushed back to September due to the coronavirus pandemic.

The new core range includes four expressions: Triple Wood, 10-year-old Peat Smoked, a 12-year-old and a 15-year-old. There are also two limited edition whiskies, a 25-year-old and 30-year-old.

The range was created by The Macallan’s Bob Dalgarno, who joined The Glenturret as whisky maker last year.

“I saw Glenturret as a great opportunity to work alongside an understated yet highly skilled team who influence the creation of the distillery new make spirit as only their hands can,” said Dalgarno.

‘Alongside this was the challenge of creating a new range of whiskies with a different cask and character profile. Building on previous experiences and having the freedom to influence and develop, respecting the history whilst writing new chapters was a perfect fit.’

Ian Renwick, distillery manager at The Glenturret, said Dalgarno’s appointment was a “recognition of the scale of our ambition and a testament to our transformative work over the past eight months”.

The new range is also the first [under the distillery’s new owner, Glenturret Holding](#), a joint venture formed in April 2019 between luxury goods company Lalique Group and Swiss entrepreneur Hansjörg Wyss, Lalique’s second-largest shareholder. The Glenturret, home to The Famous Grouse Experience, was previously owned by Edrington and was sold in December 2018. John Laurie, managing director of The Glenturret, said the rebrand had been in development for more than a year. He explained: “You only get one chance at a first impression, even though the distillery is the oldest working distillery in Scotland, in recent memories and during the recent boom in the global single malt market, The Glenturret brand was a subsidiary to The Famous Grouse Experience.

“This for all intents and purposes has made us the oldest new kid in town. This strange background has added a complexity to our launch plans, we needed to create a brand vision that was relevant to today whilst respecting our unparalleled history and heritage.”

Each expression comes in a new, heavier rectangular bottle with a broad shoulder to embody The Glenturret’s “elegance and stature”. The packaging also carries The Glenturret crest, which was inspired by the Murray family’s coat of arms. The Murray



family founded the distillery and has played a key role in The Glenturret over the past 250 years. The Glenturret's previous range, which includes the Triple Wood, Sherry Cask, and Peated bottlings, has been discontinued. A small amount of remaining stock is available for retailers. The original new make spirit is still used to make the refreshed range.

#### Core range

The new Glenturret Triple Wood (43% ABV) has been aged in three casks: American, Sherry and Bourbon. It has notes of sweet fruit and caramel, ginger cake and vanilla. It is priced at RRP £47 (US\$61).

The Glenturret 10 Years Old Peat Smoked offers fresh citrus fruit, vanilla and light spice, along with sea salt and heather. It is bottled at 50% ABV and priced at RRP £52 (US\$67).

Meanwhile, the 12-year-old whisky is described as having notes of rich fruit cake, walnuts, sweet apple, ginger, and lemon tea. It has an ABV of 46% and is priced at RRP £60 (US\$78).

The 15-year-old expression (55% ABV) offers vibrant lemon zest, toffee apple and spice. It is priced at RRP £110 (US\$143).

Limited to 204 bottles, the 25-year-old brings notes of fruit sponge, lemon and caramelised apple. It also has layers of cinnamon and vanilla, soft oak and ginger. It is bottled at 44.5% ABV and priced at RRP £980 (US\$1,271).

Finally, The Glenturret 30 Years Old offers tropical fruit, vanilla, green apple, pear and oak. It is bottled at 45.7% and limited to 750 bottles, priced at RRP £1,600 (US\$2,000).

The new Glenturret range will be available at select hotels, restaurants, bars and retailers across a number of markets including the UK, France, Germany, Netherlands, Switzerland, Australia, New Zealand, China and Taiwan. It is also available to buy online from The Glenturret website.

The Glenturret also hopes to open its renovated visitor centre in December this year. Laurie also said there may be an additional product launching at the end of the year.

The distillery aims to produce 215,000 litres of alcohol this year with the capacity to produce 500,000 litres annually in the future. Renwick is currently working on a project looking at the best way to achieve the expanded capacity while preserving the site's traditions and spirit character, and taking into consideration the environmental impact.

notified the original owner it had been maturing in the warehouse, patiently climbing in value.

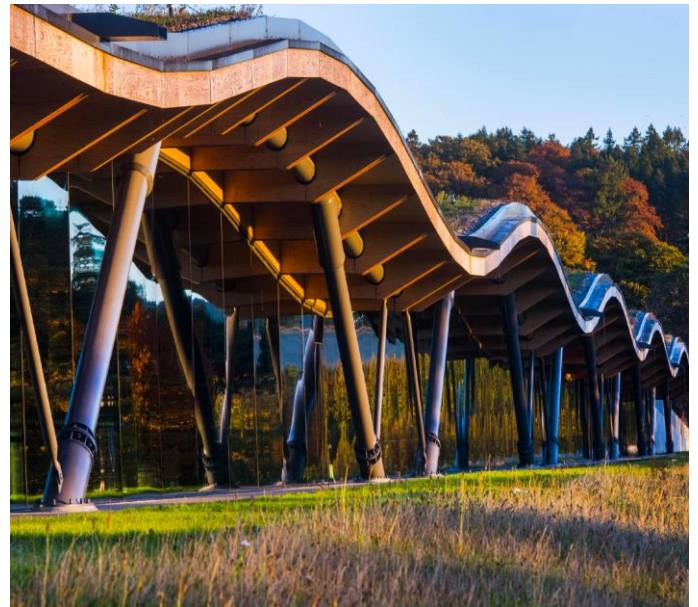


Image: Getty

Sold via *The Whisky Hammer*, the online auction was finalised on Sunday, with a private buyer from the United States winning the 374-litre refill butt. The official price including a buyer's premium came the £1,007,050.00, hurdling the existing auction record for a cask, set at £444,000 in 2019.

"When this cask was listed in our auction, we knew it had the potential to make history," Daniel Milne, Whisky Hammer managing director said. "To come across a cask of this age, quality and size is extraordinary in itself, enhanced by the fact the liquid was distilled at The Macallan, which is reflected in the global attention the cask has attracted."

Inside the cask, you'll find a rich amber-gold liquid complete with a yellow halo. Remarkably, The Whisky Hammer even released some tasting notes for this million dollar marvel. According to the auction house, The Macallan – 1988 Refill Butt #4180 arrives with an "exciting, yet reassuring" nose of salted caramel drizzled chocolate brownie. With notes of sweet yeasted rolls drenched in honey, barley sugar florals and chocolate ice cream, the whisky also has a background of fresh orange marmalade described simply as "mesmerising".

On the palate, the whisky is said to deliver waves of sweetness, a regal spice mix of nutmeg, ginger and ground coriander, over a wash of ginger perkin biscuits. The long finish of honeycomb, sweet orchard fruits is also contrasted by the influence of dry oak.

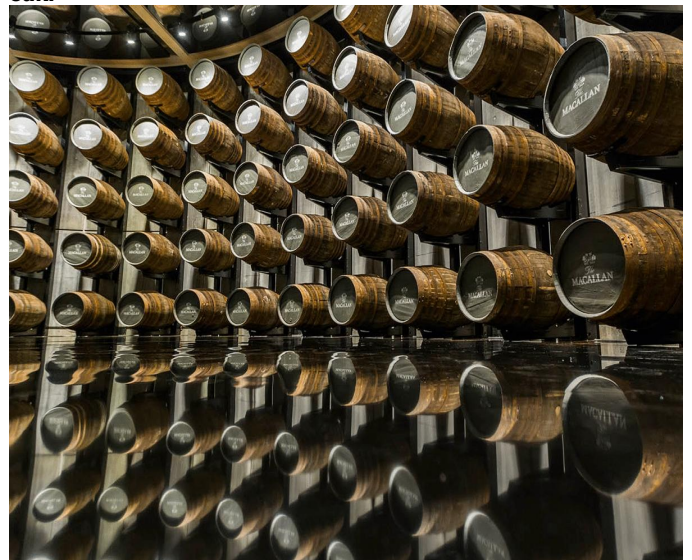


Image: Getty



## 'Forgotten' Macallan Whisky Barrel Smashes \$1.5 Million Auction Record

[SAM MANGIONI](#), 29 APR 2022 | NEWS

One lucky individual just hit the [whisky](#) lottery. A rare cask recently sold at [auction](#) for £1 million (AUD\$1.5 million) after being purchased in 1988 for just £5,000 (AUD\$7,500). While an incredible return on investment, the story gets even better – [The Macallan](#) cask bought by an ex-pat over three decades ago was completely forgotten about. That was until the distillery recently



The cask has the potential to provide 534 70cl bottles of single malt. This "per bottle" price of 1,907 from a cask also sets a new record. Known for purchasing some of the world's most valuable whiskies, the previous record-holder was also a cask of The Macallan. In November 2019, the Bonhams purchased the 30-year old reracked sherry hogshead, which contained 261 bottles. Featured frequently in the history books, The Macallan recently unveiled the world's oldest whisky – an 81-year-old expression called [The Reach](#). Limited to just 288 decanters, they fetch a whopping AUD\$174,000 each.

## Cotswolds Distillery unveils rum-influenced whisky

29 APRIL 2022 By Alice Brooker

English producer Cotswolds Distillery has released a limited edition single malt whisky matured in rum-seasoned ex-red wine casks, the third expression in the brand's Hearts & Crafts series.



The limited edition bottling clocks in at 55.6% ABV

The Hearts & Crafts collection celebrates the 'arts and crafts movement', an international movement which took place in Europe and North America between 1880-1920. It 'flourished' in the Cotswolds, and celebrated the importance of traditional craftsmanship, according to the brand. Founder Dan Szor said: "I've always loved a good sipping rum, but I've often felt let down by 'rum-finished' single malts. This wonderful new Hearts & Crafts bottling, however, really delivers."

The Rum Cask Single Malt Whisky has been aged in rejuvenated French oak ex-red wine casks seasoned with fine Caribbean rum. This has imparted notes of soft brown sugar and ripe pears on the 'well-balanced' expression. With baked apple and vanilla ice cream on the nose, the new release finishes with flavours of tropical fruit and orange peel.

"Our focus on full-term maturation, rather than finishing, and the use of high-quality French oak casks seasoned with Caribbean rum makes this whisky both finely balanced and immensely satisfying. It's quickly become my favourite dram."

All bottles are designed with a limited edition William Morris printed tube. Morris was a British designer renowned for his revival of textile arts and wallpaper designs.

The liquid clocks in at 55.6% ABV, and retails for RRP £74.95 (US\$94.08) per 700ml bottle. It can be purchased from Cotswolds Distillery.

Cotswolds Distillery recently saw a shake up of its team, with the appointment of Rob Patchett as its [first whisky brand ambassador](#), and the hire of Jeremy Parsons as its [new chief executive officer](#).

## Chivas to spend £88m on single malt expansion

29 APRIL 2022 By Nicola Carruthers

Pernod Ricard's Scotch whisky arm Chivas Brothers will invest £88 million (US\$110.5m) to boost production at its single malt distilleries.



The Aberlour distillery will see its production capacity double to 7.8m litres of alcohol annually

The multi-million-pound investment will see Chivas Brothers upgrade the Aberlour and Milntonduff distilleries in Speyside with sustainable distillation equipment.

The 'significant' expansion will also increase Chivas Brothers' total production by 14m litres of alcohol every year. Both sites are expected to be operating at full production capacity by mid-2025.

The move will help accelerate the company's aim of reaching carbon neutral distillation by 2026 through the installation of new bio plants with high-efficiency mechanical vapour recompression (MVR) fan technology for pot still distillation across both sites.

Last year, the company said it planned to roll out MVR technology across all viable distilleries by 2026, after a ground-breaking pilot project at its Glentauchers distillery led to energy reductions of 90% on a single pot still.

The Aberlour distillery will see its production capacity double to 7.8m litres of alcohol annually. This will help it to meet 'accelerating global demand' for the brand, described as the best-selling single malt in France. It had also made significant gains across Asia, the firm said.

The Aberlour site will also benefit from an upgraded visitor centre and a new still house with large windows.

Milntonduff's expansion will include the build of a state-of-the-art sustainable distillery next to the existing facility. The distillery, which will include a bio plant and evaporator, will add 10m litres of alcohol every year to the total production capacity.

The Milntonduff single malt is one of the core components of Ballantine's blends, as well as other blended whiskies in the Chivas Brothers portfolio. The upgrade will help boost Ballantine's pace of growth, with sales rising by 23% in the first half of the 2022 fiscal year, led by a new whisky range.

'Increased demand' [During the six-month period](#), Chivas Brothers reported a net sales increase of 23%, bringing the company above pre-Covid levels.

The company noted that the Scotch sector has seen 'growing global demand' with market gains in Latin America, the Middle East, Africa and Asia.

Jean-Etienne Gourgues, chairman and CEO of Chivas Brothers, said: "Scotch has demonstrated its resilience as a category over the past few challenging years and in the process has opened new avenues for growth. "This expansion will allow us to increase our volume to capitalise on the increased demand and interest in Scotch, but also supports our drive to reduce emissions in line with our sustainability ambitions.

"We're once again betting big on the future of Scotch so we can bring in new consumers to the category and continue to shape a sustainable future of whisky."



---

## Midleton Very Rare releases 47YO whiskey

03 MAY 2022 By Nicola Carruthers

Irish Distillers has unveiled the third expression in its Midleton Very Rare Silent Distillery collection – a 47-year-old whiskey priced at US\$51,000.



Midleton Very Rare Chapter 3 is limited to 97 bottles

The first expression in the range, a [45-year-old single malt](#), was unveiled in February 2020. It was followed by a [46-year-old bottling](#) last year. Pernod Ricard's Irish Distillers unit will launch one whiskey each year until 2025 as part of the Silent Distillery range, with each expression ranging in age from 45 to 50 years. The six-strong series is thought to be Ireland's oldest whiskey collection.

Chapter Three in the collection is a 47-year-old single pot still Irish whiskey matured in two casks – ex-Sherry butt and ex-Bourbon barrel. The resulting liquid offers a nose of forest fruits, sugar-glazed cherries and muscovado sugar, while the palate brings hints of 'dark roasted coffee and caramelised fruits with crushed pistachio and hazelnut'. The latest bottling is inspired by fire, dating back to 1854 when the largest pot still in the world was assembled at the Old Midleton Distillery and managed by 'fire men' who controlled the temperature.

[Master distiller Kevin O'Gorman](#) said: "Crafted from a marriage of distillations left to mature over 47 years in a hand-selected Bourbon barrel and a Sherry butt, Midleton Very Rare Silent Distillery Chapter Three is a wonderfully aged yet contemporary expression of Irish whiskey like no other.

"This year the inspiration of fire came from the world's largest pot still and the relentless work from the local men, the 'fire men' who used to feed the still's fires, whilst learning how to regulate the heat through stoking and raking to ensure the temperature was correct."

There are just 97 bottles of the whiskey available, with each bottling presented in a decanter made by Waterford Crystal and a wooden cabinet. The markings of the cabinet recall the flames that once warmed the old pot still.

Silent Distillery Chapter Three will be available to purchase via a ballot on the Midleton Very Rare 1825 room from today (3 May) until 10 May. It will be available to buy in the UK, Ireland, the US, France and global travel retail.

---

---

## Glen Scotia debuts its oldest Scotch

06 MAY 2022 By Nicola Carruthers

Campbeltown-based distillery Glen Scotia has released a 46-year-old single malt as its oldest whisky to date.



Glen Scotia 46 Year Old is the brand's oldest whisky to date. The 46-year-old expression was originally laid down in refill Bourbon casks and matured for 36 years before being re-casked in first-fill Bourbon barrels in 2011. It was finished for four years in oloroso Sherry butts. Glen Scotia's distillery manager and master distiller, Iain McAlister, said: "The release of the Glen Scotia 46-year-old is a toast and a thank you to the craft of all those who have come before us.

"It is an honour to pick up the mantle for the distillery and be able to unveil these rare few bottles, which are so full of the classic Glen Scotia and Campbeltown character."

The single malt is said to have tropical fruits, subtle maritime nuances and creamy notes that encapsulate Glen Scotia's signature character.

To mark its release, Glen Scotia has partnered with whisky writer Dave Broom to recount the story behind the whisky in a short film, shot at the distillery's dunnage with McAlister.

Broom said: "The whisky has the tropical fruit funkiness which only comes from long ageing in refill casks – evidence of that original intention of using it while young, filled with those Glen Scotia oils and salinity.

"The subtle, sweet, toffee elements mid-palate reflect the change in direction when mature, elegant single malts were desired, while the rich sultana-like fruit harks back to the late 19th and early 20th centuries, when Sherry casks were the preferred choice for Campbeltown's whiskies."

The whisky comes in a bottle made by Glencairn, along with a heavy metal stopper and a handmade oak display case. Only 150 bottles have been released worldwide.

Bottled at 41.7% ABV, the 46-year-old whisky is priced at RRP £6,750 (US\$8,338) per 700ml bottle. It is available for purchase from the Glen Scotia website and specialist retailers.

In April last year, the brand [released a 10-year-old expression](#) to celebrate the 2021 Campbeltown Malts Festival.

---

---

## Bruichladdich launches 10YO in Singapore

06 MAY 2022 By Alice Brooker

Islay distillery Bruichladdich has released 282 bottles of its 2011 Micro Provenance Cask No 0315 whisky in Singapore.



Bruichladdich's 10-year-old whisky clocks in at 65.2% ABV

It is the second release in Southeast Asia of the Micro Provenance series, and Singapore has been allocated one of the 20 single casks released across 10 countries in 2022. Comprising just 282 bottles, Cask No 0315 contains unpeated whisky aged for 10 years in second-fill Syrah barrels. Head distiller Adam Hannett said: "At Bruichladdich, my role is to guide and shape these whiskies to express their provenance and terroir, rather than try to wrestle the variation into a narrow yet consistent band of flavour."

Each year, Hannett hand selects the barrels for the Micro Provenance bottlings from 200 types that are resting in the distillery's coastal warehouse.

He added: "Experimenting with age, storage location, cask type, and other variables translates into the highly unique characteristics in our casks – full of character, flair and attitude."

Clocking in at 65.2% ABV, the 2011 Micro Provenance Cask No 0315 features label artwork of Singapore's national symbol, the red merlion head.

The 700ml whisky was bottled in November 2021, and will retail for RRP S\$268 (US\$193.52) through online retailer One Cellar, which is also offering a bundle limited to six sets.

The sets includes 700ml bottles of Bruichladdich The Classic Laddie, Port Charlotte 10 Year Old, Octomore 10 Year Old, Bruichladdich Micro Provenance Single Cask 0315, plus two complimentary limited edition ice moulds and two branded nosing glasses. Each set costs RRP S\$750 (US\$541).

To mark the exclusive release, the bottle will be available at a discounted price of RRP S\$255 (US\$184) for purchases before 18 May if consumers use the promo code BRUMPSG.

Additionally, Singapore-based bars including The Cooperage, The Writing Club and The Joint will have limited stocks available for consumers to taste.

The Cooperage will also offer a flight of Bruichladdich's single malt range of three expressions, featuring the Micro Provenance Cask 0315.

Earlier this year, Bruichladdich unveiled a [series of single malt whiskies](#) to celebrate Chinese New Year.

---

---

## Glengoyne concludes Legacy Series

06 MAY 2022 By Alice Brooker

Scotch brand Glengoyne has completed its Legacy Series with a third whisky that celebrates Sir Arthur John Tedder.



The Scotch whisky is bottled at 48% ABV

Chapter Three of the Glengoyne Legacy Series was created in honour of Tedder, an excise officer at the distillery said to have pioneered its 'unhurried' approach to whisky making.

The series was created to tell the stories of the people who have contributed towards shaping the distillery over the last two centuries. Barbara Turing, Glengoyne brand manager, said: "As our Legacy Series unfolds, each chapter represents an important part of our bold and unique history and as the final chapter, this provides a unique opportunity for consumers to complete the set of this limited release."

"Chapter Three is incredibly special and pays homage to Sir Tedder and the vital role he played in defining Glengoyne's commitment to unhurried excellence. Glengoyne Distillery is known for its dedication to craft and time, one which has led us to becoming an award winning Scotch whisky, and we owe so much to Sir Tedder for that."

Bottled at 48% ABV, the liquid boasts notes of creamy vanilla, spicy cinnamon aromas and flavours of mixed berries, apple strudel and pears. The non-chill-filtered bottling also delivers a light and fruity finish, which deepens with hints of pineapple, dried fruits, dark chocolate and lingering spice.

The 700ml bottle of Legacy Chapter Three is available globally, as well as through the distillery shop and website, for RRP £69.99 (US\$86.31).

The brand recently featured on our [top marketing moves](#) round-up, after it donated 100 unique bottles to an annual charity dinner for auction. All proceeds raised from the auction went towards motor neurone disease foundation My Name's Doddie.

---



---

## Glengoyne debuts its oldest Scotch

09 MAY 2022 By Nicola Carruthers

Ian Macleod Distillers has released a travel retail-exclusive 53-year-old Glengoyne single malt as the brand's oldest whisky to date.



Glengoyne 53 Years Old will debut with China Duty Free Group  
Glengoyne 53 Years Old will launch globally with China Duty Free Group (CDFG) this month and will then roll out to other luxury travel retail operators.

CDFG president Charles Chen said: "The addition of Glengoyne to our portfolio is very exciting and we relish the global launch opportunity to share Glengoyne 53 Years Old with whisky enthusiasts in the fast-growing single malt whisky market of China duty free, especially in Hainan.

"We expect much excitement through in-store and digital showcasing and we are delighted to be the launch partner for this iconic product."

Limited to 100 decanters, each bottle features an engraved goose to represent the migration of geese each winter.

The decanter comes with a 25ml miniature, housed in an oak display box that can be reused by removing the inner fittings.

The 53-year-old whisky has notes of red apple on the nose with hints of pecan, banana, coffee, plum, leather and pine needles. The palate offers notes of dried fruits, citrus, peach, oak, fudge and leather.

Bottled at 45.8% ABV, Glengoyne 53 Years Old has an RRP of US\$33,000 per 700ml.

The release of Glengoyne 53 Years Old marks the start of a 'highly strategic' relationship between Ian Macleod Distillers (IMD) and CDFG, which will include several launches and activations in the coming months. IMD global travel retail director, William Ovens, added: "We have agreed an exciting plan for the launch of several products across our malt portfolio and some of these very special products will be exclusive to CDFG."

Glengoyne recently [completed its Legacy Series](#) with a third whisky that celebrates Sir Arthur John Tedder.

The brand previously [released a 50-year-old](#) as its oldest whisky.

---

---

## Gordon & MacPhail releases 64YO whisky

09 MAY 2022 By Alice Brooker

Family-owned Gordon & MacPhail has unveiled a 64-year-old single malt as the second bottling in its Mr George Legacy series.



The 64-year-old can be purchased for RRP £6,000 (US\$7,399)

The new expression honours George Urquhart, a second generation member of the Gordon & MacPhail family.

Urquhart's grandson, Stuart, is the brand's operations director. He said: "In some industry quarters my grandfather was fondly thought of as slightly eccentric due to his relentless focus on maturation, painstakingly selecting the right cask to match with each particular spirit. "He was intrigued to know how long the whisky might take to reach its peak, and would have known he might not be around when that moment came. That is his legacy to our family and to whisky drinkers who love the rich complexity of the ultra-aged single malts he laid down decades ago." Only 298 bottles of Gordon & MacPhail Mr George Legacy 1957 have been made available.

The whisky celebrates George's 'long-term approach' to maturation, and has spent its entire maturation in a first-fill Sherry butt.

Urquhart added: "The latest release in the Legacy series comes from Glen Grant distillery, for which my grandfather had a particular affinity. Local to us in Speyside, Glen Grant was the first distillery to use a purifier in distillation which resulted in a lighter spirit.

"Back in the 1950s, the spirit would have been slightly smoky due to floor maltings and a small level of peat being used – which is a style rarely seen in today's modern Speyside whiskies – giving this whisky a charred oakiness that is perfectly balanced by long-term maturation in a Sherry cask made of American oak."

Clocking in at 56.1% ABV, Mr George Legacy 1957 retails for RRP £6,000 (US\$7,399).

On the nose, the liquid delivers aromas of fruitcake, festive spices, marmalade and treacle, while on the palate flavours morello cherries, tobacco and garden mint are presented.

It finishes with a 'explosion of flavours', followed by notes of spice, forest fruits and charred oak.

The distillery celebrated its 125th anniversary in 2020.

In January, Gordon & MacPhail [recruited Mhairi Winters](#) as the distillery manager for its new Cairn site.

---

---

## Loch Lomond extends Remarkable Stills Series

10 MAY 2022 By Alice Brooker

Scotch whisky producer Loch Lomond Group has unveiled a 46-year-old single malt as the second bottling in its Remarkable Stills Series.



Only 200 bottles are available of the 46-year-old whisky

Joining the 45-year-old in the Remarkable Stills Series, the new release is limited to 200 bottles globally. The 46-year-old whisky was crafted in homage to the distiller's straight-neck stills, and first distilled in 1974. Matured in American oak casks for 44 years, the whisky was then transferred to first-fill oloroso and Pedro Ximénez Sherry casks for two years. It has been bottled at 45.3% ABV.

Michael Henry, Loch Lomond Whiskies master blender, said: "It is our unique straight-neck stills which set us apart from other distilleries in Scotland.

"Often distilleries focus on the flavours created through cask influence alone, but at Loch Lomond Whiskies we use both the distillation and maturation process to create a distinctive signature style."

On the nose, the whisky presents hints of toffee and caramelised sugar, as well as floral notes of peach, mango and vanilla syrup. Meanwhile, the palate delivers flavours of pear, orange peel, cinnamon and clove spice. The finish is long with gooseberry, lime and nutmeg.

"The Loch Lomond Whiskies Remarkable Stills Series has been crafted in tribute to our unique whisky-making expertise and captures the passion and curiosity of our whisky-making team who have set out to explore flavour in our own unique way," added Henry.

"We set out to create new possibilities in whisky-making and as a result have created an exceptional collection of high-aged single malt whiskies which feature some of the rarest expressions we have ever released.

"Loch Lomond 46 Year Old showcases our ability to create imaginative flavour profiles, and perfectly captures the distillery's signature style which is characterised by extraordinary notes of fruit and honey."

The 46-year-old single malt is presented in a hand-crafted oak box with a copper centre. Retailing for RRP £4,500 (US\$5,544), each bottle is individually numbered.

---

---

## Elixir Distillers names Islay distillery

10 MAY 2022 By Georgie Pursey

Six months after breaking ground, Elixir Distillers has confirmed its new Islay distillery will be called Portintruan.



Portintruan anticipates it will start distilling from early 2024

Pronounced Port-nah-truan, the distillery takes its name from the historic farm estate where the distillery is located and means 'place of the stream'. It is located just outside the town of Port Ellen on Islay's south coast, and can be found on the way to the Laphroaig, Lagavulin and Ardbeg distilleries.

Co-owner Sukhinder Singh explained the vision for the distillery: "Elixir Distillers has always taken a flavour-led approach and this will be the Portintruan philosophy as well. We will be utilising a number of old-style production techniques which we believe will accentuate the depth and character of the spirit.

"A key part of the process will be using malt predominantly from our own floor maltings on-site, and we will be using direct-fired wash stills for the distillation.

"We plan to work with different phenol levels across the range, which will all have their own specific flavour profiles."

Portintruan will be adding an experimental facility within the site making it two distilleries in one. This will enable the team to produce rum as well as Scotch whisky.

Plans for the project also include 14 houses for Islay families working at the distillery, a visitor's centre, a bar and restaurant, a tasting room both overlooking the sea, and a multi-purpose educational facility which will serve as a base for an apprentice programme to train the next generation of distillers.

The Portintruan distillery aims to combine old-style production techniques with modern technology to improve process, quality and sustainability, which is one of the most important factors in Portintruan's plans, although distillery manager [Georgie Crawford](#) recognises there is a lot of work still to be done: "Working within what is currently possible on Islay, we want to be as green and as responsible as we can.

"We are talking to the Islay Energy Trust, our fellow distillers on the island and suppliers to ensure we take all opportunities to be greener. We are using the latest technology to implement a heat loop for our water usage to ensure the maximum amount is recycled and reused with the heat recovered for other processes.

"We're also using a bio diesel for our direct-fired stills which is the cleanest fuel we can currently source, and we're building the distillery so that it can use hydrogen power once that is available."

The distillery name has been announced [in time for Fèis Ìle 2022](#), the annual festival of whisky and music on Islay which will be held in person for the first time since 2019.

The festival runs from 27 May to 4 June and is set to welcome around 10,000 whisky-loving visitors to the island.



The Elixir Distillers team will be setting up two cabins on the distillery site to welcome Islay whisky enthusiasts wishing to see Portintuan in the earliest stages of its development. Portintuan is anticipating starting distilling from early 2024.

## The Dalmore plans distillery expansion

10 MAY 2022 By Alice Brooker

Whyte & Mackay has submitted a planning application to expand its single malt distillery The Dalmore.



The Dalmore's estate is based beside North Scotland's waterway at The Cromarty Firth

The project will see the distillery, based at its current estate at the Cromarty Firth, Scotland, expanded.

Whyte & Mackay is aiming to produce a new whisky-making facility and visitor experience through an capital investment programme.

Honouring the 'whisky-making artistry' of The Dalmore with the project, the character of the estate will be retained.

Whyte & Mackay is also hoping to secure a 'sustainable future' for The Dalmore Distillery, which aligns with the company's sustainability strategy The Green Print. The Green Print was published in 2021, with the aim of achieving net zero carbon emissions by 2040.

The investment will lead to the site transitioning to a 'green energy solution', according to Whyte & Mackay.

Threesixty Architecture has been appointed as the architects of the project, while whisky industry authority Forsyths are consulting on the process and the whisky-making aspect of the development.

In March, The Dalmore partnered with Block Bar to launch its [33-year-old single malt Scotch whisky](#) in the form of 223 NFT bottles.

Last year, the brand debuted its [30 Year Old 2021 Edition](#), the first bottling in a new annual series.

## Benriach debuts second Malting Season whisky

11 MAY 2022 By Nicola Carruthers

Speyside distillery Benriach has released the second edition of its single malt made entirely from barley malted at its floor maltings.



Benriach Malting Season Edition Two is made from concerto barley. The inaugural edition of Benriach Malting Season was [released in August 2021](#) and was described as the first bottling of its kind from the Brown-Forman-owned distillery in a century.

This new edition is made from concerto barley, chosen by master blender Rachel Barrie for its cereal flavour. The spirit was matured in 30 first-fill Bourbon casks in Benriach's dunnage warehouses, which were all distilled on 20 November 2013.

Stewart Buchanan, global brand ambassador at Benriach, said: "Passed from maltster to maltster throughout the generations, the highly skilled process of floor malting keeps a traditional part of the whisky making process alive, paying homage to Benriach's creative whisky making heritage."

"Each new edition of Malting Season will use carefully selected types of barley and bottling strength, making each annual edition one of a kind in their own right."

The resulting liquid has malt sweetness on the nose with barley sugar, mandarin, and white chocolate.

The palate leads to flavours of honeycomb infused with citrus and orchard apple, followed by a finish of fruit, malt and vanilla cream.

The single malt is available exclusively from the Benriach visitor centre in Elgin before being sold across global markets, including the US, from June 2022.

The second edition is bottled at 48.9% ABV and priced at RRP £99 (US\$122) in the UK.

Benriach [opened its first visitor centre](#) in May 2021 following a six-figure investment.

Alan McConnochie, manager of The GlenDronach, Benriach and Glenglassaugh Scotch distilleries, [retired last month](#) after 50 years in the whisky trade.

## Who Gets The Best Whiskey?

[Chuck Cowdery](#) - May 13, 2022

Consider this a thought experiment.

Let's say you have a whiskey distillery. You make a lot of whiskey. Most of it you sell through brands you own and distribute. Those are your most profitable sales, the ones that earn you the most money.

But sometimes you make too much whiskey, more than you need. That's a good strategy because when you distill whiskey you don't know exactly how much you will be able to sell all those years down the road when it matures. You make too much or risk making too little.

No problem. You can sell that surplus to a non-distiller producer (NDP) for one of their brands. You won't make as much money selling it that way, but you will make a profit. It won't be hard to sell. With new whiskeys appearing all the time, the NDP market is always hungry for good liquid.





George Dickel whiskey at rest in barrels (image copyright The Whiskey Wash)

Maybe selling whiskey in bulk is more than just something you do to dispose of excess stock. Maybe it is part or even most of your business. Maybe you have standing contracts with customers for regular deliveries of mature whiskey. Maybe you sell new make. Maybe you lay down whiskey at your own expense for sale on the spot market when it matures. Maybe you sell most of your output in bulk. Nevertheless, brand sales are more profitable than bulk sales so even if branded products are a small part of your portfolio, they will inevitably contribute a disproportionate share of your profits. That's why every commodity producer aspires to be a brand producer. It's natural. In business, one proven way to improve profits is to move up the value chain. It's the nature of the beast.

So that's the business you're in, now a little about you. You are an experienced whiskey-maker. You make the best whiskey you know how. Nothing goes out the door that does not meet your high standards. Your whiskey is excellent. You don't make bad whiskey. You don't sell junk. It's all good.

However, you know each barrel is unique. The barrel itself, the tree it came from, its location in the warehouse, the season it went into the warehouse, all those things make each barrel unique. When each barrel is unique, some barrels will be better than others.

In practice, distillers regard all barrels laid down on the same day and stored in the same part of the warehouse as the same, but even within those sets of 50-60 barrels, there are differences if you care to find them. As a distiller, you and your tasting panel make subjective judgments about your whiskey every day. All things being equal, the whiskey from some barrels is better than others. It could not be otherwise.

Here comes the thought experiment.

It is time to select which barrels you will use for your most profitable channel of distribution, where the labels have your name on them; and which barrels you will sell in bulk, where you make less money and the labels do not have your name on them.

Which channel gets your best barrels?

Remember this the next time you get all excited about some bottle you've never seen before, from some producer you don't know, that some retailer or buddy has just shoved in your face. The label is obtuse about where the whiskey was made. Maybe you pooh-pooh people who care about that sort of thing. "I don't care about that stuff, as long as the whiskey is good."

Exactly the point of this exercise, finding the best whiskey.

Not to say NDP whiskey is bad, or that whiskey from a known producer will always be better than whiskey from an unknown one. In fact, NDPs often get their hands on very good whiskey, or they are very good at combining whiskey from different sources into something greater than the sum of its parts. That's where the best NDPs shine.

But way too often, that cool label that caught your eye is just a marketing idea and the whiskey inside, while perfectly okay, is nothing special and not worth what they are asking.

NDPs have unique challenges because they are at the mercy of the market. Distillers are better off because they make everything they sell. Right now it's a seller's market for mature bulk whiskey and most contract producers are booked up. NDPs have to take what they can get and can't always get what they want from the distillers they want to get it from. That causes inconsistency. Both types of producer strive for consistency in their brands from batch to batch, bottle to bottle. Who do you think has better control of that, the distiller producer or the NDP?

As a whiskey consumer, if you like to spin the wheel and take your chances, more power to you, but as with any risk-reward scenario, there are ways to tip the balance in your favor.

The first is to be aware if the bottle you are looking at is from a known distiller producer or a NDP. With a known distiller producer you know what you have, no further inquiry is necessary. With a NDP, you might want to dig a little more, gather more data before you make a monetary commitment. If you can find out who the NDP is, maybe you can find out what else they make, and start to move them closer to known producer status.

A known NDP is a better bet than an unknown NDP.

Some NDPs make this easy by selling a wide range of products from many different sources under a common umbrella. Find one or several NDPs whose stuff you like and let them do the hunting for you. Barrell Craft Spirits and Proof and Wood Ventures are two good examples. With Barrell, Barrell is the brand. Proof and Wood has a variety of brand concepts but the company name is on the label. Good NDPs have web sites. Good NDPs tell you as much as they can about the whiskey they sell. Good NDPs are into whiskey, not celebrity endorsements, fancy packages, or phony backstories. This is a growing niche.

On the other hand, if the producer makes it difficult for you to find out who they are and what they had to do with the whiskey in the bottle, that should tell you all you need to know. Sure, happy accidents happen, but they are never a good bet. Give the cagey NDPs a pass.

There are no guarantees, but these are ways to improve the odds that you will get something new that you will like for a reasonable price. There is a fundamental difference between a known distiller producer and a known NDP, but a known unknown is better than an unknown unknown, as Don Rumsfeld might say.

## Thieves steal £100,000 worth of Glenfarclas whisky

16 MAY 2022 By Georgie Pursey

Speyside-based Glenfarclas Distillery was the victim of a break-in over the weekend, which saw thieves steal more than £100,000 worth of rare whiskies.



Glenfarclas was one of the first distilleries in Scotland to open a dedicated visitor centre in 1973

The distillery's visitor centre was broken into in the early hours of Sunday morning. A post published by the family-run distillery on Instagram said: "The thieves clearly knew what they wanted as they smashed the cabinets and cleared out all the older and most valuable Family Casks and a bottle of a 60-year-old, leaving destruction behind."

The Family Casks is a collection of the distillery's finest single casks with vintages from every year since 1954.



The Instagram post shows pictures of smashed glass cabinets, which had been emptied of the rare bottles on display. The caption on the post concludes: "We would ask if you have any information related to this crime or are offered these bottles to please get in touch with us immediately."

As of Monday morning, the post has been shared 1,400 times across social media, with users branding the crime as a "despicable act". In January this year, a spokesperson for Chivas Brothers confirmed that Aberlour Distillery, also based in Speyside, had suffered a break-in of its visitor centre over the winter break, with many high-value bottles stolen. Last month, Glenfarclas opened entries for [the third edition of its 105 Cask Strength Cocktail Competition](#) in the UK.

## Fred B Noe Distillery names Freddie Noe master distiller

16 MAY 2022 By Melita Kiely

The James B Beam Distilling Company has appointed Freddie Noe as the eighth-generation master distiller of the Fred B Noe Distillery.



L-R: Freddie Noe and Fred Noe (photo credit: Beam Suntory)

The Fred B Noe Distillery was built in tribute to seventh-generation master distiller Fred Noe, [and officially opened last year](#). The facility was part of parent company [Beam Suntory's US\\$60 million investment](#) to revamp the James B Distilling Co in Clermont, Kentucky, in the US.

Fred Noe said of his son's appointment: "There is nothing in this world that would give me more pleasure and make me prouder than seeing Freddie step into the role of master distiller."

"One of my biggest regrets is to never have distilled alongside my own father, Booker, so working side by side with Freddie will be a dream come true. I believe that a master distiller should understand the craft of distilling, uphold quality and honour tradition, while spearheading innovation."

"Freddie embodies this wholeheartedly and I look forward to seeing Freddie lead the charge in creating the next generation of whiskeys that help to grow the American whiskey category around the world."

Freddie's appointment marks the first time two family members have worked alongside each other with the master distiller title.

Fred Noe commented: "It is an honour beyond words to follow in my father's footsteps. I will continue to honour the 227 years of family craft and experience in my work every day by dedicating myself to making genuine quality whiskey, while pushing the brand forward."

Fred Noe will continue overseeing the James B Beam Distilling Company's portfolio, including Jim Beam, Knob Creek, Basil Hayden, and more.

Freddie Noe, in his new master distiller role, will experiment with new fermentation, distillation and blending techniques to create 'category-defining and boundary-pushing' whiskeys.

He will also host experiential distillation sessions and seminars with hands-on activities in the blending lab.

## anCnoc: the single malt from Knockdhu distillery

[HENRY JEFFREYS](#) - MAY 12, 2022 10:00 AM

It's not the best-known or the easiest to pronounce but anCnoc makes an extremely delicious Speyside single malt which you should get your tongue around. We talked to distillery manager Gordon Bruce to find out more.

There's a received opinion in the wine world that certain French wines are popular because they are easy to pronounce for English-speaking people. Which is why people order Sancerre instead of Menetou-Salon or Chablis instead of Pernand-Vergelesses.

You say potato

This is rather turned on its head by Scotch [whisky](#) which proliferates with Gaelic names like [Craigellachie](#), [Glen Garioch](#), and [Bunnahabhain](#) which non-Scots whisky fans have to learn to pronounce. In fact, it's part of the initiation into whisky having your pronunciation gently corrected when visiting distilleries. Even the Scots sometimes get it wrong. I remember the visible wince from [Dr Bill Lumsden](#) when a brand ambassador pronounced Glenmorangie with the emphasis on the third syllable. Such a faux pas!

Despite years of whisky drinking and associating with Scottish people, there's one whisky whose pronunciation I've never quite got my head around: anCnoc. In fact, I struggle to spell it most of the time. Distillery manager Gordon Bruce told me that some "people might be embarrassed about ordering it because they don't know how to pronounce it." But alternatively, it does make it a "talking point." It's the unexpected mixture of upper and lowercase letters that really throws me. The correct pronunciation is 'a knock', just ignore the 'c' in the middle, Bruce advised me.



Gordon Bruce, distillery manager, tea boy, dog walker, and tour guide I can't go for that, no can do

anCnoc single malt comes from [Knockdhu](#) distillery in Speyside. It changed the name of its single malt in the 1990s to differentiate it from nearby [Knockandhu](#) (which I used to pronounce 'no can do' like the [Hall & Oates song](#) but is actually pronounced 'knock AN doo.')

Knockdhu means black hill in Gaelic, it's situated not far from Elgin in the north of the Speyside region and was founded in 1894 by John Morrison. It was mothballed from 1983 until 1989 when it was reopened by Inver House Distillers. It's one of those absolutely perfect looking malt whisky distilleries especially on the sunny day when we visited. When the sun shines, there's no more beautiful place on earth than Speyside. But because it's out of the main cluster of distilleries around Dufftown and Aberlour, Knockdhu is not much visited.

Loads of fruit and wee bit of cereal

Which is a shame because it's a real treat for whisky nerds. The production process at Knockdhu is unusual and worth looking at in detail. It's all geared up to producing a "damn decent new make spirit with loads



of fruit and a wee hint of cereal”, according to Gordon Bruce. It starts in the mash tun where the team are obsessive about removing solids from the wort. They do a very slow mash, eight hours, and a coarse filter and hydrocyclones help to keep things clear.

Gordon Bruce has been with Knockdhu for 16 years and describes his job as “distillery manager, tea boy, dog walker, and tour guide”. Before that he spent 12 years at Balblair and before that in his hometown distillery of Pulteney for six years. Both are now in the Inver House group with Knockdhu but weren’t when he worked for them. The distillery runs seven days a week round the clock. It’s fully manual and operated by a small permanent staff of six people.



#### Washbacks at Knockdhu

##### A long ferment

The very clear wort is then fermented for around 44 hours in Oregon pine washbacks before being pumped into separate wooden vessels. The movement stirs up the yeast cells and gets things going for another 16 hours. This is aided by a yeast strain called Mauri MG3 which is able to work at high temperatures to produce a wash that’s high in esters and alcohol, over 9% ABV.

There are two stills with boil balls in the neck to increase reflux. They have worm tub condensers but unusually both worms share the same tub. “It’s a nightmare in the summer”, according to Gordon, as the heat means the spirit won’t condense easily. To combat this, they have a shell and tube condenser on the wash still before it goes into the worm tub. Gordon thinks it’s the only distillery in Scotland with such a system. This produces more reflux but also, “all hot water needed for mash houses comes from condensers,” Gordon explained. Knockdhu was doing sustainability long before it became a buzzword.

##### Knock on wood

Most of that fruity new make goes into bourbon casks with some sherry casks and then it will disappear into blends including Inver House’s excellent Hankey Bannister – for my money about the best value Scotch on the market. About 20% is sold as single malts with Britain, China and especially Scandinavia being important markets. “Sweden has paid to feed and educate my children. Thank you Sweden!” joked Bruce. But on the whole, it’s a pretty under the radar brand. The lion’s share of the group’s marketing budget goes into Old Pulteney, according to Bruce.

Most of the whisky matured at a massive site at Airdrie, home to some 600,000 casks, but there is a racked and small dunnage warehouse on site. There used to be two dunnage warehouses but they were both destroyed during a snowstorm on 8/9 January 2010, “dates tattooed on my memory,” Bruce said. The sheer weight of snow caused the roofs to fall in. Warehouse one was reopened in 2012 with a celebratory ceilidh.



#### Knockdhu distillery, gorgeous on a summer’s day anCnoc and a hard place

You can taste that delicious fruitiness of Knockdhu from the 12 year old right up to the 24 year old (some tasting notes below). But it’s not the only trick up the distillery’s sleeve. In the past, when Knockdhu had its own maltings the barley would have been dried with a mixture of coal and peat. The maltings closed in 1969 but in 2005 the team reintroduced a peated anCnoc and it’s become an annual tradition.

They use Aberdeen peat, “it’s not like island peat. Terroir in peat is so important,” Bruce explained. It majors more on the woodsmoke rather than the seaweed/TCP type notes. The result is a beautifully harmonious melding of the classic Knockdhu sweet fruitiness with bonfires and meaty notes. Bruce said “there’s more to peat than Islay peat.” It’s perhaps my favourite of the range.

These great single malts from anCnoc are worth getting your tongue around. Altogether now say: “a knock!” Now that wasn’t so hard was it?



#### Some of the anCnoc range

##### Tastings notes for anCnoc

##### [anCnoc 18 Year Old](#)

16 years in American oak followed by 24 months in Spanish oak sherry casks, and bottled at 46% ABV.

Nose: Floral and fruit on the nose, peaches and pineapple, touch of toffee. Water brings out the floral notes.

Palate: Honey, vanilla and apricots.

Finish: Very nutty with walnuts and chestnuts.



#### anCnoc 24 Year Old

Aged in a mixture of sherry and ex-bourbon casks before bottling at 46% ABV.

Nose: Very rich, Christmas cake, malty notes with tinned peaches and orange blossom.

Palate: Sweet, almost a bit like bourbon, with dried fruit, marmalade and honeyed cereal notes.

Finish: Long and layered finish with leather and vanilla a hint of orange peel.

#### anCnoc Peat

Made with 40 ppm peat, this is matured in American oak casks before finishing in Spanish oak sherry butts and bottled at 46% ABV.

Nose: Bacon Frazzle crisps on the nose, with wood smoke and a smell like cold ashes from the morning after a fire.

Palate: Lovely sweet fruit and toffee bolstered by gentle notes of bonfires and cured meats.

Finish: Earthy peat and citrus peels.

-----



### **The Dalmore unveils distillery expansion plans**

Scotch single malt whisky producer The Dalmore has announced a significant development project at its distillery.

An ambitious capital investment programme at the historic distillery, located on the Cromarty Firth, will see the development of a new whisky-making facility and visitor experience.

Existing estate is set to be repurposed in the development, which will be centred around the pagoda at the Old Dalmore Kiln.

In accordance with parent group Whyte & Mackay's sustainability strategy, The Green Print, the new production facility will be built to high sustainability standards, including a green-energy power source.

The Dalmore said the distillery had managed to maintain a "uniquely intimate style" despite skyrocketing demand for its whisky, but acknowledged that the time had now come for expansion. Its vision for the project is "to honour the whisky-making artistry" that has been taking place at the distillery for 180 years.

Threesixty Architecture has been appointed as architect for the development and Blyth and Blyth as consulting engineer. Meanwhile, renowned still maker Forsyths is consulting on the process, particularly the whisky-making aspects.

13 May 2022 - Bethany Whymark

-----

### **New appointments at Glenlivet as Alan Winchester retires**

18 MAY 2022 By Melita Kiely

Former master distiller of The Glenlivet Alan Winchester has retired after 48 years in whisky, and a new team of whisky makers have been appointed to continue his work.



Alan Winchester's career spanned 48 years in whisky. Winchester officially retired as master distiller of The Glenlivet in 2018 when he moved into an ambassador role for the single malt brand. Coinciding with Winchester's retirement, Lisa Glen has been appointed as the new distillery manager at The Glenlivet. She will oversee a new team of whisky makers, working alongside lead distiller Kevin Reid and Chivas Brothers cask expert Kevin Balmforth. Glen began her career as an engineer in the Merchant Navy before becoming a distillery operations technician at The Glenlivet. She later became a team leader at the distillery, where she oversaw the operations and processes of the plant for eight years. Glen, Reid and Balmforth boast 53 years of whisky experience collectively. Commenting on his retirement, Winchester said: "Taking on the role of master distiller of The Glenlivet was truly an honour. Representing such a revered, quintessential single malt has been nothing short of a privilege. "It has been a real joy to promote Scotch around the world, especially to a new generation of drinkers who have enabled us to broaden the boundaries of what Scotch whisky can be.



Lisa Glen is the new distillery manager of The Glenlivet. "Our audience is constantly evolving their ideas and attitudes, which in turn pushes the industry to diversify and innovate the craft in new and



interesting ways. The future of Scotch is very bright and I look forward to watching what happens next – with a dram in hand of course.” Winchester joined the whisky industry in 1975 as a distillery guide at the Glenfarclas Distillery in Scotland. He has also spent time working at Strathisla, Glen Keith, Aberlour, and more. In 2002, he was promoted to distillery manager at Chivas Brothers, before becoming master distiller of The Glenlivet in 2009. In other news, Scotch whisky veteran [Billy Walker recently celebrated 50 years in the whisky world](#) with a limited edition series of GlenAllachie single malts.

## Yamazaki unveils 2022 single malt line

18 MAY 2022 By Nicola Carruthers

The House of Suntory has revealed a limited edition Yamazaki Japanese single malt collection, including a mizunara cask-matured whisky.



The Yamazaki 2022 releases honour the brand's 'tsukuriwake' way of whisky making

The new 2022 Yamazaki Limited Edition Tsukuriwake Selection is said to introduce the foundation pillars of the single malt brand – puncheon, peated malt, Spanish oak and mizunara. Yamazaki has been made using the same four components since its launch in 1984.

The new four-strong line pays tribute to 'tsukuriwake', a Japanese word which means 'artisanship through a diversity of making'.

The brand said it is unique in its use of multiple strengths of non-peated and peated grain varieties, two types of wash backs, eight pairs of pot stills in various shapes and maturation in four different oak casks (French, Spanish, Japanese and American) with three varying cask sizes in American oak.

The brand's story dates back to 1923 when Shinjiro Torii built Japan's first malt distillery in Yamazaki.

"What excited me most about this launch is that just one year before the 100th anniversary of Suntory whisky, we can finally share the full story behind our tsukuriwake way of whisky making, which was born from the founding house of Japanese whisky," said Suntory's fifth-generation chief blender Shinji Fukuyo.

"The 2022 Yamazaki Limited Edition Tsukuriwake Selection honours the fact that greatness comes from diversity. And in doing so, we unveil what truly makes Yamazaki single malt whisky the authority of Japanese whisky."

2022 collection

The range includes Yamazaki Puncheon, comprised of malt whiskies aged in American oak puncheons.

The brand said the use of the large casks, approximately 480 litres, allows the liquid to mature slowly, resulting in a whisky with 'complexity and vibrance'.

The expression has a nose of green apple, mature pear and acacia honey with a hint of vanilla, alongside a 'velvety and mild' palate with butterscotch notes.

Meanwhile, the Peated Malt bottling is made using heavily peated malted barley, which is blended to create a whisky with 'smoky, earthy' notes.

The nose is 'subtly smoky with green herbal notes' and a 'gently peated' palate with hints of earthiness, pineapple and citrus notes.

The Yamazaki Spanish Oak bottling combines malt whiskies matured in oak casks from northern Spain, which provide a 'rich and decadent palate with subtle acidity and fruity aromas'.

The resulting liquid offers an aroma of dried raisins, prunes and sun-dried tomatoes, and a 'buttery' finish with a hint of bitterness.

The final whisky in the range is made using rare Japanese mizunara oak, with the liquid undergoing a long maturation in the casks to add a 'distinctive Japanese spiciness and incense-like flavour of sandalwood and agarwood'.

The whisky provides a 'rich and elegant top note' on the nose with custard cream and cinnamon hints. The palate is 'aromatic and round with spiced sweet notes', followed by a 'deep woody' finish.

The 2022 Yamazaki Limited Edition Tsukuriwake Selection was initially released in Japan in 2020.

The collection will debut in certain global markets next month including the US, the UK, Germany, France, Austria, Spain, Singapore, Taiwan, China, South Korea, Thailand and Australia.

In the UK, the range will be available from 13 June in select retailers, including The Whisky Exchange.

Each expression is bottled at 48% ABV and has an RRP of US\$450 (£500 in the UK), except for the mizunara bottling (RRP US\$620/£700).

Last year, House of Suntory redeveloped the recipe for its [25-year-old Yamazaki single malt](#).

## Cambridge Distillery debuts seasonal gin

18 MAY 2022 By Nicola Carruthers

UK-based Cambridge Distillery has released a limited edition gin made using botanicals from the spring and summer of 2021 to celebrate the company's 10th anniversary.



The sipping gin can be enjoyed neat or in a Martini

The new Vintage 2021 Spring Summer bottling is described as a 'world first' gin with 'real provenance'.

Master distiller William Lowe created the expression by using a novel, multi-dimensional distillation matrix in which temperature, timing and pressure are just three of the nine variables used to treat each locally foraged botanical.

The separate distillates are then blended, leading to a gin that captures the flavours of the English spring and summer seasons.

The 42% ABV gin is made from botanicals harvested near the Cambridge-based distillery including lemon balm, hawthorn blossom and nettle leaves.

The resulting liquid offers an aroma of the local meadows, with citrus notes and 'gentle herbaceous lifts' on the palate.

The sipping gin is recommended served neat over ice or in a Martini.

Limited to 300 bottles, the new expression was released in celebration of the 10th anniversary of Cambridge Distillery.

Lowe said: "It's the walks through the meadows surrounding Cambridge that inspired Cambridge Distillery's conception; to create luxury gins that showcase the taste of the English seasons using botanicals grown in and around our home."



“Each year nature expresses itself differently and we wanted to capture these changes in each of our luxury gins – our latest edition, Vintage 2021 Spring Summer, is therefore a true homage to Cambridge Distillery’s origins.”

Vintage 2021 Spring Summer is available to buy exclusively from Berry Bros & Rudd for RRP £150 (US\$186).

Last year, Cambridge Distillery launched a [gin designed for Martinis](#), called Three Seasons.

## Battling Baileys: the brands redefining Irish cream liqueur

ADAM O’CONNELL - MAY 17, 2022 3:00 PM

A recent tasting of [Five Farms Irish Cream Liqueur](#) got us thinking about the way the Irish cream liqueur is changing and growing, and why that’s a good thing.

For a small country, we have an enviable amount of diverse and charismatic food and drink products in Ireland. There’s the [whiskey](#), as well as quality meat, fish, and dairy products. There’s also all that whiskey, as well as [poitín](#) and [cream liqueurs](#). Then there’s the soda bread, and *Taytos*. Plus, loads of great whiskey.

Helping to spread the good word is Bord Bia, an Irish state agency that promotes the country’s food and horticulture sector. One of the ways it does this is with trade events, and an annual gathering in February at the Irish embassy in London has become a regular gig for me as lots of drinks producers use it as a platform to debut new products.

It’s always a fun and illuminating night, with new distilleries, interesting products, and plenty of stories surrounding you. There’s also enough run-of-the-mill, loveless third-party liquid that will probably be gone in five years, but I’m focusing on the positives here. This year, in the midst of all the good company, whiskey, gin, mixers, and even a VR set (distillery tours from afar? Been there, [done that](#)) it was hard not to notice one stand in particular that had a big plastic cow on its table.

It belonged to [Five Farms Irish Cream Liqueur](#). I immediately asked for a sip as a) it looked delicious, b) the clever marketing of having a miniature cow on the stand absolutely worked on me, and c) I’ve always had a bit of a soft spot for the category. What our parents drink sticks with us, and cream liqueur is something of a favourite for my mum. I was also keen to pick their brains, as I’ve noticed a renewed interest in the category recently, with new players making a case that it’s time to rethink how we define the spirit, and that there’s room enough for them amongst the obvious big names. Which means [Baileys](#). Let’s not skirt around that, we all know it and I’ve already put it in the title of the blog.



Look, it’s Five Farms Irish cream liqueur!

Five farms, one goal

It’s an opportunity that McCormick Distilling International Ltd, the brand behind Five Farms, is keen to take. Peter Martin, who handles business development for them, tells me they feel the potential is there to remind people what a unique and tasty drink Irish cream liqueur is and do something different. “It’s a category that has lost much of its charm and elegance through price fighting strategies and one that lacked a good point of reference at a higher premium level,” he says.

“Five Farms is a product that brings back the magic of a category that can be traced to farmer’s wives and grandmothers making traditional drinks for the family to enjoy. Five Farms boasts the provenance of Cork, which has a unique fertile soil, as well as the traceability of its cream down to the five family herds. It is a truly regional product steeped in quality and tradition.”

In order to trade on the notion that you’re premium booze, you need a production process that backs it up. For Five Farms, this begins at five family-owned farms on the coast of County Cork in Ireland (I think I’ve figured out where the name comes from). There, single batches of cream are collected each week in liveried vans, before being blended and bottled within 48 hours. The blend includes triple distilled Irish whiskey, but they’re not allowed to say which. You know how it is. While the category of Irish cream liqueurs demands only 1% of the alcohol content to be Irish whiskey, at Five Farms it’s a minimum of 10%, which is a costly choice but, as Martin says, the reward is added depth and warmth to the blend. “And not only is our Irish whiskey content high, but the cream concentration of butterfat is many times higher than the mass-produced products,” he adds.



My measures were poured that quickly and full too  
Redefining Irish cream liqueur

For Five Farms, talking about process is an important way to distinguish itself. The brand seems to be relying on the notion somewhat that everybody understands that product provenance, original packaging (I love that early-1900s bottle design and swing-top cap), and quality liquid are indicators of premium standard spirits, and those have these will help refocus the identity of Irish cream liqueur. Which seems fair, really, doesn’t it? “We all know the category is currently dominated by seasonal price fighting brands that tactically embrace volume and market saturation,” Martin says. “This has established the category in the mind’s eye of the consumer and the chase for low price volume denies them the ability to stretch their brands into the growing premium spirits arena.” This is where we come to category leaders like the aforementioned giant that is Baileys. It’s one of those brands that has the dual distinction of ensuring there is a category to enjoy at all, but also defining and potentially limiting it. We’re good at that in Ireland, just take a look at the whiskey category. Five Farms are attempting to redefine Irish cream liqueur, and according to Martin, one way of doing this is to establish a different price sector for the category. “Therefore we compete more horizontally across a range of other premium liqueurs and spirits and not necessarily less expensive cream liqueurs,” he explains. Demonstrating the right credentials to grow the category is one thing, making sure people understand it is another. As Martin says, the rules around Irish cream liqueur can be confusing and even misleading, “especially when you throw in low price country creams into the mix which have different rules but very similar iconography to that of the brand leaders,” he explains. “The category is mainly defined by the content levels of Irish whiskey which is low in most other cases, but the consumer tends to believe it is all Irish whiskey. We go to the level of our content not governed by the rules, but by the final taste profile which we want to be firmly Irish whiskey but not overpoweringly to the point that takes the blend away from Irish creams”.





Is it time you reconsidered how you think about Irish cream liqueur?

Hitting the sweet spot

Early indicators suggest Five Farms is getting it right. The brand holds the world score for a drink of its kind at the Ultimate Spirits Challenge with 97 points from 100, and even more impressively, my own bottle was gone in an instant. Seriously, I can't recall how many times I've brought out something to share with my friends and it's been emptied that quickly. People were comparing it to boozy caramel, commenting on how nice it would be in a hot chocolate or over ice cream (there are some great recipes [here](#)), and trying to hide the bottle when I wasn't looking. We forget sometimes when we're very serious drinks lovers being very serious that this is supposed to be fun. One of the things Irish cream liqueur has going for it is that it's really bloody tasty and instantly accessible. If you're tempted to treat Irish cream liqueur as the brash, cheap cousin of whiskey, it's time to think again. It's always been delicious, but with brands now emerging that can add real stories and provenance to the mix, you can see exactly how this industry can begin to soar.

This isn't to say that the tale Five Farms is telling is a new one. Ireland's agricultural identity is well-trodden ground. You might worry all those green fields you can see in the pictures in this blog (and that miniature cow) means we're dangerously close to Paddywhackery territory. We're not alone in being cautious of this kind of presentation. Just look at how hard many within Scotch whisky are working to ditch the tartan and tweed imagery that once served it so well. Ireland has its own well-curated brand rooted in shamrocked countryside filled with folksy farmers. Brands like Baileys have played with this ideal, but there's no actual provenance to them. It's a creation of collaboration between boardroom and laboratory, not farm and table.

But we don't have to throw the baby out with the bathwater. We can champion products that present and reflect an honest version of our vital agricultural industry. For example, a liqueur made using cream sourced solely from the family-owned farms. And quality Irish whiskey. That's something to embrace. Especially if what they make it tastes like boozy caramel.



Mark Kent stepped into the role of SWA chief executive in January 2022 after a period of significant turbulence for the category. The past few years have seen the sector endure a global pandemic, the UK's departure from the European Union, and punitive tariffs from the US. But despite the trials and tribulations, Kent's optimism for the sector abounds.

"With the turn to spring comes World Whisky Day [21 May], held annually on the third Saturday in May," Kent says. "It gives me a chance to reflect on my first few months in the role and to look ahead to what the future holds for the Scotch whisky industry."

"Having spoken to distillers, blenders, bottlers and exporters from Speyside to Islay, and everyone in between, it is clear that the industry is looking to the future after a couple of years of turbulence. Ultimately, people working across the industry want to focus on making a world-class spirit, attracting new consumers to discover Scotch, and opportunities to invest, grow and support jobs and communities in Scotland and across the world."

The CEO does, however, remain a realist about the challenges that continue to affect the Scotch whisky sector. After all, the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic, and more recent issues such as the Russian war against Ukraine, continue to impact the industry.

"As everyone knows right now, there is a squeeze on the cost of living, which impacts industry as much as it impacts household budgets," Kent adds. "In recent weeks, the cost of glass, cereals, packaging and energy have all increased significantly. The price of wheat, for example, a key ingredient in the production of grain whisky used in every blended Scotch whisky, has increased by 60% since the turn of the year."

"These pressures of the supply chain of the industry remain a brake on the ambitions of the industry to recapture growth lost over the last couple of years."

Alleviating pressure on Scotch whisky



Raw material costs have soared since the start of the year. Kent's work, moving forward, will involve lobbying the UK government to implement changes that will alleviate some of the pressure being felt by

## SWA CEO Mark Kent on the future of Scotch

20 MAY 2022 By Melita Kiely

By his own admission, Mark Kent, chief executive of the Scotch Whisky Association, has "the best job in the world". Ahead of World Whisky Day (21 May), he reflects on his first few months at the helm of the trade association and the future of Scotch.



the Scotch trade. That will include “looking to the chancellor, Rishi Sunak” for support in the autumn budget, such as re-assessing the “70% tax burden on Scotch whisky in the UK”.

“Time and time again, the industry has shown that more revenue can be generated from freezing or cutting duty rates – this should be a compelling argument for HM Treasury as it looks to increase government revenue and support the UK’s world-class distilling sector,” Kent stresses. Another key area of focus for Kent, in order to enhance the Scotch whisky industry’s global presence, is to secure reduced rates in India. For decades, the potentially lucrative market has been tricky for Scotch whisky producers to crack due to triple-digit tariffs.

“[India is a massive opportunity](#) for the Scotch whisky industry – reducing the 150% tariffs has long been a goal, but it feels like the prospect of getting a deal across the line is as close as it has ever been,” Kent enthuses.

“The modelling we have done shows it will be a win-win – boosting Scotch whisky exports by £1 billion [US\$1.25bn] over five years and creating 1,300 new jobs across the UK, while boosting investment in India and generating £3.4bn [US\$4.24bn] in additional tax revenue. It is now for the negotiators to find that path to a deal – and I look forward to visiting India later this year to do what I can to support their efforts.”

Sustainability key to future success

Business will only be able to grow hand in hand with sustainability, however. Kent says the word ‘sustainability’ has been “mentioned more than any other on my travels around the industry”.

Last year, with the COP26 conference in Glasgow, the Scotch sector outlined its goal to reach net zero in its operations by 2040. The target will be reached by utilising new and existing technologies, such as anaerobic digestion, biomass, hydrogen, and high-temperature heat pumps, to reduce the industry’s reliance on natural gas energy sources.

“This will not be easy; there is no silver bullet, and some of the technology needed to reach the goal doesn’t exist yet or isn’t scalable for an industry the size of Scotch whisky,” Kent says. “So if last year was about aspiration, this year is about delivery.”

“And I have seen an industry determined to take the necessary action to secure a more sustainable future. It is exciting to be part of it, and think that in a small way our efforts will safeguard the industry and its contribution to wider society for generations to come.”

After all is said and done, Kent is steadfast in his career choice and optimistic outlook: “Best job in the world? Whisper it quietly, but I think it might just be.”

Leighton’s selected cask was originally laid down in a first-fill oloroso Sherry butt in May 1990. Meanwhile, McCabe’s was laid down in a first-fill Bourbon barrel in November 1991. Each cask was chosen at optimum maturity, then combined.

“Bottling these outstanding casks together at precisely the right moment has resulted in an incredibly complex Irish whiskey that harmoniously balances the vanilla sweetness and caramel creaminess from the Bourbon barrel and the deep, dark fruitiness from the Sherry butt,” explained Leighton.

“With an ABV of 56.9%, the resulting liquid is rich in robust spice with wood-driven characteristics and notes of dark-roasted coffee, sweet liquorice, orange peel and smoked almonds amplified by the wine cask’s influence.”

The 714 bottles will be available exclusively through an online ballot hosted on the brand’s private members’ club, The Birdhouse, at an RRP of €550 (US\$582.69).

The ballot will be open from 23 May, for entries from Australia, China, Japan, New Zealand, Republic of Ireland, Singapore, South Africa, Switzerland, England, Scotland and Wales. The ballot will close on 30 May. In 2021, the brand [received 11,000 bids](#) through a ballot for its fourth release in the Dream Cask series, a 29-year-old Oloroso Sherry Edition.

McCabe commented: “The traditional Redbreast style is so often associated with the influence of Sherry casks that we sometimes overlook the role Bourbon casks play in its composition. I am honoured to have been able to select my perfectly aged dream Bourbon cask for this year’s Dream Cask and to pay homage to that unbeatable harmony that makes Redbreast so special.”

On the nose, Redbreast Dream Cask Double Edition presents aromas of autumnal fruits, black cherry, hazelnut and tobacco. Meanwhile the palate delivers flavours of honey menthol, liquorice and coffee, complementing the pot still spices. The finish is long and rich, with a balance of fruits and oak.

McCabe continued: “We are incredibly fortunate that we have the variety of aged stock at Midleton Distillery to explore and make our dreams a reality. Sharing our discovery with whiskey drinkers across the world is one of the most exciting and joyful aspects of my role to date.”

Earlier this year, Redbreast [teamed up with chef Richard Corrigan](#) to create limited edition dishes and a signature cocktail using the brand’s 12-year-old bottling.

## Redbreast reveals Dream Cask Double Edition

20 MAY 2022 By Alice Brooker

Irish Distillers has launched the fifth bottling in its Redbreast Dream Cask series – a 30-year-old single pot still whiskey.



Consumers can apply to purchase the limited edition whiskey through an online ballot

Only 714 bottles will be available of the Redbreast Dream Cask Double Edition, launched to mark World Whisky Day tomorrow (21 May).

Master blender Billy Leighton and blender Dave McCabe married two dream casks to create the limited edition 30-year-old, having each selected their favourite barrel from Midleton’s inventory.



## Celebrate World Whisky Day With These Signature Serves From The GlenDronach

In Partnership with [The GlenDronach](#)

[JACOB OSBORN](#), 20 MAY 2022 | SPONSORED

World Whisky Day (WWD) has arrived and there’s no shortage of ways to celebrate. Whether you’re at home or out on the town, [The GlenDronach](#) has a high-quality dram for you and your best mates. The

iconic Highlands distillery remains best-known for its flagship [12-year-old single malt](#), a one-stop masterclass in expert craftsmanship and sherry cask maturation. But don't sleep on core expressions such as the [Portwood](#) or [Traditionally Peated](#), both of which put a different twist on the brand's signature style whilst veering outside the age statement category. Like we said: there's no shortage of ways to celebrate!



#### History of The GlenDronach

Founded in 1826 by James Allardice, [The GlenDronach](#) is one of the oldest licensed distilleries in all of Scotland. It remains firmly perched in the Valley of Forge—deep in the East Highland hills—and continues to draw water from a local Dronac burn. Home to two wash stills and two spirit stills. To call this a veteran operation would be putting it mildly, to say the least.

What truly distinguishes The GlenDronach from their peers, however, is the distillery's signature maturation process, whereby complex Highland whisky gets finished in the finest Pedro Ximénez and Oloroso sherry casks. The Pedro Ximénez casks impart flavours of toasted raisin and deep fruit, whilst the Oloroso casks cultivate dry and nutty notes. The resulting single malt is rich in colour and supremely balanced, layering distinctive sweetness into a traditional framework of dark malt and oak spice.



#### The GlenDronach Core Expressions

With World Whisky Day upon us, now is the perfect time to pick up what [The GlenDronach](#) is throwing down. As you'll soon discover, the distillery puts a range of unique single malts at your disposal. Here are three of their most beloved core expressions:



#### 12-Year-Old Single Malt

A quintessential classic if there ever was one, The GlenDronach 12-Year-Old is every bit as rich and sherried as its award-winning reputation would suggest. Non-chill filtered, bottled at 43% ABV, and presented in its natural colour of deep amber-red, it rides in on creamy waves of sweet raisin, soft fruit, vanilla, and burnt caramel before leaving subtle oak and dried fruit in its wake.

[Buy it here](#)



The GlenDronach Traditionally Peated Whisky



A balancing act between glorious temperaments, this peated whisky interweaves the brand's signature sherried character with layers of luscious smoke. It's matured in a combination of Oloroso, and Pedro Ximénez Sherry casks. If you love versatile flavour profiles, you'll love this.

[Buy it here](#)



#### The GlenDronach Portwood Single Malt

This peated stunner takes inspiration from the historical use of casked port maturation, a common practice in 19th-century Scotland. Finished in hand-selected port pipes from Portugal's Douro Valley, it opens on a nose of wild strawberries, cinnamon, and sweet smoke. The palate is similarly dynamic in its distinguished blend of tartness, sweetness, and smoke, underscored by notes of grain and smouldering charcoal.

[Buy it here](#)

### How to Enjoy The GlenDronach on World Whisky Day

World Whisky Day is a highlight of the Scotch whisky calendar, helping enthusiasts explore new malts from around the world. It also gives you the perfect excuse to wrangle in your closest friends for a tasting, during which you'll sample a variety of single malts or whip up the occasional cocktail. Allow The GlenDronach to be your guide.

The perfect gift for yourself or your favourite whisky connoisseur, The GlenDronach's premium single malts offer timeless gateways to discovery. They represent the next stepping stone for when you've graduated from the common stuff and gone searching for something more prestigious. Sip them neat and you'll uncover bold new flavours and nuances with every sip. Mix them with other ingredients to reinvent a classic cocktail.

Speaking of cocktails, here are two signature recipes that are guaranteed to please, both of which use The GlenDronach 12-Year-Old as a base:

#### The GlenDronach & Tonic

- 30ml The GlenDronach Original Aged 12 Years
- 120ml tonic water
- 1 orange wedge

Directions: Build all the ingredients over a block of ice in a highball glass, stir well, and garnish with the orange.

#### The Rob Roy

- 50ml The GlenDronach Original Aged 12 Years
- 25ml sweet vermouth
- 2 dashes of Angostura bitters

Directions: Stir all the ingredients over ice in a mixing glass and strain into a chilled cocktail glass. Garnish with a cherry.

You should be all geared up for WWD by now and we certainly can't blame you. [Pick up a bottle](#) of the good stuff or buy your mates the first round at the nearest participating venue. This is how you make it an occasion to remember for you and your loved ones. Happy sipping!

---

### Famous Grouse debuts Sherry Cask Finish

23 MAY 2022 By Alice Brooker

Blended Scotch brand The Famous Grouse has extended its portfolio with the release of its first Sherry cask-finished whisky.



The Famous Grouse Sherry Cask Finish is a permanent addition to the brand's range

Speyside malts were matured in Sherry-seasoned, European oak casks to craft Famous Grouse Sherry Cask Finish. The blend has been in development for two years.

Sanele Gwala, global senior brand manager at The Famous Grouse, explained: "This new, revived blend is finished in Sherry casks and butts seasoned in the region of Jerez, Spain. The aim was to create a blend that is slightly sweeter but still in keeping with the smooth and distinct DNA of classic Grouse.

"Once the blend is in its final stages of maturation, which involves the meticulous combination of hand selected malt and grain whiskies, The Famous Grouse master blender does not stop there; the full blend is married in ex-Sherry casks to further enhance their sweet, rich, and smooth characters.

"The Sherry Cask Finish is a decadent blend of festive flavours including chocolate, almonds, dried fruits, and sweet spices."

The packaging pays tribute to the Spanish female capercaillie bird, part of the grouse family. This particular bird was chosen for its link to the product's Spanish Sherry heritage, as well as its orange and red plumage, which 'echoes the deep amber' of the liquid.

The Sherry Cask Finish whisky is recommended served in a highball glass, with soda water and an orange wedge.

The bottling is available in 19 global markets.

The Edrington-owned brand recently released its [first online-exclusive whisky, The Famous One](#).

---

---

## Nc'nean gains £250,000 investment

23 MAY 2022 By Nicola Carruthers

Highland whisky distillery Nc'nean has secured up to £250,000 (US\$314,463) in funding to help expand production and reduce its carbon footprint.



The Nc'nean distillery is based in Drimnin on the Morvern peninsula in Lochaber

The Drimnin-based sustainable whisky producer has gained the funds from Scottish government agency the Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE).

The HIE funding will go towards the costs of creating a new on-site bottling plant, which will lower future transport costs and emissions. The investment will also be used to build a new warehouse and install additional equipment to boost production.

The distiller said the developments will give the firm more control over its environmental impact, cut down on future road traffic, and retain operations and employment in Drimnin.

**Founder and CEO Annabel Thomas** said: "The new bottling plant is an important step on our journey, allowing us to increase our sales whilst keeping control of the process and increasing employment in the area." Over the next four years, Nc'nean expects to increase company turnover by £715,000 (US\$899,000) and international sales by £464,000 (US\$583,000). Nc'nean will also create three jobs.

Helen Cameron, business development account manager at HIE, added: "Whisky production is a key part of the Highlands and Islands food and drink sector, which provides valuable rural employment and contributes to community resilience.

"Nc'nean distillery has shown great initiative in developing its business with a strong environmental ethos, while maintaining a high-quality product."

Nc'nean recently [launched the first release](#) from its new spring series, called Huntress 2022.

Last year, Nc'nean became the first whisky distillery in the UK to be [verified as having net zero carbon emissions](#) from their own operations (scopes 1 and 2).

---

---

## Loch Lomond debuts The Open 2022 whiskies

24 MAY 2022 By Nicola Carruthers

Scotch whisky producer Loch Lomond Group has released two single malts to mark The Open golf competition's 150th anniversary in 2022.



Loch Lomond has created two new whiskies to mark the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of The Open tournament

Loch Lomond [agreed a five-year partnership](#) with the organisers of The Open in February 2018.

To celebrate the competition's 150<sup>th</sup> year, Loch Lomond has launched The Open Course Edition 2022 and The Open Special Edition 2022.

This year's Open championship will be held on The Old Course in St Andrews in Fife, Scotland, from 14-17 July.

Andrew Jack, head of whisky marketing at Loch Lomond Whiskies, said: "The Open is a such a prestigious event, bringing together some of the world's best golfers. At Loch Lomond Whiskies we are very proud to show our support as the official spirit partner of this momentous anniversary." The Open Special Edition 2022 has been created in partnership with golfer Colin Montgomerie.

The 46% ABV bottling has been aged in American oak casks before being finished in Bordeaux red wine barriques.

The resulting liquid offers the distillery's signature fruit, honey and soft smoke notes, alongside notes of strawberry, peach, lime citrus, fudge, oak spice, followed by a soft smoke finish.

Meanwhile, The Open Course Edition 2022 pays homage to all of the golf courses where the competition has taken place.

Distilled 22 years ago, the 48.2% ABV whisky was aged in American oak casks and finished in Haut-Médoc claret barriques for three years.

The single malt provides notes of stewed apple, pear and black cherry with vanilla, dark chocolate and ginger spice, and a wood smoke finish.

Jack added: "The ties between golf and whisky in Scotland date back generations. Our two new, limited edition single malts are highly valuable additions to our whisky portfolio, demonstrating the breadth of distillation techniques Loch Lomond Whiskies is capable of.

"We're confident both expressions will appeal to a variety of tastes, budgets and interests, particularly in the lead up to Father's Day in June." Available to buy from Loch Lomond Whiskies' website, The Open Special Edition is priced at RRP £45 (US\$56) while the Course Edition retails for £225 (US\$281).

In July 2021, Loch Lomond Group [collaborated with golfer Lee Westwood](#) to create a 25-year-old single malt.

---

---

## Stronger age verification needed for alcohol e-commerce

24 MAY 2022 By Alice Brooker

New research has revealed that online age verification checks for alcohol purchases are 'insufficient', and the industry is 'struggling to effectively protect underage people'.





The value of online alcohol sales is projected to grow by 74% between 2020 and 2024

The research was carried out by charity Alcohol Change UK and Wales-based Wrexham Glyndŵr University.

It showed that retailers are relying on tick boxes and online forms for consumers to confirm their age when purchasing alcohol online, which can be 'easily bypassed', according to Martin Wilson, chief executive officer of Digital Identity Net.

According to the study, the value of e-commerce alcohol sales is projected to grow by 74% between 2020 and 2024. Additionally, a test purchase operation was carried out, which found that in 72% of cases where alcohol was ordered for delivery within two hours, bottles were handed over without deliverers seeking proof of age.

Delivery drivers were also found to be confused about different retailers' policies on age verification – some retailers rely on credit cards to prove the purchaser is an adult, according to Alcohol Change UK.

The results have led to the conclusion that a downfall in the current online age verification is outdated legislation – The Licensing Act came into effect in 2005, and was written before online alcohol sales boomed.

Wilson said legislation must be updated 'to fit the new digital age we're in', with online alcohol sales having risen since the pandemic began. In 2017, more than a fifth of UK customers had bought alcohol online, the third highest proportion in the world, said Alcohol Change UK.

Strongly worded policies on websites are no longer considered 'enough' by the organisation.

Developments in technology

Alcohol Change UK claimed developments in technology mean people can now accurately prove their age online, giving retailers assurance they are not selling to underage people.

Systems can use verified identity credentials to enable customers to prove their age online, added Wilson. The identity credentials are also integrated into the checkout process.

In 2020, 12 leading alcohol companies, including Diageo, Pernod Ricard and Beam Suntory, [pledged to include age restriction symbols](#) across their products as part of a joint effort to reduce underage drinking. The target was set for 2024, although Pernod Ricard brought the goal forward, and [added age-restriction labels](#) to all bottles in 2021.

## Glengoyne goes offline with new whisky

25 MAY 2022 By Nicola Carruthers

Highland single malt brand Glengoyne has created a whisky box that blocks phone signals to allow drinkers to 'switch off'.



The inside tube of The Offline Edition whisky can block phone signals for up to four devices

Described as the 'world's first' offline whisky, The Offline Edition has been created to enable drinkers to enjoy 'uninterrupted moments with loved ones'.

The single malt comes with an aluminium inner cylinder to turn the whisky box into a digital 'black spot' that can block out electromagnetic signals for up to four smartphones.

The packaging is based on the original faraday cage, invented just three years after Glengoyne began making whisky in 1833.

The box includes a 700ml bottle of [Glengoyne Legacy Series: Chapter Three](#), the final bottle in the Legacy collection.

According to research from Glengoyne, 52% of adults claim to forget what they are saying mid-conversation because they are distracted by their phones, with more than a third (38%) admitting to checking their devices often in the company of friends and family.

Barbara Turing, brand manager at Glengoyne, said: "No matter where we are, or how hard we try, there's a temptation to check our phones, or be distracted by someone else's screen lighting up at the table. It's no surprise that time away from our tech has become one of the greatest luxuries of all."

"As Scotland's slowest distilled malt, we've always celebrated being unhurried. The Offline Edition gives a new meaning to the term 'second use' – a special box that gives us all some time back for our own special moments with others and to savour a great-tasting dram."

The Offline Edition boxes will be installed in premium whisky bars around the world, including the UK, Germany, the Netherlands, France and the US. It will soon be available in limited quantities for RRP £120 (US\$150) from the Glengoyne website.

## American single malt definition could boost growth

25 MAY 2022 By Alice Brooker

The American Single Malt Whiskey Commission (ASMWC) believes setting a standard for the category would boost growth for regional whiskeys nationwide.



The standard for American single malts is expected to be established in the "very near term", said the TTB

Earlier this month, trade groups the Distilled Spirits Council of the US (Discus) and the ASMWC came together to [propose a new definition](#) to the Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau (TTB) for American single malt whiskey.

The ASMWC is a national association representing nearly 100 producers of American single malts.

The TTB was due to publish a new standard for the category in December 2021, according to the association.

Tom Hogue, director, congressional and public affairs of the TTB, explained: "At this point, we should be able to get something out in the very near term."

Steve Hawley, president of ASMWC, considered how innovation would be carried out after a standard is established for US single malts, forecasting the growth of "regional whiskeys".

He said: "Since 2016, when we first sat down to draft this, innovation has been at the top of our mind. We all believe that the strength of American single malt whisky is innovation and creativity."

A large factor for the space for innovation and creativity within the category is the country's climate, explained Hawley.

"I would point to the diversity of America geographically, in terms of what creative direction holds more weight than others. Regional styles [of whiskey] are emerging within America," he said.

"There is debate within our membership about whether that's happening or not, whether it should happen or could happen. There is so much to explore within American single malt, so much which is yet to be discovered.

"Different distillers and regions are exploring in different ways – they're all valid and proving to be delicious. It's a pretty exciting time. This is the next big thing in whiskey.

"Out of any category I see out there now, it's the most buzz-worthy thing." An 'inclusive' category

The meeting in 2016, held for distillers to draft the definition, took place in Chicago, US, and comprised a dozen distillers, including representatives from Copperworks Distilling and Westward Whiskey.

Jason Parker, co-owner and president of Copperworks Distilling, explained another reason that US single malts will leave space for innovation is its aim to be "inclusive" in setting a standard, while "traditional categories are trying to be exclusive".

"With American single malt whiskey, we have the most innovation compared to other countries. We have more freedom," he explained.

"There's a really big difference between US single malt and traditional categories in what we're trying to do.

"It's not often in this lifetime you get to see the birth of a new category of whiskey, and this is happening right now."

Bidding took place both live online and by telephone, with the bottle eventually being sold to an unnamed international collector.

The Intrepid was officially certified by Guinness World Records in September 2021. The 5-foot-11-inches vessel contains the equivalent of 444 standard 700ml bottles.

After maturing in two sister casks at The Macallan's Speyside warehouse for 32 years, the 43% ABV liquid was bottled last year by independent bottler Duncan Taylor Scotch Whisky.

The Intrepid was named in honour of the record-breaking achievements of 11 pioneering explorers, who feature on the bottle.

Daniel Monk, founder of The Intrepid Project, said: "For me and the whole team, The Intrepid project has always been about more than money. This is a passion project to celebrate the life of my late father, captain Stanley Monk, who was himself an explorer and achieved many amazing things during his life."

A small number of exclusive bottle sets were also produced. These comprise a collection of 12 bottles, each filled with the remaining 32-year-old Macallan whisky from the same casks used to fill the 311-litre bottle. Gavin Strang, managing director of Lyon & Turnbull, added: "The Intrepid Collection, led by the world's largest bottle of Scotch whisky, has attracted so much global interest. It has been an incredibly exciting project to be involved in and we at Lyon & Turnbull are delighted the auction has been such a success."

## Johnnie Walker bottles Black Label Sherry Finish

27 MAY 2022 By Georgie Pursey

Diageo-owned Johnnie Walker has launched Johnnie Walker Black Label Sherry Finish as a limited edition whisky.



The whisky is available globally in limited quantities

Initially released in Taiwan, the blended Scotch is now available on shelves in more than 35 countries. It offers the familiar flavours of Johnnie Walker Black Label with the added mellow sweetness of figs and plums that comes from time spent in Sherry casks.

Johnnie Walker master blender [Emma Walker](#) said: "This is a whisky inspired by the bold and dynamic layers of flavour that Johnnie Walker Black Label is famed for.

"We have taken that unmistakable character and exceptional depth of flavour of Black Label and fired it with the mellow sweet smoothness of a Sherry finish so that the flavours dance with citrus; it is a taste collision of smooth and Sherry – and one that I'm extremely proud to add to the collection."

The 40% ABV whisky was aged for 12 years prior to being finished in barrels seasoned with Sherry from Jerez.

It offers flavours from a blend of Speyside, Highland, Lowland and Islay whiskies, with notes of sweetness 'wrapped in smoke', as well as hints of dark chocolate and coffee.

The whisky is recommended to be enjoyed neat or on the rocks, as well as in cocktails such as a Black Sherry Highball made with blackcurrant and mint.

"It's so exciting to see this new whisky sitting proudly alongside our range of Scotch," said Johnnie Walker global brand director Julie Bramham. "We believe this is a whisky that tells the next chapter of the Johnnie Walker story, stepping forward and pushing the boundaries of what is possible in Scotch – as we have always done."

## World's biggest bottle of Scotch sells for £1.1m

26 MAY 2022 By Nicola Carruthers

The world's largest Scotch whisky bottle, containing 311 litres of a 32-year-old Macallan single malt, sold for £1.1 million (US\$1.3m) at auction.



The Intrepid is the world's biggest bottle of Scotch whisky. Edinburgh-based auction house Lyon & Turnbull [offered the bottle](#), named The Intrepid, during a live online sale yesterday (25 May).



"It's a whisky that builds on the iconic legacy of Johnnie Walker Black Label and propels us into the next 200 years."  
The 700ml bottling is priced at RRP £33.99 (US\$42.88)

## All The Scotch Whisky Finalists From The San Francisco World Spirits Competition

[ZACH JOHNSTON](#) [TWITTER](#) LIFE WRITER

MAY 23, 2022

In the immortal words of Ron Burgundy, "I love scotch. Scotch, scotch, scotch. Here it goes down, down into my belly." At it's best, [Scotch whisky](#) can be pretty great. Yet, as with anything in this weary old world of ours, there's just as much out there that's bad as there is [good or even mediocre](#).

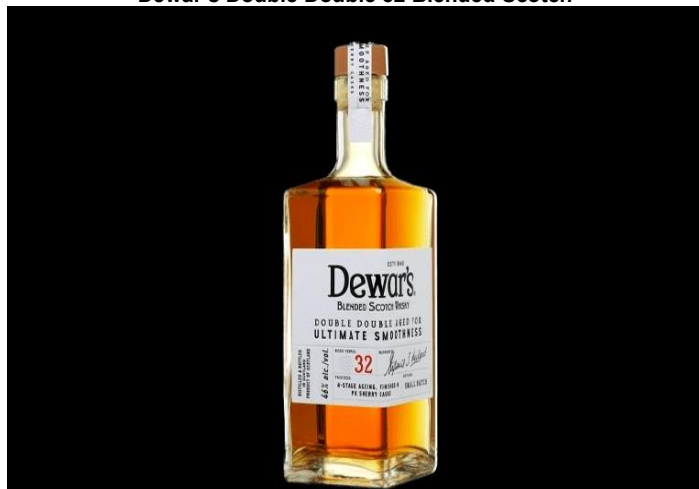
[The great stuff](#) is pretty fleeting... though, it is out there. You just have to know where to look. To that end, I'm going to call out all the Scotch whiskies that made it into the finals of [this year's San Francisco World Spirits Competition](#).

For a little clarity, these are all double-gold medal [Scotch whiskies](#). However, these are the double golds that the judges thought had a chance of [winning "best in class"](#) in their respective categories. In this case, those categories are Best Blended Scotch — No Age Statement, Best Blended Scotch — 16 Years and Older, Best Single Malt Scotch — No Age Statement, Best Single Malt Scotch — Up to 12 Years, Best Single Malt Scotch — 13 to 19 Years, Best Single Malt Scotch — 20 Years and Older, Best Independent Merchant Single Malt, and Best Blended Malt Scotch Whisky. Of the hundreds of Scotch whiskies that were entered, only 18 bottles actually made it to the finals this year. That's a pretty [elite group of great whiskies](#).

I'm adding my tasting notes (or the distiller/blender/bottler's where necessary) to all 18 bottles, below. Hopefully, you'll be able to find a new scotch that makes you as excited as Ron Burgundy was.

Let's dive in!

### Dewar's Double Double 32 Blended Scotch



BACARDI

ABV: 46%

Average Price: [\\$170](#) (half bottle)

The Whisky:

Master Blender Stephanie MacLeod really hits it out of the park with these blends. This one starts with 32-year-old barrels of both single malt and single grain whiskies. Then all the single malts are blended and re-barreled in an "exhausted" barrel (meaning the barrel has aged its last whisky and would otherwise be repurposed). MacLeod does the same with the grain whiskies. Those grain and malt whiskies are then blended and put into another exhausted barrel for a spell. Finally, those barrels are blended and filled into an ex-Pedro Ximenez sherry barrel for a final maturation.

Tasting Notes:

The nose opens with a rich sticky toffee pudding full of black-tea-soaked dates, sharp cinnamon, nutmeg, buttery toffee sauce, and vanilla ice cream with hints of orange zest, wicker, and an old leather tobacco pouch. The palate largely delivers on the nose's profile with meaty dates, figs, and prunes countered by woody spice, dark fruit leather, and a touch of honey barrel staves. The finish is shorter than expected with all that dark and dried fruit leaving you with a sweetened and wintry vibe.

Bottom Line:

This is a pretty killer whisky and one that's worth getting excited about. This is on the rarer and spendy side but has a deep flavor profile that's as rewarding as it's accessible to the palate.

### Clansman Blended Scotch



CLANSMAN

ABV: 40%

Average Price: [\\$13](#)

The Whisky:

This blended scotch from Loch Lomond is as bottom shelf as you can get in the U.S. That said, this blend takes barrels of grain and malt whiskies from the famed Loch Lomond distillery and aims them towards a fruity and sweet nature before proofing and blending.

Tasting Notes:

A slight note of bourbon vanilla shines through on the nose with hints of citrus, almonds, and watered down honey — kind of like stirring honey into a tepid glass of tap water. The palate has a mix of dried fruits — raisins, prunes, and maybe dates — with more watered down honey syrup, a touch of Almond Joy, and a hint of mulled wine. The end leans into the dried fruit and mulled wine spices with a final note of what feels like smoked honey.

Bottom Line:

If you're mixing whisky and Cokes or any highball, this is the bottle to get.

### Pure Scot Midnight Peat



PURE PEAT

ABV: 44.5%

Average Price: [\\$80](#)

The Whisky:

This is another Scotch whisky that's blended and bottled for the Australian whisky market. The malt and grain whiskies are blended and then finished in barrels that held spice and peat-forward whiskies. That whisky is then blended, proofed down, and bottled as-is.

Tasting Notes (from the [bottler](#)):

**“NOSE:** Creamy toffee, floral with citrus apples. **PALATE:** Rich campfire smoke with toffee apples, honey, and custard. **FINISH:** Medium with spicy, sweet mouthfeel and tingle from the campfire smoke.”

**Bottom Line:**

Since this is an Aussie release, it’s going to be pretty fleeting outside of that market. Still, if you’re heading to Oz anytime soon, keep an eye out for it.

#### Johnnie Walker Green Label Blended Malt



**DIAGEO**

ABV: 43%

Average Price: [\\$63](#)

**The Whisky:**

This whisky was actually taken off the market in 2012 and people lost their shit. Diageo came to its senses and brought it back by 2016. The juice is a blend of single malts only, making it a “pure malt” and not a “blended scotch whisky” (that’s blended malts and grain whiskies). The juice primarily comes from Speyside, Highland, Lowland, and Island malts with a focus on a minimum of 15-year-old Talisker, Caol Ila, Cragganmore, and Linkwood.

**Tasting Notes:**

Cedar boxes full of sweet fruits lead the nose toward black peppercorns and vanilla pods with an underlayer of sweet green grass. That soft cedar leads the taste with support from grilled tropical fruits, dried roses, spiced malts, and chewy apple tobacco. The mid-palate sweetens with a honeycomb vibe as earthy smoke, singed cedar bark, dark cacao nibs, dry reeds, and an echo of sea spray round out the finish.

**Bottom Line:**

This is probably the most accessible and easy-drinking scotch on the list. You can find this pretty much anywhere. It’s not overly expensive. And, well, it’s just really good as a sipper or mixer.

#### Black Hound Blended Malt



#### BLACK HOUND SCOTCH

ABV: 40%

Average Price: [\\$42](#)

**The Whisky:**

This blended malt is made for the Australian market. There’s not a whole lot of information about it other than it’s a blend of the “finest” Highland malts.

**Tasting Notes (from the [bottler](#)):**

*“This whisky is approachable and accessible — fruity and framed by a great balance of spice and vanilla and finishes with a subtle smoky aroma.”*

**Bottom Line:**

This is pretty much an “I’ll try it when I’m there” whisky. I’m not going to take the time to find this in the U.S. but will give it a shot the next time I’m Down Under.

#### Loch Lomond ‘The Glengarry’ 12



**LOCH LOMOND DISTILLERY COMPANY**

ABV: 46%

Average Price: [\\$76](#)

**The Whisky:**

This single malt from the famed Loch Lomond Distillery is all about the aging process. The hot juice is loaded into ex-bourbon, re-fill bourbon, and re-charred oak barrels for 12 long years. Those barrels are then blended and the whisky is proofed down with Highland spring water.

**Tasting Notes:**

The nose is a mix of white summer flowers and a lot of fruit kind of like a fruit salad out of the can. The palate really amps up the fruitiness with overripe peaches, bruised pears, and plenty of grilled pineapple next to a rummy spiced cocktail vibe with a little bit of vanilla, allspice, and woody cinnamon. The finish keeps it easy with more canned fruit syrup, a hint of sweetgrass, and a bit of malty spice.

**Bottom Line:**

This is too fruity to really keep my attention. That said, I could see using this in a citrus-forward cocktail.

#### Lindores Abbey MCDXCIV Single Malt Scotch



**LINDORES**

ABV: 46%

Average Price: [\\$300](#)

**The Whisky:**

This Lowlands whisky is all about tradition and patience in a nearly-thousand-year-old abbey setting. The wash is made from Kingdom of Fife barley with an extra-long fermentation period. After distillation, the juice is loaded into ex-bourbon barrels, ex-wine barriques (casks from Bordeaux), and sherry butts. Those barrels are batched and blended before proofing and bottling as-is without filtration or coloring.

**Tasting Notes:**

A pile of grilled tropical fruits greets you on the nose with pineapple and mango being the most distinct alongside wintry spices, a touch of vanilla, old leather gloves, and a hint of sweet oak. The taste largely follows that path and layers in fresher orchard fruits, some dried-out dates, more dark spice, and a touch of dry vanilla tobacco. The end is a distillation of the sugars from the tropical fruits with a line of spicy malts tying it all together.

**Bottom Line:**



This is a fruit bomb from top to bottom. If that's your jam, grab a bottle. If not, you can probably skip this one.

#### Port Charlotte Heavily Peated 10-Year-Old Single Malt Scotch



RÉMY COINTREAU

ABV: 50%

Average Price: [\\$70](#)

#### The Whisky:

Bruichladdich really has fun with peated whisky. This expression keeps the peat phenols high, but not “out of this world” high. The casking is a mix of first and second-fill bourbon barrels and second-fill French wine barrels. That utilization of second-fill oak means there's a very light touch of wood on this peated whisky.

#### Tasting Notes:

Imagine a dark chocolate orange drizzled in salted caramel and served on a wet leaf of seaweed and you'll be on the right track for the nose. The smoke kicks in on the palate with a vibe that feels like those wet seaweed leaves thrown on a smoldering pile of pine to create a massive billow of smoke everywhere, as hints of buttery white wine and strawberry jam-covered scones linger in the background. The finish leans into the bready nature of the scones with a dry straw edge that is followed by a mouthful of the seaweed heavy grey smoke.

#### Bottom Line:

This is a peaty masterclass on the tongue. There's a lot going on and it's divisive yet, I think, enticing. The dark fruit jams, seaweed, and old smoke just work even though it sounds like they shouldn't. Still, this is for a slightly more advanced palate that's been exposed to some serious peat already.

#### Highland Park 18



EDRINGTON GROUP

ABV: 43%

Average Price: [\\$148](#)

#### The Whisky:

This Viking whisky from high up in the Orkneys takes barreling one step further. Their 18-year expression is matured in casks made from American and European oak specifically for Highland. Those bespoke vessels are sent to Jerez, Spain to age sherry for three years. The same barrels are then sent *back* to Orkney to age this whisky for 18 years.

#### Tasting Notes:

This really feels like a classic scotch at every step. You're greeted with notes of marzipan, dark berries, honey, and light lines of smoke on the nose. Those notes hold on as buttery toffee arrives with a dark chocolate counterpoint, leading towards ripe red cherries and floral honey. The end

embraces distant billows of sweet smoke with a dry and earthy undertow on the slow, sweet, and berry-filled fade.

#### Bottom Line:

Highland 18 is one of those subtle masterpieces that might just hook you in for life. The peat is there but it's so subtly layered in with more earthiness than anything else. Pour this over a single rock and you'll be all set.

#### Lagavulin 16



DIAGEO

ABV: 43%

Average Price: [\\$123](#)

#### The Whisky:

This is the most recognizable Lagavulin out there. The malts are smoked just down the road from the distillery at Port Ellen and the juice is crafted expertly by the sea at the famed and beloved Lagavulin Distillery. Finally, the whisky spends 16 long years mellowing in old American and Spanish oak before being blended and proofed with spring water from a creek just outside the distillery walls.

#### Tasting Notes:

Imagine a beach fire that's using dried seaweed as fuel next to mugs of honeyed black tea and a clump of wet moss on the nose. The taste of this dram meanders through dried pipe tobacco smoke laced with hints of vanilla and tart apple while notes of briny caramel lead towards an oyster shell minerality. The finish is pure silk as the seaweed grows wetter and the smoke sweetens towards that caramel, vanilla, and apple.

#### Bottom Line:

This is the good stuff, folks. This is also a great gateway peaty that's subtle and deep enough to really capture your attention without blowing out your palate on heavy and funky peatiness. That's not to say this isn't funky — it is. It's more that it's so much more than just its peated foundations.

Give it a shot, you might be pleasantly surprised by the depth of this one.

#### Loch Lomond 14



LOCH LOMOND DISTILLERY COMPANY

ABV: 46%

Average Price: [\\$70](#)

### The Whisky:

This Highland whisky is a supple stop between the brand's entry-level 12-year and their bolder 18-year. In this case, the single malt spends 14 years mellowing in ex-bourbon before it's transferred to French Limousin casks for a final touch of maturation.

### Tasting Notes:

There's a nice mix of fresh apple fritters with yeasty cinnamon rolls with a vanilla frosting trying them together as a quiet note of winter spice and old cedar planks mingle on the nose. The palate leans into the apple with a spiced apple cider with plenty of anise, clove, and cinnamon that's countered by a svelte nougat, a touch of leather, and more of that old wood. The end is part of apple pie and part creamy nougat with a tiny whisper of fireplace smoke on the very end.

### Bottom Line:

This is one of those whiskies where you automatically say, "well, that's nice!" There's a bit of a bourbon vibe with all that stewed and spicy apple and vanilla, making this a good bridge between the two styles.

Glen Scotia Victoriana Cask Strength Single Malt Scotch



LOCH LOMOND DISTILLERY COMPANY

ABV: 54.2%

Average Price: [\\$120](#)

### The Whisky:

This Campbeltown whisky is a rarity, like most whiskies from the tiny region. This whisky spends a final 12 months maturing in 30 percent Pedro Ximenez sherry butts and 70 percent heavily charred American oak before bottling truly as-is — no proofing, no filtering, no coloring.

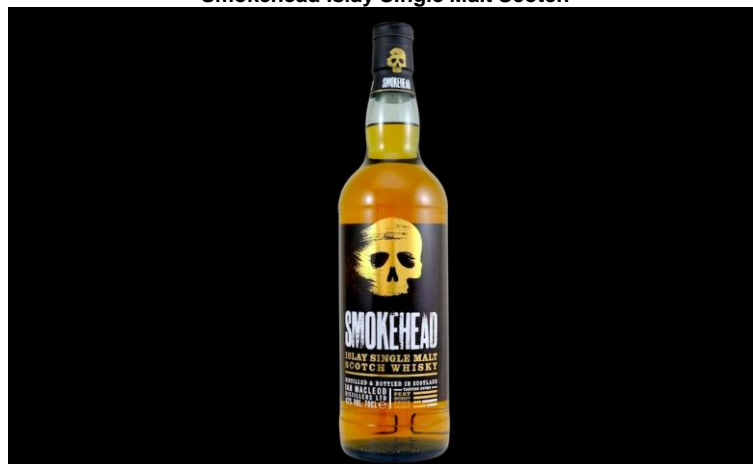
### Tasting Notes:

The nose on this is *thick* with a lot of savory fruit — figs, summer squash — next to sweet oranges, overripe pineapple, and robust but fresh florals. On the palate, that floral nature takes in a nasturtium vibe with a layer of spice next to a thin line of saltwater taffy wax paper wrappers, rum-soaked cinnamon sticks, and a thin layer of creamy vanilla. The end has a vibe that's kind of like malt-soaked tropical fruit next to spicy vanilla pudding with a whisper of singed apple bark lurking in the background.

### Bottom Line:

This is just interesting. It's fruity but so boldly so that it's also intriguing. Though, I do recommend pouring this one over a single rock to calm down those ABVs a tad.

### Smokehead Islay Single Malt Scotch



SMOKEHEAD

ABV: 43%

Average Price: [\\$55](#)

### The Whisky:

This whisky is an independently bottled expression. Beyond that, not much more is known besides that it's from Islay and heavily peated.

### Tasting Notes (from the [bottler](#)):

*"The aroma of something powerful and fiery awaiting you. Thick, heavy woodsmoke. Rich, earthy peat. Extremes of spice and sweetness. Fresh lemon, zesty ginger, rich plum jam. An explosion of breathtaking peppery, peaty heat, soothed by honeyed sweetness before the smoke comes to the fore again. Exotic spices and a curious citrus tang of mandarin, both lulling you into a false sense of calm as the peat roars back to hit your senses again."*

### Bottom Line:

This sounds "intense, brah!" For me, this feels like something I'd try a dram of at a trade show — there are so many of these types of bottles out there — and then... often forget it exists.

GreatDrams Islay Single Cask Single Malt Whisky



GREAT DRAMS

ABV: 48.2%

Average Price: [\\$94](#)

### The Whisky:

This new release from the much-lauded Great Drams — an independent bottler in the UK — is another winner. The Islay whisky in this case was aged in ex-bourbon casks before making its way to the Great Drams blenders where it was bottled as-is.

### Tasting Notes (from the [bottler](#)):

*"Beautifully balanced, classic Islay peated whisky notes as well as lovely soothing vanilla and citrus fruit notes along with cinnamon and warming spice notes too."*

### Bottom Line:

Great Dram releases tend to be some of the best independent bottles on the market. I can't imagine this doesn't live up to the brand's great reputation. Though, you'll need to act quickly as there are only 331 bottles of this one.



## Ardbeg 25



LOUIS VUITTON MOËT HENNESSY

ABV: 46%

Average Price: [\\$1,190](#)

The Whisky:

This expression from Ardbeg also happens to be their oldest expression (on their current lineup). The whisky is the epitome of peat on Islay. What makes this expression so special and extremely rare is that it was distilled and casked when Ardbeg was on its knees as a company, in the early 1990s. They simply weren't making that much whisky back then and there's hardly any of it left. That makes this a one-and-gone whisky with only 278 bottles, 90 of which were sent to the U.S.

Tasting Notes:

Heavy cream, smoked toffee, lemon pith, and ashes from last night's campfire open this one up on the nose before veering toward soft sea-filled air, a touch of muddy bog, and old shovel handles from a well-worked farm. On the palate, there's this deep sense of potting soil that's still in the plastic from the garden shop next to uncooked smoked bacon rashers with plenty of black pepper and a slightly sour edge leading back to that heavy cream and smoked toffee by the mid-palate. Finally, hefty/spicy packed tobacco chewiness brings about a full-on head buzz — it's a wild sensation.

Bottom Line:

I had this again recently at a tasting I was hosting and it was just phenomenal. While the Johnny Green might be the most accessible, this is probably the best overall, peated or not, on this list in my estimation.

Benriach The Twenty Five Four Cask Matured Single Malt Scotch



BROWN-FORMAN

ABV: 46%

Average Price: [\\$500](#)

The Whisky:

This whisky is a masterclass in maturation and blending by Dr. Rachel Barrie. The whisky spends 25 long years in sherry, bourbon, virgin oak, and Madeira casks before Dr. Barrie finds just the right ones to make this superior blend of single malt whisky.

Tasting Notes:

This feels fresh on the nose with caramelized apple mingling with leathery smoked apricots, espresso macchiatos, and brandied cherries dipped into very dark chocolate. Saffron-stewed pears lead the way on the palate as woody winter spices mix with burnt orange peels, a hint of oily vanilla, and a silky layer of smoked salted toffee with smoky almonds. The thin whisper of smoke leans sweet as the leather apricot and brandied cherries dominate the finish with a sweet and subtle dark fruitiness with a thin line of cherrywood smoke and a creamy hint of something medicinal.

Bottom Line:

This is hard to beat. Where the Ardbeg 25 brings the funkiness, this is all nostalgia and puppies. Moreover, don't be afraid of the "peated" aspects of this. It's almost exclusively tied to the sweet and lush dark fruit.

## Benromach 40



GORDON AND MACPHAIL

ABV: 57.1%

Average Price: [\\$1,218](#)

The Whisky:

This Speyside distillery is for the whisky nerds out there. This particular release just dropped last summer with only 1,000 total. The whisky in those bottles was produced in 1981 and then spent four decades chilling out in old Oloroso sherry casks before going into the bottle as-is.

Tasting Notes (from the [distiller](#)):

*"Our first Benromach 40 Years Old displays rich ginger and stewed fruit aromas, Sevilla orange, red apple, and demerara sugar flavours before finishing with citrus zest and a subtle hint of charred oak."*

Bottom Line:

It's not every day that you get to drink a whisky this old. If you're lucky enough to come across this one (likely at a high-end whisk(e)y bar), pay for a pour. There's no way it won't be worth it.

## 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 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 20<sup>th</sup>, 2021 dinner date as an example:
  - Dinner invitations will be sent out Friday August 20<sup>th</sup>, 2021. Please respond to me ([rdifazio04@gmail.com](mailto:rdifazio04@gmail.com)) in the form of an e-transfer. 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).
  - 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.
  - Unless otherwise stated accommodation at the dinner will be guaranteed for all members who respond by Friday September 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2021 @ 6pm or until capacity is achieved.
  - 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 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2021 @ 6pm will be removed from the list.
- Anyone canceling between Friday September 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2021 @ 6pm and Monday September 20<sup>th</sup>, 2021 will be expected to pay for the cost of the dinner and scotch (\$90). 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 20<sup>th</sup>, 2021 dinner without having cancelled and been successfully replaced will be expected to pay the full cost (\$90). A member will be responsible for their guest's cancellation (\$100).
- If a member asks to be included at the dinner between Friday September 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2021 @ 6pm and Monday September 20<sup>th</sup>, 2021 their name will be placed on a wait-list and be accommodated on a first-come first-serve basis.

---

## Dinner Payments

- Please consider sending your payment by e-transfer to me at: [rdifazio04@gmail.com](mailto:rdifazio04@gmail.com) prior to the dinner. The password will be "KSMS2022RDF", 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.

---

## 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.

---

### **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

Roberto Di Fazio, President

827 Old Colony Road

Kingston, Ontario, K7P 1S1, Canada

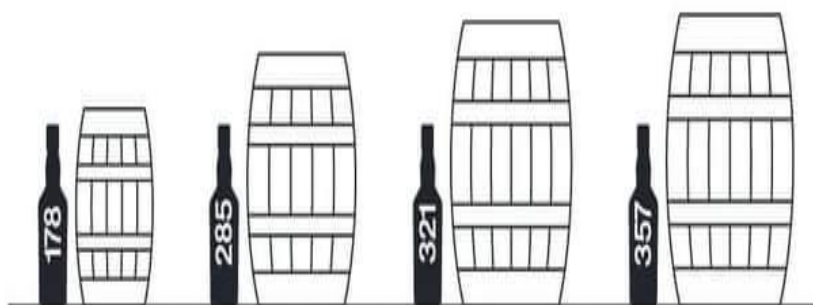
613-532-5285

[rdifazio04@gmail.com](mailto:rdifazio04@gmail.com)

<http://www.kingstonsinglemaltsociety.com>





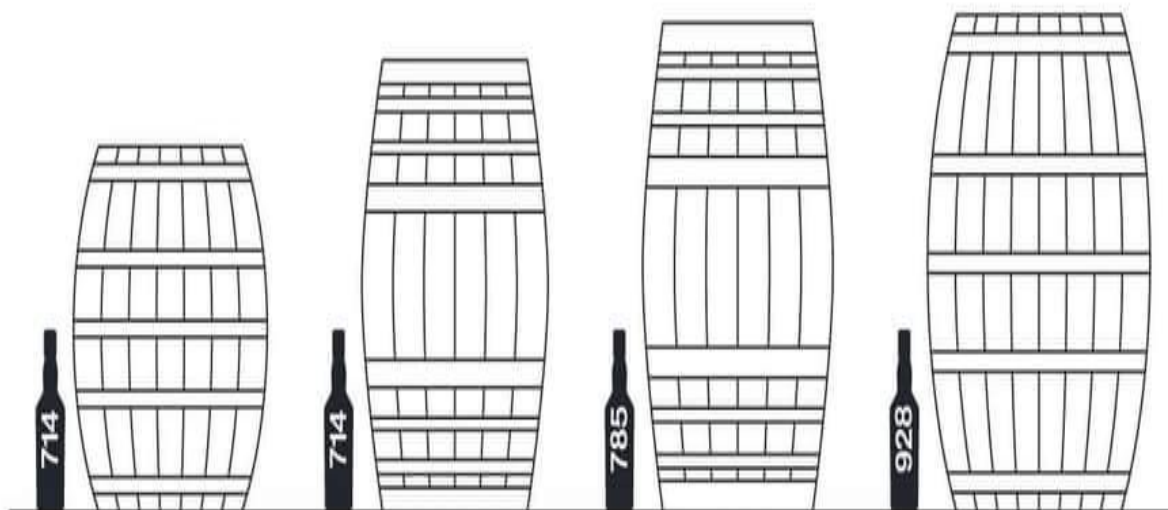


**Quarter**  
125 litres

**Barrel**  
200 litres

**Barrique**  
225 litres

**Hogshead**  
250 litres



**Puncheon**  
500 litres

**Butt**  
500 litres

**Port Pipe**  
550 litres

**Madeira Drum**  
650 litres