

Kingston Single Malt Society

www.kingstonsinglemaltsociety.com

A social club for the appreciation of Single Malt Whisky since 1998
July 25th, 2022 VOLUME 16; NUMBER 1b; No. 202



COST OF THE MALTS

GLEN KEITH 21 YEAR OLD SECRET BOTTLING LCBO
854803 | 750 mL bottle **Price: \$300.95** Spirits, Scotch Whisky 43.0% Alcohol/Vol.

CAPERDONICH 21 YEAR OLD SECRET BOTTLING SMALL BATCH RELEASE; FIRST FILL AMERICAN OAK BARRELS LCBO 854803 | 700 mL bottle Price: \$400.95
Spirits, Scotch Whisky 48.0% Alcohol/Vol.

CLYNELISH 13 YEAR OLD GORDON & MACPHAIL CONNOISSEURS CHOICE; KENSINGTON WINE CASK; CASK No. 311260; BATCH No.: 21/076; one of 276 Bottles; DISTILLED: 2007; BOTTLED: 29.03.2021
LCBO 183400 | 700 mL bottle **Price: \$205.95** Spirits, Whisky/Whiskey 56.5% Alcohol/Vol.

CLYNELISH 14 YEAR OLD SCOTCH WHISKY LCBO 183400 | 700 mL bottle Price: \$105.95 Spirits, Whisky/Whiskey 46.0% Alcohol/Vol.

TOMATIN CÙ BÒCAN CREATION No.1 SCOTCH WHISKY
LCBO 183400 | 700 mL bottle **Price: \$137.95** Spirits, Whisky/Whiskey 46.0% Alcohol/Vol.

TOMATIN CÙ BÒCAN CREATION No.2 SCOTCH WHISKY
LCBO 183400 | 700 mL bottle **Price: \$137.95** Spirits, Whisky/Whiskey 46.0% Alcohol/Vol.

MENU

1st Course: Chorizo Stuffed Mushrooms with Smoked Cheddar

1st Nosing: TOMATIN CÙ BÒCAN CREATION No.2
(introduced by: Stewart Williams)

2nd Course: Watermelon & Goat's Feta Salad with English Cucumber, Pine Nuts and Balsamic Reduction

2nd Nosing: GLEN KEITH 21 YEAR OLD

3rd Nosing: CAPERDONICH 21 YEAR OLD
(introduced by: Phil Henderson)

3rd Course: Orange Chipotle Lamb Shanks, Aged Cheddar Corn Fritters

4th Nosing: CLYNELISH 14 YEAR OLD

5th Nosing: CLYNELISH 13 YEAR OLD
(introduced by: Conrad Falkson)

4th course: Chocolate Zucchini Cake with an Espresso Cream Cheese Icing

6th Nosing: TOMATIN CÙ BÒCAN CREATION No.1
(introduced by: Stewart Williams)

June 20th Dinner - KSMS Financial Statement

(Money from 40 December attendees @ \$90)	= \$3600.00
March dinner 40 persons =	= \$2609.91
(Money remaining for buying Single Malt)	= \$990.09
Cost of Single Malts:	= \$1202.10
Cost of Pours per Person = \$30.05	
KSMS Monthly operational balance	= (-\$212.01)
Cost per person (All inclusive)	= \$95.30
Money for Heels	= \$250.00
Money Raised from Raffle	= \$ 0.00
KSMS Monthly operational balance	= \$37.99

Upcoming Dinner Dates

Friday August 26th, 2022 - 15th Annual Premium Night
September 19th, 2022 - Lowland / Islands (Kyle)
October 17th, 2022 - Speyside / Highlands / Islay
November 14th, 2021 - Campbeltown / Highlands / Islay
December 19th 2022 - Christmas Dinner - Blind Tasting
January 23rd 2023 - Robbie Burns - Islands (Arran) / East Highlands
February 13th 2023 - Speyside
March 20th 2023 - Irish / Speyside
April 17th 2023 - Speyside / Islands (Skye)
May 15th 2023 - Speyside / Islands / Islay
June 19th 2023 - June BBQ - Speyside / Islands / Islay

Macallan M Collection launches 2022 whiskies

20 JUNE 2022 By *Melita Kiely*

Edrington-owned The Macallan has released a trio of limited edition single malt whiskies as part of the brand's M Collection.



A trio of limited edition whiskies have kicked-off The Macallan M Collection

The Macallan M Collection has been designed to celebrate the brand's 'six pillars': natural colour, mastery, curiously small spirit stills, the estate, exceptional oak casks, and Sherry seasoning.

The first three whiskies from The Macallan M Collection are The Macallan M 2022 Release, The Macallan M Black 2022 Release, and The Macallan M Copper 2022 Release.

Jaume Ferras, global creative director for The Macallan, said: "Our six pillars foundation stones embody all that is unique to The Macallan, together underpinning the renowned quality and rich character of our whisky.

"The Macallan M Collection tells the story of these unique attributes and our dedicate to uncompromised excellence."

The Macallan M 2022 Release (45% ABV) was matured in Sherry-seasoned oak casks. It is presented in a handmade Lalique crystal decanter. Tasting notes include chocolate, dried fruit and spice.

The Macallan M Black Release (46% ABV) was aged in 'rare', black-ended Sherry-seasoned oak casks. The peated whisky comes in a handcrafted Lalique black crystal decanter to reflect the peat smoke of the whisky.

The Macallan M Copper (42% ABV) aims to reflect the distillery's small stills. M Copper is said to taste of fruit and sweet malt, and is presented in a copper-coloured, handmade crystal decanter.

Each whisky comes in a 700ml decanter. The Macallan M 2022 Release is priced at RRP US\$6,750 (£5,000); The Macallan M Black 2022 Release has a suggested price tag of US\$7,600 (£5,700); and The Macallan M Copper 2022 Release will retail for RRP US\$8,000 (£6,250).

The Macallan M Collection is available worldwide in both domestic and travel retail markets, including The Macallan Estate, The Macallan Airport Boutiques, select luxury hotels and bars, and premium retailers.

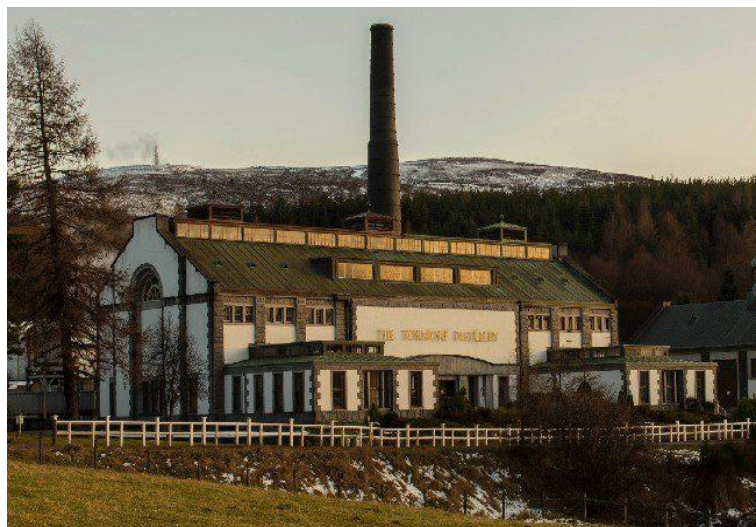
To celebrate the launch of the collection, the brand partnered with luxury fashion photographer and creative visionary Nick Knight to make a series of photography, as pictured above.

Earlier this month, The Macallan extended the availability of its [Tales of The Macallan Volume I](#) single malt whisky to include global travel retail. The whisky retails for US\$80,000.

Elixir Distillers to acquire Tormore Distillery

20 JUNE 2022 By *Georgie Pursey*

Independent whisky specialist Elixir Distillers has today agreed to purchase the Tormore Distillery and brand from Pernod Ricard for an undisclosed sum.



The Tormore Distillery was known as 'the pearl of Speyside'

The acquisition is the latest move from co-founders and owners [Rajbir and Sukhinder Singh](#) to develop Elixir Distillers into a world-leading brand owner, distiller and bottler.

Last year, the brothers [sold The Whisky Exchange](#), including Whisky Auction and London Cocktail Week, to Pernod Ricard. Sukhinder Singh explained: "Tormore is one of the most visually stunning distilleries in Speyside. It produces a beautiful spirit and fits in perfectly with the Elixir Distillers flavour-first philosophy to bottle only the very highest quality whiskies."

One of Scotland's larger distilleries, Tormore was built in 1960 and was designed by renowned architect and president of the Royal Academy Sir Albert Richardson, whose style combined neoclassicism with modernism. The distillery was historically known as 'the pearl of Speyside', and the uniqueness of its architectural design was recognised in 1986 when the distillery was granted listed building status.

It has been owned by Pernod Ricard since 2005.

"We are hoping to build on the work that's been done by Pernod Ricard to bring to life the magic of Tormore and show consumers around the world just what a hidden gem it is," Sukhinder Singh continued. "We are humbled to be the new custodians of Tormore; we couldn't have asked for a better distillery to welcome to the Elixir family [alongside our new Islay distillery, Portinruan](#)."

The Tormore distillery has a production capacity of just under five million litres of alcohol per year, providing the potential for long-term growth the Singh brothers noted.

The deal with Elixir Distillers includes inventory of aged stock.

[Alexandre Ricard](#), chairman and CEO of Pernod Ricard, stated: "Active portfolio management is an integral part of our long-term strategy. The sale of the Tormore brand and distillery follows the recent announcement of [our investment behind the Aberlour and Miltonduff facilities](#), which will increase our Scotch production capacities by 14 million litres of alcohol per annum.

"We are delighted to be handing Tormore over to Sukhinder and Rajbir, two friends and truly creative entrepreneurs, and look forward to finding new ways to collaborate in the future."

The co-founders foresee a bright future for Tormore. They added: "We're committed to creating a new era for Tormore. Our goal is to establish the reputation of Tormore on the global stage to match the special quality of the whisky.

"We want Tormore to stand shoulder to shoulder alongside the biggest names in single malt whisky and we plan to release a brand range that Scotland will be proud of. We want to make this a real destination for all visitors to Speyside; we will be refurbishing the distillery and we also plan to build a visitor centre."

Glendronach Distillery Launches Limited Cask Strength Batch 10

[Gary Carter](#) - [Scotch](#) | June 20, 2022

[The Glendronach Distillery](#) recently announced the 10th release of its Cask Strength Highland Single Malt Scotch Whisky, crafted by Master Blender Rachel Barrie from a blend of Pedro Ximénez and Oloroso sherry casks.

GlenDronach Cask Strength Batch 10 was bottled at the whisky's natural cask strength, as was the custom, it is said, before the turn of the 20th century.

In a statement from the distiller, Barrie said, "The GlenDronach Cask Strength Batch 10 is incredibly rich and full-bodied with the full depth of sherry cask maturation at its heart ... it offers a cornucopia of flavor, from richly spiced fruitcake to dark cherry and ginger jam."



The GlenDronach Cask Strength Batch 10 (image via The GlenDronach) The limited release showcases the historic distillery's "richly sherried" Single Malts, representative of The GlenDronach, which was established in 1826.

To be exact, Batch 10 is bottled at 58.6% ABV, and its deep color comes naturally over time from the Spanish oak in which it rests. The new expression is available across the U.S. at a suggested retail price of \$99.99.

The distiller's notes show that Batch 10 has a chestnut bronze color and on the nose, there are aromas of mocha, apricot and baked orange chocolate cake, with roasted almond, walnut and raisin on a base of aromatic toasted oak.

On the palate, the whisky tastes of spiced fruitcake with nectarine, dark cherry and honeyed sultana raisins.

Bladnoch releases oldest whisky to date

22 JUNE 2022 By Georgie Pursey

Lowland distillery Bladnoch has released a 30-year-old single malt whisky aged in oloroso Sherry and Moscatel casks.

The 30YO whisky is limited to one bottle purchase per person. The whisky is the oldest expression the distillery has released to date, and has a limited run of 950 bottles.

David Prior, [who purchased the distillery in 2015](#), said: "It is an immense privilege to release this 30-year-old single malt, produced from Bladnoch's heritage whisky and matured in these stunning rare casks. This continues an exciting chapter in Bladnoch's rich whisky-making history as we continue to develop our portfolio."

Following Prior's acquisition, the brand embarked on a new chapter in the history of what is the oldest privately owned Scotch whisky distillery, and the first to be owned by an Australian.

The distillery had previously sat dormant for six years.

Master distiller Dr Nick Savage, who [joined Bladnoch from The Macallan](#) in 2019, remarked: "Our 30-year-old was designed to showcase the pinnacle of our range with the unique combination of oloroso and Moscatel casks. This unique cask combination, rarity and character will inspire our future whisky making for many years."



The whisky is said to present floral notes with dried apricots and nutmeg. On the palate it offers rich almond and marzipan flavours along with Seville oranges, with a 'surprisingly light' and fruity finish, and a hint of cracked black pepper.

The liquid is non-chill-filtered and bottled at 45.5% ABV.

The 700ml bottles are available to purchase via Bladnoch's website and in the distillery's visitor centre for an RRP £1,000 (US\$1,220). Sales are limited to one bottle per person.

The whisky will be sold around the world through Bladnoch's network of distributors in the coming months.

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

Enough With The Bottle 'Hunting,' Just Drink The Whiskey

[Steve Coomes](#) [American](#), [Bourbon](#), [Lifestyle](#) | June 7, 2022

My experience is most whiskey enthusiasts are fun and friendly. Like passionate beer and wine drinkers, they came to the hobby for flavor, and when they made relationships with likeminded drinkers, things became fun.

But as happened with beer and wine cultures, whiskey fandom now has its outliers, people like self-dubbed "whiskey hunters" who are out for bottles, good or bad, as long as those purchases boost their egos. They fetishize over particular brands and spend inordinate hours running hither and yon to find "this bottle with that mashbill because it's really rare." Their collections are often large, and the people who assemble them are usually tedious.

They can't seem to read a crowd that's tired of their "I've been everywhere, man" stories of stalking Blanton's bottles for a single letter or grabbing six bottles of Smoke Wagon because their pals swear it's better than any other MGP whiskey. Studying, buying, drinking and sharing whiskey is a great hobby, but few things ruin the experience like someone chest thumping over a bottle haul.



Bottles like these are meant to be opened (image via Buffalo Trace)

And it's not really hunting

Calling a search for a bottle of whiskey a "hunt" is a stretch. Hunting is work that includes sitting out in the cold for hours while hoping a hapless beast steps within rifle range. Killing it is the easiest part. Field dressing and dragging it to a truck—that's never near where the animal died—is work. Bird hunting lacks such heavy lifting, but it requires long waits in chilly wetlands hoping the dogs will rouse some pheasants. (For what it's worth, I'm not a hunter for these very reasons. But if someone kills it, I'll cook it.)

So, "hunters," just call it what it is: bourbon shopping—a peril-free purchase of bottles on shelves in a government licensed, climate-controlled store. Getting there happens in cars with heat, A.C. and cellphone chargers. Unlike hunters who dare not blink when prey creeps near, bourbon shoppers who crank up the stereo will never scare away bottles.

Enough with the pictures

Photos of hunters and their prey have never done much for me. I'm neither offended nor grossed out, but I'm also not moved by those images.

Classic photos of a besotted Hemingway beside his giant dead prizes always struck me as brutish and evidence of a mostly unfair fight. But if a visual record proves a specific hunter featured in the shot made the kill, then have at it. They get awards for such things, so it's fitting.

All that makes whiskey shopping pics look silly. Plopping a bottle of booze into your lap and snapping a pic with the ever-scenic background of your car's steering wheel implies, well, way more than we should dive into here. Just stow it safely in the empty wine box in your trunk like the rest of us. I don't care what you paid for it, it's not the holy grail.

Numbers of bottles don't really matter either

I've got a lot of bottles of spirits in my home, but I'm not a collector. I'm a consumer who buys, drinks and repeats the cycle, and I'm a spirits writer who gets free samples. I sip whiskey with my family, friends, at parties, at tastings (professionally) and also when the delivery driver brings a new sample. Yes, if it's interesting, that vessel's getting cracked right then and there.

The more bottles I've got opened, the more bottles are cleared to share, and that makes guests comfortable to do so without permission at my home. I've never been to a whiskey friend's home where there weren't several options available for free pouring. It's just part of the culture now. The self-proclaimed hunters will find you

When a guy came up to me after a public whiskey tasting I led last fall and said furtively, "Want to see my whiskey collection?" I really didn't. When he sidled up, phone at the ready and said, "Here, let me show you," he scrolled through an immense booze liquor stash stuffed with premium picks. Some photos showed the bottles backlit with LED strips and massed in bowling pin V formations. It was strange.

He said, "You probably can't believe this, but I've only been hunting for about 10 months; I just got into it," and he was right, I didn't believe it. Yet he kept talking. "I don't want to brag, (always a clear warning that someone *really does want to brag*) "but I make a lot of money, and when I get into something, I go all in. Money's no object." Since my personal time was no object to him either, his one-way conversation continued. "I really don't drink much of it either; I almost feel kinda bad about that because, well, so many people really like what I've got, those Wellers, especially," he said, pointing to what looked like a 10-bottle wedge of 12 year bourbon. On he went, showing me his quarry and telling me about how he acquired it rapidly and in big lots.

I didn't expect this strange stranger to invite me to his house for drinks or say, "You like that bottle? I've got 14 of them. I'll send you one. You seem like a nice guy." But generally, those who have cool stuff don't show it to people for whom they won't pour it. They show it as a preview to sharing it. I doubt he had any sense that this show-and-share protocol is part of modern whiskey culture.

Eventually, I wedged an, "Oh, look at the time!" remark into his stream of consciousness spiel so I could finish my work for the day. Thankfully, he relented and moved on. But still, the meaning of what he said remains fresh in my mind 10 months later:

I have the time and money to buy and hoard all the whiskey I like, regardless of the price, even if I'm not going to enjoy it myself.

Clearly, not a fun guy.

One of the most prolific collectors I know follows a simple rule of thumb for whiskey shopping: If possible, buy three of what you like: one to drink, one to trade and one to save. Saving some is good: to revisit, to toast friends or donate to a charity auction. Going to his house was always a terrific sipping experience.

Thank God more drinkers out there are like my friend rather than Mr. "I don't really drink much of it." We could use a lot less of that type—but the bottles in such whiskey collections, I'd like some of those.

Scotch whisky gains trademark protection in US

23 JUNE 2022 By Nicola Carruthers

Scotch whisky has secured a certification trademark in the US – the category's largest global market.



Scotch has gained greater protection in the US after the SWA secured trademark registration

The US is among more than 100 countries where 'Scotch whisky' has been granted specific legal protection, according to the Scotch Whisky Association (SWA).

SWA chief executive Mark Kent called the move a "milestone for Scotland's national drink in our largest global market".

He said: "This registration offers Scotch whisky a greater degree of legal protection and will allow us to take action against those who seek to cash-in on the heritage, craft and quality of genuine Scotch."

The SWA said the category's exports gave the UK £143 (US\$175) every second in 2021, totalling more than £4.5 billion (US\$5.5bn). In the States, [exports grew by 8%](#) to £790 million (US\$966.7m) last year, equal to four bottles of whisky exported to the US every second. The first quarter of 2021 was affected by the 25% tariff on single malt Scotch, the SWA said. The US tariff on single malts [was suspended for five years](#) in June 2021.

Kent added: "Scotch whisky – the UK's largest food and drink export – is a firm favourite in the US, which was the industry's first billion-pound market in 2019 before the impact of tariffs and the Covid-19 pandemic.

"The trademark registration is another sign of the industry's determination to build back in the United States and ensure that consumers in a dynamic and competitive spirits market can be confident that the Scotch whisky they purchase is the genuine article."

The category's trademark is protected in countries such as [South Korea](#), [South Africa](#) and [China](#).

The UK and India's forthcoming free trade agreement is the ["biggest thing to unlock potential in Scotch"](#) according to the SWA's deputy director of trade.

Dunnet Bay whisky distillery gets green light

24 JUNE 2022 By Nicola Carruthers

The UK's most northerly mainland distillery, Dunnet Bay Distillers, has received planning approval for its multi-million-pound expansion.



The mill's restoration could cost up to £4m

Approved by Highland Council, the application [requested permission to refurbish a 200-year-old mill](#) and surrounding land at Castletown in Scotland, near the distillery's headquarters.

The development, which could cost up to £4 million (US\$5.4m), would allow the producer to expand the business to include a visitor centre and whisky distillery.

Husband-and-wife team Claire and Martin Murray founded Dunnet Bay Distillers in 2014. The company, which produces Rock Rose Gin and Holy Grass Vodka, bought the mill in 2021.

Earlier this year, the distiller was granted permission to develop a temporary visitor centre, café, and shop near the site of the Old Mill. Claire Murray said: "We are delighted that we now have planning permission to convert the old Mill, and thank Highland Council for its decision. We have been working hard with our plans and are looking forward to sharing them in the coming months.

"The warehouse building has already commenced work and we hope to open a temporary café and small visitor area soon."

The distillery will be powered by green electricity and feature a 'contemporary' design while maintaining the style of the historic building. Martin Murray added: "We're excited at the prospect of regenerating this fine old building which has lain empty for many years. The mill will become a Caithness landmark once again and its development will transform our already successful business."

"The company earlier this year asked anyone with connections to the mill to get in touch to tell their personal stories about the building. The

company intends to embed the story of its history into the fabric of the building as they create a new destination on the north coast of Scotland. "We aim to make it into a local destination distillery and so the history is something we wish to remember."

The company has not yet announced when work on the expansion will begin.

Redbreast unveils wood-focused series

24 JUNE 2022 By Nicola Carruthers

Irish Distillers has released a Redbreast whiskey finished in air-dried American white oak casks as the first expression in the brand's new US-exclusive range.



Redbreast Kentucky Oak Edition is the first bottling in the brand's American Oak series

The limited edition Redbreast Kentucky Oak Edition is the first release in the American Oak series, which celebrates the role of wood in the production of Redbreast whiskey.

"Redbreast is renowned for its heavy Sherry influence," explained master blender Billy Leighton. "This can often mean that its ex-Bourbon counterpart is overlooked, even though Kentucky white oak barrels, which have previously held Bourbon, are central to the Redbreast DNA. "This series explores the role American white oak plays in the composition of Redbreast, and takes it one step further, with a final flourish in virgin casks to enable the wood contribution to truly take centre stage."

The new whiskey is made from malted and unmalted barley, triple distilled in copper pot stills and matured in American oak Bourbon barrels and Spanish oloroso Sherry butts.

The liquid is then finished for a period of between three to seven months in naturally air-dried American white oak sourced from the Taylor family's 1,300-acre Elk Cave Farm in Kentucky, US.

The oak, certified by the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC), was worked into 63 casks and shipped to Midleton Distillery.

These casks were chosen for their high-quality white oak, leading to sweet notes of vanilla and elevated wood spices.

Bottled at 50.5% ABV, the whiskey combines hints of pot still spices and dried fruit with a nose of freshly cut cedarwood and notes of almond and brown sugar toffee.

Leighton added: "Crafting this whiskey has been a journey of discovery. From learning about the trailblazing work of the Taylor family improving the sustainability of America's oak forests, to exploring the region's influence upon our whiskey, all of which has shaped this deliciously complex whiskey.

"The Kentucky Oak series demonstrates Redbreast's continued evolution, setting the bar for subsequent expressions in the series." Redbreast Kentucky Oak is exclusively available in the US, with a pricetag of US\$95.99.

Irish Distillers is [investing €50 million \(US\\$52.2m\) to make Midleton](#) the first and largest carbon-neutral distillery by 2026.

Last month, the brand unveiled the fifth bottling in its Redbreast Dream Cask series – a [30-year-old single pot still whiskey](#).

The World's Best Scotch Whisky - According To The 2022 San Francisco World Spirits Competition

[Brad Japhe](#) - Senior Contributor
Jun 25, 2022, 08:49am EDT



Overall Best Of Class at the 2022 San Francisco World Spirits Competition
PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY: BRAD JAPHE

The San Francisco World Spirits Competition celebrated its 22th iteration back in April, and this time around [it was bigger than ever](#). "With over 5000 entries from 40 countries we are by leaps and bounds the largest and longest running blind judging event [in the world]," according to Amanda Blue, president of the event. "This year cemented our status as the preeminent spirits competition in the world."

Whether or not you agree with her self-assessment, there's no denying that booze brands of all sizes are eager to get the stamp of approval from SFWSC. This year they had to wait a little longer for it. Although the actual judging took place during a two week span in spring, the results have been doled out in drips and drabs. We've known the winners of certain medals for months, but the competition only delivered a full reveal through a live ceremony that occurred on June 24th in San Francisco. Now that it's over we can finally share the results of the all-important "Overall Best of Class" recipient. And the winner is... Benromach 40 Year Old Single Malt Scotch

This Speyside stunner is matured exclusively in first-fill Oloroso Sherry butts and bottled at a cask strength of 57.1% ABV. It is a rich and rounded malt from a 125 year old distillery which is today managed by the talented folks of [Gordon & MacPhail](#)—the legendary independent bottler out of Elgin, Scotland.

The genius of this dram begins with the nose: bright and brimming with baking spice and stewed orchard fruit. Following the punchiness is a velvety body which carries caramel and croissant across the palate. These sorts of tonalities are laudable, for sure. But they can be found in many a malt that doesn't warrant world-class distinction. The real separator here is in the finish. It yields tobacco, leather, and threads of toffee—all of which just refuses to fade. In fact, it's one of those rare sipping experiences for which time just seems to slow. You're left contemplating this liquid for what feels like ages.

And ponder this: you can still actually purchase [a bottle for under a \\$1000](#). That reads as a bargain for 40-year-old single malt these days. So don't expect the price to hold much longer after news of this award spreads. The uptick underscores the economic engine driving this newfangled "competition-industrial complex."

Tomatin Single Malt Celebrates 125 Years With Two New Limited Edition Expressions

[Gary Carter](#) - [Scotch](#) | June 23, 2022

[Scotland's Tomatin Single Malt](#) recently announced two new limited edition expressions, released in celebration of the distillery's 125th anniversary.

A statement from the distiller said that the two rare casks were specially chosen as Tomatin's official anniversary bottlings from the distillery, which opened 125 years ago in June of 1897.

The first is a 1993 single malt Scotch whisky cask selected by Master Distiller Graham Eunson. Similar to the type of cask that would have been used in 1897, the distiller's notes show this cask's whisky is rich in color, the nose is initially soft then, on the palate, it has a punch of flavor from the Oloroso Sherry cask it was matured in.



Tomatin Aged 50 Years (image via Tomatin)

The second expression is a 50-year-old single cask (retail price of £17,500) which was bottled on this recent anniversary in its natural form, yielding only 125 bottles, one for each year of the distillery's existence.

Presented in a hand blown Glencairn Crystal decanter and luxury box, the limited expression is accompanied by a limited edition, hand-numbered book signed by Graham Eunson.

This single malt liquid itself is said by the brand to be sweet, full of aromas of dried tropical fruits, and a mix of nuts, dark chocolate and honey.

The two limited single casks accompany a limited edition carton which has been produced for the company's longest-standing malt within their core range, the 12 Year Old, and was designed by Scottish illustrator Emily Hogarth.

Tomatin's Master Distiller, Eunson, said they are "incredibly proud of the thriving community we have built around the inimitable craft of whisky making. The distillery is a very special place and, even after 125 years, remains committed to producing the finest quality whisky that Scotland can be proud of."

Founded in 1897 by John MacDougall, who called Tomatin home in the 1800s, the distillery is located in the Scottish Highlands near Inverness. For more information on Tomatin and its 125th anniversary range, check out www.tomatin.com.

Glenlivet 50YO kicks off rare whisky collection

27 JUNE 2022 By Nicola Carruthers

One of Scotland's rarest private cask collections will be bottled for the first time under the Finn Thomson Whisky brand, with Glenlivet 50 Year Old as its first release.



The debut release of the range is Glenlivet 50 Year Old, one of the oldest whiskies in the Crown line

The Finn Thomson Whisky collection celebrates the Thomson family's 300-year-long relationship with Scotch whisky.

The range is now being released by ninth generation family member Finn Thomson.

Finn's great-great-grandfather Peter Thomson set up his namesake grocery and whisky business in Perth in 1908, alongside blended whisky giants Dewar's, Bell's and Gloag.

After the sale of the business in the 1980s, Michael Thomson, Finn's grandfather, started stowing away the young malt and grain casks that made up the secret recipe of Beneagles whisky. The casks have been left to rest ever since.

Finn Thomson, master bottler, said: "For 300 years my forefathers have been involved in whisky – distilling, blending and trading. And growing up, I was always fascinated by my grandfather's recollections of his time in the whisky trade. These stories have inspired me to reignite the family business and create new experiences and innovations in the exciting world of single cask independent bottlers.

"Quietly, granddad Michael spent the 1980s and 90s selecting and collecting the young casks of single malts and grains that had formed the secret recipe of the Beneagles blend, handed down over the generations. In doing so, he accumulated one of Scotland's largest private cask collections.

"Now, it is my honour to bring this aged collection of rare casks to the lips of a new generation. Each cask has its own individual personality. Every Finn Thomson whisky is a one-off with its own wonderful character."

Inaugural release
The portfolio, divided into Crown, Rare and Core ranges, presents a collection of rare and aged spirits, as well as younger single malts.

The Crown range will comprise the oldest single malts from Scotland's most sought-after distilleries, while the Rare series includes single cask whiskies aged for at least 30 years. The Core line offers single cask bottlings.

The debut release of the range is Glenlivet 50 Year Old, one of the oldest whiskies in the Crown line.

The 49.8% ABV expression was matured in a first-fill Sherry hogshead, with the Sherry being bottled by merchant Peter Thomson's in Scotland. In the 1970s, before the legal requirement that all Sherry must be bottled in Spain, it was common for Sherry to be shipped in casks to Scotland for bottling.

The 50-year-old Glenlivet whisky, with a yield of 127 bottles, offers notes of fried fruit and oloroso Sherry on the nose, while the palate brings an initial sweetness of salted caramel followed by dried fruits.

The full Finn Thomson Whisky range will initially be available from specialist whisky retailers across the UK including Woodwinters, Villeneuve Wines, Freds Drinks, Oban Whisky and Fine Wine, Malts and Spirits and Aberdeen Whisky Shop.

It will also be available in Italy, Belgium and the Netherlands.

The past few years have seen an increasing number of eye-wateringly expensive an

First distillery for 40 years to open in Inverness

29 JUNE 2022 By Alice Brooker

A £6 million (US\$7.3m) whisky distillery and brewery is to be opened in Inverness, in the Scottish Highlands, for the first time in nearly 40 years.



Erasmus outside the Uilebheist low-carbon distillery, due to open in November 2022

The Uilebheist distillery will be sustainably powered by a local water source, the River Ness, and will create 40 jobs.

Uilebheist owner Jon Erasmus said: "The very foundations of this project were born from Scottish myth and legend. We wanted to create something unique to the area, with the distillery, and brewery both powered by the famous River Ness."

All water used in the distillery processes will be sourced from the river, "meaning that when you drink Uilebheist's liquid, you really are tasting the Highlands," added Erasmus.

The low-carbon distillery, which is due to open in November this year, is named after the Scottish Gaelic word for 'monster', as the project is inspired by Scottish folklore.

Beer and whisky production will begin at the site later this year, with the brewery's five core beers available to buy in late November 2022.

Erasmus said: "Creating both beer and whisky simultaneously will allow us to offer an immediate product, and whilst we wait for the whisky to reach maturity, there will be an opportunity to own one of a limited number of casks of the Uilebheist Single Malt Whisky distilled in the first year of production, through our cask programme."

The Uilebheist cask programme offers consumers the chance to own a cask of the distillery's flagship whisky, and only 100 casks will be made available this year. They will be sold on a first come, first served basis. Erasmus also commented that the space will "aim to raise the bar" with visitor experiences, and lead the way for Scotland's hospitality sector. The centre is going to offer a range of experiences ranging from site tours and sampling of core products to masterclasses.

Uilebheist is said to be on track to become one of the lowest carbon distilleries in the country.

Heating and hot water will be sourced from onsite pumps within the adjoined sustainability centre, powered by the River Ness.

This will also be distributed throughout the nearby Glen Mhor Hotel complex. The process will be the 'first of its kind in Scotland'. Bruce Smith, who has a Masters degree in Brewing and Distilling from Heriot-Watt University, will head the distillery and brewery. Smith has spent the last decade working in the craft beer industry and ageing beer in ex-whisky barrels.

He said: "Whisky production will commence later this year, due to our small scale we will only produce around 200 casks annually, making Uilebheist one of the rarest whiskies in Scotland."
 "The whisky will be matured in ex-Bourbon and Sherry casks, but the whisky will let us know when it's ready and we have no intention to rush it. Quality is our number one focus."
 Irish Distillers recently invested €50 million (US\$52.2m) to make Midleton Ireland's [first and largest carbon-neutral distillery](#) by 2026.

This is reflected in Bruichladdich's status as one of only six distilleries worldwide to achieve B Corp Certification. While the others on the list may make vodka, rum, limoncello or gin, Bruichladdich is focused on whisky and whisky alone. But what is B Corp Certification and why does it matter? It's a designation that a business is meeting the highest standards of verified performance, accountability, and transparency on a broad range of factors, encompassing everything from employee benefits and charitable giving to supply chain practices and input materials. Obviously, you don't meet standards like that by doing things the old-fashioned way, which is why the bedrock for Bruichladdich's flagship Classic Laddie whisky is not some unalterable recipe that's prioritised above all else. Instead, [Bruichladdich](#) has a distilling philosophy that replaces a slavish devotion to product uniformity with a courageous authenticity that is genuine and unique.



Sustainable Scotch Whisky is the Future

In Partnership with [Bruichladdich](#)
ROB EDWARDS, 1 JUL 2022 | SPONSORED
 When dealing with a product like [Scotch whisky](#), for which history, heritage and tradition have long been significant selling points, it's rare to come across an offering that's truly different and dares to push against the accepted wisdom of what a good [Scotch](#) should be. But even just a glance at the bottle housing Bruichladdich's The Classic Laddie should clue you in to the fact that this is a brand completely disinterested in holding on to tradition for tradition's sake.
 Without ever compromising on the quality of their whiskies, the team at Bruichladdich are wholeheartedly devoted to [sustainability](#), terroir (meaning authenticity, place and provenance), transparency, and the barley and people of [Islay](#), the island their distillery calls home. They're determined to pave the path to a new kind of [whisky](#) production; one that's progressive, sustainable and embodies a devotion to the planet and its people.



The Classic Laddie bottling line at the Bruichladdich Islay distillery | Image: Bruichladdich

Dare to be Different
 From one year to the next, the team at Bruichladdich let the variety and provenance of their barley shape the spirits while also sourcing an ever-increasing range of casks that evolve the suite of flavours in their warehouse. As a result of this, each batch of The Classic Laddie will, by the very nature of its surroundings and the barley that grows within them, offer something unique and subtly different. It's then up to the head distiller to curate this assemblage of Bruichladdich's finest spirits, to showcase the brand's floral and elegant house style.
 In fact, so comfortable is Bruichladdich with the ever-evolving recipe for Classic Laddie that every bottle has a batch code printed on the back of the bottle, which you can enter on the Bruichladdich website to reveal the unique recipe for that specific bottle. [Check your bottle here.](#)



Bruichladdich's Islay distillery | Image: Bruichladdich
 Certified Sustainability



Image: Bruichladdich
 Inventing the Future

This approach has empowered Bruichladdich to do away with certain elements of whisky production that are accepted as common or even good practice in other distilleries. The first of these is the addition of caramel colouring (or e150a), which many producers use to standardise the appearance of their whisky by making it appear darker than it really is. By contrast, the colour of Bruichladdich's whiskies comes from the cask and plays second fiddle to the actual flavour. This explains The Classic Laddie's signature coated bottle, which is designed to challenge the idea that older and darker is necessarily better. Instead, the masters at Bruichladdich's innovative approach pushes a reliance on other indicators of quality.

The second practice Bruichladdich's team has done away with is the use of chill-filtration, which is a cosmetic process used to strip whisky of its natural oils. When bottling at 40 per cent, these oils can cause cloudiness, so many distillers remove them to improve aesthetics. But that's just not the Bruichladdich way.

Instead of removing cloudiness and adding colouring to standardise aesthetics, the [Bruichladdich](#) team would rather rely on flavour and mouthfeel to determine quality. And when the standard's this high, who cares if there's a haze in the glass or colour variation from one batch to the next?



Image: Bruichladdich

The new approach to Scotch whisky being forged by Bruichladdich is impressive, yielding remarkable results across its entire [unpeated single malt Scotch whisky range](#). The fact the brand achieves all of this while running on 100 per cent green electricity sourced from within the UK just makes it more impressive still. It's encouraging to know that with Bruichladdich leading the way, Scotch whisky's sustainable future looks brighter by the day. To get on board and try Classic Laddie for yourself, visit [Dan Murphys](#), [Liquorland](#), [Vintage Cellars](#), [First Choice Liquor](#) and independent liquor retailers.

New The Macallan Collection Focuses Upon Building Blocks Of This Brand

[Nino Kilgore-Marchetti](#) - [Scotch](#) | June 30, 2022

The folks behind [The Macallan](#) recently launched The Macallan M Collection, a range of limited release single malt whiskies which focus upon the brand's so called [Six Pillars](#).

The new The Macallan M Collection will consist of six expressions ultimately, each focused upon these Six Pillars. These are described as being "the foundation stones that account for The Macallan's distinctive and exceptional whiskies and comprise Natural Colour, Mastery, Curiously Small Spirit Stills, The Estate, Exceptional Oak Casks and Sherry Seasoning."

The first three expressions are the 2022 editions of M and M Black and the brand-new M Copper, which is said to pay tribute to the copper stills utilised by The Macallan since it was founded in 1824. More brand notes on each are as follows:



The Macallan M Collection (Image via The Macallan)

The Macallan M 2022 Release

M embodies Natural Colour, a result of The Macallan's commitment to craftsmanship and dedication to using the finest, 100% natural ingredients and sherry seasoned oak casks. A rare spirit epitomising transparency, it has matured in a small number of hand-selected casks and is encased in a handcrafted Lalique crystal decanter showcasing the whisky's natural rich amber hue. M reveals the distillery's classic sherry seasoned, full-flavoured character imparting notes of chocolate, rich dried fruit and spice.

The Macallan M Black 2022 Release

M Black represents The Macallan's dedication to Mastery and unwavering trust in its craft. Rare, black ended sherry seasoned oak casks holding peated spirit have been selected by the Whisky Mastery Team to create this unique expression. The handcrafted Lalique black crystal decanter reflects the peat smoke within the whisky and the confidence which drives The Macallan whisky makers as they boldly marry classic Macallan notes with peated whisky. A subtly smoky expression, it displays a rich natural colour of golden sunrise and balances The Macallan's classic character with an unexpected peated note.

The Macallan M Copper 2022 Release

M Copper reflects the Curiously Small Spirit Stills that are a defining feature of The Macallan's distillation process. They represent a pivotal moment in whisky-making history as when most moved to larger, higher production copper stills, The Macallan focused on quality and their distinctive shape and size help to concentrate the new make spirit, creating the rich, robust character. With a natural colour of spun gold, M Copper is a vibrant expression which brings the flavours created in the stills to the fore. It has a buttery, viscous mouth coating and is bursting in fruitiness with a hint of sweet malty flavour. A handcrafted Lalique copper coloured crystal decanter also reflects the stills and the authenticity which drives the brand through its dedication to innovative methods.

Jaume Ferras, Global Creative Director for The Macallan, said in a prepared statement that "our Six Pillars foundation stones embody all that is unique to The Macallan, together underpinning the renowned quality and rich character of our whisky. The Macallan M Collection tells the story of these unique attributes and our dedication to uncompromised excellence."

Plans call for The Macallan M Collection to be available worldwide in both domestic and travel retail markets including The Macallan Estate, The Macallan Airport Boutiques, selected luxury hotels and bars and premium retailers around the world. For each 70cl decanter, The Macallan M 2022 Release prices at \$6,750 / £5,000, The Macallan M Black 2022 Release hits at \$7,600 / £5,700 and The Macallan M Copper 2022 Release drops at \$8,500 / £6,250.

Singleton marks visitor centre opening with new whisky

07 JULY 2022 By Melita Kiely

Diageo has opened the new Singleton visitor centre and is marking the occasion with a celebratory single malt.



The Singleton visitor centre is part of Diageo's £185m investment in Scotch tourism

The new Singleton visitor experience is part of [Diageo's £185 million \(US\\$215m\) investment](#) in Scotch whisky tourism.

The launch of The Singleton at Glen Ord, near Inverness, comes ahead of further openings planned for this summer, including Talisker Distillery on Skye, and Caol Ila on Islay.

Barbara Smith, managing director of Diageo's Scotland brand homes, said: "The Singleton is one of the most exciting single malt brands in the world and we are delighted to be opening the doors to the brand's new home at Glen Ord Distillery."

The visitor centre has been transformed to attract thousands of tourists to the North Coast 500 route. Last year, the North Coast 500 website had one million visitors.

Visitors to the visitor centre will be able to take part in a 90-minute distillery tour to learn about the production process behind The Singleton whiskies.

The facility will also offer 'drivers packs' for designated drivers to take samples away to enjoy later.

There is also a bar, social and tasting spaces, serving whisky, cocktails and more. A deli counter will offer a selection of sharing platters, and desserts will also be available from the local Bad Girl Bakery.

Furthermore, the retail section will sell a number of distillery-exclusive items.

Smith added: "Our £185 million investment in Scotch whisky tourism is designed to put Scotland at the forefront of the global trend in food and drink tourism by giving consumers a truly world-class experience at our distilleries."

"This is just the start of an incredible summer of Scotch whisky investment, with Talisker and Caol Ila distilleries also launching new visitor experiences, and we want to use that to build momentum in the recovery of Scottish tourism."

The Singleton of Glen Ord Celebratory Bottling

To mark the opening of the visitor experience, The Singleton has released a limited edition whisky, available exclusively at the distillery.

The no-age-statement whisky is limited to 3,000 bottles. It sits at 51.8% ABV and is priced at RRP £195.

Tasting notes include aromas of dried fruits and crystallised orange peel, with mid-notes of vanilla fudge.

The rebound of the global spirits sector

07 JULY 2022 By Alice Brooker

Having endured many hits over the past few years, the global spirits sector is fighting to regain its position, but there are challenges ahead.



Agave spirits are predicted to see a volume boost in the US and the UK by 2026

The global spirits industry endured a bumpy ride in 2021, with the rolled-over impact of Covid-19, [ongoing supply chain disruptions](#), inflation, and travel retail's slow return to pre-2019 levels, noted Mark Meek, CEO of IWSR Drinks Market Analysis.

And the effects of the war in Ukraine this year have not gone amiss. All the same, alcohol sales were deemed to have recovered on a worldwide basis, according to IWSR.

The data supplier recorded that the market value rose by 12% to US\$1.17 trillion, 'significantly' outpacing its volume growth in 2021. Comparatively, the value of the global alcohol market dropped by 4% in 2020.

A [briefing took place last month](#), featuring: Meek; Emily Neill, IWSR chief operations officer for research; and Brandy Rand, IWSR chief operations officer for the Americas.

In the coming five years to 2026, agave spirits are expected to see a volume boost in the US and the UK, where they are predicted to grow by 9% and 13.5% respectively.

The category is forecast to increase in global value by 67% by 2026, and in the UK the sector is expected to rise by 88%, "albeit from a relatively low base", according to IWSR. Neill noted this boost was due to an increased interest in premium spirits as part of cocktail making, as well as the category being boosted by celebrity involvement.

The spotlight is not just being shone on premium agave-based spirits either; generally, premium-plus spirits, priced at US\$22.50 and above, are projected to soar: by more than 50% in value in the Americas between 2021 and 2026; by more than 40% in Africa and the Middle East; by more than 20% in Europe; and just less than 20% in Asia Pacific.

One of the standout reasons for premium spirits' projected unabated performance could be its resilience in times of inflation. Meek explained that while there is inflation in the West at the moment, and "many of us have not lived through inflationary times", for many markets, such as Africa, inflation has been there for years. "We haven't seen any downturns in consumption and premiumisation in those markets," he said.

Meek added: "But the higher the product is up in the value chain, the more resilient it is. So, with high-end products, the impact of inflation will not be material. Where inflation might have an impact is the mainstream end of the market."

"It's hard to predict how long those increased savings and willingness of consumers to spend at high levels will last."

The reason the spirits industry performed positively in 2021 is generally "the result of the premiumisation trend", explained Neill.

This has not only taken place in international categories such as whisky and Cognac, but also the large baijiu category in China, "which has been premiumising as well". It is even considered to be driving the high-value spirits trend, said Neill.

Positive outlook

Other categories were also predicted to have a positive five-year outlook – whisky is expected to post an increase of 23% in volume and 29% in value by 2026, with a boost in activity particularly in its largest markets – India and the US.

In the latter market, whisky is expected to be bigger than vodka by volume by the end of 2022 for the first time in two decades.

Global volume growth is expected for gin (up by 24%), Cognac (up by 23%) and rum (up by 13%) over the next five years.

Neill added: “The category that was really interesting and took us by surprise was flavoured spirits – this grew very strongly in 2021. People were experimenting with mixing products at home, and aperitivo hour became increasingly popular in the UK.”

Flavoured spirits (including liqueurs, bitters, apéritifs, fruit eaux-de-vie and aniseed) grew by 0.4% in the UK, and by 2% in the US, but it was an unexpected turnaround all the same.

A topic that sparked interest during the briefing was the impact the war in Ukraine is having on the sector, especially given Russia’s position as the world’s largest exporter of grain.

“Could there be a threat to international producers of grain-based beverage alcohol?” one audience member at the briefing asked.

“In terms of the impact of the war in Ukraine in beverage alcohol terms, the direct effect is limited to the two countries and the neighbouring region,” Neill said.

“Other than that, the impact is on global terms, in terms of increased energy costs and ingredients costs.”

With regards to the threat to grain suppliers, it “speaks to the de-risking” of the supply chain, which entails restricting business relationships to manage risks.

“We haven’t seen any indications yet that there’s actually a complete lack of supply, but producers will look to diversify their supply base,” Neill continued. “This will lead that rise in input costs, and [producers will be forced to have a high-cost base], which they will need, ultimately, to pass onto consumers.

“If you have more products that are premium-priced, it gives you leeway to pass on price increases – there’s more resilience at the top end of the market. The effect of grain issues will be that producers have to diversify their supply base and thereby increase their cost base.”

Lack of pace

On consumer behaviour affecting current market trends, Rand said that in the US, the prediction that consumer on- and off-trade trends would resume in 2021 was wrong.

“From consumers being at-home focused, there was an expectation things would rebound really quickly, but the pendulum has landed somewhere in the middle,” she said. “People are shopping online, but not at the same pace.”

The IWSR team, particularly in the US, is also looking to a future heavily focused on the ‘Gen Z consumer’ and their behaviour in the alcohol industry – “the largest generation in the US”, according to Rand.

“In terms of Gen Z’s behaviour regarding moderation, environmental, social, governance (ESG), all these different elements are going to have a big impact on the future of alcohol in the US,” she noted.



The IWSR team in the US will focus on the Gen Z consumer in the alcohol market

Edrington posts ‘strong’ FY results

07 JULY 2022 By Georgie Pursey

UK-based Edrington has reported a strong financial performance for the year ending 31 March 2022, posting a 45% increase in core revenue and a 53% rise in core contribution.



Edrington’s portfolio includes Scotch whisky brand The Macallan. The results mark a return to Edrington’s pre-pandemic trend of continued underlying growth.

Commenting on the results, Scott McCroskie, CEO, said: “Edrington has returned to the consistent growth trend we saw in the years before the pandemic, with robust performances across our core markets, particularly the USA, China and the Dominican Republic.

“Whilst the economic landscape will continue to present challenges, we have healthy brands, an effective strategy, record levels of investment in the business, great people and strong momentum. I am confident that Edrington is well-positioned to deliver sustainable success in the future.” Edrington’s annual report attributes the company’s strong growth to the reopening of the on-trade and travel retail following the Covid-19 pandemic.

The performance was led by Edrington’s leading brand, The Macallan. The Scotch brand delivered a number of new expressions over the year, [including the world’s oldest single malt Scotch, The Macallan Reach](#).

Edrington’s Malt Whiskies business unit, which comprises of The Glenrothes, Highland Park and Naked Malt, performed well across key markets, with the strongest results seen in the UK and Sweden.

Brugal, Edrington’s premium rum, continues to generate outstanding growth in its home market of the Dominican Republic, as well as seeing good performance in Spain, its leading international market.

During the year, Edrington’s brand teams executed a record level of investment of £170.7m (US\$204.2m), up 46% on the previous year, representing a reinvestment level of 21%, up from 19% in 2020.

Following a strategic partnership with Berry Bros. & Rudd, Edrington also took a significant minority stake in No.3 London Dry Gin.

The Glasgow headquartered company also announced that it has committed to achieve net zero by 2045. The company is working with the Science Based Targets Initiative, the world’s first science-based corporate standard, to reduce its carbon emissions in line with a 1.5°C future.

McCroskie added: “Our target of achieving net zero by 2045 is a significant increase on our previous commitment and it will touch every aspect of our business. I am proud of the progress we have made, but also clear that we have much more to do.”

Whisky Review: The GlenDronach Cask Bottling Batch 19

[Jerry Jenae Sampson](#)

[Reviews, Scotch](#) | June 30, 2022

Share on:

Editor's Note: These whiskies were provided to us as review samples by The GlenDronach Distillery. 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 links 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.

There's a certain magic to a great Scotch whisky. It's invigorating, classic, woody, perfect to sip by a campfire under a blanket of stars. [The GlenDronach Distillery](#) is well known for its high-quality, sherry cask-centric single malts. The distillery is located near Aberdeenshire, in the [Highland whisky district](#) of Scotland. The GlenDronach was founded in 1826 by James Allardice and was one of the first licensed distilleries. This year sees the 19th batch release from [The GlenDronach Cask Bottling collection](#). Twelve casks were selected personally by Master Distiller Dr. Rachel Barrie bottled from Pedro Ximénez or Oloroso sherry [puncheons or butts](#). The batches were distilled between 1990 and 1994 and offer a deep well of complex flavors, each bottle providing a distinctly unique profile that doesn't immediately scream Scotch, but does solidify The GlenDronach as a powerhouse distiller of single malt whisky. Barrie has said in the official press release, "The GlenDronach Cask Bottling Batch 19 offers an insight into our sherry cask maturation history and the exceptional quality of the casks we have at [The GlenDronach](#). I have personally chosen these casks to celebrate and share the very best of the distillery's character. Each represents the rich selection of barrels, Hogsheads, Puncheons and Butts that have been used throughout The GlenDronach's history."

I was able to taste the 29-year-old cask #217 (1992), the 28-year-old cask #6052 (1992), and the 27-year-old cask #5080 (1994). Each separate tasting offered something different and exciting and, as it isn't often I get to enjoy a nicely aged Scotch, I've found great joy in these three offerings.



The GlenDronach Distillery recently introduced three casks from the 19th batch of its Cask Bottling collection to the United States. (image via The GlenDronach)

Tasting Notes: [GlenDronach Cask Bottling 1992 Cask 217](#)

Vital Stats: Cask type – Oloroso Sherry butt. Aged 29 years. ABV 55.4%. 383 bottles produced and released in GA, MA, NY, NJ. SRP

BUY NOW

\$820/750ml.

Appearance: Auburn

Nose: Slightly sweet, but the clearest aroma is that of burnt gunpowder, the residue of a toy cap gun.

Palate: Luxardo cherry, a toothsome subtle sweetness, with earthiness shining through and a smack of leather.

Score: 5/5

Tasting Notes: [GlenDronach Cask Bottling 1992 Cask 6052](#)

Vital Stats: Cask type – Pedro Ximénez puncheon. Aged 28 years. ABV 50.8%. 658 bottles produced and released in CA, ID, IN, KY, LA, NM, NC, ND, NE, MT, OH, OK, OR, TX, UT, WA, WY. SRP

BUY NOW

\$720/750ml.

Appearance: Copper

Nose: Bubble Yum bubble gum, along with caramel strawberry notes.

Palate: This is a very fruity Scotch, which was a surprise. Plum and vanilla stand out first. Out of the three, this expression was the weakest. It took some time to pick out specific flavors. There is a long, smooth finish on the back end.

Score: 4.5/5

Tasting Notes: [GlenDronach Cask Bottling 1994 Cask 5080](#)

Vital Stats: Cask type – Oloroso puncheon. Aged 27 years. ABV 54.3%. 667 bottles produced and released in AZ, CO, DE, DC, IL, FL, MD, MN, MD, NV,

BUY NOW

SC. SRP \$600/750ml.

Appearance: Dark and syrupy amber with hefty legs in the glass.

Nose: Orange and maple with subtle leather, a promising burn that opens quickly.

Palate: Tobacco and tart cranberry muddled with semi-sweet chocolate coats the palate. I enjoyed a smooth finish that settles and amplifies after a few minutes open in my Glencairn.

Score: 4/5

Final Thoughts: I was so surprised with this tasting. After many strongly stiff and smoky Scotch tastings, The GlenDronach Distillery Cask Bottling Batch 19 is remarkably different. My expectations going in were blown away as I was met with smooth sweetness and only moderate smokiness, as GlenDronach is usually made from unpeated barley. My favorite expression was the oldest, with the 1992 Cask 217 offering the most distinct, fresh flavor profile and the lowest levels of sweetness of the bunch. With so few bottles released, I highly suggest shelling out the big bucks if possible. Maybe even going in with a couple of Scotch-loving friends to share in these unique expressions!

Badachro Distillery unveils rare single malts

08 JULY 2022 By [Georgie Pursey](#)

Highland-based Badachro Distillery has introduced two limited edition whiskies to its Bad na h-Achlaise range of single malts.



There are only 30 bottles available of the ruby Port expression

The release comprises a limited Madeira Cask bottling, and a limited Ruby Port Finish Cask Strength expression.

Managing director Gordon Quinn said: "We're immensely proud of our Bad na h-Achlaise whiskies, and are excited for single malt fans to raise a dram to these two new expressions.

"The Madeira Cask expression is a light and drinkable dram packed with flavours of red cherries, a hint of bitter chocolate and strawberry sherberts – while the Ruby Port Finish Cask Strength malt intensifies the popular fruity flavours of the regular strength variety.

“Experimenting with different casks allows us to highlight and amplify different flavours in our whisky, meaning each has its own, truly unique flavour profile.”

Bad na h-Achlaise Ruby Port Finish Cask Strength is limited to just 30 700ml bottles, and is expected to become a collectors item.

The ‘intensely flavoured’ 57.9% ABV spirit is bottled from individually nosed and selected first-fill ex-ruby Port casks.

The Bad na h-Achlaise Madeira Cask expression is limited to 1,900 bottles. It combines Highland whisky with the ‘complexity and sweetness’ of first-fill Madeira casks.

Bad na h-Achlaise Ruby Port Finish Cask Strength is only available from badachrodistillery.com and the distillery shop in Badachro. The 30 bottles are available for £145 (US\$173) each.

The Bad na h-Achlaise Madeira Cask bottling is also available from the distillery website, as well as selected stockists, priced at £56.95 (US\$67.94) each.

Last month, *The Spirits Business* announced [the results of The Scotch Whisky Masters 2022](#) blind tasting.

Liya Zhang, vice-president of marketing at Pernod Ricard Global Travel Retail, said: “The ultra-rare range of Single Cask Editions fuse the rich heritage and unique characteristics derived from the four celebrated and elusive distilleries at the heart of the revered region of Speyside, presenting travel retail shoppers with a unique opportunity to explore and collect new and rarer treasures.

“The ultra-limited malts present an opportunity for Pernod Ricard Global Travel Retail to cut through the Prestige+ category in duty free, offering unique expressions collectors cannot find anywhere else.”

Sandy Hyslop, director of blending and inventory at Pernod Ricard's Scotch whisky arm Chivas Brothers, said: “It is always a satisfying moment for a blending team when we realise a cask we’ve been monitoring for a number of years stands out as being worthy of bottling all by itself. The introduction of these seven new captivating single-cask releases is a tribute to the exceptional skill and uncompromising dedication that is behind Secret Speyside.

“Over decades of maturation, an incredibly distinctive range of flavours has developed inside each cask and these stunning new releases, bottled at cask strength, represent an impressive depth to Speyside that is just waiting to be discovered.”

8 July 2022 - Bethany Whymark



Lochlea launches Our Barley single malt

12 JULY 2022 By Nicola Carruthers

Scotch producer Lochlea Distillery has revealed its flagship single malt whisky, matured in three different cask types, called Our Barley.



Lochlea Our Barley is the distillery’s core single malt

The single malt was matured in first-fill Bourbon barrels, shaved, toasted and re-charred (STR) barriques, and oloroso Sherry butts to “complement the signature Lochlea flavours”, according to John Campbell, production director and master blender.

“Lochlea Our Barley is a marriage of three styles of cask types that help to give a greater depth of flavour in our whisky,” he explained.

The casks provide “extra vanilla, caramel, floral and dried fruit notes and the liquid some extra dryness to create a more rounded and deeper taste profile for our Lochlea consumers”, Campbell noted.

The 46% ABV whisky offers a nose of peach syrup, fruit bon bons, cut grass and marmalade, while the palate brings notes of golden syrup, pepper, rye bread, macadamia nuts and cream soda.

The expression will sit alongside Lochlea’s [seasonal limited editions](#). It is the first Lochlea whisky to be fully created by Campbell since he [joined the distillery from Laphroaig](#) in November 2021.

Commercial manager David Ferguson added: “This will be many consumers’ first taste of Lochlea, and the casks John has selected for this one give real depth, alongside the signature Lochlea cereal and fruit notes. To me it’s our best whisky yet.”

Due to the success of Lochlea’s first two products this year, the distillery will bottle a larger volume of Our Barley. Cases of the whisky are on allocation for the UK and export partners as ‘demand has far outstripped supply’.

However, more bottles will be available through additional UK stockists and in five export markets.

Pernod Ricard launches rare Secret Speyside bottlings

Pernod Ricard Global Travel Retail is launching seven ultra-rare Speyside whiskies from some of the region’s most elusive distilleries.

The Secret Speyside Single Cask Editions, which will be available exclusively in global travel retail, comprise whiskies aged between 21 and 27 years from four renowned distillers: Caperdonich, Longmorn, Glen Keith, and Braes of Glenlivet.

Each edition is claimed to show a unique character, thanks to their individual casks. All were matured in American oak casks, a selection of which were first-fill.

The Single Cask Editions are:

- Secret Speyside Caperdonich Peated 1996 exclusive to Heinemann, Frankfurt (RRSP US\$1,050)
- Secret Speyside Caperdonich Unpeated 1996 exclusive to Dufry, Heathrow (RRSP US\$1,050)
- Secret Speyside Braes of Glenlivet 1992 exclusive to Dubai Duty Free (RRSP US\$990)
- Secret Speyside Glen Keith 1998 exclusive to CDFG, Shanghai (RRSP US\$450)
- Secret Speyside Glen Keith 1994 exclusive to Lagardère, Hong Kong (RRSP US\$760)
- Secret Speyside Longmorn 1998 exclusive to Lotte, Singapore (RRSP US\$480)
- Secret Speyside Longmorn 1995 exclusive to Everrich, Taiwan (RRSP US\$800)

The Secret Speyside series was launched by Pernod Ricard Global Travel Retail in 25 markets in 2019. These new Single Cask Editions demonstrate the company’s intention to push further into the Premium+ whisky category.

Launching on 18 July, Lochlea Our Barley will be priced at RRP £45 (US\$53).

Campbell is also planning for the long term and aims to release several age statements in the future, including a 25-year-old.

The distillery's inaugural bottling, which [launched on Burns Night \(25 January\) this year](#) with 7,500 bottles, sold out in 24 hours.

New Arrival of the Week: Glenfiddich Orchard Experiment

[HENRY JEFFREYS](#)

[JULY 11, 2022 2:39 PM](#)

[NO COMMENTS](#)

Today's New Arrival is a very exciting collaboration between perhaps the most famous single malt distillery in Scotland and a cult producer from the West Country, the Somerset Cider Brandy Company. It's Glenfiddich Orchard Experiment!

In the last few years the number of esoteric cask finishes for whisky has exploded. We've tried mezcal finishes (not entirely convinced), orange wine finishes (yes please), and just last month [Craigellachie released a limited edition 13 year old Armagnac cask](#) finish (double yes please). But I bet you've never had a Pomona cask finish.



Julian Temperley from the Somerset Cider Brandy Company

Glenfiddich Orchard Experiment is here

Well, now is your chance. It's called Glenfiddich Orchard Experiment and it's in the aptly named Experimental Series. But just what is Pomona? Pomona takes its name from a 17th century book by John Evelyn which became a bible to ambitious cider makers. At the time, West Country producers were making something akin to English Port made from partially-fermented apple juice mixed with apple brandy.

This modern version was created in the 1980s by the [Somerset Cider Brandy Company](#) and it's essentially an English take on [Pineau des Charentes](#), but made with apples rather than grapes. To make Pomona, Julian Temperley, the producer's founder, blended apple juice with his famous Somerset brandy and then aged the result in oak barrels.

How do you like them apples

The idea to blend the orchard fruit flavours of Glenfiddich with old Pomona casks came from a meeting of minds between malt master Brian Kinsman and master distiller Matilda Temperley, Julian's daughter. Kinsman explained: "Over the past few years we have had the opportunity to explore new sources for casks, and I was intrigued by the possibility of using Somerset Pomona spirit casks to enhance and elevate the core Glenfiddich character of apples and pears. Working with the Temperleys has been great fun as they share the same core values so common in family business."

Matilda Temperley added: "With this collaboration we're back doing the same but challenging innovation even further. This is a really exciting marriage of old English and Scottish craft distillates and we can't wait for people to taste the incredible flavours of the Orchard Experiment." We haven't always loved weird cask finish whiskies. I'm thinking in particular of the Lagavulin 13 year old finished in mezcal casks. Yet this Glenfiddich/Somerset Cider Brandy Company really does sound delicious. As brand ambassador Mark Thompson put it: the "classic [Glenfiddich](#) notes are accentuated and elevated by the Somerset Pomona spirit casks to a sweet, rich effect. On the first sip, fruit flavours transport you to an orchard on a warm summer's day, then the liquid softens into sweet creamy toffee, caramelised apple and woody spice, leaving a sumptuous, decadent taste on the palate."

We think it'll taste delicious served on the rocks though we're particularly taken with a cocktail that has been especially created for the launch called the Service Temperley. Here's how to make it.

50ml Glenfiddich Orchard Experiment

10ml [Manzanilla sherry](#)

20ml [sweet vermouth](#)

10ml [Somerset Pomona](#)

1.25ml sugar syrup

Stir all the ingredients in an ice-filled shaker and strain into a chilled Nick & Nora glass.



Glenfiddich Orchard Experiment is available from Master of Malt.

Click [here](#) to buy.

Tasting note from the Chaps at Master of Malt

Nose: Crisp green apple peels, a whiff of vanilla, and some tart, zesty notes of fermented fruit to balance sweet buttery toffee.

Palate: Packed with fruit – a host of pressed apples and hints of pear are followed up by zestier notes of orange and lemon peel. Spiced apple cake and a whiff of nutmeg bring warming spice.

Finish: The apple cider notes carry through to the finish, with pressed juices and red orchard fruits tangling with gentle oak spice and creamy barley.

Deanston Chronicles

[GRAHAM JULY 6, 2022](#)



It's not uncommon for Malt reviews to be a little behind time. Often, taking time to get to know a spirit or let the hype die down makes for a better more accurate review. It's less common for Malt to review an actual behind.

The rear I am referring to is that of Deanston: Deanston village. I've been to Deanston distillery three times and only recently took a wander behind the distillery to discover the charming conservation area of Deanston Village. I'm not sure how many Malt readers might have missed this element of the distillery, but I can imagine it's easy to do.

The distillery is down a dead-end road and the carpark is encountered before the distillery itself. From the carpark there is a fairly short dash (it's normally raining) past the offices and modern 1960s extension to the visitor centre doorway nestled in the crook between the extension and the 1800s mill building. The distillery road gives no indication of the habitation beyond.



Deanston is one of the many distilleries that was not purpose built, but was modified within a pre-existing cotton mill building in 1965. The mill itself dates back to 1785, extensively rebuilt in 1820. It is situated on the banks of the River Teith, a significant tributary of the River Forth. The river powered a hydro-electric scheme built in the 1940s which still provides power to the distillery and visitor centre today.



Deanston village was created as a planned village as part of the development of the Adelphi Mill in which the distillery now resides. Most homes are now in private ownership. Designed by Richard Arkwright, the streets are called “the divisions” or “rows.” The mill lade provided mechanical power initially, with one of the largest waterwheels in Europe, known as “Hercules.” Eventually the waterwheels were changed for turbines, creating electrical power to the mill. The village sits along the banks of the lade. In 1799 Deanston village was described as “a village inhabited chiefly by the labouring people belonging to the Adelphi cotton-work where upwards of nine hundred persons are employed.”



DEANSTON HOUSE HOTEL, DOUNE, PERTSHIRE



The mill was such an economic force in the local area that in 1786 it produced its own coins and paper money for issue to its workers to overcome a shortage of currency in circulation at the time. Originally owned by the Muirs of Deanston, there is a clock erected in 1929 in the memory of Lady Muir of Deanston, who was active in the community including the setting up of clubs and other community groups amongst the workers. The mill owner’s grand residence, Deanston House, was in 1945 purchased and converted into a convalescence home, later a hotel, and now a care home.



In contrast to the modern vehicles parked in Deanston streets today, a review of historic papers reveals simpler times when life was harder for the residents. In 1902 the Labour Leader publication is quite vocal about the quality of the wages offered to the workers and highlights the disparity between those wages earned by families and the wealth of the owners on display in the “big house.” Also reported is the most scandalous 1910 motor car crash into the bowling green (below), a fairly impressive achievement at the end of a 2-mile-long dead-end road. In the chauffeur’s defence, the village would have been dark at 8 PM at the end of October! I include the clipping from the Dundee Courier January 1930 (below) that, whilst tragic, paints a picture of youthful abandon in the “divisions” above the mill and perhaps suggests that children were allowed to live more freely than in the days of child labour during the previous century. Other articles reveal the impact on the villagers of two World Wars.

MOTOR DRIVER MISTAKES HIS WAY AT DEANSTON

AND CRASHES INTO VILLAGE BOWLING GREEN.

About eight o'clock on Tuesday evening a chauffeur driving a motor car from Edinburgh to Oban mistook his way at a diversion of the roads near Bridge of Teith, Doune, and driving into Deanston Village crashed into an iron railing that surrounds the village bowling green.

The chauffeur had some ribs broken. The car had the lamps and glass screen shattered, and an axle and wheel so much twisted that further progress that night was impossible.

DEANSTON VILLAGE TRAGEDY

BOY RUN OVER BY MOTOR LORRY.

While a number of boys were running alongside a motor coal lorry in the village of Deanston near Doune, a boy named John King Smith (10) fell in front of one of the wheels, which passed over him. He sustained injuries which resulted in his death in Stirling Royal Infirmary yesterday.

He is a son of Edwin Smith, First Division, Deanston. An elder son of the family was killed in the war, and another son was drowned in a quarry in Fife.

better-wonder the sug agricul Mr that su he tho trial. I and the in his had th siderab the fac Mr factory workin said th over 2

special release.



For more information about the distilling process or some other aspects of the distillery I can recommend some recent Malt reviews include the [Brandy Cask finish](#) by Jigs. A [Marsala finish](#) by C Ryan, an [Oloroso finish](#) by John, and a lovely [indie Deanston review](#) from Alyssa.

For the reviews below I have focused on the recent Chronicles release, a sample of which I recently picked up at the visitor centre. In truth, I detoured there from the A9 on my way North hoping to pick up some 20cl distillery exclusive bottles after I recently extolled the [value of the bottle size](#) here on Malt.

I was somewhat shocked that these small bottles have now been priced at £55 up from £35 on my previous visit. Distell the current owners of Deanston, Tobermory and Bunnahabhain have been consistently driving up prices across their range but nearly doubling the price to distillery visitors is obscene profiteering. Not surprisingly, the visitor centre in Deanston is now selling 3cl miniatures of the distillery exclusives as a build your own tasting pack, but essentially they have to offer a cheaper take-away for visitors than the pricy 20cls. Visitor centres should be places of great value; after all, a good visitor centre experience can create a lifelong customer for the brand but a poor one can equally put people off a company permanently.

Why does any of this matter, these historic times long before Deanston became the distillery we know today? Personally, I feel it helps put these industries within the context of the landscape, and within our recent history. Distilleries are not Disney destinations where visitors experience a “standard tour” then quickly move on to other attraction (Macallan excepted), although perhaps many of us do.

Distilleries are year-round industrial operations with their foundations in the local communities from which they draw their workers. I do wish more distilleries would focus on the real and interesting histories – the stories of their workers and the impact on their local communities – rather than myths and legends. We are more likely to enjoy the life and spirit within the dram with such honest context than some shiny illustrations for any

Notwithstanding the prices at the visitor centre, the full bottle prices are considered with each review below in terms of value for each dram.



Deanston Virgin Oak 4 – Review

Refill bourbon with a virgin oak finish. 46.2% ABV. £30 to £40.

Colour: Pale gold.

On the nose: Light fruity and fresh, crushed green apple, buttermilk pancakes, a pinch of cinnamon, dusty grist, vanilla custard, nutmeg, shaved oak, toffee, green apple peel, Soor Plooms, lime zest, peach.
In the mouth: Medium weight and buttery, bright and fruity, fresh green fruits, lots of oaky spice and a prickly of spirty warmth with a medium length finish which is both juicy and peppery, still fresh but becoming slightly bitter.

Conclusions:

Solid dram for the price, of course young, but thoughtful use of casks has delivered the best of the dram for a fair price point.

Score: 5/10



Deanston 2007 to 2020 Calvados Cask Finish – Review

57.4% ABV. £140

Colour: Gold.

On the nose: Buttered toast, Brulé topping, slow roasted caramel apple, short crisp pasty case, nuts, praline, raw Pillsbury cinnamon roll dough, dry oak spices.

In the mouth: Spicy baked apples, lots of spicy baked apples, juicy plump raisins, fresh ripe sticky fig, sweet pastry, hobnob biscuits, chilli heat on the finish which is short, water brings more toffee but the peppery heat is untamed.

Conclusions:

I recall when discussing the order to carry out this tasting that the member of staff at the visitor centre was a little reticent of where to place this whisky in the line-up. First might have been better, because the rich baked apple is present but not nearly as apple-like and fresh as the virgin oak, having tasted the virgin oak first this dram felt, well, over-cooked.

Score: 4/10



Deanston Chronicles Edition 1 – Review

Distillery and online exclusive. A vatting of 1977 refill casks, 1994 Madeira casks, 2004 Amontillado casks, and 2011 bourbon casks. Released in 2022. 46.3% ABV. £85.

Colour: Warm gold.

On the nose: Warm fruits, apricot jam, sponge cake crusts, toffee sauce, peach stone, cinnamon, blackcurrant cordial, ground dates, lovely aromatic oxidised fruits, fresh tarragon and mint leaves.

In the mouth: Extra smooth, subtle integration of the casks, old wood and fruit, still quite fresh too, baked apple turnover, over-ripe melon, rum baba, oiled oak, long complex finish giving a little dunnage funk and dried herbs.

Conclusions:

This reminded me of the [Tomatin Contrasts](#) I reviewed seven years behind its original release. Prepared in a similar format: vatting different ages of spirit together. I like that there is good disclosure, too, about the main components which matters in an NAS release. It's what good Non-Age Statement (NAS) whisky is all about. The price is keen, with 12 year old indie single malt reaching £85 at some retailers.

There is real value in accepting the skill of the master blender Julieann Frenandez-Thomson (since 2020) in blending these casks together for this release instead of an overpriced youthful single cask from an indie. I would also note that this release allows the spirit to do the talking, which is very unlike the Distell style over the last 10 years, with overly powerful casks being most common in the visitor centres. I really enjoyed this one and hope this marks a more nuanced approach to flavour at Deanston going forward.

Score: 8/10



Deanston 2004 to 2020 16 Year Old Amontillado Sherry Cask – Review

This was one of the warehouse 4 casks offered on the warehouse tasting experience in 2020 and 2021 and is now sold out. 59.4% ABV. Around £130

Colour: Copper.

On the nose: Biscoff, brigadeiro, date sponge, flapjack, toasted almonds, sesame seeds, blackcurrant liquorice, baking spices, fig chunthey, tinned fruit cocktail syrup, treacle toffee.

In the mouth: Chocolate caramel digestive biscuits, chocolate milkshake, fruity blackcurrant crème in dark chocolate, hazelnuts, bramble jam, peppery spice, slightly fatty, smooth fairly short finish.

Conclusions:

This is a big full-flavoured sherry bomb, tasty but uncomplicated, the Distell style.

Score: 6/10



Deanston 2001 Organic Fino finish

The spirit spent 2001 to 2016 in recharred (rejuvenated) casks before getting a year finish in Fino sherry casks. Released in 2020, again this was one of the Warehouse 4 tasting casks and distillery exclusives. 55.3% ABV. Roughly £130

Colour: Antique pine.

On the nose: Dry dusty vanilla, icing sugar, maple syrup, fruit toast, blackberry jam, fresh plums, manuka honey, savoury and meaty: BBQ pork ribs, Ritz crackers, hot chocolate sauce, butterscotch, crushed fennel seeds.

In the mouth: Luxury hot chocolate, roasted coffee, cacao nibs, roasted hazelnut and peanut skins, liquorice and aniseed, soft caramel, blackcurrant, fruit pastels, fruiter with water and more roasted caramel, funkier dunnage notes developing too.

Conclusions:

The recharred casks, spirit, and sherry all playing their part here to deliver something more complex than a sherry bomb, more interesting. I'm always amazed at the complexity fino casks bring to whisky when my experience of the sherry itself is dry crisp and simple.

Score: 7/10



Deanston Cask No. 28 2009 to 2021 Organic Oloroso – Review 54.9% ABV. £120.

Colour: Mahogany

On the nose: Rich roasted coffee, dark chocolate and over-ripe fruit, dunnage, sesame oil, chocolate raisins, dark roasted pecan nuts, soy sauce, mushroom ketchup, chargrilled asparagus, wild garlic beds, charcoal, a little salt

In the mouth: Smooth warming sherry bringing sweet dark fruits, fresh brambles off the bushes, chocolate mousse, creamy texture, big meaty sherry, earthy dunnage, the finish smooth an nutty.

Conclusions:

This was the most drinkable at cask strength. The organic sherry has tamed or overridden the peppery spirit found in some of the other casks. As with the fino finish reviewed above, the sherry itself is imparting a lot of interesting notes beyond the classic singular sherry flavours that can be expected. Still a Distell style of maximum flavour, but on this occasion working well.

Score: 7/10

Photos courtesy of Deanston's website and Whisky International.

Can Single Malt Whiskies From The US Beat Scotland In A Blind Taste Test?

[ZACH JOHNSTON](#) [TWITTER](#) LIFE WRITER
JUNE 23, 2022

The [American single malt whiskey](#) category is booming right now. It's still nowhere near as huge as [Scotch single malt whisky](#), as historic and prestigious a liquor designation that exists, but American single malts (ASM) are beginning to [grab the world's attention](#) — through [amazing releases](#) by distillers who truly care about the history and authenticity of single malt. What better time than right now to pit some ASM whiskeys against some hard-core classic Scotch single malts?

[For this blind tasting](#), I grabbed four modern classic American single malt whiskeys and four [stone-cold classics from Scotland](#) to see how they stacked up. I'm not looking for one region to dominate the other per se, I'm more looking at how they compare on the nose and on the palate, and which one is the best of the pours in front of me. I guess I also want to see which ASM whiskeys will break into the top four and which Scotch whiskeys will fall into the bottom four too.

Our lineup today is:

- Glenmorangie The Original 10-Year
- Speyburn 15
- Lost Lantern St. George Spirits California Single Malt Whiskey
- Virginia Distillery Co. Courage & Conviction
- Glenrothes 18
- Balcones Texas Single Malt Whisky
- The Balvenie 12 Double Oak
- Westland American Single Malt Whiskey

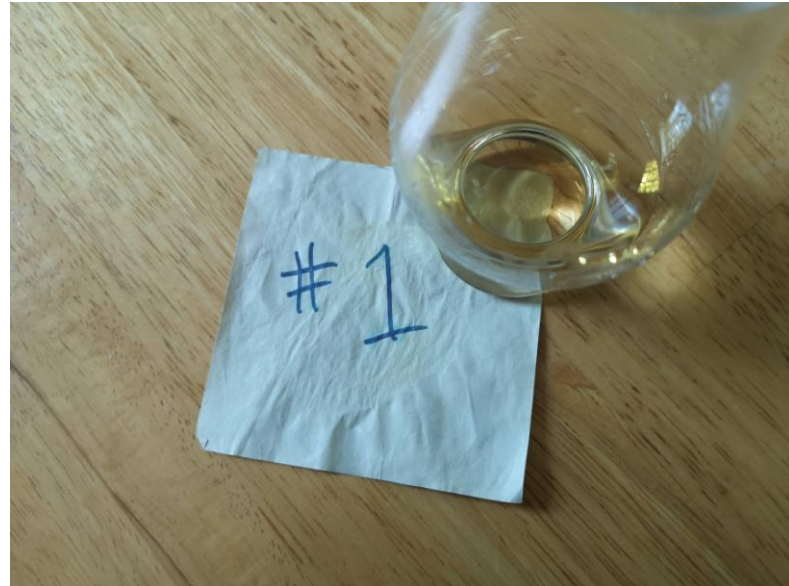
Let's get tasting!

Part 1: The Tasting



ZACH JOHNSTON

Taste 1



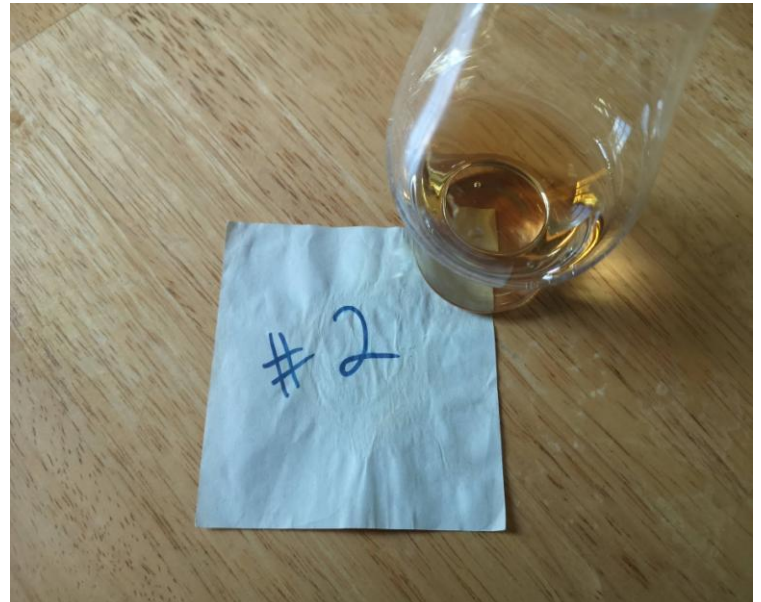
ZACH JOHNSTON

Tasting Notes:

The nose opens with soft grains next to a rush of dried fruits and supple leather with a floral hint that leans toward dry hibiscus and fresh woodruff. The palate is gentle with hints of wet malts next to powdered dark spices, fresh honeycombs, and a thin line of vanilla oils just touched with orange zest and maybe a twinge of grapefruit.

This is complex yet so smooth and inviting. This is a great pour to start with and likely something made by Dr. [Bill Lumsden](#) (if you know, you know).

Taste 2



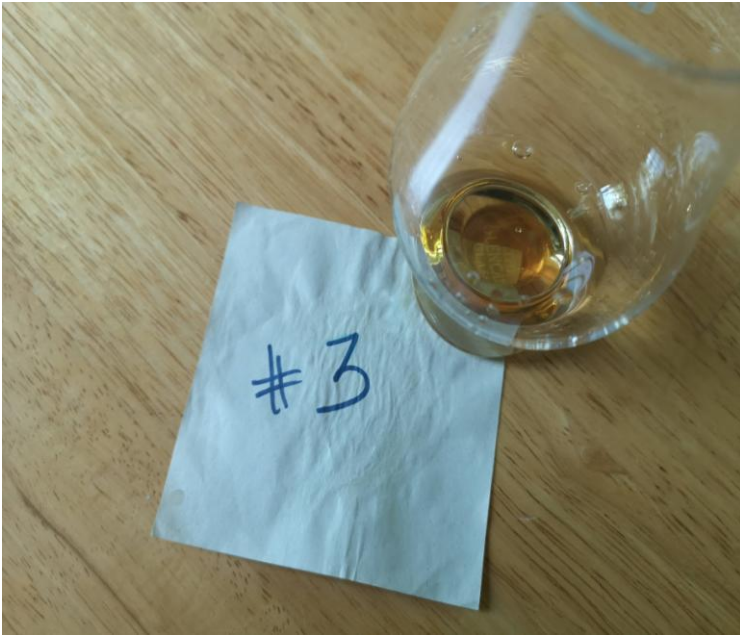
ZACH JOHNSTON

Tasting Notes:

Interesting. This opens with a pinch of Kosher salt next to dried grass husks with soft leather and a hint of carambola on the nose. The palate sweetens toward a pear candy with a touch of passionfruit tartness next to grapefruit oils, nutmeg and allspice, and honey candies. The finish rides that bright and fresh fruit toward a soft landing in a pillow of malts and subtle winter spices filtered through a vanilla cake.

This is pretty f*cking outstanding.

Taste 3



ZACH JOHNSTON

Tasting Notes:

Woah... This is a massive 180 with a nose that's dominated by lemon candy, bitter lemon soda, fresh sawdust, and a pre-mixed Bellini. The palate really leans into the lemon candy with a counterpoint of ... I want to say white asparagus. A hodgepodge of red licorice ropes and mixed melon balls draw out the finish with a fruity sweet/savory vibe. I don't know if I love this or hate it with the fire of a million suns. Time will tell.

Taste 4

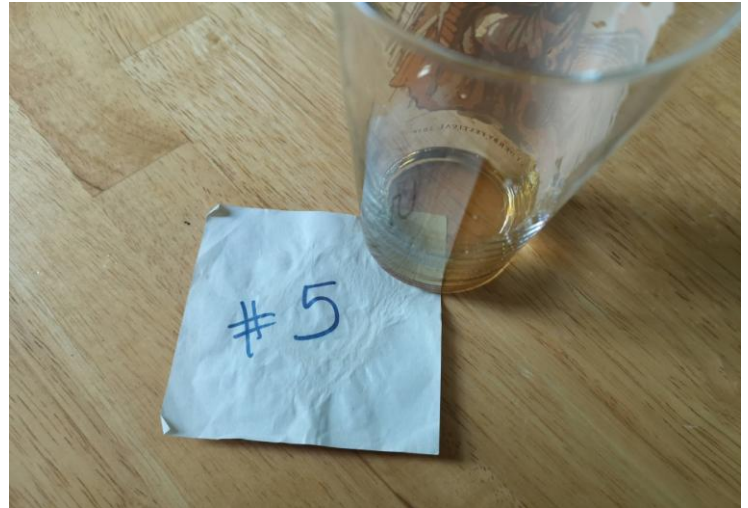


ZACH JOHNSTON

Tasting Notes:

The nose opens with a clear sense of dark cacao nibs with a waxy vibe from off the tree next to classic Almond Roca candies (very Pacific Northwest) and a nice counterbalance of tart berries that range from fresh raspberry to sour cherry. The palate starts off with a creamy mocha latte with nice layers of vanilla beans, nutmeg, cinnamon candy, and marzipan. The mid-palate moves away from the sweetness toward dry wicker with a soft and supple maltiness that's part spiced malt and part soft cacao powder. This was unique and had a point of view. It's also super easy to drink. I can see this ranking pretty damn high.

Taste 5



ZACH JOHNSTON

Tasting Notes:

The nose draws you in with a mix of toasted malts with a touch of pear candy next to small lines of winter spice, dry straw, and a hint of mint tobacco. The palate sweetens with the malts before veering into crème brûlée with a little cinnamon sharpness and sweetness before leaning back on the savory fruit, think figs. The end is full of rock candy and a dash of dried oak staves. This was very much "fine" and "interesting" and all of that. But ... we'll see.

Taste 6

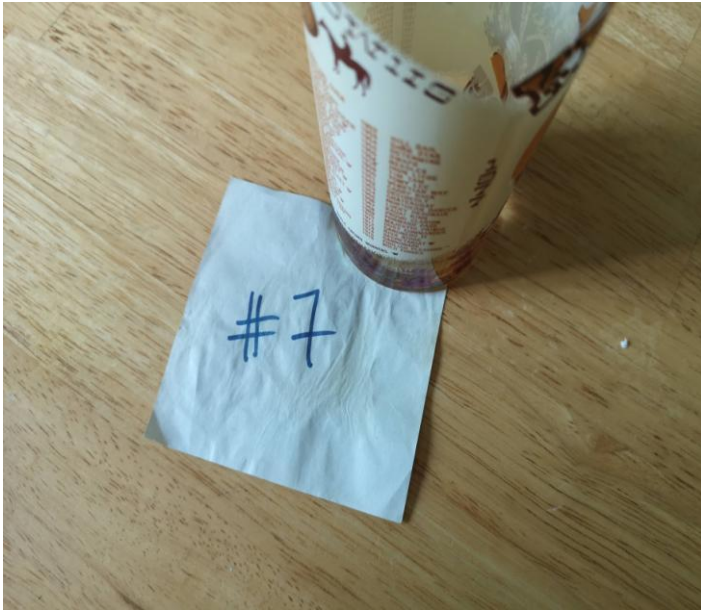


ZACH JOHNSTON

Tasting Notes:

You can smell the high ABVs on the nose with a good dose of pecan waffles, maple, and sharp sarsaparilla. The palate is creamy but hits on some serious warmth with those ABVs promised on the nose as pear candy mixes with fresh ginger and a pile of pecan shells next to a hint of floral Earl Grey. The finish leans into the dryness of the nutshell and tea while hinting at the maple and sarsaparilla from the nose. This definitely needed a single rock to calm it down. I'm guessing there are a ton of flavor notes just waiting for you to find after it blooms with that touch of water.

Taste 7



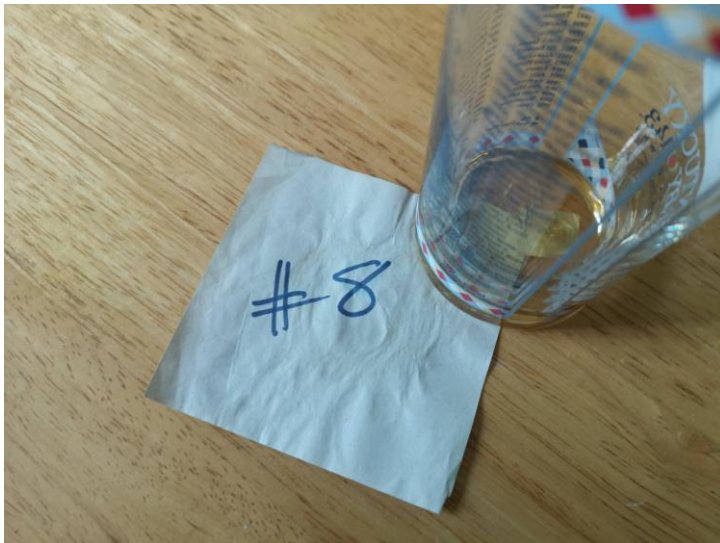
ZACH JOHNSTON

Tasting Notes:

This opens with floral honey next to a vanilla wafer, apple blossoms, and a hint of summer wildflowers. The palate is a nice mix of classic maltiness with a twinge of spice next to honey and Scotch broom. The end is honeyed and spiced with nutmeg, clove, and allspice with a soft landing in sweet malts that hint at tobacco.

This was really nice but felt like more of a great cocktail base than a classic sipper.

Taste 8



ZACH JOHNSTON

Tasting Notes:

Candied lemon rinds and creamy vanilla lead to a soft sense of mocha lattes and Earl Grey on the nose with a very distant hint of something umami in there (maybe a mushroom powder?). The palate is pretty sweet with candied malts, more of that mocha creaminess, and a hint of black bananas. The end is a mix of Almond Joy and ripe cherry with a thin landing with hints of banana bread and milk chocolate.

This felt a little less distinct than it could have been. It was a tad muted.

Part 2: The Ranking



ZACH JOHNSTON

8. Lost Lantern St. George Spirits California Single Malt Whiskey — Taste 3



LOST LANTERN

ABV: 53.35%

Average Price: [\\$160](#)

The Whisky:

St. George — in Alameda, California — is technically America's first (modern) craft distillery, founded all the way back in 1982. The juice in the bottle is a single barrel release of only 215 bottles. The whisky is made with 100 percent malted barley that's aged for a mere three and ten months in new American oak. The single barrel that Lost Lantern picked was then bottled as-is with no filtration, cutting with water, or fussing.

Bottom Line:

This just didn't hit right for me today. It reminded me of the overly sweet and lemoniness of Ciroc Vodka, [which I do actually dislike with a passion.](#)

7. Westland American Single Malt Whiskey — Taste 8



WESTLAND

ABV: 46%

Average Price: [\\$75](#)

The Whiskey:

This Seattle whiskey is made with five types of barley from Washington state: Munich, Extra Special, Brown, Pale Chocolate, and Washington Select Pale malts. Those malts are all processed locally and then mixed with classic Belgian ale yeasts for fermentation. The distillate is then triple-barreled in new American oak, Cooper's Reserve new American oak, and first-fill ex-bourbon barrels. Finally, those barrels are blended, proofed down, and bottled as-is.

Bottom Line:

This felt like it got a little lost on the palate while the water/proofing washed out the end a tad bit. It's not bad at all, it's just not that astounding when stacked up against these particular whiskeys either.

6. The Balvenie 12 Double Oak — Taste 7



WILLIAM GRANT AND SONS

ABV: 43%

Average Price: [\\$70](#)

The Whisky:

This is the whisky that launched the “double aging” trend back in 1982. This unpeated single malt spends 12 years mellowing in ex-bourbon casks before it's transferred to ex-sherry casks for a final maturation of nine months. Finally, the whisky is vatted in a “tun” where it rests for three to four months before proofing and bottling.

Bottom Line:

This was good stuff. But, let's be real, this is great for awesome cocktails way more than sipping. Sure, it'd be great on the rocks, but I'm looking for “wow” and not “yeah, that's fine.”

5. Balcones Texas Single Malt Whisky — Taste 6



BALCONES

ABV: 53%

Average Price: [\\$78](#)

The Whisky:

This whisky is made with a lot of care. The juice is 100% malted barley imported from Scotland, specifically Scottish Golden Promise Malted Barley. The spirit then ages in a combination of barrels ranging from new and used American, French, and Hungarian oak. After a few years under the hot Waco sun, the barrels are vatted and bottled as-is with no fussing besides a touch of local water.

Bottom Line:

This was very much in the “hey, that's nice!” section of the panel. I like it, but it needed some ice to really dig into it.

4. The Glenrothes 18 — Taste 5



THE EDRINGTON GROUP

ABV: 43%

Average Price: [\\$162](#)

The Whisky:

This Speyside whisky is often crowned the “Best Speyside” whisky at spirits competitions. The juice in the bottle is a high portion of first-fill sherry casks, all of which spent 18 long years mellowing in The Glenrothes warehouses. Those barrels are then vatted and proofed down with local water before bottling without any coloring added.

Bottom Line:

Interesting. The oldest and most expensive whisky ended up right in the middle. This was pretty good stuff but didn't wow me. I think a little water would have changed that. It feels like this needs a lot of time (and some water) to let it really bloom in the glass.

3. Glenmorangie The Original 10-Year — Taste 1



LOUIS VUITTON MOËT HENNESSY

ABV: 43%

Average Price: [\\$36](#)

The Whisky:

The Glenmorangie is a classic Highlands single malt. The juice is created on the tallest stills in Scotland, which allows more spirit creation along the way as it's boiled. The whisky then spends ten years mellowing in ex-bourbon barrels. Finally, the whiskey is vatted, proofed, and bottled.

Bottom Line:

This might be my favorite dram today. It's so accessible and easy to drink. The only reason it's in third and not first is that it wasn't all that complex. It's a very straightforward (and perfectly made) sweet single malt. There are no bells or whistles or "wow" moments. Sometimes you don't need any of that, and that's where this whisky shines.

2. Westward Whiskey American Single Malt — Taste 4



WESTWARD DISTILLING

ABV: 45%

Average Price: [\\$75](#)

The Whiskey:

Portland's Westward Whiskey has its roots in Pacific Northwest craft brewing culture (like most craft distilleries in the PNW). This juice is emblematic of how important the first step of whiskey is — the fermented mash that is basically beer — to the whiskey-making process. The whiskey spends a few years aging in new American oak, like bourbon, before tiny batches of five or six barrels are used to create this expression.

Bottom Line:

This was a contender! As I mentioned above, this has a point of view and stuck to it. It's complex and still fun. It's deep but light. It's balanced. This is good stuff. And had my mood been a little different, this might have been number one.

Also, holy shit! An American single malt *almost* beat out the Scotch competition...

1. Speyburn 15 - Taste 2



INTERBEV

ABV: 46%

Average Price: [\\$59](#)

The Whisky:

Speyburn is an old-school Speyside whisky that was huge in the time of Queen Victoria and still wins award after award to this day. That long-lasting quality is due to slow whisky making just off the River Spey, where everything moves a little slower from the fermentation to the stills to the aging. The juice spends 15 years aging in both ex-bourbon and ex-sherry casks before vating, proofing, and bottling without any filtration.

Bottom Line:

This was funky and interesting while still feeling extremely comforting and accessible. It's a great balance to pull off, and helped this pour land in the number one spot pretty easily.

Part 3: Final Thoughts



ZACH JOHNSTON

Well, there you go — American single malts *can* stand up to classic Scotch whisky. ...Not always, but enough that they matter. Of course, these blind tastings are only small sample groups. I'll do these, again and again, to see if more American single malts can muster the strength to beat out their progenitors from across the pond. Maybe I'll grab some peated ASM whiskeys next time and see how *those* stack up against huge names from Islay and Skye...

In the end, that Westward bottle was the star of the show. It was so distinct while still feeling fresh and fun to drink. The Speyburn was on the

same page. Fresh, fun, a little funky, but ultimately nourishing to the soul. Those two bottles are the real winners today.



Ardbeg breaks all records with its £16mn malt whisky The FT gets an exclusive first taste of the most expensive cask in history © Benjamin McMahon | The Ardbeg distillery on Islay [Share on twitter \(opens new window\)](#) [Share on facebook \(opens new window\)](#) [Share on linkedin \(opens new window\)](#) Save Alice Lascelles. Photography by Benjamin McMahon YESTERDAY 9 [Print this page](#) [Receive free Food & Drink updates](#) We'll send you a myFT Daily Digest email rounding up the latest Food & Drink news every morning. It's a beautiful, blustery day at the Ardbeg distillery on the Hebridean island of Islay – the sea is sparkling blue and little clouds are scudding across the sky.



Among the whitewashed distillery buildings tourists sit chatting happily at picnic tables. But in the maturation warehouse where I'm standing, the atmosphere is rather tense. Here, in the musty half-light, the head of whisky Bill Lumsden is gingerly drawing a tiny amount of mahogany-coloured whisky from a cask of 1975 Ardbeg – a cask recently sold to a female collector in Asia, in a private sale, for £16mn. It's a staggering sum. So staggering, in fact, that the first time I saw it written down I thought it was a mistake. It's more than twice what Ardbeg's owner the Glenmorangie Co (part of LVMH since 2011) paid for the distillery and all its stocks in 1997. And it exceeds the previous record for a single cask, set earlier this year, by £15mn. It may be extreme, but it's an all-too-real sign of a whisky market that's lately gone completely bonkers, where collectors and investors are increasingly retraining their sights from single bottles to entire casks costing six-, seven- or – even – eight-figure sums.



Moradpour and Lumsden with Cask No 3 © Benjamin McMahon
 head of whisky Bill Lumsden (left) and Glenmorangie Co CEO Thomas Moradpour taste Ardbeg Cask No 3 © Benjamin McMahon

A sample from Cask No 3 © Benjamin McMahon Ascertaining the size of the private cask market is difficult – data is scant. But as a proportion of the 22 million casks of whisky ageing in Scotland right now, it is safe to say it's still minuscule. As the Ardbeg sale has proven, though, even a single cask can deliver serious pounds per square inch, and provide a brand with a valuable way of cultivating relationships with the whisky world's 0.1 per cent. And that's why private cask sales are something that distillers, having previously been reluctant to relinquish old stocks, are now increasingly keen to explore. Established in 1815, Ardbeg has a turbulent history. It found fame in the 19th and early 20th centuries principally as malt for blending. But following a downturn in the whisky industry in the 1970s and 80s it was a victim of widespread distillery closures. It lay silent for almost a decade before eventually being revived by the Glenmorangie Co. And under LVMH's stewardship Ardbeg has developed the kind of cult following usually only reserved for rock bands.



Production operator Archie McKechnie rolls a cask © Benjamin McMahon
 It has an international fan club, The Ardbeg Committee, with 120,000 members. Its followers get Ardbeg tattoos. When it releases new whiskies its fans camp out overnight to make sure they are first in the queue. Its famously peaty malts can fetch high prices, but it's also known for its sense of fun: its most recent release, made with ultra-roasted black malt, was playfully dubbed "Ardcore". At 46 years old (and counting), this 48 per cent abv liquid is the oldest Ardbeg ever bottled In spite of its flashy

price tag the £16mn cask, known as Cask No 3, is a humble-looking thing – only a few chalk markings and a modest plaque distinguish it from the hundreds of weathered casks around it. What is it about this particular cask that makes it so unique? At 46 years old (and counting), this 48 per cent abv liquid is the oldest Ardbeg ever bottled. It's also a rare example of an Ardbeg distilled prior to 1981, when the distillery was mothballed for nine years. "The vast majority of Ardbeg in those days went into blends – it's almost impossible to find Ardbeg from this era bottled as a single malt," says Lumsden. The number of 1970s casks left in the distillery's warehouses can be counted "on just a few hands". (Their destiny remains a secret. But if you consider that a whisky must be 40 per cent abv minimum to be bottled as Scotch whisky, and a cask loses two per cent of its volume to evaporation – or the "angel's share" – each year, then they'll almost certainly be sold or released as an ultra-luxe bottling some time in the next decade).



The old spirit still in the distillery courtyard © Benjamin McMahon



The distillery on the island of Islay © Benjamin McMahon The cask is a 500-litre oloroso sherry butt, around twice the size of a standard barrel. Ultimately, it will yield 440 bottles. Normally, for reasons of cost and convenience, single casks are bottled all in one go. But the owner of Cask No 3 will take delivery of 88 bottles every year for five years. The cask will remain at Ardbeg and keep ageing all the while, so that by the time the bottling is complete she will have a collection of Ardbegs ranging from 46 to 50 years. It's a pretty exceptional arrangement – of that there is no doubt. But even so, the highest estimate I could get for a cask of this sort, when I asked around, was £8mn. How did Ardbeg arrive at such an astronomical price? The answer may lie in the fact that the £16mn deal includes all the hidden costs: storage, insurance, bottling, labelling, distillery visits and taxes – costs that are usually added on top. In the UK, if you bottle a cask of whisky you can expect to pay around £8.50 in duty per bottle, plus VAT at 20 per cent. But in Hong Kong, for example, excise tax on spirits is a whopping 100 per cent. The cask's owner declined to be interviewed for this piece so I can only speculate about what she intends to do with her bottles. But it's likely they'll be drunk or gifted rather than sold on the secondary market – they were so dear in the first place it's hard to see how they could deliver a return. It's a source of pride for every member of the Ardbeg community, from the still man to the fans and collectors who keep the doors open Thomas Moradpour, president and CEO of the Glenmorangie Co Ardbeg has pledged to give £1mn from the sale to charitable initiatives on Islay. But there will be some, I'm sure, who feel decidedly queasy about it. "We spent a long time debating whether to publicise it," says Thomas Moradpour, president and CEO of the Glenmorangie Co. "But we are proud of what it represents in the journey of Ardbeg, which has been a rollercoaster ride. Think that 25 years ago it was a dying distillery – it was silent for most of the 1980s – and a quarter of a century later it's one of the most sought-after whiskies in the world. It's a source of pride for every member of the Ardbeg community, from the still man to the fans and collectors who keep the doors open."



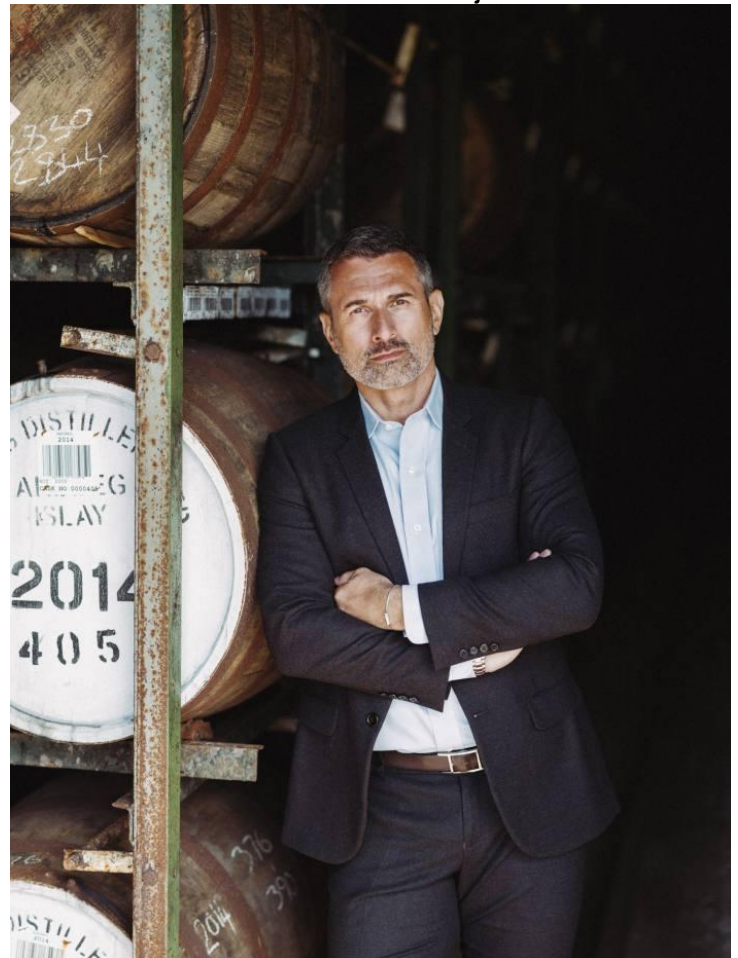
From left: production operator Archie McKechnie, head warehouse operator Douglas Bowman and warehouse operator Stephen McKechnie © Benjamin McMahon



Used casks in the Ardbeg barrel park © Benjamin McMahon It has been an extraordinary year for cask sales. In April a cask of 1988 Macallan sold to a private buyer through Whisky Hammer for just shy of £1mn – a record at the time. Last month Sotheby's hosted a sale that featured two casks from sought-after "silent" distilleries: a Brora 1982 and a Port Ellen 1979, which each went for £875,000. The two casks in the Sotheby's sale came from Casks of Distinction, Diageo's direct-to-consumer programme for VIPs. Established in 2015, it is the longest running scheme of its kind and thanks to Diageo's Scotch whisky portfolio, which includes 28 single-malt distilleries, it gives collectors direct access to an unrivalled range of whiskies. "It's very much a matchmaking process and we only release a handful of casks a year," says James Mackay, Diageo's head of rare and exceptional spirits. "Most casks are 25 years or older and already mature – so you can bottle right away or let it age for another five years." Prices for a Cask of Distinction start from six figures – a fee that includes distillery visits, samples, bottling and labelling (but take note: not duty, VAT or import tax). The cask is chosen by the client from a selection of samples then stored at the Royal Lochnagar distillery near Balmoral so they can pay their cask a visit whenever they wish (something that's not always possible under other cask acquisition schemes). Clients can also have their empty cask customised by an artist: recent collaborators have included photographer Trey Ratcliff and designer Ini Archibong.



Outside the old stillhouse © Benjamin McMahon



Thomas Moradpour, president and CEO of the Glenmorangie Co © Benjamin McMahon "I often say that buying a cask is a bit like buying a

racehorse – you can go to the races and have a good time, but it's a different feeling when you're in the owner's enclosure," says Mackay. "And like a racehorse, you might end up making money but that's not really the reason you do it. It's about that feeling of being on the inside." The alternative to buying direct from a distillery is buying through a broker. Lately there has been an influx of opportunistic brokerages offering tantalising – but totally unrealistic – returns coupled with precious little expertise (the return-on-investment figure of 586 per cent touted by many of them is actually taken from a Knight Frank report published in 2018, which analysed the performance of 100 top whisky bottles, rather than casks, and is best ignored). "It's an industry ripe for scalping," one insider says to me. "I strongly suspect there are multiple pyramid schemes that haven't yet been exposed." The best way to protect yourself, says Andy Simpson, co-founder of the Rare Whisky 101 Index, and now director of Simpson Reserved, which manages whisky portfolios for HNW clients, is to go with a broker with a strong track record in Scotch whisky. "Do your research – who's behind it, where have they worked before and how long have they been in the industry? And make sure you get what's known as a 'delivery order', which gives you legal proof of cask ownership."



The distillery's sea wall © Benjamin McMahon If you do your due diligence and are prepared to be in it "for the long game, by which I mean five years or more, there is certainly money to be made," says Simpson. "But there is no such thing as a guaranteed return. So it's important that you enjoy the journey." Even those who start out as cold-blooded investors usually get romanced by their cask in the end, says Charles Beamish, formerly of Whyte & Mackay and now of private client whisky firm Beamish International, which sources whisky for clients in south-east Asia, Europe and the US. "When they first come to us, I'd say 80 per cent are looking to buy casks for drinking, collecting and gifting. The other 20 per cent are looking to invest. But by the end 100 per cent of them have become whisky lovers and drinkers." Recommended HTSI Inside Glenmorangie's dazzling new distillery A cask, of course, is not worth a dime if the whisky within it's not good to drink. And there's no mistaking the deliciousness of Ardbeg Cast No 3 when I taste it. Time has given it a patina of gently smoky, aromatic woods, balsamic notes, dried fruits and sun-faded pot-pourri. It's mature, but not old, harmonious and supple, with a long nutty finish like creamy praline. "I've really only tasted a whisky like this two or three times in my career," says Lumsden. "It has an emotional, comforting quality to it I find hard to put into words." Is it £16mn good? I'm not so sure. But it will certainly get people talking. And in a fiendishly competitive whisky market you can't put a price on that.

Rare Ardbeg cask sells for record £16 million

11 JULY 2022 By Melita Kiely

A whisky collector has bought a cask of Ardbeg distilled in 1975 for a record-breaking £16 million (US\$19.3m).



Cask No. 3 is a marriage of two casks that were filled in 1975. The sale price surpasses any auction record for a cask of single malt, and is also the distillery's oldest whisky release to date. For context, in August last year [a 1991 cask of Macallan sold at Bonhams](#) in Hong Kong for HK\$4,464,000 (US\$574,126).

The 'one-of-a-kind' cask, Cask No. 3, contains liquid distilled on Tuesday 25 November 1975.

The new make spirit was filled into two separate casks, a Bourbon barrel and an oloroso Sherry cask. Both casks were left to mature for more than 38 years.

On 31 March 2014, Dr Bill Lumsden, Ardbeg's director of whisky creation, decided to marry the two casks, and emptied the whisky into a single refill oloroso Sherry butt.

Now, at 46 years old, the single malt cask has been snapped up by a private female collector in Asia.

The sale is unique in that each year, over the next five years, 88 bottles of the single malt will be made. This will give the collector a unique vertical series of Ardbeg whiskies with a 1975 vintage, aged for 46, 47, 48, 49 and 50 years by 2026.

Lumsden said: "Cask No. 3 is an extraordinary taste of Ardbeg's past. Its aromas are nutty, herbal and smoky, while its tastes of tar, espresso coffee and spearmint have an astonishing finesse for a whisky of such age.

"So little stock survives from this era, that this cask really is one of a kind. And its complex flavours are testament to the extraordinary skill of the Ardbeg team who have cared for it over the decades. I look forward to exploring how it continues to evolve over the next five years."

Cask No. 3 was laid down before the Ardbeg distillery on Islay was mothballed during a turbulent period for the Scotch whisky industry. Charitable donation

Ardbeg has also decided to give £1 million (US\$1.2m) from the sale to causes on Islay. The money will be donated throughout the five-year bottling period.

Thomas Moradpour, CEO, said: "This sale is a source of pride for everyone in the Ardbeg community who has made our journey possible. Just 25 years ago, Ardbeg was on the brink of extinction, but today it is one of the most sought-after whiskies in the world.

"That is a reflection of generations of hard work: from those in the still house who craft our smoky spirit, to the warehouse staff who care for our casks over decades, to teams around the world who build the reputation of our whiskies with fans, bartenders and collectors.

"While such a rare whisky is out of reach for all but one of our fans, we put the same passion and care into every bottle of Ardbeg as went into this exclusive single malt in 1975 – from flagship Ardbeg 10 Years Old, to limited edition releases.

"Today, our new still house is working at full capacity to make more Ardbeg available than ever, and whisky creator Dr Bill Lumsden is busy imagining many more surprising smoky releases for Ardbeg fans. Because when a business like Ardbeg gets rewarded for 50 years of patience, it gives us the confidence to keep investing in the future of our distillery, and in our island community. The journey continues."

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 19th, 2022 dinner date as an example:
 - Dinner invitations will be sent out Friday August 29th, 2022. Please respond to me (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 9th, 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 9th, 2022 @ 6pm will be removed from the list.
- Anyone canceling between Friday September 9th, 2022 @ 6pm and Monday September 19th, 2021 will be expected to pay for the cost of the dinner and scotch (\$90). It is the responsibility of the member who cancels their (or their guest's) reservation to find a replacement. If I am asked to find a substitute and one is found, then the member will be asked to pay for 50% of their dinner cost.
- Anyone who fails to attend the Monday September 19th, 2022 dinner without having cancelled and been successfully replaced will be expected to pay the full cost (\$90). A member will be responsible for their guest's cancellation (\$100).
- If a member asks to be included at the dinner between Friday September 9th, 2022 @ 6pm and Monday September 19th, 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 prior to the dinner. The password will be "KSMS2022RDF", to whatever your security question is. Receiving payment in advance will allow everyone the opportunity to socialize before the dinner as well as reduce the accounting work required after.
- For e-transfers, Members are responsible for collecting from their guests, and then forwarding one payment in total by e-transfer.

Assigned / Reserved Seating

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

Perfume / Cologne and Whisky

- Our enjoyment of fine whisky at KSMS starts with a nosing - for many a definitive and delicate moment in their relationship with a new dram. The power of aroma is unquestionable. From defining life experiences to the recall of special memories, the sense of smell is as individual as a fingerprint and has the ability to evoke some of the most precious,

rewarding and distinctive moments. Unfortunately strong perfumes can mask and distort other aromas and smells and interfere with the ability to register and recognize subtler fragrances.

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

Just a note because we care.

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



Kingston Single Malt Society

Roberto Di Fazio, President

827 Old Colony Road

Kingston, Ontario, K7P 1S1, Canada

613-532-5285

rdifazio04@gmail.com

<http://www.kingstonsinglemaltsociety.com>



GEAR

Sweet Clarity

Up your game with these ice devices

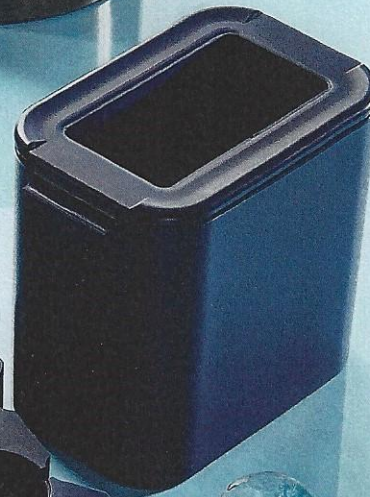
Most home ice cubes are cloudy, and cloudiness is a sign of impurities and air that are trapped inside the cube. The clear ice molds displayed here are designed to eliminate those impurities and air, which also improve the taste and allows the ice to melt more slowly. And it's generally agreed that clear ice also looks way cooler. So elevate your home ice experience.



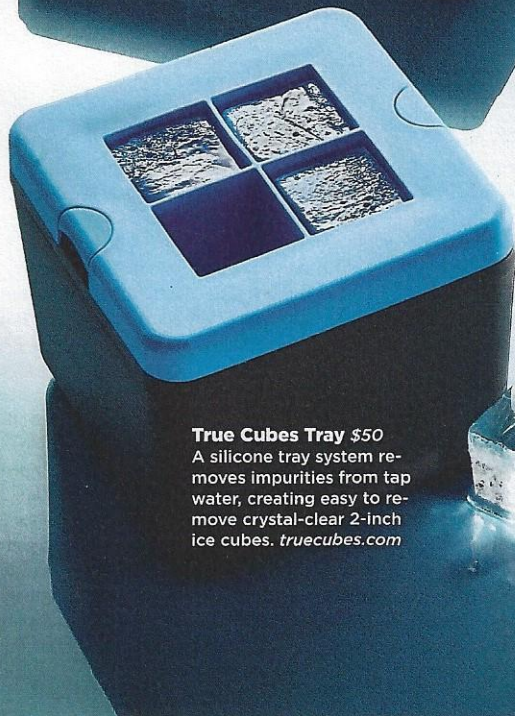
Wintersmiths Phantom \$140
Choose from large or small spheres, large or small cubes, or Collins spears to create clear and dense ice. Dishwasher safe. wintersmiths.com



Dexas Iceology \$54
Food-grade silicone molds allow for easy removal of the ice. Layered tray system removes impurities and controls freezing. iceologybarware.com



Homebuddy Ice Ball Maker \$50
Create two 2.35-inch slow-melting ice spheres with this silicone mold system. Hand wash. homebuddy.store



True Cubes Tray \$50
A silicone tray system removes impurities from tap water, creating easy to remove crystal-clear 2-inch ice cubes. truecubes.com



JEFF HARRIS

Tee Time Whiskies

Toast the Open with an 18 year old dram

If your tastes yearn for more, here are 18 great 18 year old single malt scotch whiskies—one for each of the holes that comprise the Old Course.

94 Bowmore 18 year old
43% • \$160

Red berries, subtle peat, and soft oak

94 GlenDronach 18 year old
46% • \$180

Dates, raisins, and figs, with hints of candied orange peel and dark chocolate

93 Loch Lomond 18 year old
46% • \$90

Chocolate, baking spices, nuts, and tropical fruit

92 Aberlour 18 year old
43% • \$149

Sherry, honey, and fig

92 Auchentoshan 18 year old
43% • \$160

Milk chocolate, café con leche, and spiced Christmas cake

92 Bunnahabhain 18 year old
46.3% • \$210

Sherry notes, dried fruits, nutmeg, and dark chocolate

92 Highland Park 18 year old
Viking Pride 43% • \$150

Milk chocolate, melted caramel, and strawberry jam

92 Glen Moray 18 year old
47.2% • \$100

Melon, apricot, hints of dried hay, apple pie a la mode, pepper, fruit, and malted barley

92 Macallan 18 year old
Sherry Cask 43% • \$320

Sweet orange, milk chocolate-coated Turkish delight, and faint smoke

91 Glen Scotia 18 year old
46% • \$130

Sweet sherry, honey, dark chocolate-coated orange fondant creams, and a hint of angelica

91 Oban 18 year old
43% • \$140

Nutty toffee, polished oak, salt, pepper, seaweed, distant smoke, and dried fruit

90 Old Pulteney 18 year old
46% • \$150

Ripe pears, crème brûlée, and dark chocolate



89 Dalmore 18 year old
43% • \$250

Tangy orange, marzipan, sherry, bitter chocolate, and oak

89 Glenmorangie 18 year old
43% • \$140

Crème brûlée, cinnamon, figs, and citrus

89 Speyburn 18 year old
46% • \$145

Fudge, honey, bitter orange, and subtle woodsmoke

88 Balblair 18 year old
46% • \$209

Spicy and slightly herbal, with dried fruits, caramel, vanilla, and orange

88 Glenrothes 18 year old
43% • \$160

Fudge, raisins, and cherry liqueur

88 Jura 18 year old
44% • \$100

Red berries, chocolate, cloves, and peat

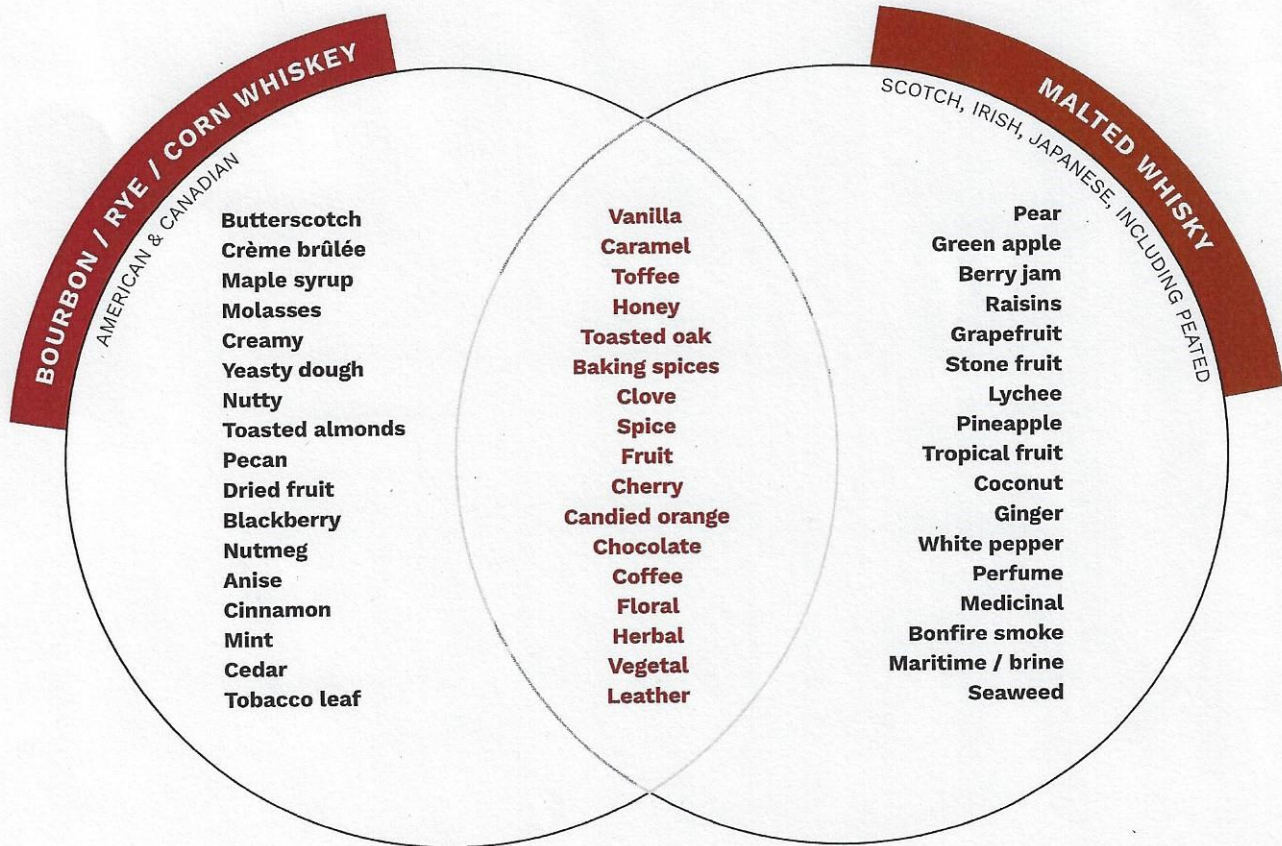
The Venn of Whisky

Where Flavor Spectrums Intersect

It's funny we use the catchall term whisky because, though all are made with grains, the variance between corn, rye, wheat, and malted barley

(not to mention different production and aging techniques), means flavors can be radically different. Sure, some will overlap, as you can see below,

but there are many aroma and flavor components shared by the two main sides of the whisky spectrum.



HELPFUL TIPS: SEE, SWIRL, SIP

COLOR Appreciate the color, which might tell you about the wood used to finish the whisky.

SWIRL GENTLY Coat just the bottom third of the glass. Not a big swirl, as with wine. The alcohol in whisky will evaporate just fine at its own pace.

NOSE Inhale with an open mouth so you don't put your nose to sleep.

SIP Small sips, with the glass rim on the center of your tongue, to avoid the alcohol heat. Swirl or "chew" the whisky and let it disappear.

SLOW DOWN Many whiskies develop new flavors and complexity if you wait before the next sip. Appreciate the finish.

WARM Feel free to hold the glass in your hands to warm it up a bit. You'll get more aroma and possibly boost the flavor.

ADD WATER This will open the nose, but try only after you've tasted it neat. Add only a drop or two at a time.

EXPERIMENT After tasting your whiskies neat, try them with a little water, as a Highball, in a cocktail, or even over ice. You might enjoy them more or discover new underlying flavors.

ADD ICE Let the flavor, texture, and aromas evolve with some well-chosen ice. Your glass of whisky becomes a journey.

Tasting by the Numbers

Average Whisky Club Behavior

What goes on and what should you expect when you join or create a whisky club? 50 top whisky clubs were contacted by *Whisky Advocate* to find out what they do and how they approach their tasting events.

BOTTLE COUNT

4

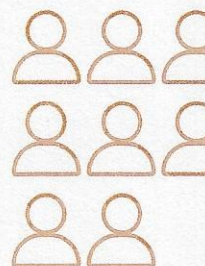
EXPRESSIONS
SAMPLED PER TASTING

54 **BOTTLES**
TASTED PER YEAR



7

MEMBER
ATTEND EACH MEET



POPULAR TASTING THEMES

70%

TASTE WHISKIES OF ONLY ONE STYLE



60%

HAVE TASTED
WHISKIES
FROM ONE
DISTILLERY

58%

HAVE TASTED
WHISKIES
FROM ONE
REGION

85%

MEN

15%

WOMEN

FREQUENTLY TASTED WHISKIES

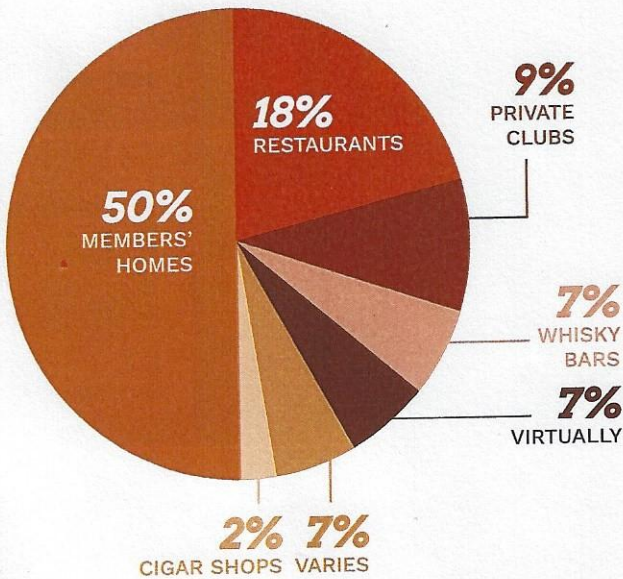
77% REGULARLY SAMPLE SINGLE MALTS



3/4 oz.
AVERAGE POUR



WHERE CLUBS MEET



\$82
SPENT PER BOTTLE

40%
HAVE THE CLUB PRESIDENT SELECT THE EXPRESSIONS TO TASTE

PERSONAL BOTTLES PURCHASED PER YEAR

39

55% MEET MONTHLY **75%** MET ONLINE DURING THE PANDEMIC