#### Kingston Single Malt Society (kingstonsinglemaltsociety.webs.com) A social club for the appreciation of Single Malt Whisky since 1998 **SEPTEMBER 20, 2010 VOLUME 4; NUMBER 3**





This evening's menu in the company of Single Malts from **CAMPBELTOWN & LOWLAND** 

Soup: Butternut Squash

1<sup>st</sup> Nosing: 92 MURRAY MCDAVID GLEN SCOTIA CAMPBELTOWN (introduced by: Lana Di Fazio)

> Salad: Two Sprout & Spinach **Dressing: Toasted Sesame**

2<sup>nd</sup> Nosing: 92 MURRAY MCDAVID BLADNOCH LOWLAND (introduced by: Christine Wasson) **Entree: Chicken Piccata (Roasted Chicken Breast** garnished w/artichoke hearts, mushrooms, capers and

lemon beurre blance) Vegetables: Seasonal Potato: Seasoned Oven Roasted

3<sup>rd</sup> Nosing: 91 ROSEBANK CASK CC LOWLAND

(introduced by: Philip Henderson)

**Dessert: Chocolate Carrot Cake** 

#### **COST OF THE MALTS**

I know members are always interested in the cost of the single malts we taste. Plus the \$75 Special Occasion Permit and the 16% levy charged by the LCBO for all alcohol served at the dinner.

- 92 MURRAY MCDAVID GLEN SCOTIA CAMPBELTOWN (BRUICHLADDICH) VINTAGES 164418 | 700 mL bottle **Price: \$ 109.95** Spirits 46.0% Alcohol/Vol.

- 92 MURRAY MCDAVID BLADNOCH LOWLAND (BRUICHLADDICH) VINTAGES 164392 | 700 mL bottle Price: \$ 109.95 Spirits, Scotch Whisky 46.0% Alcohol/Vol.

- 91 ROSEBANK CASK CC LOWLAND (GORDON & MACPHAIL) VINTAGES 158204 | 700 mL bottle Price: \$ 132.95 Spirits, Scotch Whisky 43.0% Alcohol/Vol.

## **JULY - KSMS Financial Statement**

(Money from 20 July attendees @ \$60) = \$1230.00July dinner 20 persons = \$47.42/ea = \$948.40 (Money remaining for buying Single Malt) = \$281.60 **Cost of Single Malts:** = \$179.85 KSMS Monthly operational balance = \$101.75 Cost per person 20 attendees (All inclusive) = \$56.41

Membership and Dinner prices for 2010-2011

**Membership Fee:** \$40 (singles) \$60 (couples)

**One Time Initiation Fee:** \$15

Standard Dinner Fee: **\$60** (member) \$70 (non-member)

**Dinner only - No Single Malt: \$50** (member)

\$60 (non-member)

**Robbie Burns Dinner Fee: \$70** (member) **\$80** (non-member)

> (includes \$5 donation per attendee to RMC Pipes & **Drums with Highland Dancers**)

June BBQ Dinner Fee: **\$70** (member)

\$80 (non-member)

## **Upcoming Dinner Dates**

October 18, 2010 – Campbeltown November 15, 2010 – Speyside December 13, 2010 - Speyside

January 24, 2011 – Isle of Arran - Robbie Burns February 14, 2011 - Highland - Valentine's

March 21, 2011 - St.Patrick's (Irish)

April 18, 2011 - Island / Islay

May 16, 2011 - Islay

**June 20, 2011 - BBO (Final Exam)** 

July 18, 2011-International

Thursday August 25, 2011 – 4th Annual Premium Night

# "Scotch Whisky Uncovered" #2 – Whisky definition and age statement



I have received many queries regarding the "definition" and "age" of scotch whisky so I felt it would be useful to attempt to provide some clarification.

#### Whisky Definition

The legal definition of "scotch whisky" is contained in the Scotch Whisky Act 1988 which specifically defines whisky as spirits;

(a) which have been produced by the distillation of a mash of cereals which has been—

(i) saccharified by the diastase of the malt contained therein, with or without other natural enzymes; and

(ii) fermented by the action of yeast, to an alcoholic strength of less than 94.8 per cent by volume so that the distillate has an aroma and taste derived from the raw materials used; and

(b) which have matured for at least three years in wooden casks of a capacity not exceeding 700 litres.

(c) Must not contain any added substance other than water and caramel colour.

(d) It must contain a minimum of 40 per cent alcohol by volume content

It also states that no whisky – other than scotch whisky – may be produced in Scotland.

#### Your queries

The definition states that the spirit had to be matured in oak casks for a minimum of three years before it can be described as scotch whisky. One typical question that I have been asked is; "Does this mean that if the age statement on a bottle states 8 years, or 10 years, or even 25 years, then the distilled spirit has been maturing **in a** 

**cask** for that period of time?"

The answer to this question is a most definite "YES!" - the age statement on a bottle of whisky refers to the **minimum** period that the bottled spirit has been matured in the cask after distillation. I use the term "**minimum**" advisably as the mix of spirit from matured casks in the bottle may well include some whiskies that are older than the stated age. The age statement on the bottle is defined by law as r eferring to the age of the "youngest" spirit in the bottle.

It should be noted that the maturation (and hence the age statement) is fixed the moment that the whisky is removed from the cask and transferred to a sealed, glass bottle. Therefore, if you happen to be in possession of a ten year old that has been stored well for fifteen years and is still sealed on your shelf – it is still a ten year old whisky not a 25 year old!

From a manufacturing cost perspective, it is obviously less expensive to mature casks for a shorter period of time so the less expensive scotch whiskies – particularly blends that you will encounter in stores - will most likely have been matured for only the three year period. If there is no age statement on a bottle, it is more likely than not that it will have been matured for the three year period. If companies have gone to the expense of maturing whiskies for longer periods of time (and financed that storage) they will almost always state the maturation age on the bottle. Single malt whiskies are most typically matured for a minimum of ten years or more. We will be covering the different types of whiskies and more information on the maturation process in future editions of "Scotch Whisky Uncovered."

Alan Gordon www.scotchwhisky.net

In "Scotch Whisky Uncovered 3" we summarise the different main types of scotch whisky. In particular we provide information regarding "What is a "single malt" scotch whisky?" - a regular question that we are asked by newcomers to the world of scotch whisky

"Scotch Whisky Uncovered" #3 – Whisky categories In brief;

- Scotch whisky is an entirely natural product and is essentially made from the following elements; barley/grain, water, yeast.
- There are 4 main categories of scotch whisky;
  - Single malt
  - Grain
  - o Blended
  - Blended malt
- A "single malt" scotch whisky is a whisky that is based on
  malted barley as its cereal crop, has been distilled utilising a
  Potstill based process and is the product of spirit distilled at one
  single malt distillery. This "batch" distilling process results in
  malt whisky being more expensive to produce than grain
  whisky (see below).
- "Single Malt" scotch whisky brands are almost always named after the distillery in which they are produced unlike "Blended" scotch whiskies for which brand names have typically been created like any other consumer product.
- A "grain" scotch whisky is a whisky that is based on a
  combination of malted barley and unmalted barley, wheat or
  maize together with yeast or water. It is produced utilising a
  continuous distillation (Patent or Coffey Still) process and
  typically provides a lighter spirit.
- A "blended" whisky is a whisky that has been produced from a blend - or combination - of malt and grain whisky. Blends will typically include a much larger proportion of grain whisky than malt (70%/30%) but different brands contain different proportions. Those with a higher malt content are typically more expensive and held in higher regard.
- A "blended malt" whisky is a scotch whisky which is made up from a combination of single malt whiskies. This should not be confused with blended scotch whisky above which is a blend of malt and grain whiskies. Blended malt whisky contains no grain whisky and is a category which is small but growing in popularity. (This type of whisky has also been known in the past as a "vatted malt" or "pure malt." The term vatted malt is quite descriptive, but the term "pure malt" can be misleading as it may be assumed to be a "single malt" which it is not. This confusion led to the Scotch Whisky Association recommending the description "blended malt" for this category - but this can also be confusing as many lay people may well confuse this type of exclusively malt whisky with a blend! (which, of course contains malt and grain whisky. Confused? - well you especially have our sympathy if English is not your first language and you see the word "blended" on the label!!!)

I trust that this helps categorise the main different groupings of scotch whisky that are available in the market today.
Until next time ... Alan Gordon ... www.scotchwhisky.net

The last "Scotch Whisky Uncovered" e-mail which covered the main types of scotch whisky which we categorised as "Single Malt," "Grain," "Blended" and "Blended Malt" prompted the following questions from readers:

- "I now understand the main categories, but where do "cask strength whiskies" fit in?"
- "I have a bottle which states "Cask Strength, No chill filtering & no colouring" what does this mean?"
- "What about the regional categories?"

I plan to cover the "Cask Strength/Chill filtering" questions below and detail the Scotch Whisky regions in the next e-mail - "Scotch Whisky Uncovered 5"

# "Scotch Whisky Uncovered" #4 – What is "cask strength and chill filtering

"Cask strength" whiskies are whiskies which are bottled straight from the cask at the alcohol strength at which the spirit has naturally arrived following the maturation process - with no water added to dilute the strength. An aby value of 50 to 55% would be a typical cask strength, but

natural cask strength could be anything from 40% to over 60% depending on the whisky, cask type, maturation conditions and age.

What is "chill filtering"? As noted in an earlier edition of "Uncovered" when we reviewed the legal definition, the matured spirit has to have a minimum alcohol strength of 40% to be officially designated as "scotch whisky." Many scotch whiskies are produced at this strength – or sometimes 43% - with water being added to the distilled and matured whisky to achieve the desired strength. However, as water is added to matured whisky straight from the cask, as the alcohol strength drops below 46%aby, the spirit goes "cloudy" as some elements of the whisky such as natural fats go into suspension. This feature is not a problem in terms of taste, but it is undesirable visually as consumers may assume that a problem exists with the spirit. To address this problem, these elements are removed by a "chill filtering" process. The process involves chilling the spirit to a low temperature, running the spirit through a filter to remove the fats which have come out of solution and then allowing the spirit to come back to ambient temperature at which point it will be perfectly clear.

Many whisky buffs/connoisseurs prefer whiskies which state "no chill filtering" on the label as they believe that they are sampling the whisky in its fully natural state. (One comparison often cited is "full" milk versus "semi-skimmed" milk but this is perhaps a bit unfair on the many excellent chill-filtered whiskies!).

Single cask whiskies - and many of the whiskies produced by independent bottlers in particular - emphasise their individuality by promoting the "non chill filtered" and "no additional colouring" features of their products. Single cask whiskies can emphasise the differences in colour that can be produced from whiskies matured in different casks. The large volume scotch whisky producers have to ensure that the flavour and colour profile of their whiskies are consistent from batch to batch and year to year. For this reason, the higher volume producers often add a small amount of colouring to their product. The colouring which is added must be simple caramel colouring.

Alan Gordon www.scotchwhisky.net

Auchentoshan Releases 1998 Limited Edition for 2010 Whisky Festival by Noah Joseph

Last summer, Scottish whisky distillery Auchentoshan held a grand festival that drew some 2,600 malt aficionados and connoisseurs from near and far. This year the festival is marking its return as an annual event, featuring

whisky tastings, live music and cooking

classes.

Specially for the event, the distillery has released a limited edition single malt, a 12-year-old bottling from 1998, matured in Sherry casks and bottled at cask strength. Only 200 bottles will be offered at £50 apiece, each individually numbered and accompanied by a certificate of authenticity signed by head distiller Jeremy Stephens. Visitors will also have the opportunity to bottle their own directly from a specially selected cask.



### **Premium Single Malt Night**

Once again our 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Premium Single Malt Night was a huge success. A good time was had by all. At the cost of \$150 all 24 attendees enjoyed a fine meal and lovely single malts. This year marked the first time guests walked away

with a commemorative glass. Given the continued success of this event I look forward to the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Premium Single Malt Night next August (mark your calendars - Thursday August 25<sup>th</sup>, 2011).

KSMS' 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Premium Single Malt Night Thursday August 26th, 2010 @ Fort Frontenac

#### *MENU*

## Welcome and 1st Nosing:

Macallan Select Oak (introduced by: Marc Laverdiere)

<u>Salad</u>: Seafood on a Bed of Salad

<u>2<sup>nd</sup> Nosing</u>: Macallan Estate Reserve

(introduced by: Marc Laverdiere)

Entree: Blue Cheese Crusted Filet Mignon

<u>Vegetables</u>: Glazed Carrots; Sautéed Tri-Color Peppers with Portobello Mushroom and Snowpeas <u>3<sup>rd</sup> Nosing</u>: Macallan Fine Oak 18 Y.O (introduced by: Marc Laverdiere)

Dessert: Molten Lava Chocolate Cake

4<sup>th</sup> Nosing: Highland Park Magnus Special Edition 15 Years Old Orkney Islands Single Malt (introduced by: Marc Laverdiere)

5<sup>th</sup> Nosing: Linkwood 1974 Single Malt Whisky Rare Malt Selection 30 Year Old Distilled: 1974; Bottled: 2005

(introduced by: Bill Gorham)
<u>Cigar</u>: Guantanamera (Cuban)

<u>6<sup>th</sup> Nosing</u>: Highland Park 25 year old
(introduced by: Sylvain Bouffard)

# Winners at the Premium Night

#### Magazines

Bill Gorham; Chuck MacDonald; Jason Budd; Tim Reeves; Tom Ker; Sylvain Bouffard

Malt Advocate Whisky Fest Hoodie
Chris Good's guest

Gift courtesy of Marc Laverdiere
Kevin Berube - Highland Park ice bucket

# Scientists Raise A Glass To Whisky Biofuel

Tuesday August 17, 2010 - James Matthews, Scotland correspondent

A new whisky biofuel that can be used to power cars has been developed by scientists in Edinburgh. Researchers found a formula to make the fuel from whisky by-products. They combined so-called pot ale - the liquid from the copper stills distillery equipment - and the spent grains used to make whisky, also known as draff, to produce butanol. This form of alcohol can then be used as fuel to drive a vehicle, much like ethanol. However, the Scottish scientists said butanol was superior to ethanol - with 25% more energy per unit volume. Also, the biofuel can be introduced to unmodified engines with any petrol blend, whereas ethanol can only be blended up to 85% and requires engine modification. This is a more environmentally sustainable option and potentially offers new revenue on the back

of one of Scotland's biggest industries. Professor Martin Tangney. With 1,600 million litres of pot ale and 187,000 tons of draff produced annually by the malt whisky industry, there is potential for the new biofuel to be available on the garage forecourt. Professor Martin Tangney, director of the **Biofuel Research** Centre at Edinburgh Napier University, said: "The EU has declared that biofuels should account for 10% of total fuel sales by 2020. "While some energy companies are growing crops specifically to generate biofuel, we are investigating excess materials such as whisky by-products to develop them. "This is a more environmentally sustainable option and potentially offers new revenue on the back of one of Scotland's biggest industries." The drink-it-then-drive-it research was based on technology once used to manufacture explosives during the first and second world wars. However, there is no confirmation yet that it will make your car go like a rocket.

# Whisky's £4bn Boost Raises Scottish Spirits

Monday May 31, 2010 - Adam Arnold, Sky News Online
The Scotch whisky industry makes nearly £4bn for the
Scottish economy - and workers are three times as productive
as bankers, a new report has claimed.



Whisky is Scotland's second biggest export, after oil and gas. Staff are also six times as productive as the Scottish average - and the national drink now earns as much for the Scots economy as tourism does, research suggested. The industry employs more than 10,000 workers with a gross income of £464m.

But it has a much wider economic impact through links with Scottish suppliers, investment in the country and through high street spending by workers in the production of the drink. It supports around 35,000 extra jobs, which creates nearly £3.9bn each year in profits and wages - known as GVA - across the economy. Whisky is one of the country's biggest exports, coming second to the oil and gas industry, according to the report for the Scotch Whisky Association (SWA) by Verso Economics. The study confirms Scotch whisky is a cornerstone of the Scottish economy. Gavin Hewitt, chief executive of Scotch Whisky Association

GVA per employee is just over £262,000, more than three times that of business and financial services in London. Scotch Whisky's impact is 60% higher than Scotland's creative industries' GVA (£2.4bn - including television, radio, publishing, film and software) and is similar to tourism (£4bn). Gavin Hewitt, SWA chief executive, said: "Scotch whisky's importance to Scotland is clear. "The study confirms Scotch whisky is a cornerstone of the Scottish economy. That economic impact benefits every corner of Scotland." Mr Hewitt urged the UK Government to support manufacturers and exporters by reforming the "unfair" alcohol tax system.

## Hard To Swallow - Whisky At £10K A Bottle!

UK, Thursday July 30, 2009
A 50-year-old single malt whisky is to go on sale for £10,000 a bottle.

The distillery plans to release just 50 bottles per year. The <u>Glenfiddich Distillery</u> described the single malt as "the pinnacle of our whisky-making excellence".

It plans to release just 50 bottles per year over the next decade.



Bottles will be available at selected airports across the world for the next two months, then at a small number of retailers. The whisky has been kept in two casks in the Banffshire

distillery's warehouse for 50 years. Each hand-blown numbered bottle is decorated in Scottish silver and presented in a hand-stitched, leather-bound case. A leather-bound book accompanies each bottle, detailing the whisky's history and has pages for owners' tasting notes. Buyers will also receive a certificate signed by four of the distillery's long-serving craftsmen.



The whisky has been kept in two casks Peter Gordon, chair of distillery owner William Grant & Sons, said the whisky is "flawless". Mr Gordon, the great-grandson of distillery founder William Grant, said: "We're happy to wait as long as we need to - up to 50 years in this instance - to produce the perfect whisky. "The

Glenfiddich 50 Year Old is the pinnacle of our whisky-making excellence and epitomises my great-great grandfather's vision of creating the very 'best dram in the valley'." It will not be the most expensive whisky ever sold, though. In 2006, a bottle of Glenavon Special Liqueur Whisky, said to be 150 years old, fetched £14,850 at an auction in London.

# Whisky Recipe Happy Cherries!

source: allrecipes.com

# **Ingredients**:

1 (10 ounce) jar maraschino cherries

3/4 cup bourbon whiskey

# **Directions:**

Drain the liquid from the jar of cherries. Replace it with bourbon. Close the lid and refrigerate for about 1 week for

maximum flavor. After that, the cherries start to taste less like cherries.

Recipe comments indicate these cherries are perfect in drinks or for, "a little pick me up". It also warns, "don't eat cherries and drive"!

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# Whisky Recipe

# Mouthwatering Whiskey Grill Glaze

source: allrecipes.com - By: Kelly Gasparini
"With a flavor made famous by a popular restaurant
chain, this glaze is perfect with steak, ribs, chicken,
pork or fish! It's so good, I could almost drink it!"



Ingredients:
1 tablespoon onion powder
1 tablespoon garlic powder
1 tablespoon hot pepper sauce
1 cup pineapple

juice 1/2 cup whiskey 2 cups packed brown sugar 2 cubes beef bouillon

4 tablespoons Worcestershire sauce

#### **Directions:**

In a medium saucepan, place onion powder, garlic powder, hot pepper sauce, pineapple juice, whiskey, brown sugar, beef bouillon and Worcestershire sauce. Bring the mixture to a boil. Reduce heat and simmer 15 minutes.

Remove from heat and pour over grilled meats as desired.

# Win Me!



LINKWOOD 1974 SINGLE

MALT

WHISKY RARE MALT

SELECTION 30 Year Old

Distilled: 1974; Bottled: 2005;

Age: 30 Year Old;

700mL; Price: \$229.50; 54.9%

Alcohol/Vol

Starting September 20<sup>th</sup>, 2010 tickets can be purchased for a chance to win this bottle. Tickets will be \$3 each, two tickets for \$5, or \$20 for an arm-length. Tickets will be on sale at each dinner until the January 24<sup>th</sup>, 2011 Robbie Burns dinner when the bottle will be raffled. The winner must successfully answer the skill testing question: What country does single malt come from?

### **Reservation policy**

- Our contract with the Officer's Mess Kitchen requires that we provide seven (7) business days notice for them to guarantee accommodation for our requested numbers. Each month an invitation will be sent out to all

members of the Society in the first week of the respective month in which the dinner will be held. To accommodate the Kitchen's needs and meet our contractual obligation with them; our members are requested to respond to the emailed invitation seven (7) business days prior to the respective dinner to guarantee a seat at the dinner. After that members will be placed on a waitlist.

- For these individuals the process will be as follows, using the September  $20^{\rm th}, 2010$  dinner date as an example:
- Dinner invitations will be sent out Saturday August 28th, 2010. Please respond to me (rdifazio@cogeco.ca). 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 at (613-634-0397).
- Accommodation at the dinner will be guaranteed for a member who responds by Saturday September 4th, 2010 midnight.

#### **Cancellation policy**

- Using the same example as above, anyone who cancels anytime prior to Saturday September 4th, 2010 midnight will be removed from the list.
- Anyone cancelling between Saturday September 4th, 2010 midnight and Monday September 20th, 2010 will be expected to pay for the cost of the dinner and scotch (\$60). It is the responsibility of the member who cancels their reservation to find a replacement. If I can substitute an individual from the wait-list, then the member will not be asked to pay for their cancellation.
- Anyone who fails to attend the Monday September 20th, 2010 dinner without having cancelled and been successfully replaced will be expected to pay the full cost (\$60). The member will be responsible for their guest's cancellation.
- If a member asks to be included at the dinner between Saturday September 4th, 2010 midnight midnight and Monday September 20th, 2010 your name will be placed on a wait-list and you will be accommodated on a first-come first-serve basis.

Just a note because we care.

Please drink responsibly.

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.

If you have any questions or comments please free to contact me. Thank you for your understanding, Roberto



Kingston Single Malt Society

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