

# Kingston Single Malt Society

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

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

January 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2023 VOLUME 16; NUMBER 7a; No. 213



## MENU

**First course:** Tattie Soup

**Second Course:** Scotch Eggs with a Grainy Beer Mustard

**1<sup>st</sup> Nosing:** BENRINNES 7 YEAR OLD

**2<sup>nd</sup> Nosing:** BENRINNES 12 YEAR OLD  
(introduced by: Chantaille Buczynski)

**Third course:** Lamb Sausages, Bubble & Squeak, Honey Roasted Neeps and Carrots, Whiskey Gravy & Haggis

**3<sup>rd</sup> Nosing:** MANNOCHMORE 11 YEAR OLD

**4<sup>th</sup> Nosing:** MANNOCHMORE 12 YEAR OLD  
(introduced by: Chantaille Buczynski)

**Fourth course:** Deep Fried Mars Bar

**5<sup>th</sup> Nosing:** DAILUAINE 11 YEAR OLD

**6<sup>th</sup> Nosing:** BLAIR ATHOL 12 YEAR OLD  
(introduced by: Chantaille Buczynski)

## COST OF THE MALTS

**BENRINNES 7 YEAR OLD** Bottler: Pendulum Spirits Ltd.; Bottling serie: Fable Whisky - 3rd Release - Chapter Eleven; Vintage: 21.02.2014; Bottled: 21.06.2021; Stated Age: 07 years old; Casktype: Refill Hogshead; Casknumber: 303406; Bottle Number: 114/188 SCOTCH WHISKY LCBO 183400 | 700 mL bottle Price: \$186.95 Spirits, Whisky/Whiskey 56.2% Alcohol/Vol.

**BENRINNES 12 YEAR OLD** Bottler: Pendulum Spirits Ltd.; Bottling serie: Fable Whisky - 1st Release - Chapter Four; Label: The Ghost Piper of Clanyard Bay - Hound; Vintage: 06.07.2009; Bottled: 18.10.2021;

**Stated Age: 12 years old; Casktype: Hogshead; Casknumber: 307953; Bottle Number: 245/272 SCOTCH WHISKY LCBO 183400 | 700 mL bottle Price: \$186.95** Spirits, Whisky/Whiskey 58.9% Alcohol/Vol.

**MANNOCHMORE 11 YEAR OLD** Bottler: Pendulum Spirits Ltd.; Bottling serie: Fable Whisky - 1st Release - Chapter Five; Label: The Ghost Piper of Clanyard Bay - Hound; Vintage: 06.04.2010; Bottled: 18.10.2021; Stated Age: 11 years old; Casktype: Hogshead; Casknumber: 3682; Bottle Number: 234/287 SCOTCH WHISKY LCBO 183400 | 700 mL bottle Price: \$236.95 Spirits, Whisky/Whiskey 52.8% Alcohol/Vol.

**MANNOCHMORE 12 YEAR OLD** Bottler: Pendulum Spirits Ltd.; Bottling serie: Fable Whisky - 1st Release - Chapter Five; Label: The Ghost Piper of Clanyard Bay - Hound; Vintage: 12.05.2009; Bottled: 21.06.2021; Stated Age: 12 years old; Casktype: Hogshead; Casknumber: 5435; Bottle Number: 48/254 SCOTCH WHISKY LCBO 183400 | 700 mL bottle Price: \$236.95 Spirits, Whisky/Whiskey 55.8% Alcohol/Vol.

**DAILUAINE 11 YEAR OLD** Bottler: Pendulum Spirits Ltd.; Bottling serie: Fable Whisky - 1st Release - Chapter Three; Label: The Ghost Piper of Clanyard Bay - Moon; Vintage: 14.07.2010; Bottled: 18.10.2021; Stated Age: 11 years old; Casktype: Hogshead; Casknumber: 308834; Bottle Number: 264/275 SCOTCH WHISKY LCBO 183400 | 700 mL bottle Price: \$186.95 Spirits, Whisky/Whiskey 59.1% Alcohol/Vol.

**BLAIR ATHOL 12 YEAR OLD** Bottler: Pendulum Spirits Ltd.; Bottling serie: Fable Whisky - 1st Release - Chapter Six; Label: The Ghost Piper of Clanyard Bay - Crows; Vintage: 10.07.2009; Bottled: 18.10.2021; Stated Age: 12 years old; Casktype: Hogshead; Casknumber: 304771; Bottle Number: 274/301 SCOTCH WHISKY LCBO 183400 | 700 mL bottle Price: \$186.95 Spirits, Whisky/Whiskey 55.8% Alcohol/Vol.

## Results of the December Raffle

The winner of the Linodres 1<sup>st</sup> Release was Helen Driver's Guest Japie Louw  
A total of \$640 was raised.

The donation was matched by our daughter's, Gabriella, company, DocuSign.

As a result a total of \$1280 was donated to the Partners In Mission Food Bank.

Thank you everyone!

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## Winners of the Gifts from Mrs. Claus (aka Lana Di Fazio)

Ainsley Creighton, Jeremy Bartlett, Larry  
Ringler, Kelly Barber, & Serge Acay

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### December 19 Dinner - KSMS Financial Statement

Money from 57 December attendees @ \$100	= \$5700.00
Money from 7 December dinner only @ \$70	= \$490.00
December dinner 64 persons =	= \$4522.54
(Money remaining for buying Single Malt)	= \$1877.46
Cost of Single Malts:	= \$1235.65
Cost of Pours per Person = \$30.89	
KSMS Monthly operational balance	= \$641.81
Cost per person (All inclusive)	= \$89.97
Money for Heels	= \$215.00
Money Raised from Raffle	= \$500.00
KSMS Monthly operational balance	= \$856.81

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### Upcoming Dinner Dates

Monday February 13<sup>th</sup> 2023 - Speyside / Islay  
Monday March 13<sup>th</sup> 2023 - Irish / Speyside  
Monday April 17<sup>th</sup> 2023 - Speyside / Islay  
Monday May 29<sup>th</sup> 2023 - Speyside / Islands  
Monday June 19<sup>th</sup> 2023 - June BBQ

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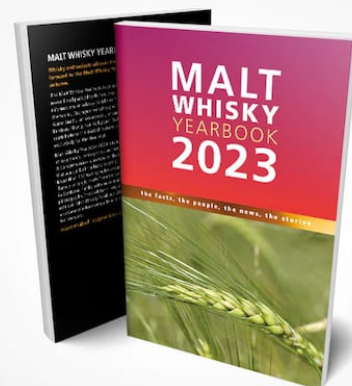
### Book Review: Malt Whisky Yearbook 2023

[Ian Arnold](#) - [Reviews](#), [Scotch](#) | January 1, 2023

*Editor's Note: This book was provided to us as a review sample by its publisher. 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.*

Who is a whisky guide book for? The novice looking to plunge into the world of whisky, or the enthusiast looking to deepen their understanding of things? Maybe even a professional needing a quick reference at hand. The "[Malt Whisky Yearbook 2023](#)", published by MagDig Media and edited by Ingvar Ronde, offers something for all of the above. Providing a primer that covers history, tasting notes, and quick facts on distilleries old and new.

I appreciate the format of this book – it starts with a few short articles on things relevant to the world of whisky. These opening articles are clearly written by people that know their subject matter. My only complaint about the whole thing is that these opening articles at moments can come off as dense. One of them condenses 500 years of history into a single page and felt like I needed to do research to keep up.



Malt Whisky Yearbook 2023 (image via Malt Whisky Yearbook)  
It then moves into the core of the book, a good guide of Scotch whisky distilleries giving no frill reviews, simplified timelines, and a brief breakdown of the history and unique characteristics of the distillery. They break this up with little highlights of ghost distilleries explaining their history and how old stock is used today. The book moves on to provide a simplified guide of new distilleries just covering some basic facts.

They then change format to cover an impressive number of distilleries outside of Scotland. This brings it to the wider world of malt whisky. These quick snippets cover location, founding year, and a quick paragraph to give an idea of the distillery. A good reference for when planning a trip and wanting to check what distilleries may be nearby. They make sure to recognize producers as well in a similar format of smaller blurbs.

As a self proclaimed nerd, their statistics section was delightful. Even though the section is only three pages at the end of the book, it gives a great snapshot of just how much Scotch is being produced and consumed.

While I have not seen previous editions of this particular book, I can only compare it to similar guides. Overall, Malt Whisky Yearbook 2023 is a well laid out reference book that is useful for people at all levels in their journey into the world of whisky. Giving broad overviews for the beginner, while going into detail enough to give the professional some new bits here and there, this would make for a good addition to any whisky lover's book collection.

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### Lagavulin Offerman Edition Charred Oak Cask Revealed

May 9, 2022 by [Elias Aoude](#)

LAGAVULIN™  
ISLAY SINGLE MALT SCOTCH WHISKY  
OFFERMAN EDITION  
CHARRED OAK CASK  
AGED 11 YEARS

"I HAVE TRAVELLED THE WORLD AND SAMPLED MANY ATTEMPTS AT PLEASEING NECTARS, BUT IT IS SOLELY THIS DISTILLATION OF ISLAY; A TINY CHARISMATIC SCOTTISH ISLE, THAT HAS CLAIMED MY PALATE. YEA, AND MY HEART INTO THE BARGAIN."

46% alc./vol. 750 mL

NICK OFFERMAN

31 05 49 1897



Labels submitted to the TTB have revealed Lagavulin Offerman Edition Charred Oak Cask, a third Lagavulin limited release created in partnership with Hollywood celebrity Nick Offerman. Lagavulin and Offerman first partnered on the ex-Bourbon matured [Lagavulin Offerman Edition Aged 11 Years](#), released in 2019, followed by [Lagavulin Offerman Edition Finished in Guinness Casks](#), launched in 2021.

Lagavulin Offerman Edition Charred Oak Cask is expected to hit stores later this year. Expect an official announcement with more information, including pricing, release date, and availability, prior to launch.

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**Whisky Review: Lagavulin Offerman Edition Charred Oak Cask 11 Years**  
[Jerry Jenae Sampson](#) - January 6, 2023

When it comes to celebrity collaboration in the wonderful world of spirits, it doesn't get more on brand than Nick Offerman's partnership with Lagavulin on the third in the [Offerman Edition](#) limited series. This Scotch whisky lends itself perfectly to Offerman's well known *Parks and Recreation* character, the masculine-obsessed Ron Swanson, who likely brushed his teeth with a combination of cigar smoke and deer jerky. And those flavors are what come through in the initial tasting of [Lagavulin Offerman Edition Charred Oak Cask 11 Years](#), offering a peaty Scotch with a ton of personality.

Believed to be one of the oldest distilleries on Islay, Lagavulin Distillery first paired with Offerman in 2019 to produce his own personalized release. The actor has credited Lagavulin as the first Scotch he ever imbibed, and the passion derived from that experience has encouraged Offerman to spread the word far and wide, participating in digital marketing including the popular [Yule Log campaign](#) even before his name was officially attached to the brand.

For this latest release, Offerman has embarked on a new, dangerous [Tale of Whisky](#), the high adventure digital campaign introducing this [smoky creation](#).

Along with the hearty Scotch and the handsome bottle, the presence of such a charming spokesman as Offerman creates more than a brand, but an experience that one can enjoy as they hear Ron Swanson's voice in their ear, quoting Offerman's label statement – "I have travelled the world and sampled many attempts at pleasing nectars, but it is solely this distillation of Islay; a tiny charismatic Scottish Isle, that has claimed my palate. YEA, AND MY HEART INTO THE BARGAIN."

While it may be tempting to brush off Lagavulin Offerman Edition Charred Oak Cask 11 Years as yet another celebrity endorsement, it's clear that Offerman loves Scotch, and this collaboration with Lagavulin distillery manager Colin Gordon continues to be a love letter from one man to his favorite spirit.



Lagavulin Offerman Edition Charred Oak (image via Jerry Jenae Sampson/The Whiskey Wash)

Tasting Notes: [Lagavulin Offerman Edition Charred Oak Cask 11 Years](#)  
Vital Stats: Aged 11 years "in American and European oak casks that are shaved down then heavily re-charred." 46% ABV/750 ml. SRP around \$80.

Appearance: The color of golden oak with medium legs.

Nose: This whisky has strong leather notes, wood chip and campfire smoke, along with a meatiness and slight sweet of golden raisin.

Palate: Sweet on the front, there is a mellow burn that accompanies the heavy but pleasant smoke. Bitter notes of coffee and dark chocolate work well with the long, charcoal finish, and there are hints of marshmallow and red berries.

Whisky Review: Lagavulin Offerman Edition Charred Oak Cask 11 Years 4.5

#### Summary

The nose and palate are what you would hope from a Scotch whisky.

This is a surprisingly pleasant spirit, the kind of whisky I'd imagine Burt Reynolds in the 70s sipping in front of a fire on that old bearskin rug. It's classic, yet modern. A creative imagining of what can sometimes feel like a cloistered product.

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**Glen Deveron 40 Year Old Debuts As Bacardi Travel Exclusive**  
[Gary Carter](#) - [Scotch](#) | December 30, 2022

Bacardi unveiled recently a new travel retail exclusive, the Glen Deveron 40 Year Old Highland Single Malt.

The limited-edition expression is the latest in the brand's Exceptional Cask Series, a special collection of rare single malts.

[A statement from Bacardi](#) explains that this launch became available in selected travel retail locations this month.



Bacardi unveiled recently a new travel retail exclusive, the Glen Deveron 40 Year Old Highland Single Malt. (image via Bacardi)

The Glen Deveron 40 Year Old Highland Single Malt was selected from the distillery's private reserve by Malt Master Stephanie Macleod.

The whisky was distilled on Nov. 28th, 1980, and is the oldest expression from [the distillery](#) to date. It spent its final year maturing in an Oloroso Sherry Spanish oak butt.

Each individually numbered bottle comes with a glass stopper engraved with the Glen Deveron insignia, and presented in a wooden box complete with brand booklet.

The 40 Year Old single malt clocks in at 43% ABV, and has a suggested retail price of \$4,900USD.

"Having spent many hours nosing and sampling several whiskies in the Glen Deveron inventory, I found myself drawn to the impeccable quality of the whisky in this particular cask," Macleod said.

She described the whisky as opening with cinnamon spice, creamy vanilla and sweet baked apples on the nose, before herbal notes and dark chocolate raisin aromas come with a citrus zing.



On the palate, Macleod said it offers toasted cereal notes with fruity flavors, along with hints of bitter coffee before closing with a sweet but dry finish.

“Spanish oak is beautiful to work with, it bestows intense color and spice and is perfect for finishing,” Macleod said. “Casks of this high standard and age are few and far between and, when you consider oak’s profound effect on the taste of whisky, it is not surprising that the details count.”

As a result, she noted, the Glen Deveron 40 Year Old is a perfect example of an older Scotch with the dry spicy notes of the Oloroso, complementing the apple and cereal notes that are the signature of the Glen Deveron style.

For this expression, bottle owners are given an exclusive opportunity to visit the [Glen Deveron Distillery](#) through an immersive, digital, multi-sensory experience that combines augmented reality, CGI and audio. The digital journey takes audiences to the rugged landscapes of the coastal town of Macduff and the River Deveron, the home of Glen Deveron, before taking them on a tour inside the distillery. The virtual experience is narrated by Stephanie Macleod.

Bacardi’s head of marketing for Global Travel Retail, Ignacio Vazquez, said this expression has a “beautiful balance of notes from the final year of aging in Spanish oak ... and the immersive digital journey adds distinctive layering to the purchase experience, combining education and entertainment with a personal shared tasting voiced by Stephanie herself.”

## How to Pair Whisky and Cheese

AUGUST 15, 2022 | [STEPHEN BAUMONT](#)



Cheese is often served at tastings, but consider your selections to better complement the whiskies you're pouring. (Photo by Jeff Harris) The U.S. produces more cheese annually than France, Italy, and Switzerland combined. That statistic is according to Afrim Pristine, maître fromager, or cheese master, and owner of [Cheese Boutique](#) in Toronto, where he oversees the sale of some 44 tons of cheese each year. Of course, that's not the same as having the greatest variety of cheeses, a title that goes to France. But still, the prodigious output of the U.S. is impressive.

Further, Pristine says that from “about 1995 to 2002,” North Americans finally started to explore the full scope of that cheese. “I saw it firsthand,” he recalls, “People stopped buying the same cheese every time and became much more interested in trying different varieties.” While trying new cheeses is never a bad thing, Pristine notes that it can lead to disappointment. “I tell my customers to buy smaller pieces and shop more often,” he says, “Cheese doesn’t go bad, but when people overbuy and it sits around too long, it just won’t taste the way it should.” For storing the cheese you do buy, Pristine suggests avoiding plastic wrap, which can dry out the cheese, and resealable zipper-closure bags, which cause the cheese to sweat. Instead, he recommends wrapping the cheese first in parchment or waxed paper and then in aluminum foil, since the parchment will allow the cheese to breathe while the foil will protect it from absorbing other odors in the fridge and also keep your vegetables from smelling like cheese.

When serving, Pristine says that the longer you can leave it outside of the fridge, “two, three, or even eight hours,” the better it will taste. Which

is precisely how I approached my tasting of what Pristine identifies as the six basic groupings of cheese: goat/sheep, semi-firm, washed rind, bloomy rind, hard/aged, and blue.

Cheeses made from goat’s or sheep’s milk tend to be more delicate in flavor than those made from cow’s milk, so weighty whiskeys like bourbons and straight ryes should generally be avoided. With goat’s milk cheese in particular, the relative lightness and almost paradoxical depth of an Irish whiskey containing a high proportion of pot still spirit makes great gastronomic sense.

For a youthful gouda, my semi-firm cheese, I sought a complementary relationship in a fruity, sherry wood-aged single malt, and found it in [Macallan 12 year old Double Cask](#). The sherry accents play perfectly against the nutty flavors of the cheese, while the richness of the gouda draws out complex fruit and vanilla notes in the whisky.

(As an aside, balanced Scottish single malts, not too peaty or rich, seem to pair best with a wide variety of cheeses, as you might find on a typical cheese board.)

Washed-rind cheeses, like the French chaumes I sampled, tend to have big aromas—some call them “stinky”—but rather mild flavors, which require spirits of subtle complexity and soft bouquet, the toffee-ish [Crown Royal XO](#) fitting this bill quite deliciously. For cheeses with bloomy rinds, such as Bries and Camemberts, which often feature saltiness and acidity from the rind, a bolder and sweeter partner makes the most sense, like [Woodford Reserve Double Oaked](#) matched with the classic Brie de Meaux.

Finally, I returned to Scotland to find pairings for both my hard/aged and blue cheeses, hardly surprising since classics of both camps, cheddar and Stilton, were born not far from where the whiskies evolved. In general, I find that Speyside malts favor mature, firm cheeses and peatier Island whiskies complement blues, although full and round bourbons also benefit the latter.

PAIR THESE WHISKIES AND CHEESES AT HOME NOW

Chabichou du Poitou with [Redbreast 12 year old](#)

The dryness of this weeks-old chèvre draws forward the whiskey’s sweetness, while the spirit accentuates the fruitiness of the cheese.

3 year old Cheddar with [Glenlivet 12 year old](#)

The creaminess of the cheddar is underscored by the whisky, while the cheese heightens the nutty, fruity flavors of the malt.

Colston Bassett Stilton with [Talisker 10 year old](#)

England’s legendary blue cheese meets a Scottish partner in strength and assertiveness, to the flavorful benefit of both parties.



## Glenfiddich Unveils ‘Time Reimagined’ Collection of 50, 40 and 30-Year-Old Rare Whiskies

[HEATH DAVIS](#), 20 SEP 2022 | NEWS

In the four seasonal circles of life, spring is considered the time to “reset”. Think about it. The long dark days of winter are finally done and dusted and as the chilly season fades away, we welcome the warm and revitalising gift that is spring. At its very essence, spring is a season of



the real *three Rs*: renewal, refreshment and restoration. Perhaps this is why they party so hard every spring in [Game of Thrones](#). Those certainly are some punishing winters the Starks and Lannisters are forced to endure, and unlike us, they don't have their mates at [Glenfiddich](#) to help them get through it, either.



Glenfiddich Time Reimagined Collection | Image: Glenfiddich  
The three R's are exactly at the heart of what the iconic [Scotch](#) producer expresses with the launch of its upcoming Time Reimagined collection. And boy, what a stellar collection it is. Consisting of three of the most extraordinary single malt [whiskies](#) in the Glenfiddich portfolio, the latest lineup is truly something to get excited about.



Glenfiddich 30-Year-Old – Suspended Time | Image: Glenfiddich  
Effortlessly bridging the past with the present, Time Reimagined boasts a pool of 50, 40 and 30-year-old whiskies designed to be enjoyed for many more to come. What will no doubt prove to be a much sought-after collection amongst cashed-up consumers commences with the 30-year-old, Suspended Time.

According to the fabled producer, this release The Glenfiddich depicts the very moment that Brian Kinsman, Glenfiddich's malt master, suspends the whisky's maturation to bottle it. A painstaking effort to capture lightning in a bottle, this process is characterised by a precise moment in time that can make or break a perfect expression. It's a sentiment that flows through to the outer packaging design as well,

which evokes this moment through moving ribbons, frozen in time to form cut-out windows to reveal the decanter inside.

"In whisky production, we often talk about the role of malt masters and it's our responsibility to find the delicate balance between the taste of the whisky and the intensity of the oak cask," Brian Kinsman, Glenfiddich malt master said. "But we don't always acknowledge how each cask, each bottle, is absolutely unique because of the time it has spent maturing. Both nature and time play huge roles in making whisky taste like it does and Glenfiddich's Time Reimagined pays homage to this process and the exquisite liquid it helps to create."

Colour: Rich bronze

Nose: An exquisitely structured balance of hearty oak married with sweet, subtle sherry notes.

Taste: Deep, woody flavours interlaced with delicate floral accents, in a complex combination.

Finish: Warm, honeyed and exceptionally long-lasting.

ABV: 43%



Glenfiddich 40-Year-Old – Cumulative Time

Representing Cumulative Time, the 40-Year-Old is rich with flavours evolving from deep fruit notes, finishing with subtle hints of bitter chocolate and peat. According to the label, the expression represents remnant vating, a process where the remnants of the previous batch are carried over each time. From there, they are married with the casks selected for each subsequent release.

It's a unique process that isn't commonly used. In fact, Glenfiddich is the only distillery that still makes use of the remnant vating process, which is a testament to the label's traditional approach to distillation. The decanter is housed in a stunning sculptural container and stopper made from jesmonite.

Colour: Dark mahogany

Nose: A deeply layered expression of dried fruits, dark chocolate, roasted coffee and ripe black cherries. Completed with subtle waves of gentle wood smoke, polished leather and cloves.

Taste: A luxuriously full and silky smooth taste, with memories of past releases in every nuanced note. Evolving from deep dried fruit notes to rich fruitcake, dates, raisins and stewed apples, before giving way to dry oaky notes, with subtle hints of bitter chocolate and peat.

Finish: Complex, memorable, and exquisitely long-lasting.

ABV: 44.6%





**Glenfiddich 50-Year-Old – Simultaneous Time** | Image: Glenfiddich

Finally, the rarest within this five-star collection is the 50-Year-Old Simultaneous Time, which sounds almost too good to be true. Taking whiskies from three different American Oak refill casks, all matured in the same warehouse, this expression sees them married together and finished in an American oak refill cask for two years. As we all know, factors such as air pressure, humidity and temperature can greatly impact the maturation process, and after 50 years, this whisky has seen them all. Extremely limited, only 220 decanters of this release will be made available worldwide, with the outer casing set to mark “an artistic representation of the climatic data that created this extraordinary whisky”. The piece arrives by way of Manuel Jiménez García, a computational architect, who decrypted the meteorological data into an algorithm, before transforming it into the wild structure that remains.

“William Grant, the visionary founder of Glenfiddich, had a dream to create the best dram in the valley,” Claudia Falcone, Glenfiddich global brand director said. “These three expressions are the perfect illustration of that aspiration. The Time Reimagined collection bottles that maverick spirit and captures a fleeting moment in time which bridges the past with the present. The quality of these liquids has inspired the distinctive packaging that beautifully tell the stories of these single malts and is a fitting tribute to the unpredictable nature of time itself.”

**Colour:** Antique gold

**Nose:** Rich orange peel and clementine meet complex notes of Madeira cake and muscovado sugar. Maturing over time into the dewy petrichor of a Dufftown morning, mingling with flowering geranium.

**Taste:** A lingering sweetness softens into deep, silky smooth oak tannin and sun-dried vanilla.

**Finish:** Oaky, sweet and incredibly long lasting.

**ABV:** 43.8%



**Glenfiddich 30 Year Old – Suspended Time** | Image: Glenfiddich

Possessing a silky-smooth oak tannin and sun-dried vanilla, and finishing off with oaky and sweet overtures, it's a perfect way to both compliment and complete the collection. As you can see, it's not hard to understand why Time Reimagined is considered the pinnacle of Glenfiddich's signature distillery style. The incendiary bottle artwork alone suggests this is no regular collection and, take it from us, it certainly isn't.

The Glenfiddich 30-Year-Old retails for \$1,680, Glenfiddich 40-Year-Old \$6,450, and Glenfiddich 50-Year-Old \$64,500. As you would expect these rare casks are strictly limited. In fact, only a small number will be made available in Australia at luxury whisky bars, and select retailers including Dan Murphy's from November. With releases this good, it's little wonder Glenfiddich holds the honour of the “world's most awarded single malt scotch whisky”. Happy spring!

[Check it out](#)



**Glenfiddich 50 Year Old – Simultaneous Time** | Image: Glenfiddich





Glenfiddich 30 Year Old – Suspended Time | Image: Glenfiddich

## GlenAllachie debuts its first peated whisky

21 SEPTEMBER 2022 By Alice Brooker

Master blender Billy Walker has concluded GlenAllachie's The Past, The Present & Future Series with a four-year-old peated single malt.



The latest addition to The Past, Present & Future Series retails for RRP £80 (US\$90.74)

The Scotch whisky is said to be the first distillate produced under GlenAllachie Distillers Company's ownership.

It joins the limited edition series, which was [launched this year](#) to mark Walker's 50-year tenure in the Scotch industry.

Walker said: "It's beyond exciting to release our very own whisky distilled since we took over this hidden gem of a distillery in 2017.

"I eagerly await the reaction amongst whisky fans to this first glimpse at both our own distillate, and our peated work. The response will unquestionably influence where we take things next."

The GlenAllachie Billy Walker 50th Anniversary Future Edition 4-Year-Old Peated Single Malt Scotch Whisky was matured in former rye and Bourbon barrels, as well as in virgin oak casks.

Described as 'young and punchy' by the brand, it is made with mainland peat from St Fergus, Scotland.

It boasts sweet and smoky notes of oak, cinnamon apples and chocolate-covered hazelnuts. The Future Edition remained 'under careful supervision' within one of the distillery's 16 on-site warehouses in Speyside.

Walker added: "The timing of the launch is apt as we celebrate our fifth anniversary of ownership next month. We are so very fortunate to be steering this great distillery into the future. I think the best is yet to come."

Only 10,000 bottles of the new release are available to buy through global specialist retailers at RRP £80 (US\$90.74).

The four-year-old joins the series which currently includes [The Past Edition](#), a 16-year-old Sherry-matured single malt released in May, and [The Present Edition](#), a 16-year-old mizunara virgin oak finish.

In May this year, the distillery released the [second batch of its oldest core expression](#), a 30-year-old single malt Scotch aged in PX, oloroso Sherry and American virgin oak casks.

In 2017, [Pernod Ricard sold GlenAllachie Distillery to Billy Walker](#) through its subsidiary Chivas Brothers.

## Old Pulteney kicks off Coastal Series

22 SEPTEMBER 2022 By Nicola Carruthers

Scotch brand Old Pulteney has released the first whisky in a new range inspired by coastal locations around the world.



Old Pulteney headed to France for the first release in its Coastal Series. To create The Coastal Series, Old Pulteney partnered with spirits makers from different coastal locations to mature its whisky in specialist casks. The collection will comprise four limited edition whiskies that will be released annually from 2022.

The series has kicked off with the launch of Old Pulteney Pineau des Charentes, inspired by the flavours of the French coastline.

The whisky was first matured in traditional American oak casks, followed by further maturation in ex-Pineau des Charentes wine casks from the southwest coast of France.

The resulting liquid offers flavours of candied oranges, warm spices and vanilla, and notes of caramelised hazelnuts and ground spices.

Old Pulteney is matured in Wick, Scotland, and influenced by coastal notes from the North Sea.

Malcolm Waring, distillery manager, said: "Old Pulteney's past, present and taste is influenced by its home by the sea on the Caithness coast, and The Coastal Series beautifully explores cask maturations that highlight wonderful expressions influenced by their global coastal homes.

"Our Pineau des Charentes expression is a beautifully light, fruity single malt that showcases both the flavours of our wonderfully matured spirit, but balanced with the rich sweetness of the Pineau des Charentes, resulting in a truly exquisite expression."

Old Pulteney Pineau des Charentes will be available to buy from 3 October for RRP £75 (US\$85) in the UK, France and Germany from The Whisky Exchange, Old Pulteney Visitor Centre and other specialist whisky retailers.



In October 2019, Old Pulteney [launched a US campaign](#) in collaboration with Sustainable Surf, a California-based non-profit organisation.

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## Glenmorangie grows 'delicious and wonderful' campaign

03 NOVEMBER 2022 By Melita Kiely

Photographer Miles Aldridge has again partnered with Glenmorangie to shoot the second instalment in the whisky brand's 'It's kind of delicious and wonderful' campaign.



The hot-air-balloon scene from Glenmorangie's 'It's kind of delicious and wonderful' campaign

Created in partnership with communications agency DDB Paris, the campaign has created six new scenes inviting consumers to enjoy its whisky.

Caspar Macrae, Glenmorangie global marketing and business director, said: "With these new scenes, we're inviting the viewer to step even deeper into the world of Glenmorangie, where everything is '[kind of delicious and wonderful](#)'."

The six new scenes include a hot-air-balloon ride with friends to visit a barber shop, and a trip to a fortune-teller.

Each still has been created to express a moment of delight through the 'Glenmorangie lens'. Drinkers can be seen enjoying [Glenmorangie Original](#), Glenmorangie Lasanta, and Glenmorangie Quinta Ruban either neat, over ice, or mixed in cocktails.

Aldridge said: "Ambition really flexed its muscles through every concept. We were able to expand and think big and supersize everything.

"For example, the scene with the woman and the greenhouse began with just a woman in a greenhouse. But then, it became interesting to me that she would have a greenhouse so big, it would have two floors and that she would need to ascend stairs to reach a gigantic plant creation.

"The use of visual clues to the brand – giraffes, anagrams – is far wilder and bolder. I genuinely don't think consumers will have seen anything like this campaign before. It works in such an original way."



Aldridge's imagined greenhouse scene for the new Glenmorangie campaign

The campaign also looked to recognise big and small indulgences that were missed during the pandemic.

Alexander Kalchev, chief creative officer at DDB Paris, DDB, said: "In the aftermath of the pandemic, we all have new appreciation for being able to spend time with friends, travel and treat ourselves. And we wanted to draw on that in the campaign, by celebrating moments of pleasure spent together, as well as elevating small moments you can have at home. "Of course, working with Miles brings a wonderful richness and detail to the storytelling, which we hope will draw the viewer deliciously into Glenmorangie's universe."

Immersive pop-up phone box

To celebrate the launch of the campaign in the UK, Glenmorangie will open an immersive pop-up phone box in Spitalfields Market, Shoreditch, in London. The Wonder Hotline will run from Tuesday 15 November to Saturday 19 November.

Guests are invited to step inside the bright orange phone box, and answer 'wild and wonderful' questions.

Their answers will take them to a London-based watering hole where they will be able to enjoy a free Glenmorangie cocktail. Participating venues include the Cocktail Trading Company, Light Bar, Coupette, Milroy's, and Seed Library.

Floral decorations for the Glenmorangie Wonder Hotline were provided by Ladygarden. It coincides with a takeover of the Ebor Street mural, with artwork created by Aldridge.

Whisky fans will also be able to indulge in Glenmorangie cocktails and treatments booked directly at Taylor Taylor and Townhouse Nails from 15-17 November.

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## Glenturret Prowess joins Trinity Series in Lalique

20 DECEMBER 2022 By *Melita Kiely*

Scotland's oldest working distillery, The Glenturret, has released the second single malt whisky in its Trinity Series in Lalique: The Glenturret Prowess.



The Glenturret Prowess is limited to 320 bottles. Only 320 bottles of The Glenturret Prowess have been created, each presented in a crystal decanter designed by Marc Larminaux, artistic and creative director at Lalique. Each decanter is priced at £11,800 (US\$14,350).

Master blender Bob Dalgarno created the Scotch whisky. The liquid was drawn from two casks, one filled in 1987 and a second filled in 1988. At 33 years old, the whisky was bottled in December 2022.

Dalgarno said: "Many hands touch the life of a whisky, each with a skill honed over time – true craftspeople, adding a chapter to the story as it passes them."

"From the coopers who build the casks, the farmers who grow and harvest the barley, the distillery team who mash, distil and fill the new make spirit to cask, the warehousemen who keep watch over the maturation and the whisky maker who selects and decides on the destination of the spirit. This release is a celebration of these individuals who contribute to the process, a trophy in their honour."

The whisky has been bottled at 43.9% ABV without caramel colouring or chill-filtration.

Tasting notes include wood spices, aromatics and oranges on the nose, leading to liquorice, raisins, chocolate and hints of crème brûlée. Ginger, rich fruit and vanilla lead to a clean oak finish.

Commenting on the decanter design, Larminaux noted: "I took inspiration from the emotive iconography of trophies which celebrate success and prowess in a given field of pursuit."

"This elegant and distinguished decanter represents the skills of our Lalique artisan crystal makers and the craftsmanship of the whisky-making team at Scotland's oldest working distillery."

The Glenturret released several new whiskies earlier this year, including two limited edition [single malts aged 25 and 30 years old](#).

Furthermore, the distillery launched its oldest whisky to date in August, [a 50-year-old single malt](#) priced at £40,000 (US\$47,000).

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## Isle of Harris Distillers secures £10m to expand

20 DECEMBER 2022 By *Nicola Carruthers*

Scotland's Isle of Harris Distillers has agreed a £10 million (US\$12.1m) funding package to expand globally.



Isle of Harris Distillers is named after the Scottish island it inhabits. The funds from HSBC UK bank will be used to extend distribution of its flagship gin and its inaugural single malt whisky, Heacrach, once launched, to more than 20 international markets. The company is planning to enter the US, Canada, France and Germany.

The funds have also allowed the gin producer to build two new warehouses, located two miles from its Tarbert-based distillery on the Isle of Harris, the largest island in Scotland's Outer Hebrides. The additional 2,000-square-metre warehouse space has the capacity to hold 9,000 casks, equivalent to around 2.75m bottles of spirit.

Ron MacEachran, executive chairman and chief financial officer of Isle of Harris Distillers, said: "As a business focused on the future, we're excited to venture into new markets and expand our international footprint – and to introduce more of the world to the bottled spirit from our special island."

"We're delighted that HSBC UK has supported us in our ambitions to grow our business. Achieving ongoing commercial success stimulates global interest and visitors to this beautiful island, assisting it to survive and flourish in the 21st century."

The distillery was established in 2015 and is one of the island's largest employers with 45 workers.

Neal Tully, relationship director at HSBC UK, added: "Scotland's food and drink industry is thriving on the Isle of Harris. The distillery is a great example of a dedicated and robust Scottish business, which has put itself on the map, not only in Scotland, but on a global scale too."

Isle of Harris Gin grabbed a Gold medal in this year's [Gin Masters](#) blind tasting and the top Master accolade for its bottle in [The Design & Packaging Masters 2021](#).

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## Whiskey Review: Old Forester 2022 Birthday Bourbon

[Talia Gragg](#) - [Bourbon](#), [Reviews](#) | December 18, 2022

[Old Forester Birthday Bourbon](#) is a product that is well-known and beloved in the whiskey community, despite the fact that so few are able to obtain a bottle — or even a taste. This vintage line is released annually in early September in an extremely limited number, sometimes selling out within the day. The 2022 release had the added spin of being by [sweepstakes only](#) — no store sales.

The birthday bourbons are in celebration of George Garvin Brown, founder of the original distillery (thus the "Brown" in Brown-Foreman). Brown didn't come at the product from a spirit-loving angle, but from a business one: whiskey as medicine. He was working as a pharmaceutical salesman when whiskey was still being prescribed (and often). The distillery made both [Old Forester](#) Bourbon Whisky and [Early Times Kentucky Whisky](#).

The former followed the rules of bourbon and focused on quality to find its niche in the medical market. The brand's namesake, Dr. William

Forrester (no, that's not a typo – the brand later dropped one of the “r”s), was an influence in the creation of the product, searching for a more consistent product for his patients. The fact that he himself enjoyed Brown's whiskey probably didn't hurt.

The company was also the first to sell whiskey in the bottle rather than by the cask (or from one). An important move, considering that it was easy for those selling whiskey to tamper with the product when they controlled the cask.

This became more important during Prohibition, when American whiskey production was required to halt with few exceptions. Old Forester was one of only a few distilleries allowed to keep distilling, in the name of creating medicine. As such, Old Forester has a legacy of being the only bourbon that has been sold before, during and after Prohibition by the same company.

I'll admit that I get an excitement akin to my own birthday every time I get a taste of one of the birthday bourbons (and due to COVID, it's been quite some time). The birthday line was a standout to me in my early whiskey education, and I've lost no enthusiasm for them since.



Old Forester Birthday Bourbon 2022 (image via Brown-Forman)

Tasting Notes: [Old Forester 2022 Birthday Bourbon](#)

Vital Stats: 96 proof, 48% ABV, aged 11 years, 750ml, MSRP \$149.99

Appearance: A light honey tone, approaching golden brown but remaining translucent. Few to no legs in sight.

Nose: Perfume-y to the point of light muskiness meets you first in a heady manner. This mellows into a light brown sugar, with notes of clove and almond along the way.

Palate: Thin in texture at first, but gains some chewiness over the course of a sip. A light cola flavor leads into deep vanilla as the boldest flavors. Mid-palate brings a banana flavor, less like fresh fruit and more like the artificial flavoring in bubblegum (in a good way!). The finish brings in hints of latex and a touch of bitter broccoli.

#### 4.5 - Summary

Elegant and true to the character of the Birthday Bourbon line. It's been several years since I've been able to directly compare the expressions of different years, but if memory serves, the 2022 edition holds up. Sadly I didn't enter the sweepstakes in time this year, but I'll certainly be keeping an eye out for it next year.

## A Single Bottle Of Pappy 23 Year Just Sold For Over \$52,000



[Nino Kilgore-Marchetti - Bourbon, Lifestyle](#) | December 13, 2022

This past weekend at Sotheby's in New York, a new auction record was set for [Pappy Van Winkle](#) when a bottle of 23 Year Old Family Reserve sold for \$52,500 – more than seventeen times the pre-sale estimate (est. \$3,000-4,000).

This particular lot, according to the auction house, saw two collectors battling “against each other to win the coveted bottle of their dreams, pushing the final sale price ever higher. Released in 2008, the whiskey was presented for sale with its original black velvet bag.”

In addition, all 14 of the individual bottles of Pappy Van Winkle on offer as part of Sotheby's [Whisky & Whiskey | Seasonal Spirits and The Yamazaki 55](#) auction sold for sums in excess of their high estimates, achieving a combined total of \$396,250 (est. \$31,000-44,000). Individual records were also set for the Pappy Van Winkle 15 Year Old (\$9,375) and 20 Year Old (\$27,500).





This weekend at Sotheby's in New York, a new auction record was set for Pappy Van Winkle when a bottle of 23 Year Old Family Reserve sold for \$52,500 – more than seventeen times the pre-sale estimate (est. \$3,000-4,000). (image via Sotheby's)

"It was exciting to be on the rostrum conducting the sale for this record-breaking bottle," said Jonny Fowle, Sotheby's Head of Whisky & Spirits, North America and EMEA, in a prepared statement, "which went far beyond anyone's expectations. The auction marked a remarkable end to a year that has seen prices soar for American whiskey at Sotheby's." The auction as a whole brought a total of \$1,786,625, surpassing pre-sale expectations (est. \$885,050 – 1,302,050). This year has seen sales of whisky at Sotheby's in New York double, from \$5.4 million in 2021 to \$11.9 million in 2022.

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## Glenfarclas's New 50-Year-Old Single-Malt Scotch Whisky Is Limited to Just 836 Bottles And it was bottled at 50 percent ABV.



JOHN PAUL

[Scotch](#) whisky distillery [Glenfarclas](#) is having quite an end to the year. In addition to winning Distiller of the Year at the 2023 Icons of Whisky Awards, the Speyside distillery just launched a 50-year-old single malt—and it's not the first time this venerated whisky producer has released an expression this old.

The new [Glenfarclas](#) 50-Year-Old was launched to celebrate chairman John Grant's five decades in the whisky industry. Grant is a fifth-generation member of the family that has owned the distillery since 1865, and the brand itself has remained independent in a world of rampant whisky conglomeration. (Sazerac, owner of Buffalo Trace, imports the whisky into the US.)

Bottled at 50 percent ABV, the 50-year-old single malt was selected by distillery manager Callum Fraser and managing director Douglas Belford and is a snapshot from a half century ago, when distillery manager Douglas MacDonald led the operation. The whisky's official tasting notes include marzipan, almond and cedar on the nose, followed by a touch of smoke, stewed apple, dark chocolate and toffee on the palate.

"Creating products like Glenfarclas 50-Year-Old is the reason I come to work," said Fraser. "To me, this dram is exquisite. It has an incredible depth of character and showcases every element of the whisky making process—from the earthy smell of the dunnage warehouse through to the light, natural smokiness of the Speyside peat that was used back then and the unique taste of the water we use in our production process. A whisky that evolves over time, both on the nose and on the palate, is truly exciting as it's ever changing and developing. I hope the distillery manager in 50 years time is as impressed as I am by the quality of the spirit we are laying down for the future, today."

As mentioned previously, Glenfarclas has some seriously deep whisky stock, as the distillery has released 50-year-old single malts before. These include a 2016 release that was part of the Collector Series and a 2019 bottling that was fully matured in sherry casks. This new expression is limited to just 836 bottles and comes in a Glencairn bottle encased in a presentation box with an SRP of £9,000 (\$10,800). Check your local high-end spirits purveyor to see if they happen to have a bottle, and happy hunting.

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## Berry Bros debuts winter 2022 range

05 JANUARY 2023 By Alice Brooker

London-based Berry Bros & Rudd has debuted its latest seasonal collection, including a 2014 Chichibu Japanese whisky.



The range includes French whisky Kornog 2006

The 2022 winter series includes eight Scotch whiskeys, a rare Japanese whisky, a French whisky and a Fijia tropical rum.

[Doug Mclvor](#), Reserve spirits manager, commented: “Every quarterly release is centred around celebrating the finest quality spirits and producers from around the world and bringing them together in a collection that covers a breadth of flavour profiles and style, giving our customers the opportunity to try new spirits with confidence.” The range boasts the Kornog 2006 French whisky and a Japanese Chichibu whisky from 2014.

Mclvor added: “Looking at the 2022 winter release, we are especially honoured to be granted access to the rare liquid that is Japanese whisky. Given its rising popularity in recent years, we were thrilled to accept a cask from Chichibu, not only for its rarity but outstanding quality.” The Scotch whiskeys derive from four regions: Lowlands, Speyside, Highlands and Islay.

Finally, the Fiji Rum 2010 is a hybrid of traditional Jamaican style ‘tropical funk’ and agricole-like synthetic fruit, creating an ‘intense yet moreish’ liquid.

Berry Bros & Rudd’s 2022 Winter Release collection includes: Blair Athol 2012 (£60/US\$72.17), Dailuaine 2009 (£75/US\$90.21), Linkwood 2011 Oloroso Finish (£95/US\$114.27), Williamson 2013 Moscatel Barrel (£96/US\$115.47), Blair Athol 2008 Tokaji Gonchi Finish (£105/US\$126.30), Kornog 2006 (£160/US\$192.45), Fiji Rum 2010 (£120/US\$144.34), Glen Garioch 1988 (£450/US\$541.28) and Chichibu 2014 (£475/US\$571.35).

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## This New 52-Year-Old Macallan Was Aged Almost Entirely in a Bourbon Barrel

This whisky was distilled in the same year as Woodstock and the first visit to the moon.

By [JONAH FLICKER](#)



Duncan Taylor Scotch Whisky

The Macallan is a single malt [scotch](#) distillery most famous for two things—sherry cask maturation and releasing extremely old and expensive whiskeys. The latter trajectory continues with this new 52-year-old expression, although the former differs a bit with a long initial maturation period in a [bourbon](#) barrel instead of a sherry cask. This [whisky](#) is not an official release from [The Macallan](#); rather, independent spirits merchant Duncan Taylor Scotch Whisky Ltd. is the company behind the new bottling. It’s part of the Duncan Taylor Rarest Collection, and is four years older than the previous release in this series which was also a [Macallan](#) single malt. That whisky was aged entirely in Oloroso casks for a full 48 years, something that would be expected from this sherry cask-focused distillery.

This new single-cask, 52-year-old single malt was distilled on September 10, 1969 (cask 8376, to be exact). It was matured in a bourbon barrel for about 46 years before being transferred to a first-fill Oloroso sherry cask for another six years and bottled last July. To be clear, bourbon barrels are used as well as sherry casks at [The Macallan](#), as they are indeed the backbone of the scotch whisky industry maturation process. But nearly half a century in a bourbon barrel does make this Macallan whisky a unique offering given the dominance of whisky aged in sherry-seasoned wood at the distillery. It’s bottled at 41.46 percent ABV and is non-chill filtered with no color added.

“It’s an incredible privilege to be the custodian of these stunning rare Macallan casks,” said Duncan Taylor chairman Euan Shand in a statement. “This is the start of an exciting chapter at Duncan Taylor as we plan to release more Macallan over time, as well as a selection of other rare malts from the 1960s.” This particular rare malt comes in an eye-catching crystal decanter that was designed to look like a dirk, or an ancient Scottish dagger, which comes housed in a European oak cabinet. Official tasting notes detail dark chocolate, creamy vanilla and spice on the palate, followed by a finish that has more tropical fruit notes than might be expected from The Macallan’s usual sherry cask-matured whisky.

This is the oldest Macallan whisky from Duncan Taylor to date, although the company released a couple of bottlings earlier this year from some lesser-known distilleries that came close in age—Kinclath 51-Year-Old and Caperdonich 50-Year-Old. The SRP for the whisky is £75,000 (about \$90,500), approaching the high bar of \$125K set by the release of [The Macallan 81 Year Old](#) last year. Don’t expect to find this at your local liquor store, given that there are only 228 bottles with just 14 allocated to the US.

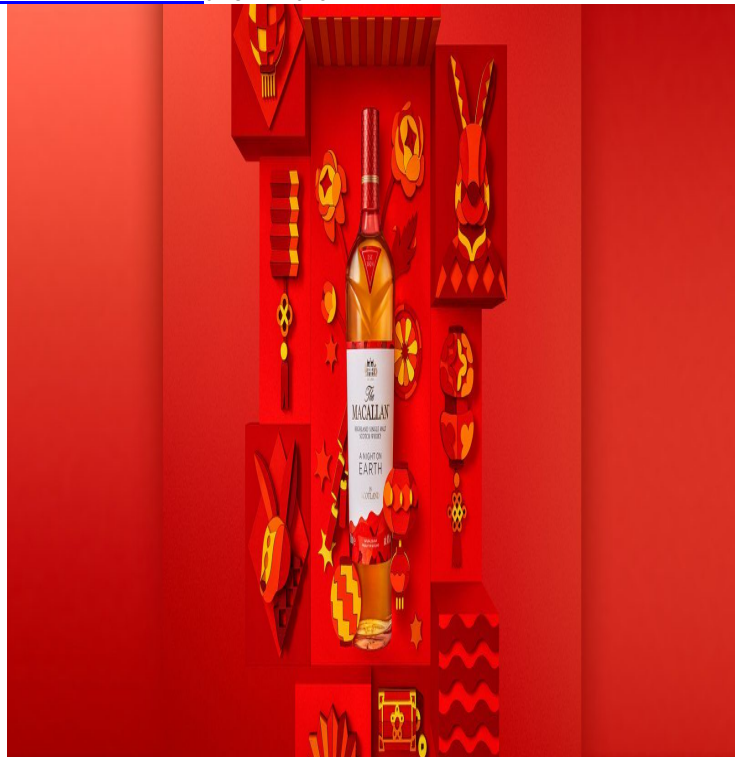
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## Lucky In Every Drop: The Macallan reveals the perfect single malt whisky selection for the Lunar New Year

BY KIRAN PILLAY - 04 JAN 2023



Lucky In Every Drop: The Macallan reveals the perfect single malt whisky selection for the Lunar New Year

This Lunar New Year, The Macallan presents an incomparable single malt whisky selection to share with loved ones over jubilant gatherings, from a wondrous limited-edition expression to premium classics available throughout the year.

The earnest Rabbit is the luckiest animal in the zodiac, symbolising longevity, peace and prosperity to represent a new year of hope. Why not leap into the New Year by starting a new tradition with The Macallan? As families finally reunite after years of weathering the pandemic, the tradition of cultivating relationships may continue, marked through the meaningful exchange of gifts that invite good luck and fortune. By upholding traditions and making memories, we are blessed with luck, building inner wells of strength to draw on in trying moments. To enrich the joyous occasion, The Macallan curates a coveted selection of single malt whiskies.

The Macallan A Night On Earth In Scotland  
A Night On Earth In Scotland

With a history dating back to 1824, The Macallan is no stranger to the importance of tradition. A Night On Earth In Scotland captures the universal feeling of optimism and bonding ahead of a brand new year. Inspired by [Hogmanay](#), the traditional Scottish New Year's Eve celebration dates back centuries, echoing the Lunar New Year as a gathering of loved ones around a shared feast.

The perfect gift for a New Year celebration, The Macallan collaborates with Japanese-French illustrator Erica Dorn to create stunning yet meaningful packaging for the unique creation. "The colours for this presentation box were selected with a particular journey in mind: first, red for merriment, vitality, good fortune and joy; blue to remind us of a winter evening in Scotland, in all its peace and stillness; and finally, amber – in tribute to the sweet aroma of soft butter and freshly baked shortbread, which was an inspiration for Sarah Burgess in the creation of this whisky," Dorn elaborates.

The shortbread biscuits that Erica Dorn and The Macallan Lead Whisky Maker, Sarah Burgess, reference are traditionally gifted and eaten at Hogmanay. As a result, this sumptuous limited-edition offering boasts a vanilla sweetness with notes of dried orange and spice. The combination reflects the flavours and aromas that fill homes across Speyside, and the rest of Scotland, during the festive season. Classics for the New Year and beyond

The Macallan caters to discerning tastes in any season with two core ranges that embody over a century of technical mastery: The Macallan Sherry Oak and The Macallan Double Cask.

The Macallan Sherry Oak range is a series of single malt whiskies predominantly matured in sherry-seasoned European oak casks. These casks are hand-picked from Jerez, Spain, for the complexity and richness they lend. The fruity and full-bodied 'new make' spirit transforms into a classic single malt, characterised by ginger and spice with a depth of flavour that lingers.

Meanwhile, The Macallan Double Cask range celebrates the union of two styles to bring a unique character to the forefront, underpinned by familiar Macallan flavours. The prominent sweetness of Double Cask is credited to the higher portion of sherry-seasoned American oak casks used for maturation. The perfect combination of sherry-seasoned American and European oak casks creates an expression with sublime notes of toffee and vanilla.

Lucky Three



The Macallan Double Cask range features the Double Cask 12 Years Old, Double Cask 15 Years Old and Double Cask 18 Years Old. The Macallan Double Cask 12 Years Old flaunts a distinctively warm character, featuring vanilla, sweet oak and gentle spice, candied lemon citrus and smooth fudge. The Macallan Double Cask 15 Years Old is an exceptional single malt with a sweeter, warmer profile. With an enticing golden butterscotch hue, the expression imparts the aromas of dried fruit and butterscotch. It balances with a note of chocolate and smooth oak and delivers a medium finish with lingering oak and spice.

The Macallan Double Cask 18 Years Old ages within casks seasoned with dry Oloroso sherry, hand-crafted and meticulously selected. The American oak imparts delicate hints of vanilla, citrus and butterscotch. Meanwhile, European oak delivers the subtle spice of The Macallan. Once matured to perfection, two exceptional whiskies blend to birth something extraordinary.

The distinctive single malt deepens in sweetness and warmth the more it matures. It is the perfect gift for the truly discerning receiver to be appreciated and enjoyed in the finest company. Crafted without compromise, with a rich depth of flavour, mark the beginning of your fortuitous new year by sharing The Macallan with those most precious to you.

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## Lalique, The Glenturret Partner On 'The Prowess,' Clad In Lalique Crystal

Gary Carter - [Scotch](#) | January 13, 2023

[The Glenturret](#), one of Scotland's oldest working distilleries, recently released its Trinity Series in Lalique, a limited-edition single malt series in collaboration with French crystal icon and parent company Lalique. Called the Glenturret Prowess, this expression is the second in The Glenturret by Lalique series and sees 320 bottles presented in a crystal decanter designed by Marc Larminaux, artistic and creative director at Lalique.

[A statement from The Glenturret](#) notes the Prowess' profile features wood spices, aromatics and oranges in the background, with a thread of liquorice that runs throughout.



Glenturret The Trinity Prowess (image via The Glenturret)  
Raisins, chocolate and hints of crème brûlée combine with ginger, fruit, vanilla and notes of clean oak on the palate and finish. This whisky, created by Master Blender Bob Dalgarno, is drawn from two casks ... one filled in 1987 and one filled in 1988, both bottled in December of 2022 at 33 years old.

"Many hands touch the life of a whisky, each with a skill honed over time – true craftspeople, adding a chapter to the story as it passes them," Dalgarno said. "From the coopers who build the casks, the farmers who grow and harvest the barley, the distillery team who mash, distill and fill the new make spirit to cask, the warehousemen who keep watch over the maturation and the whisky maker who selects and decides on the destination of the spirit. This release is a celebration of these individuals who contribute to the process, a trophy in their honor."

Marc Larminaux, designer of the crystal decanter, said that he took inspiration from the emotive iconography of trophies which celebrate Success and Prowess in a given field of pursuit.

"This elegant and distinguished decanter represents the skills of our Lalique artisan crystal makers and the craftsmanship of the whisky-making team at Scotland's Oldest Working Distillery," he added. The whisky clocks in at 43.9% ABV, and features natural color and is non-chill filtered.

The Glenturret has been a working distillery since 1763, located in Crieff, in the Perthshire countryside. They offer daily distillery tours, whisky tastings as well as dining experiences at its newly-opened The Glenturret Lalique Restaurant.

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## Scottish government angers whisky trade

16 JANUARY 2023 By [Georgie Collins](#)

A report by the Scottish government has angered members of the whisky trade after it claimed all alcohol products were 'variations of the same thing'.



Emma Revell said of the report: "Way to undermine one of your key industries and global success stories"

The remarks, which were published as part of a consultation on restricting alcohol advertising and promotion, said: "Without branding and other marketing strategies, alcohol products in each beverage sub-sector are essentially variations of the same thing."

The report sets out a potential approach to prevent and reduce alcohol-related harm in Scotland.

Edinburgh-based whisky consultant and broker Blair Bowman said the "ignorance" by the Scottish government was "astounding".

"For the government to claim that it's all just the same thing if you remove branding is completely false and couldn't be further from the truth," he said on Twitter.

He went on to say the report has reduced centuries of skill and craft to create Scotch whisky, a "globally iconic spirit", to "just a gimmick".

"They really need their eyes opened to the talented people who make Scotch whisky (and other alcoholic drinks in Scotland) and how much care and craft goes into each distinctly different product," he continued. Scotch whisky is exported at a rate of 44 bottles per second, according to industry trade body the Scotch Whisky Association (SWA).

The SWA said it had "deep concerns" about the government's sweeping proposals laid out within the consultation, which was launched in November.

"The Scotch whisky industry has a robust marketing code which regulates how brands are advertised globally," the SWA said.

"We want to share the lessons of regulations already in place so there are no unintended consequences, including a reduction in the vital support the industry provides to communities."

Figures from the SWA revealed [the category's exports rose by 19% to £4.51 billion \(US\\$6.1bn\) in 2021](#).

Emma Revell, head of communication and public affairs for Centre for Policy Studies, commented: "I'm sure Scotch whisky producers are delighted to be told it's all the same stuff in the end. Way to undermine one of your key industries and global success stories."

**Merchandise ban**

Furthermore, the report suggests that prohibiting the sale or distribution of alcohol branding merchandise, including T-shirts, jackets and baseball caps, as well as branded glasses and mugs, could be considered to reduce the visibility of alcohol brands.

Bowman noted that in 2018, Scotland welcomed more than 2m visitors to whisky distilleries, who spent £68.3m (US\$83.3m) on products and merchandise, adding that this move would be damaging to Scotland's tourism.

The government report is at a consultation stage, with members of the public encouraged to give feedback on the proposals before the deadline on 9 March 2023.

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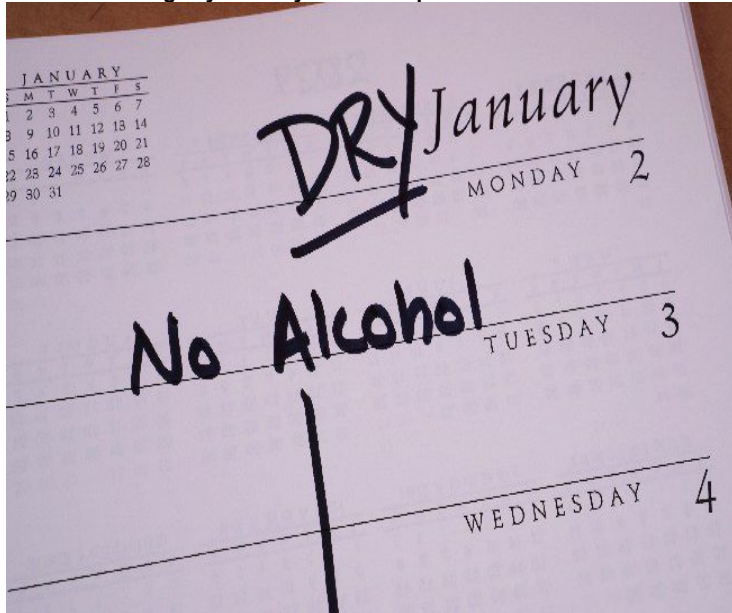


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## Dry January leads to increased drinking

12 JANUARY 2023 By Georgie Collins

'Enforced abstinence' is causing British consumers to drink more in the months following Dry January to 'make up for lost time'.



The Dry January initiative launched in 2013

Charity Alcohol Change UK launched the Dry January campaign in 2013 to encourage drinkers to abstain from alcohol for a month. A recent survey commissioned by Alcohol Change revealed that [one in six UK consumers](#) plan to moderate their alcohol consumption during January 2023.

According to research by ID Crypt Global, which analysed ONS sales data since the Dry January initiative began, the average spend across Britain on alcohol, beverage and tobacco is £278.3 million (US\$338.9m) per month.

December was found to have the highest spend on alcohol, beverages and tobacco, coming in at £427.5m (US\$520.6m) throughout the month, while January is seen to have the lowest average spend of £202m (US\$246m).

Sales are shown to spike in the months following January, with a 49% increase in monthly spend from January to March.

However, the data prior to the launch of Dry January indicates that consumers were already taking a break from alcohol following the festive holidays.

Between 2003 and 2012, retail sales for alcohol, beverages and tobacco averaged £350.7m (US\$427.1m) per month, 21% higher than the monthly average seen today, with the average retail spend in January sitting at £288.4m (US\$278.1m).

The average monthly retail spend on alcohol and tobacco was seen to increase by 5.7% between January and February.

Since 2013, this gap has widened to 10.1%.

'Generational shift'

CEO and founder of ID Crypt Global, Lauren Wilson-Smith, commented: "As a nation, we're consuming considerably less alcohol and tobacco and this is down to a combination of a more moderate approach to drinking, a greater understanding of the health implications, as well as a generational shift in social behaviour.

"You'd need only look at the longevity of the Dry January campaign to see that we've become more conscious about our consumption and the impact it can have on our minds and bodies.

"Of course, whether you partake in Dry January or not, the vast majority of us will take some form of break from boozing following what is often an overly indulgent Christmas period. So it's no surprise that January has always seen the lowest level of alcohol sales.

"However, since the launch of Dry January, the gap between alcohol and tobacco sales in January versus the immediate months following has widened quite considerably. This suggests that any benefit of partaking is momentary, as we white knuckle our way through the month before hitting the bottle even harder than we may have otherwise."

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## Half of Brits to stop buying alcohol

17 JANUARY 2023 By Alice Brooker

A survey has revealed that 50% of respondents are looking to cut down on their alcohol consumption in 2023 due to the cost-of-living crisis.



The survey also revealed that 40% of respondents feel 'let down' due to the lack of low-and-no options

Consumer spending on alcohol is 'set to decrease dramatically', according to UK-based drinks company Gunner Cocktails' Consumer Drinks Wishlist survey, which heard from 262 UK-based respondents. The brand's latest research revealed the 'mounting' cost-of-living crisis was having an impact on how much consumers were willing to spend on alcohol. Furthermore, the results show a rising switch to non-alcoholic drinks.

Dannie McDonald, managing director of Gunner Cocktails, said: "With our survey revealing that half of consumers will be cutting back their spending on alcoholic drinks in 2023, it is vital that British drinks brands look to capitalise on the growing no-and-low market, which is set to be a hotbed for innovation and creativity in the coming year."

Forty per cent of respondents also admitted to feeling 'let down' due to the 'lack' of alcohol-free and low-ABV drinks.

Additionally, the survey also revealed that 61% of consumers prefer buying British products, and that this was important to them.

McDonald continued: "Our survey also confirms that buying British not only offers a vital lifeline to industries already facing a difficult economic situation, but that it can help grow a brand's consumer base by attracting a new segment of consumers conscious about the brands they associate with."

Plus, more than 45% of respondents also believed that more hospitality venues should serve ready-to-drink (RTD) cocktails, according to Gunner Cocktails.

In 2022, India-based business management consultant Insight Ace Analytic released a market research report that claimed the RTD market is forecast to grow by 11.2% between 2022 and 2030.

"Whilst many predict a difficult start to 2023 for the UK's drinks industry, our survey has created a roadmap for British drinks brands looking to increase their market share and curate the drinks which consumers are thirsty for this year," said Giles Fuchs, founder of Gunner Cocktails.

"What stood out in our survey is the large swathes of consumers which are thinking more about where their products come from."

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## Glenfarclas launches 50YO whisky

18 JANUARY 2023 By Alice Brooker

Family-owned distillery Glenfarclas has released a limited edition 50-year-old single malt Scotch to mark the 50th anniversary of its chairman, John Grant.



The 50-year-old whisky celebrates fifth-generation family member and chairman John Grant. Only 836 bottles of the 50-year-old Glenfarclas are available, priced at RRP £9,000 (US\$11,116) each. Grant is both chairman and a fifth-generation family member, and started with the brand in 1974. He said: "At Glenfarclas, we're proud to be able to bottle rare, limited edition, single malt whiskies to complement our exquisite range of spirits, which are fundamental to our brand and story. "This release is particularly special as it commemorates the 50 years I have worked in the industry, with the liquid in the cask evolving along with the industry during that time." The whisky is bottled at 50% ABV. Grant added: "I'm proud of everything we've achieved together as a distillery team over the last 50 years and look forward to releasing even more exquisite drams together in the future as Glenfarclas continues to evolve." The liquid was selected by distillery manager Callum Fraser, and managing director Douglas Belford. Fraser said: "Creating products like Glenfarclas 50-Year-Old is the reason I come to work. "Producing something so special, which has such an incredible story behind it, is tribute to the passion that runs through everything we do at Glenfarclas. "This new whisky is testament to the craftsmen who made the spirit and laid it down in the late 1960s and the foresight of the Grant family so many years ago." While the palate presents flavours of dark chocolate, leading to notes of treacle toffee, mixed peel and a slightly smoky, sweet taste, the finish is said to be gentle and smooth. "To me, this dram is exquisite. It has an incredible depth of character and showcases every element of the whisky making process – from the earthy smell of the dunnage warehouse through to the light, natural smokiness of the Speyside peat that was used back then and the unique taste of the water we use in our production process," Fraser continued. "I hope the distillery manager in 50 years time is as impressed as I am by the quality of the spirit we are laying down for the future today." The bottling can be purchased on a global basis through [speysidewhisky.com](http://speysidewhisky.com) and [whiskyshopdufftown.com](http://whiskyshopdufftown.com). The bottles are engraved and presented in a box.

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## Canadian drinking advice 'at odds' with world

20 JANUARY 2023 By Georgie Collins

The Canadian Centre on Substance Use and Addiction (CCSA) has released new national guidance that recommends citizens only consume a maximum of two drinks per week.



Health officials in the US recommend no more than two drinks per day for men and only one for women

The report calls for a substantial reduction in the consumption of alcohol, warning any amount "is not good for your health". The new guidelines, funded by Health Canada, represent a dramatic shift from previous recommendations issued in Canada's Low-Risk Alcohol Drinking Guidelines, published in 2011, in which Canadians were advised that low-risk consumption meant no more than 10 drinks a week for women, and 15 drinks a week for men.

"The principles that we want to land on is that people have a right to know less is better, and that there's harm reduction strategies that people can use to decrease the amount that they drink in order to improve their health and well-being," commented Dr Peter Butt, co-chair of the project to develop Canada's alcohol guidelines.

In its measurements, the CCSA considers a standard drink to be a 355ml serving of 5% ABV beer, a 148ml glass of 12% ABV wine, or a shot glass of 40% ABV spirit.

Health authorities around the world have said they would be unlikely to follow suit with the new guidelines, citing "no magic line in the sand we can all agree on".

Matt Lambert, CEO of the UK's alcohol social responsibility body the Portman Group, said: "Canada's new drinking guidance is at odds with the vast majority of guidelines around the world that recognise that alcohol can be consumed in moderation and consumers can make their own choices based on practical official advice.

"The substantial and increasing majority of UK adults drink responsibly within the chief medical officer's guidance of 14 units a week, which remains a robust and effective guidance for those who choose to drink." In the UK, the NHS recommends no more than six 170ml glasses of wine or six pints of 4% ABV beer per week – ideally spread across three days or more.

Health officials in the US recommend no more than two drinks per day for men and one for women.

Australia's recommendation is five times more than Canada's new advice at 10 standard drinks a week, and no more than four a day, for men and women.

No safe amount of alcohol

Earlier this month (January), the World Health Organization (WHO) published an article in health journal *The Lancet*, titled *Health and cancer risks associated with low levels of alcohol consumption*, which said there was no evidence that any level of alcohol consumption is safe. The article went in to say that alcohol consumption was associated with 740,000 new cancer cases each year globally.

It concluded: "Evidence does not indicate the existence of a particular threshold at which the carcinogenic effects of alcohol start to manifest in the human body. As such, no safe amount of alcohol consumption for cancers and health can be established."

New research has found that cutting out alcohol for Dry January [leads to increased consumption in the months that follow](#).

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## Lochlea launches its first peated whisky

23 JANUARY 2023 By Nicola Carruthers

Scotch whisky distillery Lochlea will release Ploughing Edition as its first peated single malt on Burns Night (25 January).



Lochlea Ploughing Edition concludes the distillery's range of 'first crop' releases

The new seasonal release follows the launch of [Sowing Edition](#) in March 2022, [Harvest Edition](#) in September 2022, and [Fallow Edition](#) in November 2022.

The four products make up the 'first crop' of annual small batch releases that aim to showcase Lochlea's farming seasons.

The launch date of 25 January for Lochlea Ploughing Edition marks the connection between Lochlea Farm and Scottish poet Robert Burns, who lived and worked on the farm from 1777-1784. His birthday is celebrated annually on 25 January, known as Burns Night.

Ploughing Edition is inspired by the winter season on the farm when the same fields that Burns tended are ploughed in preparation for sowing the barley seed in spring.

The bottle's blue label reflects the cold and frosty west coast Ayrshire winters, the distillery said.

The 46% ABV expression was matured in a combination of ex-Islay barrels and peated quarter casks.

It was the first smoky whisky created by production director and master blender John Campbell [since he left Islay distillery Laphroaig](#) in September 2021.

Campbell said: "Lochlea 'Ploughing Edition' is our first peated release and showcases all the expected Lochlea flavours with a wee touch of Islay.

"We have matured our unpeated single malt in ex-Islay peated barrels and this delivers a lightly peated version of Lochlea that I am sure you will enjoy."

The resulting liquid carries notes of boiled sweets, cooked apple and brazil nuts, interlaced with 'lingering' peat.

Lochlea Ploughing Edition is priced at £50 (US\$62), with only 11,000 bottles available globally.

In 2023, the 'second crop' limited edition series will be released every season, each highlighting the progression of Lochlea's single malts.

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## Bowmore unveils Lunar New Year release

23 JANUARY 2023 By Georgie Collins

Scotch whisky producer Bowmore has released a Lunar New Year bottling exclusively to Global Travel Retail.



The 18-year-old Bowmore Lunar New Year Limited Edition is available exclusively to GTR across Asia

The 18-year-old Bowmore Lunar New Year release has been matured in a combination of oloroso and Pedro Ximénez Sherry casks.

Manuel González, marketing director of global travel retail for Beam Suntory, said: "We are thrilled to unveil the 18-year-old Bowmore Lunar New Year Limited Edition exclusively to global travel retail across Asia for a second year in a row.

"Lunar New Year and journeys are inextricably linked – as millions around the world embark on a journey home to be reunited with loved ones. We wanted to make sure that shoppers could find in Bowmore the perfect match and the perfect gift for these celebrations."

Bottled at a strength of 43% ABV, Bowmore Lunar New Year offers aromas of rich dark chocolate, treacle toffee and date oil.

Notes of bitter-sweet orange peel and peat-smoke roasted coffee can be found on the palate, before a velvet mocha and macadamia nut chocolate finish.

The bottle is presented in an illustrated box that is said to focus on 'reunions' and align with what the Lunar New Year symbolises.

The design includes an illustration of the Bowmore distillery sitting atop a swell of waves, with key elements such as barley, casks, and peat smoke all representing the features that define Bowmore whisky. Furthermore, the box features depictions of the water rabbit, in a nod to the lunar calendar's Year of the Rabbit.

The design takes inspiration from traditional brushstrokes of Chinese paintings with a focus on flow and fluidity.

Bowmore Lunar New Year is available exclusively in duty-free stores across China, Korea, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Singapore, Thailand, and Malaysia, for an RRP of US\$145.

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## Know Your Whisky: A Complete Guide to Food Pairing

In Partnership with [Benriach](#)

[ROB EDWARDS](#), 20 JAN 2023 | SPONSORED

Whisky is a wonderfully nuanced thing. The more you explore it, the more you find there is to learn, each sip revealing depths of flavour not immediately apparent to the untrained palate. As a Man of Many reader you've no doubt heard whiskies described using points of reference like honey, caramel, fruit and chocolate, and you're likely aware that this is because whiskies (particularly the very best of them) contain a sophisticated layering of flavours that guide the taster through the various decisions the distiller made during the creation of a particular expression.

This layered nature means that pairing a whisky with the right food can unlock new realms of deliciousness hiding within every sip. From humble nibbles to robust mains and indulgent desserts, each has a role to play in helping to enhance your whisky experience.

Below, we've put together a guide that will help you find foods that pair perfectly with world-class whiskies, helping to unveil the nuances contained therein. And to better demonstrate this, we've used a range of outstanding Benriach drams that perfectly fit the bill. So, whether you're hosting a summer barbecue, marking another trip around the sun, or celebrating Chinese New Year – be sure to check out [Benriach's Year of the Rabbit edition of The Twelve](#) if you are – this guide will stand you in good stead no matter the occasion. Bon appétit!



## Nibbles

Any worthwhile evening of culinary delights starts with a few nibbles, the food category most commonly paired with whisky. Whether you're tempted by nuts and dried fruit, would prefer to dive headlong into some really good hummus, can't resist an olive or 10, or you're a slave to cheesy delights, each of these snacks is a key waiting patiently to unlock a greater appreciation of one of your favourite whiskies.



## The Smoky Twelve | Image: Benriach

### Nuts and dried fruit

The best whisky to pair here really depends on which nuts and dried fruit you're indulging in. If you're enjoying snacks on the sweet end of the scale then you'll want a strong Single Malt in your glass, while bitter nuts are better paired with a sweeter option. For example, dried fruit would pair perfectly with Benriach's [The Smoky Twelve](#), while a handful of almonds would be better served alongside the cherry, baked orange and sultana layers found within [The Twelve](#).



## The Smoky Ten | Image: Benriach

### Hummus

There are few things more tempting than a bowl of fresh hummus – who'd have guessed chickpeas could be so tasty? – but if you take said hummus and pair it with a glass of delectable whisky, you're taking



things to the next level. To find the perfect pairing for this delicious dip, we highly recommend a full-bodied Single Malt like Benriach's [The Smoky Ten](#), which enhances the sweetness of the hummus with its delightfully smoky notes.



The Twelve | Image: Benriach  
Olives

When pairing whisky with olives, you can't really go wrong. They're a guaranteed home run to serve to your whisky-drinking companions and just a great snack to have on hand no matter the circumstances – so much so that we recommend always having a small reserve of fresh olives in the fridge just in case, as they never go uneaten. When it comes to pairing, the salty, briny nature of olives works with just about any Single Malt you care to throw at it, whether you're talking kalamata, green, or any other variety of olive, as nature intended or stuffed with delicious chilli, garlic or fetta. Looking at the Benriach range we feel spoiled for choice, but as picking one is our privilege, here we'll have to revisit [The Twelve](#).

**Cheese**  
Arguably the greatest snack of all, it should come as no surprise that cheese makes for a perfect companion to your favourite drop of whisky. While the range of delectables that call the cheese category home is considerable, we've regularly found that the best whisky to pair with everyone's favourite dairy product tends to come from the smoky side of things. As such, the thought of a nip of Benriach's [The Smoky Twelve](#) in one hand and a piece of high-quality fromage in the other is the stuff dreams are made of.



Mains

When it comes to the main course, many think proper form requires a switch from whisky to wine, but those poor misguided fools couldn't be more wrong. As you'll see, whisky has just as much right to a place at the dining table as any grape-derived beverage ever poured.



The Twenty One | Image Benriach  
Red Meat

Few things compete as hotly for their rank in our list of favourite things ever as red meat and whisky. Fortunately, when paired both are elevated, and while personal taste will play a role when it comes to what you should be washing your meal down with, there are a couple of recommendations we'd like to make. In our experience, a dish based around beef rewards whiskies with a rich flavour that contains a touch of smoke – please welcome Benriach's [The Twenty Five](#) to the table – while a high-quality, old-fashioned steak fresh from the grill will truly sing when paired with something boasting notes of sweetness, like [The Twenty One](#). Absolute perfection.



12-Year-Old Year Of The Rabbit 2023 Limited Edition | Image: Benriach  
Seafood

Few things will make you feel you're living the high life quite like a premium piece of seafood and an even more premium whisky to go along with it. Fish like barramundi, trout, and perch will deliver in spades when paired with a fruity malt like Benriach's [The Original Ten](#), thanks to its remarkable layers of orchard delights. Alternatively, saltier fare like salmon or even sardines (if you're so inclined) will give stronger whiskies like [The Twenty Five](#) a real boost (not that it needs it, mind you). Here in Australia, we're fortunate enough to have some of the best oysters in the world, so we'd be remiss not to send a recommendation



their way. Fortunately, oysters and Single Malt go together like, well, Man of Many and whisky-drinking enthusiasts, so whether you're in the mood for something smoky or something sweet you really can't go wrong. But for anyone wondering, it looks like the next time we'll be enjoying freshly shucked oysters will be with friends in celebration of Chinese New Year, so what better Single Malt to mark that event with than Benriach's aforementioned [Year of the Rabbit edition of The Twelve](#)?



**Dessert**  
So you've gorged yourself on nibbles and eaten more red meat and/or seafood than you care to admit? There's no backing down now. It's time to finish strong with a whisky selection that perfectly complements your sweet tooth.



**The Original Ten | Image: Benriach Chocolate**  
While not everyone agrees when it comes to chocolate and fruit making for a strong partnership, those who reject the idea simply don't know what they're talking about. As such. It only makes sense to pair chocolate with whisky boasting generous notes of fruit, so here we'll happily return to the orchard contained within Benriach's [The Original Ten](#).  
**Apple Pie**  
A dessert we feel is criminally underrated in Australia, the humble apple pie pairs so well with whisky that we feel it's a partnership that could elevate this simple but delicious indulgence to its deserved status. As you don't want to end your night on too heavy a note, we'd recommend

pairing it with Benriach's [The Twelve](#) – just taste its layers of baked fruit, maple honey and cocoa and tell us it's not a match made in dessert-lover's heaven.  
**Ice Cream**  
The pairing of ice cream and whisky is one of the simplest yet most effective culinary pleasures ever invented. Thanks to the incredibly broad range of flavours on offer when it comes to this particular indulgence we wouldn't dare make a specific recommendation, but we will say that if you try a little experimentation you're sure to hit on a combination sooner rather than later that blows your socks off. If you're looking for the perfect whisky to pair with your culinary adventures for 2023, be sure to explore Benriach's range of delicious offerings via the link below. Plus, check out the first instalment to our Know Your Whisky series [here](#).



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**The Mad Scientist Behind Glenmorangie Is Making Whisky for the Masses and the Nerds**  
Experiments abound from Dr. Bill Lumsden at this Highland distillery.  
By [JONAH FLICKER](#)



**CAROL-SACHS**  
At a packed London venue in early November, Dr. Bill Lumsden, head of distilling and [whisky](#) creation for Scottish [single malt](#) distillery [Glenmorangie](#), looked out at the crowded room full of revelers and soaked up the vibes. "We're all about the 'C' word!" he shouted. Cue equal parts groans and laughter from the attendees. "No, not that one, I mean 'consistency!'" More laughter and groaning, although exactly which other "C" word he was referring to cannot be confirmed.  
This London event was a celebration of the new "It's Kind of Delicious and Wonderful" ad campaign for the brand, a collaboration with photographer Miles Aldridge. But really it was a chance for this famously



loquacious and often unfiltered whisky mad scientist to provide some of his trademark banter in front of a sympathetic and slightly tipsy audience. The fact of the matter is that Glenmorangie is consistently delicious and wonderful, and that is due in large part to Lumsden's penchant for boundary pushing and experimentation.

Earlier that day, I had a chance to talk to him in a much quieter (and sober) hotel conference room, and as usual he was one of the most interesting figures in the [scotch](#) whisky industry. I'm not going to call him the Willy Wonka of whisky, because way too many writers have beat me to that analogy. So how about this instead—he's a tousled Victor Frankenstein giving life to single malts that become more powerful than their creator... although this whisky isn't assembled from body parts and doesn't run amok and destroy villages. I guess that's why the overused Wonka analogy just works better.

"My philosophy about whisky creation hasn't changed from the day I joined the company," said Lumsden. "What has changed is the acceptance of what I do... Part of the challenge I have is to try and work within the rules, but do something a little bit different. I never just do things for the sake of doing it. At the end of the day, can I produce a product that's going to be good?" Then he dropped in another ambiguous letter word. "Will I be able to still add the D into it? That has to be the driver." (The "D," stands for "delicious," by the way.)



#### CAROL-SACHS

To that end, the most recent experiment that Lumsden brought to life is called Tale of the Forest. Actually, he came up with this idea years ago because the whisky has been aging in barrels for at least a decade, but this single malt made from barley kilned with wild botanicals was released this fall. That concept might sound more like gin than whisky, but this is still single malt as defined by the Scotch Whisky Association's rules and regulations—as Lumsden noted, ultimately he has to work within those guidelines. Some other examples of his unique take on the category include Allta, a 12-year-old whisky made with wild yeast instead of the standard strain widely used by the industry, the Palo Cortado single malt finished in this uncommon type of sherry cask, Spios which is aged in rye [whiskey](#) barrels instead of the usual [bourbon](#), and Tusail which is made from a variety of floor malted barley that hasn't been used much over the last 50 years.

Historically, the aspect of whisky making that Lumsden has had the most success in tinkering with is maturation and finishing—for example, using different species of oak as well as barrel types (the core lineup of barrel-finished single malts is evidence of this). But the area that is currently most exciting to him is what he calls primary production, which is the focus at the relatively new experimental distillery located next to the main distillery called the Lighthouse. "That can be anything from the barley to the water to the mashing, the fermentation, the distillation regime," he said. "The Lighthouse will finally allow me to explore that a little bit more." But he said that his personal whisky experimentation fetish is fermentation. "In our industry it's been treated simply as a commodity—you add yeast in one end and you get alcohol out the other." He wants to continue to explore the possibilities beyond that, so it sounds like there could be some more whiskies on the way along the lines of the previously mentioned Allta.

The Lighthouse is a tall, stark, modern box of a building filled with whisky secrets just waiting to be revealed. Ditto for the warehouse onsite, which surely has a barrel or two of something none of us have ever tried before. Lumsden said that the idea behind the Lighthouse was to allow him to try things that he couldn't in the main distillery because

of production schedule or equipment. "Some of the things that I make there, it's highly likely that we wouldn't be able to call them scotch whisky," he said. "But the fact that it has been built on site at Glenmorangie also means that if we choose to do so [and it meets the SWA guidelines], we can label the products as Glenmorangie single malt scotch whisky."



#### The Lighthouse at Glenmorangie

Despite all of this experimentation (or perhaps because of it), Glenmorangie has undergone a major rebranding that is meant to appeal to a broader audience. One look at the website's flashy colors and design—not to mention the new bottle labels rolling out—will give you an idea of this thematic shift. To that end, X by Glenmorangie was released last year, a non-age-statement single malt designed to be used in cocktails. Part of the reason for this new expression was the perception that it is "sacrilegious," as global marketing & business development director Caspar Macrae put it, to use single malt whisky in a drink. "With X, we deliberately wanted to create a product which removes that slight fear or inhibition about using a single malt in cocktails," he said. "Because Bill and I both love our whisky neat, but we adore a great cocktail as well."

So yeah, there's a whisky for everyone from Glenmorangie—the Original 10-year-old expression, it should be noted, is as good a single malt for seasoned pros or beginners as you will find anywhere. And for Lumsden, despite the meticulous science that defines his job, it kind of all comes down to the feels. "I think very metaphorically, and I view my whiskies in terms of particular flavors or colors or textures," he said. "I have great joy when I drink whisky, and sometimes I'm in a sad moment as well. It's very reflective, but I think it's important to weave that into your product. It's something personal and emotional."

Here are five of the most interesting Glenmorangie whiskies that you can try for yourself now.

#### [A Tale of the Forest](#)



#### Glenmorangie

For this single malt, the barley was kilned, or dried out after malting, using woodland botanicals to infuse it with flavor (as opposed to a smoky scotch which uses peat). These include juniper berries, birch bark, heather flowers and, yes, a little bit of peat in the mix as well. The result is a bright and floral whisky that is truly unlike any that you've sipped before, and it works fantastically in cocktails as well.

[BUY NOW: \\$108](#)

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### [A Tale of Cake](#)



#### *Glenmorangie*

This precursor to Tale of the Forest was this collaborative effort with famed pastry chef Dominique Ansel. The inspiration was a pineapple upside down cake that Lumsden's daughter made for him, and he tried to capture those flavors by finishing the whisky in Tokaji wine casks. Ansel then came up with a few "caketails" that were meant to be paired with the whisky. Those sweets are long gone, but the whisky is still readily available.

[BUY NOW: \\$108](#)

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### [Glenmorangie Allta](#)



#### *Glenmorangie*

This is a limited-edition whisky that is part of the Glenmorangie Private Edition series. Allta means "wild" in Gaelic, and that refers to the fact that wild yeast that was discovered on the barley growing near the distillery was used to ferment the mash, as opposed to the standard yeast that most distilleries use in Scotland. Yeast has a huge impact on a whisky's flavor, and in this case the result is a biscuity, fruity, spicy palate that sips nicely at a higher 51.2 percent ABV.

[BUY NOW: \\$110](#)

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### [Glenmorangie Signet](#)



#### *Glenmorangie*

This is a whisky from Glenmorangie that can be polarizing, because the flavor is just too unique to not have a strong feeling about. The inspiration behind Signet is coffee, and the palate really does bring that to mind. The whisky is made from chocolate malted barley, meaning it's roasted to achieve a certain flavor profile that explodes with espresso, dark chocolate, toast and spicy notes. This bottle is sort of reminiscent of newer American single malts, although it's still scotch whisky through and through.

[BUY NOW: \\$250](#)

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### [Glenmorangie Grand Vintage Malt 1998](#)



#### *Glenmorangie*

The Grand Vintage series of whiskies from Glenmorangie are high-priced and unique single malts, and this latest expression has a character all its own. The 1998 vintage is the only one to be aged entirely in new charred oak barrels in the same way that bourbon is matured, as opposed to the ex-bourbon and other used barrels that are typically used to age scotch. At 23 years old, this whisky has aromas of apple and plum and notes of orange, chocolate and baking spice on the palate.

[BUY NOW: \\$1,000](#)

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## The complete guide to non chill-filtered whisky



Non chill-filtered whisky (also styled non-chillfiltered and even *un-chillfiltered whisky*) is one of those terms in the whisky industry that is widely seen, read, and heard...and yet few drinkers truly understand what it means or signifies. In that respect, it's a bit like *sour mash* in the bourbon industry – a term you see printed on the label; a statement that supposedly has a positive connotation, and yet the majority of consumers view it as mumbo-jumbo...not really appreciating what it means, but just happy to enjoy what's in the bottle. So what is non chill-filtered whisky? What is chill filtration? And how do you *un-chillfilter* something? Is a non chill-filtered whisky better than a whisky that *has* been chill-filtered? Let's dive in...

Whisky is a distilled *spirit*. The distillate is produced by boiling a beer, which was fermented from a mash made from cereal grain(s). The vapour (i.e. *steam*) captured from that boiling process condenses back into liquid form, and then spends a few years aging in an oak cask. We'll bypass the minutiae of the chemistry involved, but the executive summary is that the final outcome of all those combined processes is a delicious drink that contains – amongst other things – alcohol, water, congeners, protein chains, oils, and fats. These oils and fats are triglycerides which are made up of compounds that have more technical-sounding names like fatty acids and esters, which we further identify as ethyl esters and alkyl esters. It's chiefly the family of *ethyl esters* that form the backbone of what's being discussed in this article, but – in order to avoid going into the chemistry and behaviour of *lipids*, *lactones*, *ethyl-dodecanoate*, *ethyl-hexadecanoate*, and *ethyl-palmitate* – we'll keep the terminology simple: Oils and fats will do.

It's those oils and fats in the whisky that form the story here. Some consumers like to take their whisky with a splash of water, or to have it with ice. The addition of either to the whisky can create a haze effect that causes the whisky to turn slightly cloudy – a visual phenomenon that, in itself, has no impact on the quality or flavour, but came to be considered an aesthetically undesirable outcome.

What's physically occurring is that those oils and fats in the whisky are reacting to the water/ice and they're changing in their composition and behaviour. At a molecular level, the change in temperature or dilution (or a combination of both as the ice melts) causes the esters within the oils and fats to bind or *clump* together, forming [micelles](#). This, in turn, creates a cloudiness or haze in the whisky. The scientific term for what's happening is flocculation, aka *floc*, which can be described as “interparticle collisions promoting the formation of larger particles, which come out of suspension in the liquid to sediment”. The process is also sometimes referred to as *louching*.



When it comes to your whisky, haze/cloud/floc is entirely a *cosmetic* issue. But beauty is in the eye of the beholder, and it seems the general public expects a crystal-clear whisky in their glass. Enter chill-filtration...

There's an origin story to this that is probably more a well-spun tale, rather than an actual occurrence that took place. You may even have heard a whisky [brand ambassador](#) tell the story at a tasting event. It goes something like this: In the mid-1950's, in the wake of World War II, a large consignment of Scotch whisky was shipped from Scotland to America. The ship berthed in the USA in the middle of a freezing winter, and the cases were unloaded on to the docks. The local importer came to collect the whisky, but noticed that the liquid in all the bottles was cloudy. Believing the whisky was of dubious quality or had somehow “gone off”, the consignment was promptly rejected, re-loaded back on to the ship, and sent back to Scotland. Of course, the whisky was perfectly fine...it's just that all the oils and fats had flocculated due to the freezing temperature. But the damage was done: Determined to ensure such a debacle would never be repeated, the Scots subsequently began to chill-filter their whisky, so as to keep the liquid visually pristine in all conditions. Like so many other things in life, emphasis was put on outward appearances.

What is chill-filtration or chill-filtering?

Chill-filtration is the act of chilling the whisky down to a low temperature (typically anywhere between -4° and 4° degrees Celsius), and then passing the liquid under pressure through some form of barrier filter.

(Remember, the freezing point of alcohol is significantly lower than that of water. Whilst water freezes at 0° C, pure alcohol's freezing point is -115° C. The freezing point of whisky at around 60% ABV is approximately -37° C). At the chill-filtering temperature of around 0° or so, the oils and fats in the whisky clump together and floc, and they can be picked up by the filter. Or, more crudely, they are stripped out of the liquid. The whisky that passes through to the other side of the filter is now minus the offending oils and fats, and will now remain crystal clear if the end consumer chooses to add water or ice to their dram. Whisky distillers, producers, and bottlers thus *choose* to chill-filter their spirit so as to provide an aesthetically-pleasing product that meets the visual expectations of their customers.



A typical plate filtering machine. The chilled liquid is passed through the many plates (filters) under pressure.

What is non chill-filtered whisky or un-chillfiltered whisky?

As the term implies, non chill-filtered whisky is simply whisky that has *not* been chill-filtered. In other words, it's the natural product that hasn't been further treated or adjusted, at least for the purposes of aesthetics. Of course, producers *do* adjust their spirit further in selecting its bottling strength or proof: They elect whether to dilute the spirit with water and thus whether to bottle the whisky at 40% ABV, 43%, 46% or higher, or to simply leave it at "cask strength", just as it was when it came out of the cask. The choice of bottling strength plays an important part in the chill-filtering narrative, as we'll explore right now...

What about the alcohol strength and what's so special about 46%?

As a general rule, those pesky oils and fats are more prone to cause haze or cloudiness when the whisky is at a strength below 46% ABV. The vast majority of Scotch whisky – both single malts and blends – is bottled at 40%, or occasionally 43%, and these whiskies will almost universally be chill-filtered to combat the risk of haze.

Generally speaking, whisky that is left un-chillfiltered is typically bottled at 46% ABV or higher. The accepted wisdom is that, at 46% or higher, the oils and fats are less likely to floc and haze up at room temperature – and hence chill-filtering is considered unnecessary. The reason for this 46% threshold is because oils and fats behave in a different manner when suspended in alcohol than they do when suspended in water. They essentially remain soluble in alcohol at room temperature, but (effectively) become *insoluble* or flocculate in water. 46% is typically the balance point between the two forms of behaviour, although the variable here is room temperature, which can vary between 18° and 24° C, depending on where you are in the world. And that's before you take your drink outside!

Will non chill-filtered whisky at 46% ABV still floc and haze up?

In short, yes. If you add water to the whisky, you are instantly diluting it below 46%, and the conditions that promote [floc](#) will apply. Even more so if the water you add is particularly cold, and especially so if you also add ice.

For this reason, many whiskies that proudly state "Non chill-filtered" on the label will usually also have something on the packaging to advise the consumer that a haze may develop. Two typical examples are shown below...

AFTER 16 years in first-fill American oak casks, Nàdurra is bottled at natural cask strength to deliver a rich and rewarding taste. By omitting modern chill filtering, we preserve intact the full flavour of the malt, uniquely capturing the original character of George Smith's Distillery: the pure expression of a great tradition. Since this is whisky in its most natural state – with nothing added or taken away – you may detect a slight haze when adding water or ice.

**Slàinte!**

**Appearance:** Pale bronze.

**Nose:** Rich dried fruits, toasted hazelnuts with hints of mouth-watering candy sweets, butterscotch, marzipan and rose syrup.

**Palate:** Lively and satisfyingly smooth. A tantalising fusion of ripe cherries, prunes, apricots, orange marmalade with subtle hints of rich coffee and spicy oakiness.

**Finish:** Temptingly warm, nutty and spicy.

This un-chillfiltered whisky is a natural product produced with minimum processing and may go slightly cloudy if allowed to get very cold or when water is added.

**1 Litre e 46.3%vol**

**BUNNAHABHAIN DISTILLERY, ISLAY, SCOTLAND**

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

It's been observed and commented on that some whiskies at 46% can still floc in the bottle at colder room temperatures, without any addition of water. This is usually on a brand-by-brand basis, and is a function of the specific chemistry of the whisky – which is ultimately a function of far too many variable parameters (yeast, fermentation, still shape, the condensers, cask type, oak contribution/extraction, etc). For some whiskies and other spirits, some industry people assert that 50% ABV is the more appropriate threshold to prevent the esters from floccing. However, what we see as floc in the bottle can also be a function of the quality and nature of the dilution water used at bottling stage. If the dilution water – that is, the water used to bring the spirit down from cask-strength to 46% – has not been sufficiently de-mineralised, there can be calcium or magnesium compounds in the whisky that will also promote floc. These minerals behave independently of temperature, and their appearance is referred to as being "*irreversible floc*". (There has been some commentary that Ardnamurchan's bottled whisky falls into this camp, as their diluting water is sanitised chiefly with UV technology and with minimal filtration, thus leaving some mineral content). The inference is that the floc from oils and fats is *reversible*...achieved by simply warming the liquid back up again. But we need to appreciate that there are other compounds in the whisky that can promote floc or haze, and these other compounds won't necessarily be removed by chill-filtration.

Is non chill-filtered whisky good or bad?

In truth, that's not the right question to be asking and, in any event, the answer is subjective – different people will have different views on the matter, subject to personal taste and preference. Or, more accurately, their opinion will be informed by how good their palate is, and their actual capacity to detect the difference! The more interesting question to ask is this: "What difference does it make to the *flavour* or *quality* of the whisky?" So let's answer that question now...



What difference does chill-filtering make to the flavour or quality of the whisky?

As anyone who appreciates food or cooks will tell you, fat = flavour. The oils/fats in the whisky carry the flavour-giving esters. It stands to reason that if you remove some of these esters by chill-filtering, you are – by definition – removing *some* flavour. Just *how much* flavour is being removed depends on the properties of the whisky and how aggressive the chill-filtering is.

Another feature of fat/oil is its texture. Fats and oils can be viscous, syrupy and...well...*oily* in nature. It is a physical property we perceive via our sense of touch, and in the world of whisky, this is described as the mouthfeel. Again, by definition, if you remove some of these esters, you are removing compounds that contribute to the whisky's overall mouthfeel. Chill-filtering can thus impact a whisky's *tactile* properties. The position thus held by many whisky enthusiasts and purists (and more than a few brands/producers, particularly Burn Stewart) is that chill-filtering is thus an undesirable practice: It robs the whisky of some of the flavour and texture that was originally in the spirit.

Note that this position or mindset is *not* a new or recent development. Whisky writer, Jim Murray, in his 1997 book "The complete guide to whisky", made the point that Laphroaig, in particular, was a whisky whose character suffered significantly from chill-filtration, and that chill-filtered Laphroaig expressions bottled at 40% were noticeably different in flavour and texture from the non-chillfiltered cask-strength 10yo bottling released in 1995.

How can I test this or check it out for myself?

If the situation is as black-and-white as the purists insist, it would be great to prove it by comparing the chillfiltered and unchillfiltered versions of the same spirit. Unfortunately, there are virtually zero commercial brands that offer the exact same expression in both forms. However, you *can* actually check this out for yourself at home. You simply need three things: (1) A non chill-filtered whisky, preferably one that's cask-strength at around 55-60% ABV or so. (2) The freezer in your kitchen. (3) Good quality, non-bleached, conical coffee filter papers.



The coffee filter papers should ideally be non-bleached. First, pour out some of the cask-strength whisky into a smaller sample bottle (say 50ml), and seal it to keep it fresh. This will be your reference dram. Then put the bottle of whisky in the freezer for at least four to six hours. Domestic freezers typically operate at around -18° C, so the whisky should remain entirely liquid. Then take two coffee filter papers, (place one inside the other to create a "double" filter), and place the cones over a glass. Once the whisky has spent enough time in the freezer, take it out and immediately pour, say, 50ml into the coffee filters. The liquid will slowly drip through the filter paper and what you have in the glass underneath is, officially, chill-filtered whisky. Providing the coffee filters are good quality and sufficiently dense, they'll have stripped out some of the ester compounds. (Yes, those oils and fats). You then need to wait for this glass to come back to room temperature, so perhaps put some cling wrap or a lid on the glass to prevent it from oxidising too much whilst it heats back up. Once it's there, you can pour a glass of the reference dram that you siphoned off earlier and directly compare the two, like for like. Decide for yourself if the chill-filtered version is perceptively different in flavour and/or mouthfeel.

Which whiskies or brands leave their whisky un-chillfiltered?

In a trend that's steadily growing, a number of Scottish single malts opt to bottle their standard, flagship expression at 46% or higher and leave the whisky non chill-filtered. Well known examples are Ardbeg, Bunnahabhain, [Tobermory](#), Deanston, Bruichladdich, [Craigellachie](#), and Glendronach. (And, yes, plenty of others).

Is there a difference between blends and single malts when it comes to chill-filtering?

In one sense, yes. Generally speaking, single malts are chill-filtered at temperatures around 0° to +4° C. However, blends need to be treated a little differently. Blends are a combination of (1) malt whiskies (barley) that are pot-distilled, and (2) grain whiskies (corn or wheat) that are continuously distilled in columns to a much higher strength and level of refinement. Owing to the processes involved and the nature of grain whisky, the distilled grain spirit has a lower concentration of fatty acids and esters. As such, so does the resulting blend (i.e. the malt + grain), and so blends need to be chill-filtered more aggressively at lower temperatures (i.e. -4° C) for the lower concentration of oils and fats to adequately floc and be captured. Accordingly, a greater quantity of the oils and fats are removed from the *malt component* of the blend than might otherwise apply! This is, arguably, one reason why cask-strength enthusiasts accustomed to the mouthfeel of single malts can find blends "thin". Whisky & Wisdom coined this experience as "having the cask-strength blues", and you can read our feature article on that topic [here](#). There are a small handful of non chill-filtered blends on the market, bottled at 40-43% ABV, typically from the likes of Compass Box and [Pràban na Linne](#).

Do other drinks employ chill-filtration before bottling?

Yes, many other commercial spirits brands chill-filter their product for the same reasons discussed above, e.g. vodka, gin, and rum. Some gins can be chill-filtered quite aggressively, with the temperature taken as low as -10°.

Chill-filtration also plays a major part in beer production. In addition to seeking a clear liquid with no haze (craft beer and hazy IPA's aside), beer has the added complexity of needing to kill off any live yeast and bacteria left between fermentation and bottling. This can be done either with heat pasteurisation or, more commonly these days, by chill-filtering. The beer industry typically refers to the process as cold-filtering. Australian readers may recall the beer wars of the mid-1990's when two large beer brands tried to expand their consumer base and entice non-beer drinkers into the category with a product that was less challenging. Carlton Cold and Hahn Ice were heavily marketed as cold-filtered beers, with both marketing campaigns espousing the "clean, crisp taste". Yes, they were indeed clean, but most regular beer drinkers found them *too clean*, dismissing them as tasteless and bland.

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So there you have it – we trust you found this deep dive into chill-filtering helpful and informative. If you subsequently try the "chill-filtering at home" exercise outlined above, be sure to come back and share your experience and conclusions in the Comments section below – doubtless other readers will be keen to hear your thoughts.  
Cheers, AD

## Get to Know Grappa, the Fragrant Italian Liquor

BY [SAMANTHA SETTE](#)



COURTESY OF GETTY IMAGES

Once associated with peasants, Grappa has drifted from its modest origins. Today, the spirit is common at Italian dinner tables of all stripes.

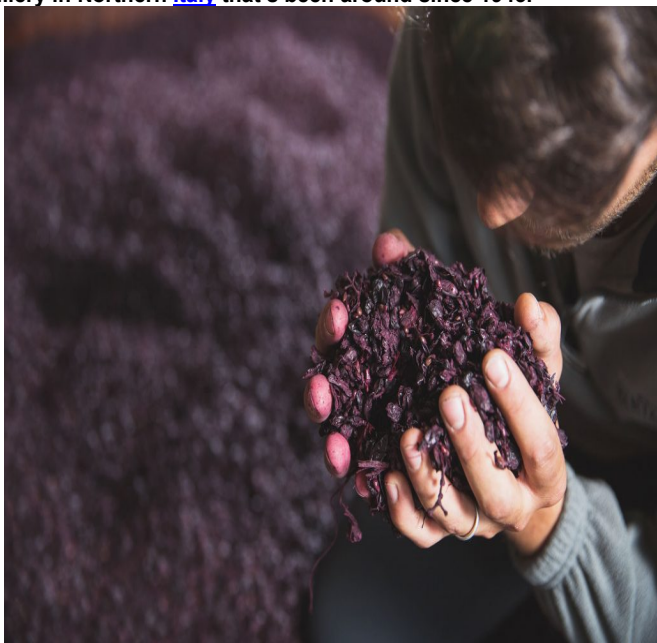
Grappa's evolution is a result of both tradition and reinvention, as modern distillers work to refine their products for generations to come. Though its role in modern drinking culture is still progressing, one thing is for sure: Grappa has come a long way. But if you've never found yourself with a glass of the Italian [spirit](#) before, you may be wondering what the deal is. With its reputation changing, we break down everything you need to know about the fragrant liquor, including what is grappa, what is grappa made from, and how do you drink grappa?

### What Is Grappa?

Grappa is an Italian spirit made from pomace—the grape seeds, skins and stems leftover from wine fermentation. It is traditionally enjoyed as a [digestif](#), or after-dinner drink, to aid digestion and extend the evening. This is not to be confused with [brandy](#), which is produced by distilling wine and other fermented fruit juices. Whereas brandy can be made anywhere in the world, grappa is its own Geographical Indication (G.I.) and must be produced 100% within Italian territory from grapes grown exclusively in Italian soils.

### How Is Grappa Made?

The process of making grappa is highly regulated. It's also inherently sustainable. Production begins with leftover pomace obtained from winemakers. Pomace from red grapes is already fermented, whereas white wine pomace is considered “virgin” and requires [fermentation](#) prior to distillation. Quality pomace is a top priority—it's what gives the final product its primary flavor characteristics. “The main secret is the freshness of the grapes, then the still,” shares Lisa Tosolini of [Bepi Tosolini](#), a family distillery in Northern [Italy](#) that's been around since 1943.



Therefore, many distillers begin with quality assurance prior to distillation. Larger distilleries may also choose to preserve the grape pomace for later use.

Next comes distillation. Distillation is a thermal process that turns raw materials like pomace into a concentrated liquid. This is done by heating and cooling cycles that concentrate the alcohol level, as well as separate desirable and undesirable elements from the emerging spirit. We dive into more detail about what distillation is and how spirits are made [here](#).



When it comes to grappa, distillers can distill in continuous or non-continuous cycles—that is, somewhat automatic versus in the hands of the master distiller. The former is used for large batches, whereas the latter is an artisanal approach that allows a more customized product. Finally, the resulting clear distillate (once diluted with water) can be bottled as is or transferred to steel vessels or [oak](#) barrels to mature for anywhere from a few days to over 18 months.

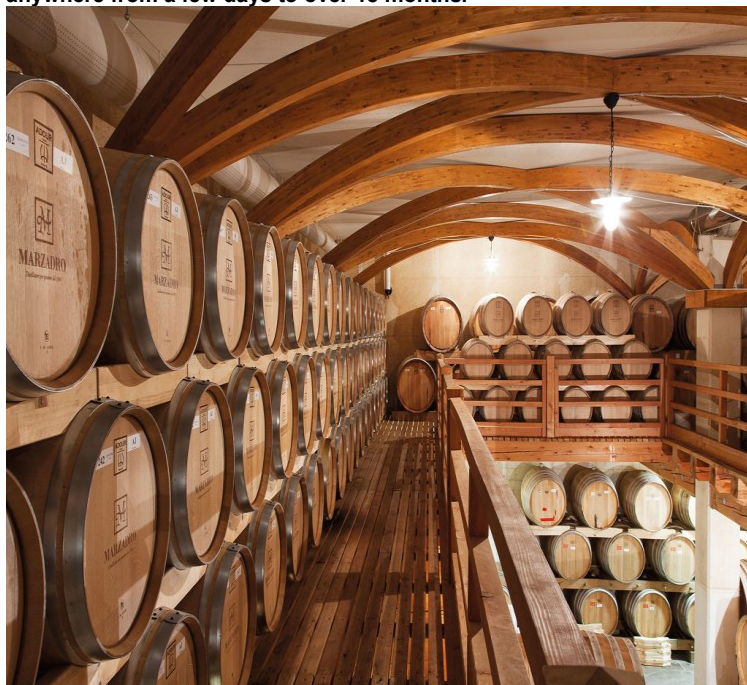


IMAGE COURTESY OF HELLOGRAPPA & ASSODISTIL



The process as a whole demonstrates a unique synergy between spirits and sustainability. By turning the leftovers from winemaking into a product of its own, Grappa production models a circular economy that provides CO<sub>2</sub> savings for the environment. Some distilleries take their sustainability efforts a step further, using byproducts for various uses from industrial biofuel to grapeseed oil for the home cook.

#### The Different Types of Grappa

Not all grappa is created equal. Like wine, grappa can be classified based on grape varietal, aroma and age.

Mono-varietal grappas are distilled from a single grape variety, such as [Moscato](#) or [Ribolla](#). These grappas express the purest profile of the grape and its terroir, versus multi-varietal grappas that are made from a blend.

Classifying grappa based on aroma also depends on its raw material. Moscato, [Malvasia](#) and [Gewürztraminer](#) are just a few of many naturally aromatic grapes that preserve their characteristics throughout distillation. Grappa can also be infused with flavorings like fruit, herb and licorice to achieve a different flavor profile.

In terms of aging, grappa falls into one of four categories, according to [Hello Grappa](#), a grappa-focused trade organization:

Grappa Giovane (Unaged): Otherwise known as “young” grappa, this crystal clear product is bottled after a short rest in steel tanks.

Grappa Invecchiata (Aged): This grappa matures in oak barrels for 12 to 18 months, taking on a light golden color and a more rounded character with hints of spices and vanilla.

Grappa Barricata: This grappa is also aged for 12 to 18 months, but in small wooden casks called Barriques. The resulting product is tannic with a deep golden color and rich flavors of tobacco, butter and cream.

Grappa Stravecchiata (Very Old): Sometimes labeled as “grappa riserva,” this product is aged in oak barrels for more than 18 months. It takes on a golden amber color and intense flavors of spices and vanilla.



IMAGE COURTESY OF HELLOGRAPPA & ASSODISTIL

#### What Does Grappa Taste Like?

Grappa had a bad reputation in its day for tasting like firewater, but that's no longer the case. Different types of grappa take on very different flavor profiles ranging from green fruit and white florals, to aromas of hazelnut and dark [chocolate](#).

“Some of the unaged grappas made from white grapes have these really beautiful floral notes on the nose,” shares Elana Abt, head sommelier at [Quality Italian](#) in New York City. “Sometimes there's this ever so slight glycerol effect—like a little bit of a sugar quality even though there's not very much sugar in the spirit itself.”

Aged grappa tastes wildly different. When visiting distilleries in Northern Italy, some of Abt's colleagues found that they resembled some aged [rums](#). “If I blind-tasted this, I would have thought it was rum Agricole,” says former bartender, co-founder of [LTHospitality](#) and TikTok Creator [Chris Lowder](#).

#### How Do You Drink Grappa?

##### 1. Drink Grappa Neat

The traditional way to taste and enjoy grappa is on its own—straight, in small sips—as an [after-dinner drink](#) to extend the evening.

A small tulip-shaped glass is ideal for enjoying the aromas, filled just a quarter full. Young grappas should be slightly chilled (47-48°F) and aged grappas slightly below room temperature (61-62°F).

##### 2. Drink Grappa in Coffee

Looking to [drink like an Italian](#) from day to night? In the morning, some people blend grappa with a shot of espresso. This is called caffè corretto (which literally means “corrected coffee”) and can be enjoyed as an after-dinner drink as well.

##### 3. Make a Grappa Cocktail

Breaking away from tradition, grappa has recently made its way into the hands of nifty mixologists as a base liquor with many possibilities.

[The Ve.n.to](#) is the first IBA (International Bartender Association) cocktail that uses grappa as its base. Its name pays homage to those regions in Italy renowned for producing grappa through the years—“Ve” for [Venizia](#) and “to” for Trentino [Alto Adige](#). The middle “n” reflects the larger region of [Veneto](#) that contains the former and shares a border with the latter.

The [cocktail](#) itself is a blend of lemon, honey, chamomile and an optional egg white that highlights the complex flavors of grappa, as well as its versatility.

Grappa Semifreddo is another option: a creamy combination of the Italian frozen dessert and a shot of grappa. [Semifreddo](#) has a frozen mousse-like texture, which when combined with the spirit melts away as a thick and pleasurable drink. To amplify the flavor, you can add [amaretto](#) or a [coffee-based liqueur](#) as well.

##### 4. Bake With Grappa

Like Amaretto and [Bourbon](#), grappa can booze up your Grandma's favorite [recipes](#).

The aromas of grappa are typically paired with bitter chocolate or dried fruit—think sweet Panettone from Northern Italy. Though the possibilities for incorporating grappa into both sweet and savory dishes are endless. Where Can I Buy Grappa?

Grappa may be tricky to locate in the [U.S.](#) compared to Italian wines and clothing. Luckily, [online retailers](#) as well as Italian liquor shops offer a selection of imported bottles to choose from.

If a whole bottle seems a bit daunting for your first sip, try finding an authentic Italian [restaurant](#) nearby. The more traditional offerings, the more likely grappa will appear on the after-dinner drink menu.

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#### The Whiskey Wash's Top 10 Whiskeys Of 2022

[Nino Kilgore-Marchetti](#) - [American](#), [Bourbon](#), [Irish](#), [Scotch](#), [World](#) |

December 13, 2022

The Whiskey Wash review team presents here the top 10 whiskeys we reviewed in 2022.

For the purposes of transparency, here's what went into putting our list together:

- Had to score 5/5 on our rating scale during its initial individual review
  - Had to have been published between Jan 10th, 2022 and December 12th, 2022 (we publish reviews daily)
  - Given this, we still had over 20 whiskeys to weigh through to make the final cut (including whiskeys released in late 2021 that didn't get published until the early part of this year). Things thus became a little more subjective on the final choices:
  - Representation, where possible, of whiskeys across different whiskey styles we cover
  - Representation, where possible, of whiskeys from different size brands
- Having now explained how we made this, please check out our list below, not ranked in any particular order. Clicking the title or image will take you to that specific whiskey's review.

### Westward American Two Malts Chocolate Rye



Westward American Two Malts Chocolate Rye Whiskey (image via Suzanne Bayard/The Whiskey Wash)

**Vital Stats:** Distilled in 2016, new American oak, 45% ABV, mash bill: 97.5% malted barley and 2.5% chocolate roasted rye

**Final Thoughts From The Reviewer:** Wow. This is one of the finest American whiskeys I've had the opportunity to taste. It has a beautiful and restrained mélange of fruit, grain, spice, and savory flavors. I love the subtle toasted chocolate notes. It's delightful neat or over rocks. I wouldn't bother using it as a mixer as the whiskey is very complete and harmonious, but a splash of water or soda wouldn't be amiss.

### Michter's 10 Year Rye 2022 Release

Michter's 10 Year Rye (image via Larissa Banitt/The Whiskey Wash)

**Vital Stats:** Aged 10 years, 46.4 ABV

**Final Thoughts From The Reviewer:** This is a delicious rye whiskey. The spice and mint flavors let you know it's a rye, but it does not have the grass, leather, and pumpernickel notes that sometimes turn people off from the category. My theory is that this is from a combination of a more diverse mashbill from the Kentucky style rye and aging. The prolonged aging has allowed the whiskey to extract more vanilla from the charred, new American white oak barrels, leading to a robust and luscious vanilla note on the nose and palate. Age has also likely contributed to how easy-drinking this rye is.

### Heaven's Door Bootleg Series Vol. III



Heaven's Door Bootleg Vol III (image via Heaven's Door Spirits)

- **Vital Stats:** 13 year Kentucky Bourbon, finished in vino de naranja casks, 121.2 proof
- **Final Thoughts From The Reviewer:** This is priced and packaged as a luxury product – it sips like one to boot. The flavors are mature and well-integrated, simultaneously unique and accessible. Few celebrity-associated brands merit a spot on the collectors' shelf, but the third installment of Heaven's Door's Bootleg series deserves a space, both as a piece of Dylan memorabilia and as a high-end whiskey.

### Woodford Reserve 2022 Batch Proof



Woodford Reserve Batch Proof 2022 (image via Woodford Reserve)

- **Vital Stats:** 118.4 proof or 59.2% ABV
- **Final Thoughts From The Reviewer:** I could drink this all night; you just relax into this. The flavors are excellent, the alcohol doesn't overwhelm while still being a vehicle for the complex flavors. I don't know how old this is, and I honestly don't care. This is a lot of fun and there is so much here to enjoy.



### The Gospel Straight Rye Whiskey



The Gospel Straight Rye Whiskey (image via Ian Arnold/The Whiskey Wash)

Vital Stats: 45% ABV, 100% Australian un-malted rye, aged a minimum of two years in charred new American oak barrels

Final Thoughts From The Reviewer: This is a fantastic product. This isn't at all what I think of when I think about rye whiskey making it so I can't really compare it to other ryes I hold in high regard. It is bright, clean, and crisp with enough depth that I have enjoyed going back for another pour. It doesn't need water added to be enjoyed but can certainly take it. Another Australian distillery to keep an eye on, I suggest grabbing a bottle (or three) if you can.

### Remus Repeal Reserve VI Straight Bourbon Whiskey



Remus Repeal Reserve VI Straight Bourbon Whiskey (image via Ian Arnold/The Whiskey Wash)

Vital Stats: 50% ABV. This is composed of five bourbons: 2% 2008 bourbon (21% Rye), 17% 2012 bourbon (36% Rye), 27% 2012 bourbon (21% Rye), 29% 2014 bourbon (21% Rye) and 25% 2014 bourbon (36% Rye).

Final Thoughts From The Reviewer: This is another fantastic release of Remus Repeal Reserve. But what do you expect when the company that others go to for their product releases their own pick of barrels? It is going to be something special. I highly recommend getting a bottle of this year's release if you like a bourbon with a bit of spice to it.

### Sweetens Cove Kennessee



Sweetens Cove Kennessee is a blend of Kentucky and Tennessee bourbons finished with toasted maple sugar wood (image via Sweetens Cove)

Vital Stats: A blending of select Kentucky and Tennessee bourbons, finished in stainless steel tanks with the addition of special wood spirals made from sugar maple wood. Bottled at 55.35% ABV.

Final Thoughts From The Reviewer: Marianne Eaves, as far as being master blender for this brand goes, seems to once again have delivered a home run for Sweetens Cove. As Eaves asks in a release video at the launch of this more casual whiskey – “have we just become best friends?” – one can easily set aside the rivalry between Kentucky and Tennessee whiskeys in this expression. It is a perfect blending of what makes these two American whiskey regions great.

### Ardbeq Fermentation



Ardbeq Fermentation (image via Ardbeg)

Vital Stats: 49.4% ABV. An Islay whisky matured in ex-bourbon casks (first and refill) for 13 years.

Final Thoughts From The Reviewer: The Ardbeg Fermentation is a pungent hodgepodge in flavor. From briny to smoky, to floral and citrusy, the whisky is an outstanding culmination of “why not?” Since, Dr. Lumsden has always wanted to play with longer fermentation, I am sure Ardbeg may have a lineup of future fermentation experiments. The Fermentation has seemed to unlock the full Islay flavor.

## Blue Run Kentucky Straight High Rye Bourbon



Blue Run Kentucky Straight High Rye Bourbon (image via Blue Run Spirits)

**Vital Stats:** 111 proof, aged 4 years

**Final Thoughts From The Reviewer:** I'm not going to beat around the bush: this is really good stuff. This dram produces no fewer than three distinct aromas/flavors that are major nostalgia bombs for me personally so I'm not impartial here, but even if I'm working to evaluate objectively they are all complementary and gently layered together.

[Bushmills "The Rare Casks" 29-Year-Old Pedro Ximénez Cask](#)



Bushmills Rare Cask 29 Year (image via Bushmills)

**Vital Stats:** Mashbill of 100% Irish malted barley. Began in copper pot stills in 1992, matured for more than a decade in hand-selected ex-bourbon barrels, followed by an additional 17 years in Pedro Ximénez sherry casks. 53% ABV.

**Final Thoughts From The Reviewer:** I must say that this whiskey is pretty perfect. I can't think of a single thing I would change about it and am happy to report that the whiskey is well worth the pretty penny it will cost if you're lucky to acquire it. There is a well-earned balance to the whiskey, with a richness that tastes natural and finely aged.

## 12 Whiskies Perfect for Sipping This Christmas

December 14, 2022 — [Julia Higgins](#)

For us whisky lovers, 'tis the season for indulging in delicious drams that evoke the holiday spirit. The possibilities span all sorts of decadent scents and flavors—Christmas cookies, candied nuts, cinnamon spice, gingerbread, warm apple pie, and pine needles—that are all comforting this time of year. So here is our Christmas list for you, which includes whiskies that deliver seasonal and festive flavors that have scored at least 90 points. No matter what you're celebrating this holiday season, it's a perfect time to grab a glass and share any one (if not all!) of these 12 whiskies with family and friends to make the holidays that much merrier. The whiskies are listed in alphabetical order.

Our Holiday Dram Selections



93 points, Arran 18 year old Scotch Single Malt, 46%, \$160

The interplay of floral and sherried notes creates an elegance that other scotches surely envy: candied rose petal, dried orange peel and apricot, sugared almond, raisin, nougat, and dark chocolate on the nose, then candied violet, raisin, date, milk chocolate, dried ginger, candied orange peel, and gingerbread on the palate. The maturity shows in tropical fruit flavors and a deep, probing complexity. It finishes with chocolate, coffee, candied rose petal, and tobacco-laced oak. Seamless.



92 points, Auchentoshan 18 year old Scotch Single Malt, 43%, \$160  
Slightly smoky on the nose, with notes of mesquite wood and cigar ash, coupled beautifully with Whoppers, vanilla bean, coffee stout, and cookies and cream ice cream. There's more sweetness on the palate in the form of creamy milk chocolate, alongside café con leche, and spiced Christmas cake. That richness carries over to the finish which is long



with smoked meats and espresso. A touch light, but well-balanced and approachable.



92 points, Compass Box Flaming Heart Scotch Blended Malt (2022), 48.9%, \$155

After a four-year absence, the new edition brings aromas of earthy peat, chocolate, Brazil nut, peppercorn, ground cumin, paprika, ginger, peppered mackerel, seasoned oak, and cigar wrapper; it's more a slow burner than a momentary dazzling firework. Baked lemon, roasted chestnuts, chocolate ganache, peppered steak, and rich smoke, plus gingerbread, sultana, raisin, and dates, as the mouthfeel glides from oily to waxy, leaving an invigorating spicy finish.



92 points, GlenDronach PortWood Scotch Single Malt, 46%, \$90  
This iconic sherried single malt scotch gets an extra-generous helping of fruit from maturation in port pipes at the hands of GlenDronach master blender Rachel Barrie. The result is a decadent and chewy dram that starts off with fig, dried cherries, and glazed banana chips on the nose. The mouth-filling flavors boast rich fruit, with chocolate-covered cherry and spiced Christmas cake before a lingering finish of drying cocoa and gingersnaps. Lush, creamy, and moreish in the extreme. Number 18 in our 2021 Top 20.



92 points, Glenmorangie 14 year old Quinta Ruban Scotch Single Malt, 46%, \$55

This Quinta Ruban succeeds the 12 year old version, adding two additional years of finishing in port casks, while maintaining the same bargain price. The result is a symphony of understated opulence. Marzipan, fresh apple and pear, milk chocolate, red berries, candied ginger, and praline on the nose build slowly, leading into a fruity, spiced palate. Flavors of soft gingerbread, molasses cake, cherry pie, spiced plums, almond nougat, and dark chocolate intermingle with faint strains of pipe tobacco. It sings on the finish, with a parting crescendo of hazelnut, spice, cigar wrapper, and lengthy oak. Number 9 in our 2019 Top 20.



92 points, Highland Park 18 year old Viking Pride Scotch Single Malt (2019 Batch), 43%, \$155

Christmas warmth in a glass, its maturity showing in complex aromas of baked apple, poached pear, Christmas cake, cinnamon, gingerbread, and cloves, enlivened by a tropical note of lime and a hint of peat. More baking spices on a rich palate that offers milk chocolate, melted caramel, and strawberry jam, with water bringing out notes of candied fruit, chocolate, and more light peat. Nimble, spiced, and replete with flavors to treasure.



91 points, Johnnie Walker 18 year old Blended Scotch, 40%, \$85  
Complex, elegant textures from the get-go; woodsmoke from a bonfire of green twigs, ashy peat embers, grain stores, vanilla cream, and honey drizzled over baked apples. Golden syrup flapjacks, vanilla fudge, candied apricot, orange peel, Quaker oats, gingerbread, pepper, and a catch of smoke that bridges into the finish, where hints of citrus and golden honeyed grains are found. Classical allure, but eminently accessible.



90 points, New Riff Red Turkey Wheat Bottled in Bond, 50%, \$50  
Dry on the nose at first, but opens up to reveal sweet notes of Christmas cake, raisins, banana chips, toffee, and coffee cake, with water bringing lots of vanilla. The palate is smooth, offering flavors of cinnamon cake, baking spice, dried figs, and white pepper. The finish has good length and balance, and is loaded with spice. Adding water brings out spiced chocolate. A big, hefty whiskey that is very approachable.



93 points, Kentucky Peerless Double Oak Bourbon, 54.35%, \$85  
Double Oak was born of a happy accident, when a leaky barrel forced the distilling team to transfer its liquid to a new charred oak barrel. Exposure to that second barrel gave the whiskey amped-up flavors and lots more complexity. This is a bourbon that has gone into overdrive, and it handles the road just fine. Its syrupy sweet texture is checked by the oak influence, and the palate opens to flavors aplenty—dried peaches, warm apple pie, Christmas spice, gingerbread, raisin cake, chocolate, and pumpkin purée. Perfect as a holiday warmer or a backyard barbecue sipper, this is a whiskey for all seasons. Number 8 in our 2021 Top 20.



92 points, O.H. Ingram River Aged Bourbon (Barge #IN068518), 52.5%, \$70  
Flavorful on the nose, offering fresh orange and red berries, strawberry tart, marzipan, and sweet coffee. A rich chewy palate offers tiramisu and chocolate syrup, with impressive depth and balance chocolate, spice, cinnamon, and cooked fruit, all melding well. This is a big whiskey, exuding winter warmth in the glass, warm bakery shop, and lively spice. Excellent length on the finish, ending with a dessert-like rush of chocolate cream pie and babka.





93 points, Old Overholt Bottled in Bond Rye, 50%, \$25

Old Overholt Bottled in Bond bottle. This veteran rye never managed to ascend from the bottom shelf. Perhaps a new generation of enthusiasts couldn't get behind the staid name, or found the price too low to believe. But having persevered for over two centuries, Old Overholt's time has come. This new version (indicated by its red cap) eliminates chill-filtering, resulting in greater flavor and depth. Aromas of Christmas spice cake, cinnamon, apple, and toasted grain lead to a mouthful of berry fruit, with seductive allspice, cacao, and walnut notes. What's old is new again! Number 12 in our 2020 Top 20.



94 points, Wheel Horse Straight Bourbon (Batch 1), 50.5%, \$30

Made at Green River Distilling Co. in Owensboro, Kentucky, this shows maturity far beyond its 2 to 4 years in the barrel, with a winning combination of proof and price. Root beer spice, candied pineapple, wet walnuts, clementine, and Christmas cookies on the nose. A velvety texture on the palate brings butter pecan ice cream, cinnamon toast, maple syrup, and vanilla custard. There is tremendous length on the finish, with a cola-like syrupy sweetness throughout. As debuts go, this one impresses. Number 19 in our 2021 Top 20.

## 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 19<sup>th</sup>, 2022 dinner date as an example:
- Dinner invitations will be sent out Friday August 29<sup>th</sup>, 2022. 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 9<sup>th</sup>, 2022 @ 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 9<sup>th</sup>, 2022 @ 6pm will be removed from the list.
- Anyone canceling between Friday September 9<sup>th</sup>, 2022 @ 6pm and Monday September 19<sup>th</sup>, 2021 will be expected to pay for the cost of the dinner and scotch (\$100). 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 19<sup>th</sup>, 2022 dinner without having cancelled and been successfully replaced will be expected to pay the full cost (\$100). A member will be responsible for their guest's cancellation (\$110).
- If a member asks to be included at the dinner between Friday September 9<sup>th</sup>, 2022 @ 6pm and Monday September 19<sup>th</sup>, 2022 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 "KSMS2023RDF", 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.

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### Just a note because we care.

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



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## Membership and Dinner prices for 2022-2023

Membership Fee:	\$50 (singles)
	\$75 (couples)
One Time Initiation Fee:	\$15
Standard Dinner Fee:	\$100 (member)
	\$110 (guest)



## Kingston Single Malt Society

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