

Kingston Single Malt Society

www.kingstonsinglemaltsociety.com

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

April 14th, 2023 VOLUME 16; NUMBER 10a; No. 219



GLENMORANGIE

SINGLE MALT SCOTCH WHISKY



MENU

Welcome Nosing: ARRAN 17 YEAR OLD RARE BATCH - CALVADOS; BOTTLED: 2022
(introduced by: Ken Goodland)

1st Course: Local Mixed Greens, Hearts of Palms, Blueberries, Grilled Corn, Chia Seeds, Papaya Dressing

1st Nosing: GLENMORANGIE 9th PRIVATE EDITION) SPIOS
(introduced by: Tim Barber)

2nd Course: Creamy Smoked Apple & Pear Soup

2nd Nosing: LAGG 2019 INAUGURAL RELEASE BATCH 1 BOURBON CASK BOT.2022
(introduced by: Ken Goodland)

3rd Course: Pork Chop, Roasted Butternut Squash, Spiced Plum Chutney

3rd Nosing: LAGG 2019 INAUGURAL RELEASE BATCH 2 SHERRY FINISH BOT.2022

4th Nosing: LAGG 2019 INAUGURAL RELEASE BATCH 3 RIOJA FINISH BOT.2022
(introduced by: Ken Goodland)

4th Course: Flourless Chocolate Meringue Cake

5th Nosing: GLENMORANGIE A MIDWINTER NIGHT'S DRAM

6th Nosing: GLENMORANGIE, BARREL SELECT RELEASE NO. 3, 'PALO CORTADO CASK FINISH' AGED 12 YO
(introduced by: Tim Barber)

COST OF THE MALTS

ARRAN 17 YEAR OLD RARE BATCH - CALVADOS; CASKTYPE: CALVADOS; No. Of Bottles: 4200; BOTTLED: 2022 VINTAGES 815838 | 700 mL bottle Price: \$250.00 Spirits, Whisky/Whiskey, Scotch Single Malts 52.5% Alcohol/Vol.

LAGG 2019 INAUGURAL RELEASE BATCH 1 BOURBON CASK BOT.2022 VINTAGES 854023 | 750 ML bottle Price: \$158.00 Spirits, Scotch Whisky, 50.0% Alcohol/Vol.

LAGG 2019 INAUGURAL RELEASE BATCH 2 SHERRY FINISH BOT.2022 VINTAGES 854023 | 750 ML bottle Price: \$158.00 Spirits, Scotch Whisky, 50.0% Alcohol/Vol.

LAGG 2019 INAUGURAL RELEASE BATCH 3 RIOJA FINISH BOT.2022 VINTAGES 854023 | 750 ML bottle Price: \$158.00 Spirits, Scotch Whisky, 50.0% Alcohol/Vol.

GLENMORANGIE, BARREL SELECT RELEASE NO. 3, 'PALO CORTADO CASK FINISH' AGED 12 YEARS OLD Bottling serie: Barrel Select Release; Bottled: 25.08.2022; Stated Age: 13 years old; Casktype: Palo Cortado Finish VINTAGES 410936 | 700 mL bottle Price: \$145.95 Spirits, Whisky/Whiskey 46.0% Alcohol/Vol.

GLENMORANGIE 9th PRIVATE EDITION (2018) SPIOS VINTAGES 554584 | 750 mL bottle Price \$180.00 Spirits, Whisky/Whiskey, Scotch Single Malts 46.0% Alcohol/Vol.

GLENMORANGIE A MIDWINTER NIGHT'S DRAM BOTTLED: 2015; CASKTYPE: BOURBON & OLOROSO SHERRY CASK VINTAGES 554584 | 700 mL bottle Price \$250.00 Spirits, Whisky/Whiskey, Scotch Single Malts 43.0% Alcohol/Vol.

March 10th Dinner - KSMS Financial Statement

Money from 22 December attendees @ \$125)	= \$2750.00
March dinner 22 persons =	= \$1567.94
(Money remaining for buying Single Malt)	= \$1182.06
Cost of Single Malts:	= \$1537.80
Cost of Pours per Person = \$46.80	
KSMS Monthly operational balance	= (-\$355.74)
Cost per person (All inclusive)	= \$141.17
Money for Heels	= \$775.00
Money Raised from Raffle	= \$0.00
KSMS Monthly operational balance	= \$419.26

Upcoming Dinner Dates

Monday May 29th 2023 - Speyside / Islands
Monday June 19th 2023 - June BBQ - Speyside / Islay

Canada caps alcohol tax for one year

30 MARCH 2023 By Nicola Carruthers

An increase in excise duty on alcohol in Canada has been temporarily capped at 2% instead of a planned 6.3% rise.



Spirits Canada said the country's distilling sector supports 8,500 full-time jobs

From 1 April 2023, the Canadian government will cap the inflation adjustment for excise tax on alcohol at 2% for a one-year period. It was due to increase by 6.3% in line with inflation.

The move was announced in the government's Budget statement on 29 March.

Trade body Spirits Canada said the decision strikes a compromise based on the Standing Committee on Finance's (FINA) recent recommendation to freeze the automatic excise increase for two years.

Since 2017, the government has implemented automatic annual tax increases on alcohol based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI). When it was first introduced, inflation was sitting in the range of 1% to 1.5%.

The FINA called on a freeze on tax until inflation returns to the 1% to 3% target range, Spirits Canada said.

"This outcome is certainly better than the anticipated 6.3% tax hike," said Spirits Canada's president and CEO, Jan Westcott.

"Given the challenging economic times we're all dealing with, a two-year reprieve would have been ideal, however, we do appreciate the government's decision to cap the excise increase at 2%.

"Canadians already pay some of the highest alcohol taxes in the world, but this gesture of support for consumers and for our struggling hospitality sector will help minimise the resulting price increases.

"Considering the record high inflation, capping the escalator increase is a step in the right direction."

Spirits Canada said the country's distilling sector supports 8,500 full-time jobs and contributes CA\$5.8 billion (US\$4.28bn) annually in gross domestic profit.

Furthermore, Canadian distillers export more than CA\$660 million (US\$487m) worth of products every year.

In November, CGA research revealed just over one in five consumers in Canada planned to [reduce their visits to the on-trade](#) for the rest of 2022 because of rising costs.

London Just Got Its First Whiskey Vending Machine

By [Shaunacy Ferro](#) - Nov 5, 2018



Whisky-Me / Whisky-Me

Guests at London's [Napoleon Hotel](#) don't need to wait for a bartender to order a quality Scotch; they can order it from the vending machine. As [Lonely Planet](#) reports, the hotel now has a single-malt whiskey vending machine courtesy of [Whisky-Me](#), a whiskey subscription service.

Whisky-Me was launched by the founders of [Black Rock](#), a whiskey bar located in the Napoleon Hotel. Each month, subscribers receive a roughly 1.7-ounce pouch of rare or exclusive single malt Scotch in the mail for as low as \$9 each. But between now and the end of December, you don't have to be a subscriber to get a taste of the action. Just hit up the [vending machine](#) at the hotel instead.

Whisky-Me

The machine is set up just outside the hotel, but you won't be able to swing by and get a shot at any moment. (Because, you know, someone has to check your ID.) You'll need to go upstairs to Devil's Darlings, one of the Napoleon's other bars, and purchase a vending machine token. Then, once you have your tokens, you can grab a pouch anytime between 10 a.m. and 2 a.m. each day.



Whisky-Me

The whiskeys on offer include a special "birthday" variety designed to celebrate the subscription service's first anniversary, as well as some of the previous whiskeys sent out to Whisky-Me subscribers. That includes single malt Scotches from producers like Macallan (which produces Speyside whiskeys), Royal Lochnagar (a Highland distillery), and Aberfeldy (another Highland distillery).

Whisky-Me

Sounds a little more exciting than your average [hotel](#) minibar, doesn't it?

These Two New Macallan Whiskies Have Been Aged for Over 30 Years. Now They Can Be Yours.

There is no end to ultra-aged whisky from this single-malt distillery.

By [JONAH FLICKER](#)



World Whiskey Society

It seems like new luxury whiskies from the [Macallan](#) arrive every few weeks, which makes sense given that this single-malt [scotch](#) distillery has at least 250,000 barrels aging in its warehouses. The latest comes from World Whiskey Society, which is dropping 31 and 32-year-old single malts that were sourced from this renowned Speyside distillery.

World Whiskey Society, founded in 2020, is a company that offers rare and unique expressions from nearly every whiskey category from across the globe. The range includes the Doc Holliday lineup of bourbons aged for up to a decade, different cask-finished whiskeys aged in sherry and [mizunara](#) oak, and even a Chinese single malt that we [covered](#) here recently. The WWS Reserve Collection includes single cask bourbons and single malts that come housed in decanters that look more like mini cathedrals or a space magician's wand. But the whiskey inside these bottles is the real appeal, and these two new [Macallan](#) single malts aged for more than three decades should appeal to any whiskey collector. Both whiskies are from single casks, non-chill filtered, and bottled at cask strength—with no color added. The 31-year-old was aged entirely in an Oloroso sherry cask, and there are just 71 bottles available. According to the tasting notes, expect malt and cereal on the palate, with apple pie, Amaratti, and dark rye bread on the finish. The 32-year-old was aged in a refill hogshead barrel that was filled on January 23, 1990, and the tasting notes detail spice and a creaminess on the palate, with notes of red apple, orange, milk chocolate, and some meadow flowers on the finish. These whiskies come on the heels of the recent announcement of the latest limited-edition [Macallan](#) expression, Home Collection—The Distillery. This [whisky](#) was aged in a combination of European and American oak, and the bottle has artwork created by a worker at the distillery. You can purchase this \$525 whisky from the distillery's [website](#). As for the two World Whiskey Society releases, both will be released very soon priced at around \$10,000— if you're interested in getting your hands on one, you can register by entering your email at the WWS [website](#). In the meantime, you can browse the entire [Macallan](#) collection at [ReserveBar](#) if you can't wait any longer for that sweet, sherry cask-matured whisky.



This Limited-Release Ardbeg Single Malt Tastes Like a Backyard Barbecue

WORDS: [NICOLETTE BAKER](#)

Cult-favorite distillery Ardbeg is introducing a nostalgic single malt influenced by backyard barbeques.

The June debut of [Ardbeg](#) BizarrebQ will mark the first limited-release [whisky](#) from the Scotch distillery, per an emailed press release. The brand partnered with pitmaster [Christian Stevenson](#) (known in grilling circles as DJ BBQ) to innovate a [single malt](#) reminiscent of summertime barbeques and savory grilled steak.

An unusual cask toasting process contributes to the heavily charred and smokey character of the expression, per the brand. The whisky was created using double-charred oak, Pedro Ximénez sherry, and Ardbeg BBQ casks, all of which were charred further using a brazier tool before the whisky was barreled.

The brand's tasting notes include aromas of charcoal and soot alongside more aromatic herbs, spices, and cinnamon-dusted espresso. On the palate, expect flame-grilled steak, tangy spice, cured leather, glove, and ginger, accompanied by a hot finish of black olives, artichoke, and soot.

“Ardbeg BizarreBQ is certainly a hare-brained idea, but with DJ BBQ’s help I was able to cook up something truly incredible,” director of whisky creation [Bill Lumsden](#) states in the release. “The undeniable smell of bonfire and BBQ embers linger in the background. Deep, warming smoke follows in flame-grilled steak, chili oil, cured leather, and clove. If there’s one Ardbeg you want with you grill-side, it’s this one.”

The expression, which lands at 50.9 percent ABV, launches in June for a cool \$84.99. It will be available for purchase from Ardbeg Embassies, whisky specialists, online retailers, and at the [Ardbeg Distillery Visitor Centre](#).

The historic distillery on the isle of Islay, Scotland, was established in 1815 and specializes in smoke-forward, peaty Islay malt whiskies. Though it’s considered a more niche label in the wider whisky world, Ardbeg [enjoys a substantial following](#) among collectors online and across the globe.

Faer Isles Distillery begins production

13 APRIL 2023 By Alice Brooker

A new distillery on Faroe Islands has started whisky production, with a target of producing 600 barrels this year.



The distillery will use a traditional cask maturation inspired by food preservation on the isles

The Faer Isles Distillery has been on a 23,000m² site near the village of Kvívík on the Faroe Islands.

The past four years have seen the designing, procuring, and installing of a whisky brew house and still house on the site. The project was [crowdfunded by two investment drives](#), its Founders Club and a cryptocurrency-backed security token offering.

The distillery will use an ‘age-old’ way of maturing casks, taking inspiration from how food is preserved and fermented on the islands.

This includes the hanging out of lamb and fish to try in traditional ‘opnahjallur’ (drying houses), maximising their exposure to humid, salty air.

As 60%-80% of whisky flavour comes from maturation, the producer said, this will create a ‘maritime style’ finish for liquid.

The whisky will also be lightly peated. The distillery will offer some of the first casks for sale on its website, although the waiting list is almost full. The producer is aiming to produce 600 barrels this year.

While installing the dedicated whisky stills, Faer Isles has been producing gin, aquavit and vodka.

The spirits will be released on the European and Asian market during 2023.

Last month it was revealed that Deerness Distillery will [open mainland Orkney’s first whisky distillery](#) in 138 years and is selling the first 200 casks of its single malt Scotch.

How to Drink Whisky the Right Way, According to an Expert

Bourbon, rye, scotch, Irish whiskey, and Canadian whisky are increasingly popular. Here’s how to make the most of every sip.

[Patricia Doherty](#) - Updated on February 2, 2023

Whisky drinking has been on the upswing. [Data](#) from the Distilled Spirits Council of the United States (DISCUS) shows that revenues from the production and sale of bourbon — “America’s native spirit,” as they refer to it — have grown substantially over the past few years. Rye, Irish whiskey, and Scotch have also been getting more attention.

As it is with food, wine, fashion, and anything where personal taste is involved, there is more than one method of imbibing. With a variety of ways to enjoy distilled spirits, your tastes and preferences may evolve, or you might choose your whisky drinking style based on the occasion.

Travel + Leisure spoke to an expert on the topic of a growing interest in whisky, bar supervisor and tobacconist (“barkeep” is fine with him too) Russell Greene at [Castle Hot Springs](#) in Morristown, Arizona, who brings years of experience to his role at the resort’s [Bar 1896](#).

“I thought it was going to die out after a few years, but our culture has truly embraced whisky and brought it back to its original home,” he said. “Now I have people of all ages eyeing the whisky shelves, and distilleries are popping up all over the place.”

We spoke about how he usually serves whisky and any trends he's noticing. "Younger drinkers request cocktails more often than not, and the 40 and up crowd tend towards whisky neat or on the rocks," Greene said. "Plenty of younger guests will get whiskies, but I feel there are fewer due to the time it takes to develop an appreciative palate for whisky and spirits in general."

The most widely requested whisky cocktails are the Old Fashioned and Manhattan, according to several sources, including Greene. "Everyone loves an Old Fashioned," he told T+L, "It's by far the best seller here." Both classic cocktails highlight the whisky with minimal additional ingredients. From there, whisky can be enjoyed "neat," which is without any mixer or ice. Neat whisky is usually a two-ounce serving at room temperature in a lowball glass. Many aficionados will add a few drops of water which enhances the aromas and softens the finish. Drinking whisky "on the rocks" means with ice, of course, and frozen water is having its day. Large, clear ice cubes or hefty spheres are appearing in whisky glasses, appreciated for their looks as well as their slower melting, and less diluting, qualities. While a bit of flavor on the palate might be sacrificed when whisky is cold, the chill takes away some of the harsh edge. Either way, sipping slowly is the way to enjoy whisky, which is a spirit made from grain which has been mashed, fermented, distilled, and usually aged.

Of course, if you have the ingredients and the equipment, whisky can be made anywhere in the world, but there are specific types of whisky that must adhere to a few rules, and even legalities, to earn a certain definition. On top of these definitions, geography also plays in a role in the way you spell the word — as you may have already noticed.

Most countries, like Scotland, Japan, Canada, and others use the spelling "whisky," but any grain spirit made in the U.S. (with a few exceptions) or Ireland is typically written out as "whiskey." The origin of this spelling difference [dates back to](#) the late 19th century, when Irish companies adopted a new spelling to distinguish their product from their Scottish competitors. Later, the American distilleries would follow suit. Further distinctions like "bourbon" and "scotch" must meet both legal and geographical requirements to earn the name.

Bourbon must contain at least 51% corn, and it's made in the United States (mostly Kentucky) and aged in charred oak barrels. Tennessee whiskey is bourbon filtered through charcoal. Irish whiskey must be made in Ireland, Scotch whisky must be made in Scotland, and single malt Scotch must be made from 100% malted barley. And Canadian whisky must contain barley, corn, wheat, and rye and be aged in separate barrels. Japanese whisky production is based on the Scottish model, with both blended and single malt options, and is a relative newcomer to the world. The development of the industry only began in the 1920s, but it has since earned a reputation for its high standards for quality.

Along with the interest in sipping whisky (and whiskey), distillery travel has grown in popularity. Vacationers are visiting the places where their favorite brands are produced and taking tours to see how it's done — with post-tour tastings, of course. The distillery atmosphere and equipment are fascinating, whether it's a modern new facility or a vintage distillery in Scotland or Ireland.

Imagine a trip to the Scottish Highlands inspired by a "wee dram" of Scotch whisky or a vacation along the [Kentucky Bourbon Trail](#) that features not only distilleries, but also camping, bike paths, golf courses, restaurants, and natural wonders. The renaissance of Irish whiskey has led to a number of new distilleries around Ireland, another lovely tour-and-sip destination.

Greene also shared his advice for enjoying whisky at home, telling us that glassware makes a difference, as it does with wine, champagne, and cocktails. "For whisky neat, I have always loved the Riedel Single Malt glass — super fine crystal, clean lip, noses properly," Greene said. "For on the rocks, a large tumbler is my go-to, something sturdy and heavy, with a nice lip."

Fans claim that cigars and whiskey are a perfect match, consumed together slowly along with a picturesque outdoor view and friendly company. Pairings are based on the flavors and intensities of both, and planning can be as thoughtful as matching the perfect wine with each dinner course. At some restaurants and resorts, a tobacconist like Greene is there to offer suggestions.

So, after all, it's up to you to discover the best way to drink whisky, and we hope a few of our ideas will send you in the right direction.

The Scotch whisky industry goes from boom to...more boom?



The Scotch whisky industry is currently in the middle of an era. Quite what that era will be defined or described as won't become clear for another decade or so. For it is usually with the experience and benefit of hindsight that we can apply such labels. For example, the period that followed the industry's catastrophic downturn and distillery closures of the mid 1980's came to be synonymous with and defined 10 to 15 years later as the era of the so-called "whisky loch", due to the huge amount of excess, aged stock sitting around unloved. Similarly, the application of the term "whisky boom" to

any era (e.g. the late 1800's was a boom time for whisky sales and distillery construction) usually has relative context because it was followed by a corresponding "bust" a few years later. (Such as the Pattison-triggered crash in 1898 that followed the boom).

So, in the Scotch whisky industry, how will the 2010's and early 2020's be looked upon and labelled in years to come? It is clearly a time of tremendous enthusiasm and growth: No less than 31 new distilleries were founded and commenced operations in Scotland between 2010 and 2020. Compare this to the state of play in 1999 when roughly 95 distilleries were operating. The last decade has thus seen 30% growth in the number of whisky distilleries!

You can read more about this in Whisky & Wisdom's previous feature piece, [The Scotch whisky distillery building boom](#).

Of course, the big change and growth here is not just the number of operating distilleries, but also their relative scale. At one end of the spectrum, many of the older and long-established distilleries have undergone massive expansion programs, increasing their numbers of mashtuns, washbacks, and stills to greatly increase their output. There are now five distilleries each capable of producing over 12 million litres of alcohol per annum – the two largest of which can each now produce up to 21 million litres. (That's Glenlivet & Glenfiddich. For comparison, back in 2011, the largest malt distillery in Scotland "only" had a capacity of 10.5 million.) At the other end of the spectrum – and where the majority of the newer 31 distilleries sit – there is now a new wave of smaller distilleries with production capacities varying between 20,000 and 400,000 litres. Again, purely for context: Consider that Edradour, the distillery that *used* to market itself for so many years as the "smallest distillery in Scotland" *used* to have an annual capacity of 90,000 litres. Today, there are no less than 17 distilleries with *smaller* production capacities than Edradour! (Although, for full context, Edradour has now increased its output to 260,000 litres. But that's still 17 distilleries making between 20,000 and 259,000 litres!)



Marketed for so many years as "the smallest distillery in Scotland", Edradour's claim on that title was relinquished many years ago now. Hopefully, the message wasn't lost in the telling of those numbers. There is now, evidently, a market for the smaller, dare we say "craft" distilleries in Scotland, and there are plenty of independent operators, partnerships, and consortiums prepared to back new distillery ventures of a size that would once have been considered non-viable. The newer distilleries are capitalising on more modern and energy-efficient production methods, different routes to market, and also innovating with brand partnerships and visitor centre offerings that form part of the business model. Incorporating other spirits into the distillery's production and sales (e.g. gin) has also allowed a new model to flourish. It is a far cry from the consolidation of the 1980's and 1990's when a mere handful of entities owned and controlled the majority of distilleries, and were rooted in very traditional thinking. Meanwhile, the international growth of the big brand blends (Johnnie Walker, Ballantines, Chivas Regals, etc), plus demand for the high-profile single malt brands, is fuelling unprecedented production levels across the board. Witness also the growth in the number of independent bottlers now on the market. It seems everyone is either cashing in or jumping onboard...which, in itself, is a metaphorical canary in the coal mine.



Where will all this lead to? Historically, previous experience tells us that a “bust” is on the way...it’s been the circle (or cycle?) of life for Scotch for 200 years. However, we’ve been saying a bust is on the way for over 10 years now, and yet there are seemingly no signs of slowing. Global interest in the product continues to increase; new international markets continue to open up; and a general affluence across consumerville means plenty of people are splashing out and expanding their whisky horizons. Note also that this is not limited to Scotch whisky – similar growth and expansion is evident in the Irish whiskey industry, the Australian whisky industry, and in North-American whiskies. Japan would arguably have been leading the charge, had their industry not been caught napping ten years earlier. Indian and Taiwanese malt whiskies are also on the rise, as are other new-world whiskies.

Notwithstanding the evident optimism of the preceding paragraph and the current whisky boom, there are some warning signs out there. Rather than repeat *all* those warning signs here, you might like to read our previous feature piece that explored this theme, [Is the tide turning on the Scotch Whisky industry?](#) (An article which, by the way, generated a lot of commentary within the industry at the time and was widely circulated!)

The problem for anyone staring into the crystal ball at the moment and trying to predict the future is that there are a few red herrings and smokescreens around: Sales of Scotch whisky by volume [were in steady decline](#) until 2021, although they were rising by *value*. In other words, the planet was purchasing less bottles of Scotch whisky, but buying more expensive bottles. Hence, the healthy P&L statements of some companies may be papering over a deeper-rooted problem. The biggest smokescreen of all – COVID-19 – drove sales up in almost all drinks categories, as consumers in lockdown increased their alcohol spend whilst shopping online. It remains to be seen how and where consumer spending habits will change as the impact of COVID-19 retreats... yet simultaneously set amongst the backdrop of rapidly rising inflation and the higher costs of living.



Not surprisingly, the rising costs of doing business have hit those making the whisky. The wholesale (and thus retail) prices of some whisky brands have increased significantly as distilleries deal with rising energy costs (i.e. gas) due to the war in Ukraine. One distillery recently shared with W&W that their gas bill had gone up £380,000 per month! One brand recently shared that even the cost of their packaging (i.e. cardboard boxes) had gone up exponentially due to the massive shortage of cardboard in Europe at the moment – supposedly due to the near-monopolisation of cardboard by Amazon for their shipping requirements! (Which was yet another flow-on effect of COVID-19 with people shopping online whilst stuck at home... and now continuing to do so, despite the removal of lockdowns). In a similar vein, one distillery reported the cost of buying in their malted barley had risen by 35% in the last six months, and the cost of acquiring sherry casks had gone up 68% in the last year. It should surprise no one that these rising costs are

eventually borne by the consumer at their local liquor outlet. The retail price for a bottle of whisky can only get so high before businesses are met with price resistance from the consumer. How the industry chooses to deal with this is now the play to watch.

If you listen to all the brand ambassadors, we're in good times, and some will assert we're still in the *middle* of a whisky boom. How long will the good times last? Well, your crystal ball is as good as mine, and it seems neither the optimists nor the pessimists can point to anything too concrete. But even if you take the glass-half-empty position... a half-poured Glencairn is still a generous dram!

Cheers, AD

Loch Lomond Introduces New Single Malts To Celebrate The Open At Royal Liverpool

[Gary Carter - Scotch](#) | April 6, 2023

[Loch Lomond Whiskies](#), also known as "The Spirit of The Open," recently introduced two new limited-edition expressions celebrating a long-standing golf relationship.

Loch Lomond Open Special Edition and Loch Lomond Open Course Collection were recently released to mark the 151st Open at Royal Liverpool, one of golf's most prestigious events. The Open is the sport's original championship, bringing together the best players in the world, who take to the links in July.

A statement from Loch Lomond notes that the two new single malts come in black and silver cartons, meant to capture Loch Lomond Whiskies' distillery style developed using their unique straight neck stills.



Loch Lomond Whiskies, also known as "The Spirit of The Open," recently introduced two new limited-edition expressions celebrating a long-standing golf relationship. (image via Loch Lomond)

Using this distilling method, Master Blender Michael Henry said he has the creative freedom to explore flavor in a more inventive way, shaping the character of the whisky at the point of distillation. The final result is a spirit with a distinctive fruit flavor.

Loch Lomond Open Course Edition is an organic 22-year-old single malt distilled in 2000 on the banks of Loch Lomond, and limited to 4,500 bottles globally.

It was certified organic and distilled in a combination of the straight neck stills and the more traditional swan neck stills. The distiller's notes show that over the course of 22 years of maturation, the orchard fruit intensifies, making a whisky with flavors of tropical fruit, pineapple, mango, grapefruit and vanilla with a hint of toasted oak, ginger and cinnamon on the finish.

The other addition to this year's golf range, Loch Lomond Open Special Edition, was made in partnership with Loch Lomond Whiskies' long-term golf ambassador, Colin Montgomerie.

The whisky was aged in American oak casks before finishing its maturation journey in the red wine Rioja Alta Reserva cask. The distiller's notes show this brings out the whisky's notes of red berry, orchard fruit and creamy vanilla with dark chocolate, featuring a soft smoke on the finish.

Each whisky pack is designed with a QR code that will take consumers to an Augmented Reality digital experience. In addition to seeing the Claret Jug appear in 3D, consumers will be able to access exclusive golf content that celebrates some of the most historic championship moments as well as immersive video content, inspired by The Spirit of The Open.

Master Blender Henry said, "Our golf range is always incredibly popular, and these two new limited-edition single malt whiskies will not disappoint. We have been distilling whisky on the banks of Loch Lomond since 1814, crafting fine single malts which are every bit as delicious as the landscape is stunning. Pushing the boundaries of distillation, we explore new and inventive ways to bring flavor to life."

Loch Lomond The Open Special Edition 2023 clocks in at 46% ABV and has a suggested price of £45. Loch Lomond The Open Course Edition 2023 comes in at 48.2% ABV and costs £240. They're available now at www.lochlomondwhiskies.com, and from specialist whisky retailers starting April 17th.

New Glenfiddich Single Malt Finished In Rare Japanese Awamori Casks

[Gary Carter](#) - [Scotch](#) | April 6, 2023

[Glenfiddich](#) recently introduced the Grand Yozakura, the first single malt Scotch whisky to be finished in rare Japanese Awamori casks.

A statement from the whisky maker notes that this expression is a limited-edition fusion that celebrates some of the finest flavors from Scotland and Japan.

Grand Yozakura is a 29-Year-Old Scotch whisky matured at the Glenfiddich Distillery in Dufftown then finished in oak casks that previously matured the oldest distilled alcoholic spirit in Japan ... Awamori.



Glenfiddich recently introduced the Grand Yozakura, the first single malt Scotch whisky to be finished in rare Japanese Awamori casks. (image via Glenfiddich)

The distiller explained that Awamori is made using long-grain Indica rice and is traditionally stored in clay pots, with only a small proportion matured in oak casks. This makes the liquid extremely rare.

The technique to make the spirit has remained relatively unchanged for more than 500 years.

Grand Yozakura is part of Glenfiddich's premium Grand Series, a collection of single malts characterized by innovative and experimental cask finishing. The collection includes Glenfiddich Gran Reserva (Aged 21 Years), Glenfiddich Grand Cru (Aged 23 Years), and Glenfiddich Grande Couronne (Aged 26 Years).

"We are always looking to experiment with new finishes, so when the chance arose to acquire rare Awamori casks, we saw an opportunity to push the boundaries and experiment with this highly unusual spirit," said Brian Kinsman, malt master for Glenfiddich. "This is the first time that single malt Scotch whisky has been finished in these rare casks. We always learn something new when we lead with innovation, so taking a risk is worth it, and in the case of Awamori, we trialed a very small number of casks at a younger age."

Lorne Cousin, U.S. national ambassador for Glenfiddich, said that Awamori is the oldest distilled alcoholic spirit in Japan, and its diverse range of flavors run deep, like Scotch whisky. "Finishing in Awamori casks for the last six months, this process elevates the liquid with rich oak notes complimenting Glenfiddich's signature smooth taste."

Grand Yozakura is the first in the Grand Series of expressions that are finished in rare casks from around the world, honoring a cultural celebration from that country.

The statement explained that Glenfiddich's Grand Yozakura expression celebrates Hanami, the cherry blossom festival when Japan appreciates the temporal beauty of nature through the sakura (cherry blossoms).

Grand Yozakura's bespoke bottle and stopper feature Hanko stamp engraving, a label tear design with Hanko stamp embossing, and a decorated fabric capsule with a traditional poem on sakura.

The bottle is placed in a rotating Grand Range box with cherry blossom florals, bringing Hanami to life with a signature illustration created by Japanese artist June, who creates visions incorporating Japanese culture and landscapes.

Grand Yozakura clocks in at 45.1% ABV and is available in limited quantities at select retail in the U.S. with a suggested retail price of \$1,999.

Enthusiasts have the opportunity to secure an option to purchase one of the limited-edition bottles in select markets through a ballot process available at the web site www.glenfiddich.com. The ballot closes on April 20th.

Kavalan sales soar 169% in South Korea

11 APRIL 2023 By Nicola Carruthers

Sales of Kavalan whisky climbed by 169% in South Korea last year, led by triple-digit gains in travel retail.



L-R: King Car CEO Albert Lee and Cui Yong Xi, vice-president of Golden Blue

Kavalan's distributor, Golden Blue, said sales of the Taiwanese whisky brand continue to exceed expectations in South Korea.

Kavalan's travel retail sales soared by 115% in 2022.

The brand's sales were boosted by the appearance of Kavalan Solist Oloroso Sherry in *Decision to Leave*, a South Korean film released in 2022 and directed by Park Chan-wook.

There are 12 expressions available in Korea, including the Kavalan Classic, Distillery Select, Solist Oloroso Sherry, Oloroso Sherry, and Solist Port whiskies.

Cui Yong Xi, vice-president of Golden Blue, which has exclusively distributed Kavalan since 2017, said: "Since its launch in Korea, the market share of Kavalan has steadily increased, creating a whirlwind in the domestic whisky market. We will develop a localisation goal."

King Car Group established Taiwan's first whisky distillery in 2006, which produces Kavalan single malt.

Albert Lee, CEO of King Car Group, said: "We expect more consumers to seek out Kavalan due to our emphasis on quality and flavour, the expansion of the international whisky market in Korea and the boom in single malt whisky."

Cyndi Lin, director of international business development, said the brand would release new products and limited edition designs for the South Korean market.

The company is also planning marketing events to target Millennial and Gen Z drinkers.

In February, the Taiwanese whisky producer secured a listing with alcohol retailer Symposion to [release four expressions](#) in Sweden.

Jura uses pale ale casks for new whisky

11 APRIL 2023 By Alice Brooker

Whyte & Mackay-owned Scotch producer Jura has added a single malt matured in pale ale casks to its Cask Edition Series.



The 700ml bottling clocks in at 40% ABV

Jura Pale Ale Cask Edition has been produced from a 'relationship forged' between Jura's whisky makers and local breweries during the lockdowns of 2020 and 2021.

During lockdown, Jura's whisky makers, [Gregg Glass](#) and Joe Ricketts, came together with local craft brewers to source beer casks.

The bottling joins three others in the Cask Editions Series – [Jura Winter Edition](#), Jura Red Wine Cask Edition and [Jura Rum Cask Finish](#).

The ongoing collaborative seasoning programme is a testament to the tiny island community and ongoing resourcefulness of the population, the brand said.

On the nose, the whisky opens with aromas of honeyed cereal, vanilla spice and hints of pineapple.

The palate delivers bright and fruity flavours, alongside notes of sweet citrus and a subtle, tropical hop character.

This is rounded off with vanilla and a smooth and creamy finish.

The 40% ABV single malt whisky is described as 'perfect for beer lovers looking to get into whisky', and for whisky drinkers looking for something 'different'.

The 700ml bottle of Jura Pale Ale Cask Edition is now available in the UK from retailers including Tesco, with a pricetag of RRP £35 (US\$43.55).

Liquid gold? Here's the sobering truth about investing in whisky

Buying casks in the hope they increase in value sounds attractive, but industry experts warn of pitfalls

[Shane Hickey](#)

Mon 10 Apr 2023 09.00 BST

At first glance, it's an attractive prospect for young investors: buy a cask of whisky and enjoy double-digit returns in the process. Ads for schemes to buy some of Scotland's finest are constant features on social media – but the perils and pitfalls are not.

Young investors are increasingly being targeted on Instagram with schemes to buy their own whisky casks, but the unregulated area has become awash with misunderstanding, misconception and occasionally fraud. "It leaves room for unscrupulous people to take advantage. Some may offer what they claim to be rare and expensive whisky but is in fact nothing of the sort," says Sarah Coles at investment platform Hargreaves Lansdown.

"Others will claim to be able to offer guaranteed returns in order to get people to part with their cash, but you can never guarantee a sale price upfront.

Some will even be offering you the chance to buy casks that don't exist."

The offer

With the growth of alternative investments, such as art or fine wine, has come fresh interest in buying whisky casks: barrels of different sizes, which typically start at between £2,500 and £5,000. The simple idea is that the cask is held in storage for what can be decades, by which time it has matured into something that will have much greater value when it is ready to be bottled.

The companies that have popped up to help people invest their money are quick to point out the successes – such as when a cask of 1988 Macallan was [sold for £1m at auction](#), having originally been bought for just £5,000.

What they don't often highlight are the problems. Last year a British man was arrested by the FBI in the US in connection with an alleged whisky cask investment scam.

Theodora Lee Joseph of Finimize, a financial analysis company, says the growth in alternative investments, such as whisky, is a reaction to disappointing returns for some investors from the stock market at a time of high interest rates, and because younger investors are more likely to put money into schemes they have seen on social media. She says: “The trouble is, the majority of them may not be experienced investors who own a well-rounded portfolio, which makes whisky cask investing much riskier.”

The claims

Companies that claim very healthy returns are giving “dubious at best” promises, says Richard Woodard of The [Whisky World](#), an online drinks retailer. “They’re often based on historical figures that date back to a time when whisky was an undervalued commodity – so don’t be fooled by the seemingly astronomical potential returns, and remember that nothing is guaranteed.”

The final value of the whisky is also dependent on what it will be worth when it is ready for sale – which could be 20 or 30 years into the future.

Coles says whether or not people make money is dependent on the standard of the whisky when it is ready for sale. “It doesn’t always go up in value, so there are never any guarantees. It depends on you knowing enough to make the right decision about what to invest in, and then for you to be lucky.”

The fraudsters

With a lack of regulation comes the potential for fraud, sometimes in the most simple ways. Woodard says: “A whisky cask is essentially an open container – it has a bung in it which is easily removed and replaced – so it would be relatively simple for crooks to top up the casks with inferior liquid, or to replace that liquid altogether.”

Mark Littler, a Cheshire-based whisky consultant, says establishing the ownership of a whisky cask is vital to ensure that the investor can prove they own it. The standard in the industry is for a delivery order to be signed by the buyer and the seller of the cask, and then acknowledged by the warehouse where it is stored.

He says: “If you have received a certificate of ownership, a deed of title, or anything that isn’t a signed document acknowledged by the warehouse, then chances are that you do not own your cask at the warehouse level. If you don’t own your cask, you cannot verify its existence with the warehouse, and you do not have full control of your asset and therefore your money.”

Investors also need to be aware that bottling a cask of whisky brings extra costs, which greatly reduce how much the investor gets back, Littler says. “What people will often do is get a 250 litre cask and figure out how many bottles are in it, and divide the purchase price by the number of bottles, and you’ll get an obscenely cheap price per bottle,” he says.



The Macallan distillery in Aberdeenshire, Scotland. A 1988 cask of its whisky was auctioned for £1m in April this year. Photograph: PA Images/Alamy
“But that removes every single bit of tax and VAT and duty that comes into the equation. You know, you’re looking at 20% VAT on the purchase price of the cask, duty at £28.74 per litre of alcohol, plus VAT ... so tax on a tax. You’re looking at bottling costs, labelling costs, design of the carton, box costs, distribution margins, retail margins, wholesaler margins,” he says.

“The first thing might be £20, and when you compare it to the price of the bottle in the shop, you see £40 and think ‘that’s good’. But when you start putting all the taxes into it, it might be coming out at £60 or £70, and you’ve not even got the trademarks to sell the whisky.”

If there is a return to be made, it will not usually be made quickly. Littler says casks should be seen as a minimum 10-year investment.

The rules

London Cask Traders, a whisky investment company that advertises on social media, says that even though there is no Financial Conduct Authority regulation of the buying and selling of casks, there is a certain level of regulation and compliance, as HM Revenue and Customs requires firms to hold a “warehouse keepers and owners of warehoused goods regulations” (WOWGR) licence. This allows the holder to legally buy, sell and store goods in HMRC-bonded warehouses.

“HMRC undertakes extensive checks prior to issuing revenue traders with these licences, which include director and shareholder background checks, business plans, letters of intent from suppliers and potential customers,” says Oliver Court from London Cask Traders.

“We always urge clients to only deal with whisky brokerages which hold the valid WOWGR certification.”

Court says potential investors should contact other brokerages to do price comparisons, invest in prominent distilleries and have all relevant documents.

Berry Bros invests in Cotswolds Distillery

05 APRIL 2023 By Nicola Carruthers

British wine and spirits merchant Berry Bros & Rudd has acquired a minority stake in England's largest whisky producer, The Cotswolds Distillery.



The Cotswolds Distillery is based in Stourton, Shipston-on-Stour

The investment was part of the English distillery's 'Cotswolds 2.0' funding round, which included existing and new private investors. Financial terms of the deal were not disclosed.

The distillery aimed to raise funds to boost production and sales of Cotswolds Single Malt Whisky.

In August, Cotswolds Distillery [raised £3 million \(US\\$3.6m\)](#) to quadruple its annual alcohol production.

Cotswolds Distillery founder Daniel Szor said: "We could not be more delighted with the results of our funding round, in particular our new partnership with Berry Brothers who like us stand for excellence in fine spirits, as we further build our brand through increased national and international distribution."

The producer aims to increase its annual sales by 15%, and plans to hit £25m (US\$29.6m) turnover by 2030.



Sample The Sweeter Side With These 11 Rum Cask Finished Whiskies

March 22, 2023 — [Danny Brandon](#)

Cask finishing whisky is an art dating back centuries—and it is indeed an art, as any whisky maker will tell you that there's a fine line between finishing and over-finishing. But its origins are rooted in practicality: Britain's wine and spirits importers filled their emptied wine casks with whisky as a matter of thrift but soon discovered that it improved the taste. The barrels in question mainly held sherry and various other wines, but rum casks were in the mix too, albeit far less prominently.

Revived in the modern era by such whisky luminaries as David Stewart of Balvenie and Dr. Bill Lumsden of Glenmorangie, cask-finished whiskies are often a fan favorite, and while rum finishing remains less widely seen than port or sherry, the practice has spread far and wide. Hans Stafsholt, head distiller at the Colorado craft player Breckenridge Distillery, praises its unique benefits. In addition to making whisky, Breckenridge produces rum and then uses the rum barrels to finish its rum cask-finished bourbon. "Rum imparts such a beautiful, sweet, intricate, and unique flavor when it's introduced to other spirits," he says. "The rum cask brings a whole new addition to the whiskey—flavors of cola, cinnamon, tropical fruit, and chocolate."

As noted, the process is not without its hurdles. One of them is matching the right barrel with a given whiskey. "Finding the perfect extraction of spices is key in creating the unique flavor of the spirit," says Stafsholt. "It all comes down to timing, and requires a lot of patience." Provenance can also matter, as Caribbean rums can carry vastly different flavor profiles from their cousins from Central America and elsewhere.

But whether you're a whisky lover looking to substitute your usual sipper for something different, or if you're a rum fan looking to trek into the world of whisky, check out some of these 11 rum cask-finished whiskies.

11 Rum Cask Finished Whiskies to Try



Angel's Envy Rum Finished Rye, 50%, \$90

Angel's Envy finishes all of its whiskeys in barrels that held other types of alcohol. This rye spends up to 18 months in Caribbean rum barrels.



Balvenie Caribbean Cask 14 year old Single Malt Scotch, 43%, \$90

Following a 14-year maturation in traditional oak barrels, this Speyside scotch is finished in West Indian, Caribbean rum barrels for 5 to 6 months.



Bardstown Bourbon Company's Collaboration Series Plantation Rum Finished Bourbon, 52%, \$160
Released in collaboration with Plantation Rum, this 10 year old Tennessee bourbon is finished in Jamaican rum barrels for 22 months.



Breckenridge Rum Cask Finish Bourbon, 45%, \$60
This blended bourbon is finished in Breckenridge Distillery's own Colorado rum barrels.



Chicken Cock's Island Rooster Rye, 47.5%, \$200

This Kentucky straight rye is finished in Caribbean rum barrels for at least 6 months.



Glenfiddich 21 year old Gran Reserva Single Malt Scotch, 40%, \$250

Following its 21-year maturation, Gran Reserva is finished in Caribbean rum casks for 4 to 6 months.



Pike Creek 10 year old Rum Barrel Finish Canadian, 42%, \$30

Hailing from Windsor, Ontario, this undergoes a year-long finish in rum casks. The barrels are sourced from the Caribbean and come from an even mix of Navy and Amber rums.



Redemption Rum Cask Finish Rye, 47%, \$50

Redemption put their signature 95% rye through a finishing stage in Jamaican and Barbadian rum barrels for up to 14 months.



Sagamore Spirit Rum Cask Finish Rye, 49%, \$80

This blend is made from a selection of 5 and 6 year old ryes. Before the whiskeys are blended, they are each finished separately for 10 months in Jamaican and South American rum barrels.



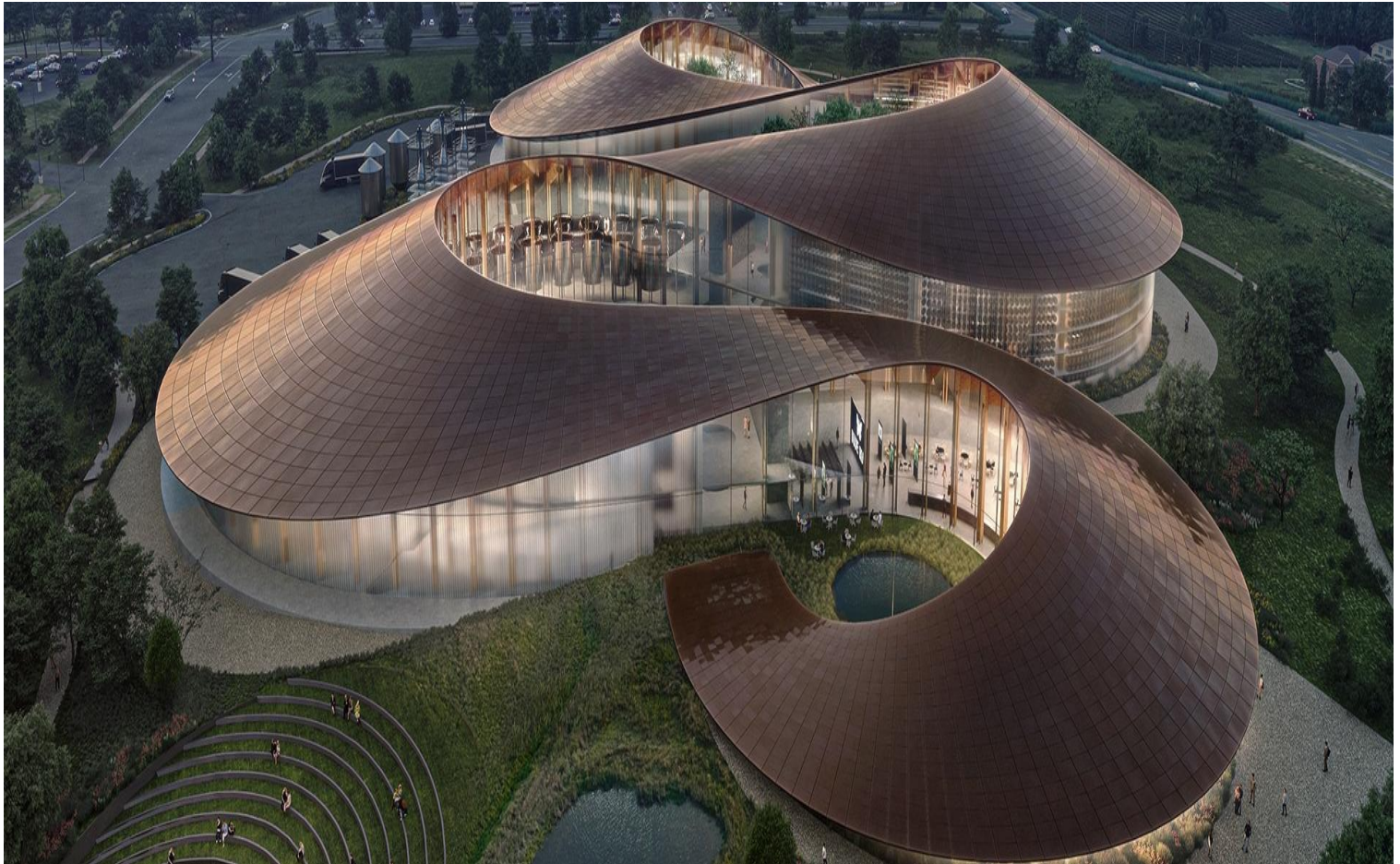
Teeling Small Batch Irish, 46%, \$35

Comprised of a 3:1 ratio of corn-based and malt-based whiskeys that are matured separately for up to 6 years in bourbon barrels before being married together in Central American rum barrels over the course of 6-12 months.



Westward Whiskey Rum Cask-Finished American Single Malt, 50%, \$100

Westward chose Casa Magdalena rum barrels from Guatemala to finish this expression.



Not Your Father's Distillery: Blue Run Plans A Stunning New Headquarters

March 27, 2023 — [Julia Higgins](#)

Blue Run Spirits launched in 2020 to great anticipation—mainly because its roster included Jim Rutledge, taking on his first major whiskey role since retiring from Four Roses in 2015. In the few years since then, the company has gained a high profile with a slew of well-received bourbons and ryes with Rutledge serving as liquid advisor. Some were contract distilled by Rutledge at Castle & Key, and the rest have come from Bardstown Bourbon Co. Blue Run co-founder and CEO Mike Montgomery says the company has grown 300% year-over-year, and sold close to 200,000 bottles last year. Now it's making a big leap by building its own distillery.

Blue Run is set to break ground later this year on a 35,000-square-foot distillery and a 20,000-square-foot rickhouse in Georgetown, Kentucky, a small city on the outskirts of Lexington. Plans have been drawn up by Bjarke Ingels Group, the Danish architecture firm behind the Google headquarters, Noma restaurant, and other major projects.

At the heart of the distillery's design is the Royal Spring, from which Blue Run gets its name (one of the co-founders nicknamed the spring "the blue run"). The structural design, called "Meander," will mimic the winding path that water takes from the ground to the bottle. Other details will include a roof made entirely of solar paneling. A visitor center will also be part of the mix, and production is expected to come onstream by 2025. Fans will have to wait a bit longer to taste the distillery's whiskey, of course. But they needn't worry because Blue Run's current contract distilling partnerships will remain in place. Since launching, Blue Run has released over a dozen whiskeys, most of which have been limited. Even after it amps up its own production, the releases are likely to remain small and micro batch, Montgomery says.



The Tower Suite Bar, located in Wynn Tower Suites, is a whisky lovers escape from the casino floor with more than 100 whiskeys, many rare and small batch. JEFF GREEN

A Whiskey Lover's Guide to Wynn Las Vegas

March 30, 2023 — [Larry Olmsted](#)

The [Wynn Las Vegas](#) mega-resort is anchored by the connected Wynn and Encore hotels, each of which in turn has an even more luxurious boutique "Tower Suites" hotel within it. These twins are linked by casinos, spas, retail therapy, live entertainment, amenities, and a mind-boggling array of bars, restaurants, and lounges. Wynn is the only hotel on the Strip with a golf course, a stunning Tom Fazio design that has drawn pro athletes like Super Bowl champs Tom Brady and Patrick Mahomes. With all these offerings, the resort has become a favorite destination for those in search of pampering, wellness, food, golf, and increasingly, whisky.

Since the resort hired Mariena Mercer Boarini as master mixologist two years ago she has overseen—and overhauled—most of the cocktail menus and whisky lists for the 34 watering holes within Wynn, a couple of which are entirely new venues. While each has its own signature drinks and whisky list, many share in the extensive, resort-wide "Wynn Single Barrel Selects" custom label program, which includes 13 only-here offerings from Blanton's, Buffalo Trace, E.H. Taylor, Eagle Rare, Weller (Full Proof), Elijah Craig (11 year old), Knob Creek, Knob Creek rye, two stave profile editions of Maker's Mark, WhistlePig rye (12 year old), and Woodford Reserve.

Beyond this, some venues are more whisky-centric than others, and leading the charge is the [Tower Suite Bar](#), a must-visit for fans of brown spirits. It's the lobby bar of the swank Wynn Tower Suites, the smaller luxury hotel hidden within the Wynn side of the resort, and a wonderfully civilized escape from the frenetic casino floor. Separating the bar from the elevator banks is a glass-enclosed display wall of whiskeys, the Tower Suite Private Whiskey Collection, containing more than 70 rare and small batch offerings. The focus is domestic, with an emphasis on Nevada's acclaimed H&C Distilling, known for its coveted Smoke Wagon series. The Small Batch and often a couple of others including the rarest, 10 year old Desert Jewel. The rest of the American selection includes sought-after labels like Pappy Van Winkle (15 and 23 year olds), Kentucky Owl Dry State, five expressions of Michter's (including rye and 20 year old), five W.L. Weller bottlings, O.F.C. 1995, Van Winkle Family Reserve Rye 13 year old, and WhistlePig Boss Hog. The small but curated scotch list includes extravaganzas like Macallan 25 year old and Johnnie Walker King George, and there are several increasingly hard-to-find Japanese favorites, such as Yamazaki (12 and 18 year olds), Hibiki (Harmony and 21 year old), Nikka From the Barrel, and Hakushu 12 year old. That's just the Private Collection, which runs the gamut from \$14 for Jefferson's Reserve to \$675 for Michter's Celebration Sour Mash. The bar also has a "regular" whiskey list with more widely available bourbon, rye, Canadian, Irish, Tennessee, scotch whiskeys, and Wynn's Single Barrel Selects. All in all, there are more than 100 options at the Tower Suites Bar alone.



Overlook Lounge. ROBERT MILLER

The newest bar on the property is the high-end [Overlook Lounge](#), perched on the edge of the casino floor, looking out on the gaming action and looking down on another swank bar, Parasol, and the resort's Lake of Dreams. Overlook features a notable oddity, The Brando, a modern take on a long-overlooked cocktail, the 1880's New York Sour. It's made with WhistlePig rye 10 year old, lemongrass, ginger, and malbec wine. More popular here is another signature whiskey drink, the Gable, a play on an Old Fashioned. This has Angel's Envy Port Barrel Finished bourbon, St. George Spiced Pear liqueur, and cinnamon-raisin syrup.

"We have a different signature Old Fashioned at almost every bar here," said Boarini. "The cocktail is very popular with our guests, it is such a beautiful vehicle for tasting whiskey, and it lets me get really creative."

The other newly added bar is the [Aft Cocktail Deck](#), outdoors on the lake with a "super yacht" theme and tropically inspired cocktails. The late-night menu includes carafe-sized cocktails made tableside from fixings presented on a gold tray, including the house take on the Old Fashioned, called the Niagara, with Woodford Reserve, apple brandy, and blood orange.



[Little Bubble Bar at Delilah](#). ROBERT MILLER

[Delilah](#) is Wynn's ultra-popular and always booked-up supper club restaurant with throwback dishes, live music, and a Hollywood Golden Age theme. Hidden inside is the cozy [Little Bubble Bar](#), whose signature Old Fashioned is the Film Noir, with Basil Hayden Dark rye, apple brandy, and coconut chia syrup. "I chose the Basil Hayden Dark rye because it's an artful blend of Kentucky and Canadian Rye and California port for a nuanced spirit with notes of subtle molasses and dart fruit," said Boarini.

[Bar Parasol](#) looks out onto the Lake of Dreams and has long been one of the most popular spots in Wynn to grab a drink, and the entire place was just redone. While the emphasis here is on champagne, caviar, and martinis, it also has a list of over 30 whiskies from the U.S., Canada, Ireland, Japan, and Scotland, featuring the usual suspects with some upscale exceptions including WhistlePig Boss Hog, Johnnie Walker Blue, and Hibiki.

But surprisingly, some of the best places to have drinks in Wynn are not bars at all, but rather in the fine-dining eateries. [Mizumi](#), Wynn's Forbes 4-Star Japanese specialist, features cocktails like the Burnt Old Fashioned, with Mars Iwai 45 whisky, Okinawa black sugar, orange bitters, and burnt persimmon. In Japan, many diners drink whisky Highballs with meals instead of wine or beer, and here they offer classic Highballs made with your choice of Japanese whiskies from a curated list. Or you enjoy them on their own.

[SW Steakhouse](#) was featured on the Food Network's television show "The Best Thing I Ever Ate," and was one of the first handful of restaurants in the country to import Japanese Wagyu beef after the USDA ban was lifted. Befitting a steakhouse, several cocktails are whiskey-based, and there is also an impressive list. The Old Fashioned spinoff here features WhistlePig rye, chocolate, and chai spices, and there's a seasonal Whiskey Sour that usually uses a Wynn single barrel. The list has dozens of options including 25 bourbons (Elmer T. Lee, Rhetoric 22 year old, Smoke Wagon, Pappy Van Winkle 15, 20, and 23 year olds), 14 ryes (Hochstadter's Family Reserve 16 year old, Pappy Van Winkle 13 year old, Sazerac 18 year old), a handful of Japanese (including Yamazaki 12 year old and Nikka Yoichi), and a couple of dozen scotches.

[Sinatra](#) also garners 4-Stars, making it one of the highest-ranked Italian specialists in Las Vegas. The fine-dining restaurant is a partnership with the Sinatra family, and as such, the rare and amazing memorabilia on display includes his Emmy, Grammy, and Oscar for "From Here to Eternity." But this is no Planet Hollywood or Hard Rock, and all of this is elegantly housed in museum-quality displays, while the menu includes actual Sinatra family recipes, and favorites of the Chairman of the Board.

Sinatra was famous for his love of Jack Daniel's, his preferred drink being three fingers over two ice cubes, and as such they have hosted special pairing dinners with the famous Tennessee distillery. But on any night you can soak in the unique atmosphere here and try the Jack Daniel's Sinatra Select or have a Sinatra Smash cocktail, with Wynn's own private label Jack Daniel's Single Barrel, crème de cassis, muddled fresh blackberries, and vanilla sweet-and-sour syrup. The Sinatra Smash is also the signature cocktail at the [Eastside Lounge](#), a hidden gem that is great for pre-dinner drinks, overlooking the Encore pool with live pianists nightly. Sinatra would have been right at home in Wynn, and for any whisky lover, there is no shortage of options to choose from.

Ardbeg launches Fèis Ìle single malt

04 APRIL 2023 By Alice Brooker

Islay-based Ardbeg has released a limited edition single malt called Heavy Vapours to mark this year's Fèis Ìle music and malt festival.



The whisky has been released in celebration of Fèis Ìle

A first for the brand, Ardbeg Heavy Vapours has been distilled without a purifier, which is the apparatus on the still responsible for maintaining the brand's balance between extreme peat and floral fruitiness.

Director of whisky creation Dr Bill Lumsden allowed the 'heaviest and untamed vapours' to rise up the still during the distillation process, before being captured, matured and bottled.

On the nose, smokey sweet aromas are delivered, while on the palate, bittersweet flavours of coal dust, peppermint, cardamom, and dark chocolate are presented.

Lumsden commented: "A missing purifier is unprecedented for Ardbeg. This experiment was something I've always imagined trying – what would happen to the flavour and character of Ardbeg as we know and love it, by distilling in this unique way?"

"Well, it's now time for Ardbeg fans to find out; this is a full-blown dram where Ardbeg's exalted balance has been disrupted in the most fantastic of ways – a truly captivating dram."

The release has been timed to mark Fèis Ìle, taking place 26 May to 3 June, and Ardbeg Day, which is held on the last Saturday of the event (3 June). In addition the brand is adding a 'dramatic new storyline' to its comic book Planet Ardbeg that will be revealed alongside the new expression's launch. The storyline covers the distillation process of Heavy Vapours, and has been brought to life by comic artist and illustrator Dilraj Mann.

The plot follows Agent 46 (an alias for Jackie Thomson, Ardbeg visitor centre manager and committee chair) – a plucky interplanetary detective on a quest to locate the elusive purifier and restore Ardbeg's signature balance.

Fans are invited to celebrate Planet Ardbeg Day by attending Fèis Ìle on 3 June as their favourite Ardbeg-inspired hero, comic character or mythical creature.

Colin Gordon, Ardbeg distillery manager, said: "The time has almost come again where we call on Ardbeg fans and whisky lovers across the world to celebrate Planet Ardbeg Day with us, be that on Islay at the distillery or at one of our events around the world.

"Our 2023 theme will be a celebration of our Planet Ardbeg graphic novel universe, where we'll be uncovering the mysteries behind our latest limited edition release, Ardbeg Heavy Vapours. We can't wait to celebrate this iconic date in the whisky calendar with our global community again soon."

For those who can't make it on the day, Lumsden will be hosting an Ardbeg Heavy Vapours masterclass on ardbeg.com.

Ardbeg Heavy Vapours will be available to buy worldwide from Ardbeg Embassies, whisky specialists, online retailers, and from the distillery visitor centre for RRP £120 (US\$150).

The brand recently launched its first limited edition barbecue-inspired whisky, called [Ardbeg BizarreBQ](#).

Fettercairn completes Warehouse Collection

04 APRIL 2023 By Nicola Carruthers

Highland distillery Fettercairn has released a whisky finished in three different beer barrels as the final bottling in its Warehouse Collection.



Fettercairn Warehouse 14 is the final bottling in the Warehouse Collection

The fifth and final release in the range, called Warehouse 14, used three different beer barrels: stout, dark ale, and pale ale.

The limited edition single malt whisky was matured in first-fill and second-fill ex-Bourbon barrels and bottled at 51.2% ABV.

[Gregg Glass, master whisky maker](#), said: “The response to our first four warehouse releases has been incredibly encouraging. Our ethos with the Fettercairn Warehouse Collection was to offer a taste of the experiments laid down here, with each limited edition expression exploring different flavour characteristics that enhance our unique tropical house style.

“With the release of Warehouse 14 we were looking to create another new expression of our house style, building on the influence of ex-Bourbon casks, which work very well with our distinctive tropical notes, whilst exploring the unique influence of casks sourced from local craft beer producers.”

Fettercairn’s signature tropical fruit profile is created using a cooling ring, which ensures ‘only the purest vapours rise’.

The new Warehouse 14 whisky offers notes of vanilla and honey on the nose, followed by flavours of ‘warm toasty maltiness, tropical fruits with layers of crème caramel, apricot tart, cacao, soft wood spices and a pleasing nuttiness’.

The previous four releases in the Collection were from Warehouse 2, but for the final whisky, Fettercairn chose a warehouse from the opposite side of the distillery, which overlooks the Cairngorms.

Fettercairn Warehouse 14 is available in select markets, including the UK, Germany, the Netherlands, Belgium and France. It is priced at RRP £70 (US\$87).

Coffee Review: Don Pablo Canadian Whisky And Maple Infused Coffee

[Jacob Wirt](#) - March 27, 2023

The [coffee/whiskey cocktail](#) is, in my experience, a tough nut to crack. The combination of two acquired tastes can pose a challenge even for those such as myself who’ve acquired both. Coffee’s bitterness and whiskey’s sweetness have the potential to strike a delicate balance when the right beans meet the right juice in the right proportions. But identifying the right balance of mutually supporting flavors is a trial and error process which, I’ll admit, I’ve never managed to follow through.

Florida based coffee roaster [Don Pablo](#) offers something of a shortcut to this process by infusing their Arabica beans with whiskey. According to Don Pablo’s promotional materials, they soak the beans in Bourbon, Irish, or Canadian whiskeys before the drying and roasting process which preserves the flavors imparted by the booze while burning off any but the most stubbornly residual alcohol. This process deftly sidesteps the persistent philosophical question posed by coffee cocktails– is it an upper or a downer?

I sampled three whiskey-infused coffees by grinding the beans at a medium-coarse setting and brewing for 3 minutes in a french press. Per the recommendation on Don Pablo’s website (which, conveniently, aligned exactly with my own personal preferences), I took my coffee black without any additional sweetener and share my experience with the Canadian Whiskey and Maple infused offering here in a whiskey review format.



We review Don Pablo Canadian Whisky And Maple Infused Coffee, in which the beans are soaked in Canadian whisky before the drying and roasting process to preserve the flavors imparted by the booze. (image via Don Pablo)

Tasting Notes: Don Pablo Canadian Whisky And Maple Infused Coffee

Appearance: Deep black of course, but a spectrometer would be required to be more specific and I don't have one handy, slightly thick due to my method of preparation (french press), with a small amount of oiliness showing at the top of the mug.

Nose: Mild aroma of toffee with a hint of spice.

Palate: This was pretty unassuming on the nose but has more personality on the palate. A bit of milk chocolate, but more so the tich, complicated sweetness of maple and honey with just a little "shiny" alcoholic taste in the background. To my palate, the honey flavor actually makes a bigger impression than the maple and leads to a fading, earthy, rye-like spice finish.

Final Thoughts: Interesting as a novelty item that's fun for a cup or two, but there's nothing here that makes me want to stop buying my usual beans. Coffee and whiskey are a decent pairing, with the bitterness of the roast and the malt sweetness balancing each other out and the rye whiskey imparts a muted, but noticeable zip of spice to this cup of joe.

The World's Best Single Malt Whisky—According To The 2023 World Whiskies Awards

[Brad Japhe](#) - Senior Contributor

Apr 2, 2023,03:30am EDT



An Israeli single malt takes home the prize for best whisky at the 2023 World Whiskies Awards

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY: BRAD JAPHE

[At a special event on March 30th in London](#), the World Whiskies Awards announced the winners for some of its most coveted categories. Hundreds of distillers and industry veterans in attendance that night patiently awaited the big reveal: World's Best Single Malt. And many of them might still be busy picking their jaws up off the ballroom floor. The grand prize went *not* to a producer from the major malt making regions of Scotland, Ireland or Japan. Instead it was collected by [M&H out of Tel Aviv](#). Yes, the Tel Aviv in Israel.

The distillery, formerly known as Milk & Honey, won the accolade for its Sherry Cask expression—non-chill filtered and bottled at 46% ABV. Now we've got some exclusive words with the man responsible for crafting it, head distiller Tomer Goren.

But first we're going to tell you a little bit about what this now-iconic liquid tastes like. Initially released in mid-2020, M&H Sherry Cask is part of the brand's Elements series which focuses on unique components of maturation. To wit, it is actually the first whisky ever to be aged in Kosher sherry casks from the Jerez region of Spain. In the hot and arid Middle Eastern climate, the application of this cooperage has imbued the underlying whisky with a thumping melody of red fruit, dark chocolate and, ultimately, tobacco. It's a complicated symphony to consider and one which lingers on the palate for far longer than you might suspect from a non-age-statement offering.

PROMOTED

Though we don't know exactly how old this whisky is, M&H only started laying down liquid back in 2014. So, at the absolute oldest it's still under a decade. This sort of depth detected after relatively few years in the cask is a testament to the benefits of accelerated aging experienced in this particular part of the world. Best of all, *you* can detect it on American shelves for a retail price of [\\$65 per bottle](#). We can't guarantee that price will hold after the news of this past week. But we can provide you with some insight on what M&H is up to next. Tomer Goren is interviewed below.



The Glenlivet Breaks the Rules with 'Goonlivet' Scotch in a Box Release

[Aimee O'Keefe](#), Last Updated: 31 Mar 2023 | News

The release of a new format by [The Glenlivet](#) is breaking all the rules, and we're here for it. Enter the Goonlivet. Rethinking every possible convention when it comes to the age-old revered tradition that is whisky-drinking, this 12-year-old single malt scotch [whisky](#) comes in a 1.5-litre 'bag-in-box', yes, just like the goon boxes that graced your teenage years.

Featuring a gold tap for easy pouring and a foil bag to maintain the quality of the award-winning single malt Scotch. The team behind it all worked alongside some of Australia's top bartenders to test the prototype for cocktail-making functionality and create a flawless design.



Goonlivet | Image: The Glenlivet

Perhaps you thought you'd never return to the humble boxed beverage, but turns out there are a lot of good things when it comes to alcohol in boxed variety. It's perfect for bartenders and at-home cocktail mixing, plus is portable (perfect for bringing along to parties or BBQs) and doesn't break! – a truly quintessential Aussie innovation.

The exciting launch builds on The Glenlivet's global brand heritage which goes by the philosophy 'Original by Tradition', an ethos that has seen the single-malt brand founded in 1824 defy many whisky conventions and encourage Aussies to drink scotch in new ways.

"The new format is a natural evolution of everything The Glenlivet brand stands for – to reach a new style of whisky drinker," said Eric Thomson, Global Marketing Director Pernod Ricard.

"It's a game changer. It's so easy to make and serve cocktails, whilst The Goonlivet creates a new kind of theatre behind the bar – as it clearly stands out," said Sarah Proietti, ALIA Bartender of the Year & Venue Manager at Maybe Sammy.

What's even better? To celebrate, The Glenlivet has partnered with top Sydney bar Maybe Sammy to launch the whisky, along with Australian Bartender of the Year, Sarah Proietti. Maybe Sammy will also be serving 'Goon Fashioned' cocktails from April 1. And before you even ask, sadly yes, this is an April Fool's joke, but Sydney-siders are lucky buggers and there's an exclusive cocktail to be had at Maybe Sammy – [one of our favourite bars in Sydney](#) – to celebrate.

Loch Lomond marks The Open 2023

30 MARCH 2023 By Nicola Carruthers

Scotch producer Loch Lomond Whiskies has released two limited edition single malts to celebrate this year's Open golf tournament.



Loch Lomond has released two whiskies as part of its partnership with The Open golf competition

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

Loch Lomond Open Special Edition and Loch Lomond Open Course Collection have been released to mark The 151st Open competition at Royal Liverpool this July.

Michael Henry, Loch Lomond Whiskies master blender, said: "The Open is one of the most prestigious events in the world of golf and we are proud to be a part of the journey, supporting the 151st championship with this incredible range of limited edition whiskies."

Loch Lomond Open Course Edition is a 22-year-old single malt whisky distilled in 2000 on the banks of Loch Lomond. Only 4,500 bottles are available globally, priced at RRP £240 (US\$297).

The 48.2% ABV single malt is said to offer notes flavours of tropical fruit, pineapple, mango, grapefruit and vanilla with a hint of toasted oak, ginger and cinnamon on the finish.

Meanwhile, the Special Edition bottling was created in partnership with Loch Lomond Whiskies' long-term golf ambassador, Colin Montgomerie. Bottled at 46% ABV, it is priced at RRP £45 (US\$55.60).

The whisky was matured in American oak casks before being finished in Rioja Alta Reserva casks. The resulting liquid has notes of red berry, orchard fruit and creamy vanilla with dark chocolate, and soft smoke on the finish.

The packaging for the new whiskies features a QR code that leads consumers to an augmented reality experience, providing access to exclusive golf content.

Both expressions are available to buy from Loch Lomond's website now, and will be on sale at specialist whisky retailers from 17 April.

Last month, Loch Lomond [launched Noble Rebel](#), a new blended malt whisky brand created to 'push boundaries in the pursuit of flavour creation'.

The World's Most Wanted Single Malts

Single malt has always been a Scottish specialty, but the old favorites are being challenged by some unlikely newcomers.

[Don Kavanagh](#)·Tuesday, 28-Mar-2023



© Shutterstock | The world of whiskey is branching out from bonnie Scotland.

Move over Bonnie Scotland, there's a new kid on the block.

Single malt whisky has always been synonymous with Scotland. The Scots were the first ones to market their whiskies as "singles" in the modern era, each one boasting of being the product of a single distillery in a time when blends were all the rage.

Single malts had existed previously, of course, but the blending process, introduced in the 19th Century, allowed distilleries and bottlers to offer a more uniform, less idiosyncratic product – and at a sharper price point, too. Inevitably, base economics won the day and single malts – those marvelous, unique expressions of place and style – became nothing more than mere ingredients for the blending process.

Then, in the second half of the 20th Century, single malts again began to appear more regularly. Glenfiddich was the first to actively market its malts to a global audience and other distilleries soon followed suit, leading to a renaissance in the single malt market and opening the door for the super-premium, [super-expensive malts](#) of today.

Soon Irish, Japanese, and American single malts were appearing on shelves. Even [Taiwan](#) got in on the act.

But one place no one was really looking during this malt revolution was India – although they should have been, in retrospect.

India is a huge market for whiskeys of all stripes, but more and more consumers there are turning to single malts, as a burgeoning middle class trades up from cheaper blends. And while, traditionally, Indian consumers have been very much Scotch-focused, they are also becoming more interested in their own local brands.

Indian consumers "discovered" Wine-Searcher a few years ago and have been using our site to search for whiskey in increasing numbers. And given the vast population there, it's little wonder that such an increase has had an effect on our search rankings, as we'll see shortly.

So what do we mean when we say "most wanted" in this series? Well, it's quite simply based on the total number of searches on our database. Since we are the biggest wine and spirits website that measures demand (in terms of searches for a product), we get millions of searches performed by global users every day. The products are then ordered in our database according to popularity and we can then see which wines or spirits are currently winning favor with consumers.

So let's see how those consumers are feeling about single malts.

The World's Most Wanted Single Malts on Wine-Searcher:

Whisky Name	Score	Ave Price
<u>The Macallan 18 Year Old Sherry Oak</u>	91	\$1053
<u>Glenfiddich 12 Year Old</u>	89	\$48
<u>Johnnie Walker Green Label 15 Year Old</u>	92	\$61
<u>The Macallan Fine & Rare Vintage</u>	N/A	\$52,496
<u>The Macallan Sherry Oak 25 Year Old</u>	N/A	\$3026
<u>Amrut Indian Single Malt</u>	88	\$56
<u>The Macallan Limited Edition Classic Cut</u>	88	\$265
<u>Rampur Vintage Select Casks Indian Single Malt</u>	N/A	\$97
<u>The Yamazaki 18 Year Old</u>	94	\$1285
<u>The Yamazaki 12 Year Old</u>	90	\$210

See what we mean about the Indian impact? A year ago, [this list](#) was a very different creature.

For a start, there were six Macallan bottlings in the top 10 (including the top four), three Yamazakis and the Glenfiddich. This time round, there are just four Macallans, two Yamazakis and a Glenfiddich surviving. The three newcomers are two Indian whiskies and the Johnny Walker Green Label and all three of these have been propelled into the top 10 by searches coming from [India](#).

Johnny Walker has always been a popular brand globally, but particularly so in India, where the top 10 search rankings feature four incarnations of it. However, the increase in interest in locally produced brands is interesting and shows that the likes of Amrut and Rampur have hit a level of quality and prestige to rank alongside the more familiar Scottish names, perhaps helped by the fact that imported spirits attract huge tariffs in India.

It is going to make for some interesting times in the coming years, especially as the number of Indian users of Wine-Searcher continues to grow. A deal on tariffs between the UK and India just can't come quickly enough for Scotch producers.

An Unlikely Group of Ex-Roofers Is on a Mission to Save the Whiskey Industry Millions of Dollars By Conserving the 'Angel's Share'

[David Morrow](#) Mar 27th, 2023, 7:00 pm



In this July 24, 2014 file photo, bourbon supplies age in barrels at the Jim Beam distillery in Clermont, Kentucky. (AP Photo/Bruce Schreiner)

An unlikely group is developing new technology that it believes can save the whiskey industry millions of dollars.

A team of former roofers used its experience in the roofing industry to come up with an idea to conserve the "[angel's share](#)" of whiskey. The angel's share is the amount of aging spirit lost to evaporation during the time it spends maturing. The longer whiskey ages, the more the barrel slowly empties, leading to a great deal of evaporated whiskey that can't be bottled and sold.

These ex-roofers have formed a Fort Worth, Texas-based company for their new project: [Devil's Cask](#).

If these roofers can save some of the angel's share, as they're aiming to do, whiskey producers would indeed be able to make significantly more money by selling more whiskey without changing anything about their production capabilities.

How Devil's Cask is Saving the Angel's Share

Devil's Cask's developed Aegis Coating, a patent-pending technology that involves coating the outside of whiskey barrels with a silicone-like substance that reduces the angel's share and minimizes leaks, according to the Devil's Cask website.

According to Devil's Cask, a test study showed that barrels using the Aegis Coating technology lost 46% less liquid than those that were uncoated.

"The coating greatly diminishes ethanol and water evaporation from the cask without significantly affecting the flavor profile of the maturing spirit," the website reads. "In addition, the coating will continue to allow oxygen to permeate the wooden cask."

If successful, and if it truly doesn't have a noticeable impact on the flavor of the spirit, this technology could be groundbreaking for the whiskey industry, as it will allow distilleries, especially those in higher-altitude states, such as Colorado, to increase their yields and thus profits.

How Devil's Cask Got Its Start

According to the [Fort Worth Star-Telegram](#), founder and CEO Jeremy Grunewald came up with the idea while touring Jameson distillery in Ireland.

"I'm like, 'I wonder if anyone's actually tried this before and looked into it and see what types of applications or patents or technologies are out there to kind of improve wooden barrels,'" Grunewald said, according to the Star-Telegram. "There's not a lot of innovation, there's not a lot of advancement, it's very much an industry that's ripe with heritage and tradition."

While on the tour, Grunewald said a guide mentioned that Jameson loses about 26,000 bottles worth of whiskey every day to evaporation.

"I'm like, man, this sounds kind of like a waterproofing vapor barrier type of thing that I've spent my whole career for the past decade on developing, designing and working with," he said.

Last summer, Devil's Cask journeyed to Kentucky to market its product, a trip chief operating officer Chase Ament told the Star-Telegram resulted in "encouraging" talks. Whiskey companies are interested and are waiting on data from tests.

At the moment, Devil's Cask has about 75 coated barrels of whiskey aging, with plans to increase that number to hundreds or thousands, per the Star-Telegram. And the company isn't limiting itself to whiskey.

"That's just for the whiskey side of it, tequila [like] reposado and [añejo](#) are also aged in barrels," Ament said. "That's a whole new market that we're gonna explore."

Glenfiddich's New Single Malt Is the First Whisky to Be Finished in This Rare Japanese Spirit Cask

The scotch was aged in American and European oak for 29 years before it got a special final six months.

By [JONAH FLICKER](#)



Glenfiddich

Finishing a [whisky](#) in Japanese [mizunara oak](#) is a trend that has been gaining traction over the past few years, with expressions from all categories getting that type of secondary maturation. But that's not the only type of Japanese cask available in which to finish your [whisky](#), as proven by this new [Glenfiddich single malt scotch](#) that was finished in Awamori barrels—the first time this has been done, according to the brand.

If you're unfamiliar with Awamori, you're probably not alone. It is a spirit from Okinawa that is made from Indica rice sprinkled with koji mold, fermented using yeast, distilled once, and stored in clay pots. It's believed to be the oldest distilled spirit from Japan, even predating shochu. Awamori is not, generally speaking, aged in oak casks, which presumably makes the American oak puncheons used to finish this [Glenfiddich](#) expression even more rare.

The whisky, Grand Yozakura, was initially aged in American and European oak for 29 years before getting a six-month secondary maturation in Awamori casks. This is the fourth in the Glenfiddich Grand Series, which previously featured whiskies aged for more than 20 years including Grand Cru, Grand Reserva, and Grande Couronne. "We are always looking to experiment with new finishes, so when the chance arose to acquire rare Awamori casks, we saw an opportunity to push the boundaries and experiment with this highly unusual spirit," said malt master Brian Kinsman in a statement. "This is the first time that single malt scotch whisky has been finished in these rare casks. We always learn something new when we lead with innovation, so taking a risk is worth it, and in the case of Awamori, we trialed a very small number of casks at a younger age."

Official tasting notes mention ripe fruit and caramelized almond on the nose, followed by creamy vanilla toffee, citrus, and green apple on the palate, with an oaky finish. The release of Grand Yozakura is meant to celebrate Hanami, or the Japanese cherry blossom festival. It comes in a decanter that has a stopper with a Hanko stamp engraving, a poem about sakura written on a piece of fabric, and the whole package is housed in a Grand Range box designed by Japanese artist June. The price of this limited-edition whisky is \$2,000. If you can't find a bottle at your local specialty booze retailer in the coming months, you can enter a ballot at the Glenfiddich [website](#)—but it closes on April 20, so head over there now to secure your bottle.

Orkney to welcome new whisky distillery

29 MARCH 2023 By Nicola Carruthers

Deerness Distillery will open mainland Orkney's first whisky distillery in 138 years and is selling the first 200 casks of its single malt Scotch.



Deerness Distillery founders Adelle and Stuart Brown

Deerness Distillery was founded by chartered engineer Stuart Brown and his wife, Adelle, in 2017.

[The distiller produces gin, vodka](#) and a coffee liqueur in a self-built distillery in the family's six-acre garden.

The producer is planning its first move into whisky with a six-figure expansion project. Construction is due to begin this spring after planning permission was approved.

The move will also increase production of Deerness Distillery's other spirits.

Featuring an 'immersive' visitor centre experience showcasing the distilling process, the facility will also present a cafe and bar.

The site's first whisky casks will be filled once construction is complete, with the first 200 casks put on sale today (29 March), priced at £4,750 (US\$5,864) each.

Once filled, the casks will contain Deerness' signature moderately peated-style new make, which offers a balanced smoke profile.

The producer is aiming to create an oat whisky and a Scottish rye whisky made with local grains sourced from nearby farms.

Stuart Brown said: "We are excited to announce this opportunity to invest in the future of Deerness Distillery and Orkney.

"Our upcoming signature dram draws inspiration from the rugged, coastal environment surrounding the site, while our plans for oat and rye whiskies using locally sourced grains showcase our commitment to pushing the boundaries of traditional whisky making."

Buyers will be able to follow the progress of their maturing casks in a dunnage warehouse.

The founders expect the whisky to have a sweet, smoky flavour with coastal and peaty notes that reflect the distillery's location.

Deerness Distillery's Sea Grass Gin walked away with a Gold medal in last year's [Gin Masters blind tasting](#).

The Scottish island is also home to whisky producers Highland Park and Scapa, and gin maker [Orkney Distilling](#).

Pernod Ricard-owned Scapa Distillery recently revealed a [new whisky tasting room](#), designed to elevate its visitor experience.

United Passenger Alleges Ground Handlers Stole Expensive Scotch

BY [JUSTIN FOSTER](#)

The passenger alleges that United crew members opened and drank some of his Scotch.

Photo: Fasttailwind | Shutterstock

United Airlines passenger, Christopher Ambler, alleges that a bottle of Scotch in his checked luggage was broken into and consumed. Ambler packed his bottle of Glenmorangie A Tale of Cake Single Malt Whiskey, valued at around \$100, into his checked bag during a flight. The passenger alleges that it was sipped on by baggage handlers from [United Airlines](#).

The passenger claims that the bottle's seal was broken into and that about one-third of the bottle's liquid was missing. Ambler also alleges that there was no sign of possible leaking and that the rest of his luggage was dry and had no Scotch scent. Because of this, Ambler believes that the baggage handlers moving his luggage broke open the seal and consumed some of the whiskey.



An airline's responsibility for luggage

According to the [United States Department of Transportation](#), airlines are responsible for repairing or reimbursing a passenger for damaged baggage and its contents when the damage occurs while the bag is under the control of the airline. This is subject to maximum limits on liabilities. The airline is not responsible for any pre-existing damage to the luggage or if the baggage was improperly packaged. If the damage to the bag or luggage cannot be repaired, compensation is typically given to the affected passenger.

Photo: Tom Boon / Simple Flying

However, according to the US Department of Transportation, airlines are allowed to and often do exclude liability for certain items. These include fragile items, electronics, perishable items, or other valuables. The categories of excluded items are typically listed in the airlines' contracts of luggage carriage. If the travel is domestic, then the airlines are not required to compensate passengers for items that were excluded in the airlines' contracts of luggage carriage. However, if the travel is international, then airlines must compensate passengers for items that were transported. This even includes items the passengers have not disclosed that may be listed on the airlines' contracts of carriage.

A slight misstep for United Airlines

This alleged bad press comes just days after United Airlines announced the [first air taxi route being offered in Chicago](#). The airline announced the city's first commercial air taxi route with [Archer Aviation](#). This route will significantly reduce the commute to O'Hare International Airport (ORD) from various places around the city.

Currently, the offered route would take over an hour in peak-traffic time. However, with the air taxi being an option, the commute would take only ten minutes. The route, which will begin service in 2025, is looking to fly from O'Hare International Airport to Vertiport Chicago. Archer will utilize its electric vertical takeoff and landing aircraft, part of its Urban Air Mobility network plan.



New Glen Moray packaging celebrates cask expertise

Glen Moray Speyside has announced it's evolving its packaging to celebrate the distillery's expertise. The design has been described as more contemporary, featuring flavour descriptions and updated packaging aiming to appeal to both whisky newcomers and enthusiasts.

The changes have been made to labels and gift boxes across the brand's Explorer range, which features six single malts. The design features a more vibrant version of the whisky's trademark blue.

The new designs also celebrate Glen Moray's long heritage with illustrations of the distillery and a refined version of the distillery's historical emblem, showcasing the whisky's four pillars: Barley sheaf; Beehive; Cask and Ship.

A spokesperson at Glen Moray commented on the new designs: "We are delighted to be rolling out our new packaging around the world. Glen Moray is an exceptional Speyside single malt whisky and by evolving the giftboxes and labels of our Explorer Range, we hope to appeal to more drinkers and better share our whisky's story with consumers – encouraging them to discover and enjoy Glen Moray with friends."

The explorer rare, where these changes have occurred, includes the following expressions:

- Classic
- Smoky Classic – Peated Malt
- Double Cask – Sherry Cask Finish
- Double Cask – Port Cask Finish
- Double Cask – Chardonnay Cask Finish
- Double Cask – Cabernet Cask Finish

For more information, visit the Glen Moray [website](#).

Parmesan Espresso Martini goes viral

28 MARCH 2023 By Alice Brooker

Could the Parmesan Espresso Martini be the next Negroni Sbagliato cocktail sensation on TikTok?



The creator of the tutorial said the drink is “kind of awesome”

A Parmesan Espresso Martini tutorial has gone viral on video app TikTok, gaining more than 10,700 likes.

Self-described ‘cocktail guy’ Jordan Hughes, also known as @highproofpreacher on TikTok, posted a Parmesan Espresso Martini tutorial on the app on 14 February.

Since then, the hashtag #ParmesanEspressoMartini has garnered 43,200 views as users have become curious about the drink.

“A bartender friend of mine told me I had to make an Espresso Martini with parmesan cheese in it,” explained Hughes in the video.

“Now, he could just be trolling me, but we’re going to try it anyway.”

Hughes goes on to craft the drink with fresh espresso, coffee liqueur, vodka, and sea salt, then shakes the ingredients with ice.

Once poured into a glass, Hughes grates parmesan cheese over the top of it. “Alright, let’s try this monstrosity,” he continued.

After tasting the serve, Hughes said: “I regret to inform you that was kind of awesome.”

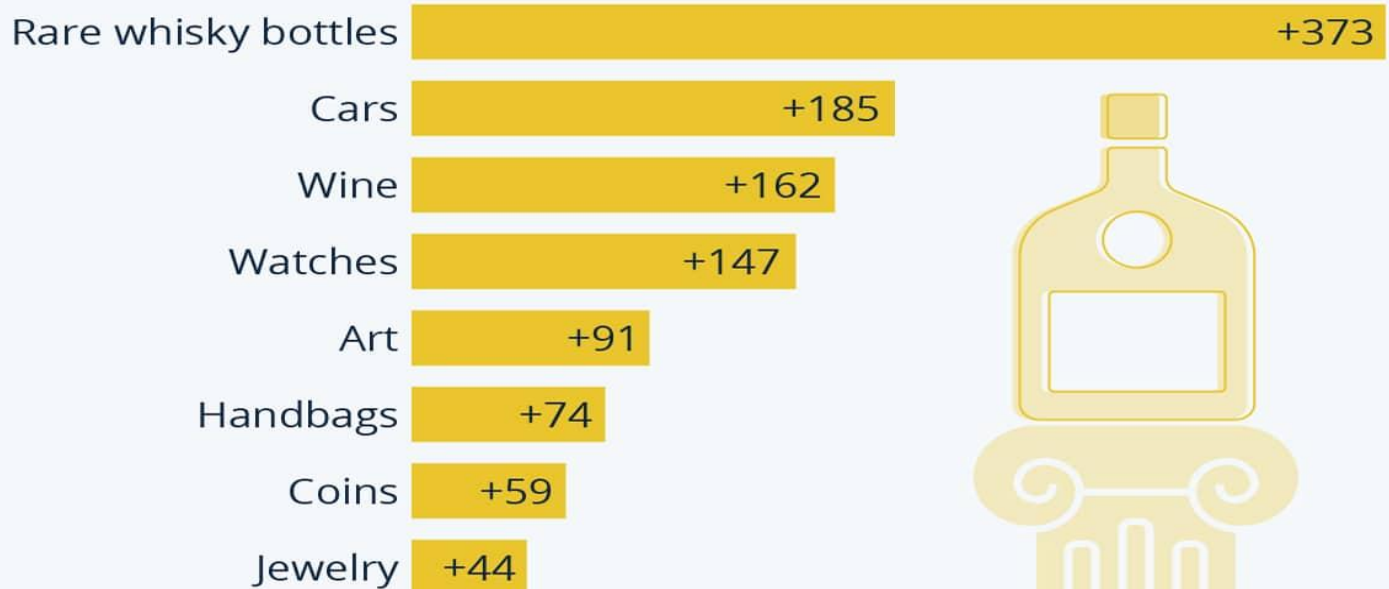
Rare Whisky Deemed the Most Lucrative Investment of Passion

[BEN MCKIMM](#), 28 MAR 2023 | NEWS

Whisky has beaten out cars, wine, watches, and art as the most lucrative investment of passion on earth, [according to the Knight Frank Luxury Investment Index](#). The data tracks the ten most lucrative investments of passion, with whisky beating inflation and remaining the 10-year winner on the index in the process. Hardly surprising news for owners of the rarest whiskies on earth, as our list of the [most expensive bottles of whisky ever sold](#) is led by a 2019 sale of The Macallan 1926 60-Year-Old Fine and Rare for £1,452,000 [via Sotheby's](#). Interestingly, the top 10 most expensive whiskies ever sold at auction exchanged hands in just the last 5 years, speaking to the magnitude of growth in the industry.

The Most Lucrative Luxury Investments

Average 10-year price change of luxury investment types as of 2022 (in percent)



The Most Lucrative Luxury Investments | Image: [Statista](#)

While it remains the most lucrative investment outright at 373% over the last 10 years, [rare whisky](#) only saw a 3% increase year-on-year. Knight Frank's data specialist said the market for bottles valued at more than £5,000 has weakened significantly, slowing the growth of the sector. "As prices rose speculators came into the market just looking to flip bottles, which was ultimately unsustainable."

In terms of growth, Art saw the largest increase year-on-year, growing 29%. Sebastian Duthy of Art Market Research, tells Knight Frank that this growth is based on the uber-expensive prices paid for museum-quality works.

"Several single-owner collections, including works owned by Microsoft founder Paul Allen and American investor Anne Bass produced totals in excess of \$2.5 billion USD, more than doubling collection sales in 2021. With the provenance of a high-profile collector attached, blue-chip works routinely break auction records and last year was no exception with five achieving over US\$100 million."

Of course, you're probably wondering where that leaves [watches](#). Timepieces saw a respectable increase of 18% year-on-year to make the top four on the list of most lucrative investments of passion. Sales on the secondary market have boomed amongst a small number of models, specifically the Patek Philippe Nautilus, Audemars Piguet Royal Oak and the Rolex Daytona.

In terms of [cars](#), they rose 25% year-on-year. This is hardly surprising for anyone who [follows the sales on Bring a Trailer and Collecting Cars](#), and that's without mentioning the big auction houses. It goes without saying at this point, but the vintage and collectable car market operates independently of the used car market, and [our list of the most expensive cars ever sold](#) highlights the recent sale of a 1955 Mercedes-Benz 300 SLR Uhlenhaut Coupe for \$142,769,250 USD [via Sotheby's](#).

Want to find out where wine, handbags, coins, and jewellery land on the list of most lucrative investments of passion? Check out the full list via the link below.

Art tops 2022 luxury investment index

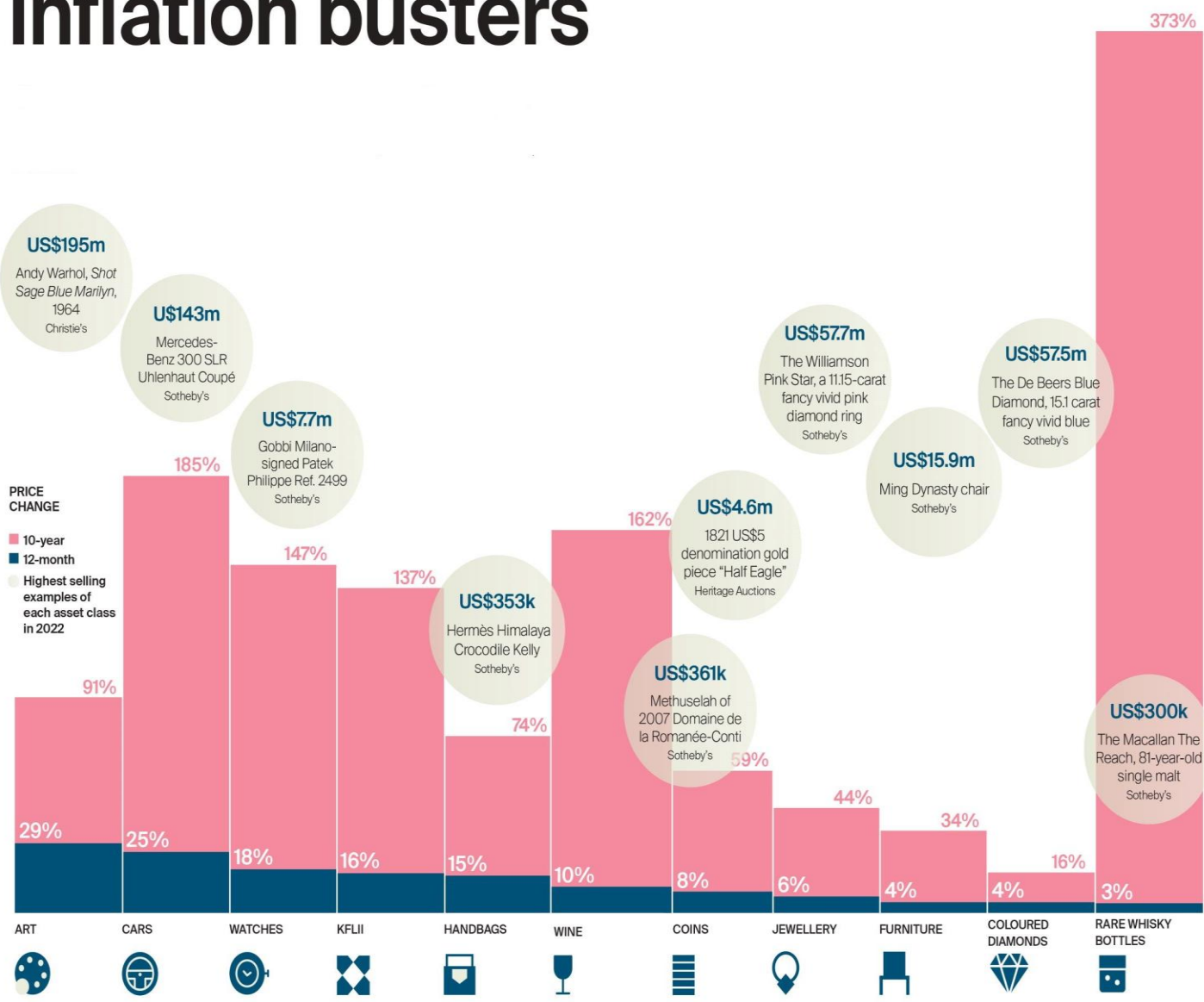
The results of the Knight Frank Luxury Investment Index show that investments of passion are still riding high, despite economic worries.

Written By: [Andrew Shirley](#), Knight Frank - 01 Mar 2023

The Knight Frank Luxury Investment Index (KFLI), which tracks the value of 10 investments of passion, rose by a healthy 16% during 2022, comfortably beating inflation and outperforming the majority of mainstream investment classes, including equities and even gold.

Here we take a look at some of the best performing investments of passion over the last 10 years.

Inflation busters



Sources: Compiled by Knight Frank Research using data from Art Market Research (art, coins, furniture, handbags, jewellery and watches), Fancy Color Research Foundation (coloured diamonds), HAGI (cars), Rare Whisky 101 and Wine Owners

Notes: All data to Q4 2022. KFLII is a weighted average of individual asset performance

Art

Within the index, which is weighted to reflect the “collectability” of each of its constituents, half of the assets saw double-digit growth last year. Art was the top performer, rising by 29%.

Sebastian Duthy of Art Market Research, which provides the data for a number of our asset classes, says much of that performance was driven by the stellar prices paid for museum-quality works of art by ultra-wealthy collectors.

“Several single owner collections, including works owned by Microsoft founder Paul Allen and American investor Anne Bass produced totals in excess of US\$2.5 billion, more than doubling collection sales in 2021. With the provenance of a high-profile collector attached, blue-chip works routinely break auction records and last year was no exception with five achieving over US\$100 million.”

Cars

Classic cars also revved up their performance last year rising 25%, the strongest finish for nine years. A US\$143 million Mercedes-Benz Uhlenhaut Coupé comfortably set a new record for the most expensive car ever sold. Dietrich Hatlapa of HAGI, which tracks the very top end of the market for us, says high-end collectors are back in the market after the Covid-19 pandemic saw the postponement of many sales.

However, he warns against relying on cars as a hedge against inflation. “Broadly, the classic car market has neither a positive nor an inverse correlation with other sectors. In other words, the classic car sector generally marches to the beat of its own drum. That’s a feature which many collectors find attractive.”

Watches

Watches took third place on the KFLII podium in 2022, up 18%. “The watch market at the top three auction houses grew 33% in 2022 to a total of £475 million. This included 40 watches that sold for over £1 million, 12 more than the previous year,” points out Duthy. However, the market is being led by a small number of models, he adds.

“Look at any auction catalogue and you will see sales have been dominated by just three designs over the past five years – the Patek Philippe Nautilus, Audemars Piguet’s Royal Oak and the Rolex Daytona. While these watches have provided a huge boost to sales on the secondary market, it’s a growing problem for the brands who say they cannot cope with demand.”

Wine

Our wine index recorded growth of 10% – respectable, but down on 2021’s sparkling 16% rise. Nick Martin of our data provider Wine Owners says this is due to some of our index’s top performers finally hitting a peak. “Burgundy has risen by more than 80% during the past five years, but at some point the market had to pause for breath.”

Whisky

Whisky, although still KFLII’s 10-year leader by a good margin (+373%), was one of 2022’s weakest performers with growth of just 3%. Our data guru Andy Simpson says the market for bottles valued at over £5,000 has definitely weakened. “As prices rose speculators came into the market just looking to flip bottles, which was ultimately unsustainable.”

Glen Moray Explorer range gets redesign

27 MARCH 2023 By *Melita Kiely*

Speyside Scotch whisky distillery Glen Moray has revealed a new packaging design for its Explorer range.



The brand’s Explorer range has been giving a packaging refresh

The new look aims to give the whisky brand a more contemporary look, and appeal to both whisky novices and connoisseurs alike.

Updates have been made to Glen Moray’s labels and gift boxes across its Explorer range, which comprises six single malts.

The new look uses a deeper shade of the brand’s blue, with ‘bold’ colours to reflect the flavours of each whisky in the series.

A spokesperson for the distillery commented: “We are delighted to be rolling out our new packaging around the world. Glen Moray is an exceptional Speyside single malt whisky and by evolving the gift boxes and labels of our Explorer range, we hope to appeal to more drinkers and better share our whisky’s story with consumers – encouraging them to discover and enjoy Glen Moray with friends.”

The Explorer range of single malt whiskies includes: Our Classic, Smoky Classic – Peated Malt, Double Cask – Sherry Cask Finish, Double Cask – Port Cask Finish, Double Cask – Chardonnay Cask Finish, and Double Cask – Cabernet Cask Finish.

Glen Moray is owned by French drinks company La Martiniquaise-Bardinet.

In November last year, the distillery added a trio of limited edition [whiskies to its Warehouse 1 Collection](#), exclusive to the UK.

Furthermore, in March 2022 Glen Moray extended its [partnership with Edinburgh Rugby for two years](#). The brand is the ruby club’s official [single malt](#).

The Glen Grant Distillery Unveils New 21-Year-Old Single Malt Scotch Whisky Celebrating a Tropical Explosion of Flavour

The Remarkable Release Marks a New Phase of Innovation for the Storied Speyside Distillery

March 22, 2023 04:00 ET | Source: [The Glen Grant](#) Follow

ROTHES, Scotland, March 22, 2023 (GLOBE NEWSWIRE) -- The Glen Grant Distillery, located in the heart of Speyside, has announced the momentous launch of its new 21-Year-Old single malt scotch whisky. Now the oldest expression in the permanent collection and available starting March 2023, the 21-Year-Old signals the start of a new era of exploration for the 180-year-old distillery.

Driven by a singular vision for over 180 years, The Glen Grant distillery harnesses a constant pursuit to create the most singular, aromatic, and evocative single malts. Inspired by the legacy of ‘The Major’ James Grant – the visionary and eccentric driving force which set the brand on its ingenious path – we bring together inspiration from around the world creating exceptional and intriguing whiskies celebrating the spirit of innovation. This globally- inspired character is what separates The Glen Grant from many of its Speyside neighbours and has guided it along a distinctive path, defining its lasting legacy since 1840.

After his journeys to faraway locations, The Major would gather an eclectic collection of fruits and plants, which he brought back to Rothes and showcased in his personally- designed Victorian glasshouses and later in a 27-acre garden sitting at the heart of the distillery.

The creation of The Glen Grant 21-Year-Old represents a definitive moment in the evolution of The Glen Grant and marks a new chapter in its story. Sitting at the gateway to the prestige expressions of The Glen Grant portfolio, this 21-Year-Old joins the 10-, 12-, 15- and 18-Year-Old family of single malt whiskies and sets the tone for a range of innovative new releases set to be unveiled from 2023 onwards.

For Master Distiller Dennis Malcolm OBE, this also marks a proud achievement in his more than 60-year tenure. In hand-selecting the perfect combination of oloroso sherry butts, hogshead and ex-Bourbon barrels from Warehouse Number 4, the oldest traditional stone dunnage warehouse at the distillery, Dennis has married together the spirit to create the captivating flavours which bring to life an intensity of fruity character.

Commenting on this release, Master Distiller Dennis Malcolm, said, "This 21-Year-Old whisky marks a highly significant moment in time for The Glen Grant and one which will pave the way for a new era. This is an exciting development and one which I know will take us forward into the future with pride and passion. Each one of our whiskies tells its own story and reveals its very own flavour journey defined by a captivating character, with unfolding layers and surprising complexity. I'm proud and thrilled to be able to share this wonderful whisky with the world and continue our commitment to consistent quality which I believe truly sets us apart."

Bottled at 46%, natural in colour and non-chill filtered, this 21-Year-Old is married in small batches to preserve the integrity of the refined flavours and to ensure absolute quality. All of this is done on site at the Rothes-based distillery, reinforcing the exquisitely singular ethos of The Glen Grant.

The resulting character is of a tropical flair, beginning with aromas of sweet ripe peaches, toffee and raisins which leads to an explosion of rich tropical fruits, such as coconut, and creamy butter notes to taste. A soft welcoming mouthfeel alludes to a long enduring finish of caramelised crème brûlée. The Glen Grant 21 Years Old is available as of March 2023 across key global markets including the USA, UK, and Asia at an RSP of \$360.



Buichladdich launches Islay's first rye whisky

22 MARCH 2023 By Georgie Collins

Rémy Cointreau-owned Buichladdich Distillery has unveiled the first whisky to be classed as an Islay single grain Scotch.



Buichladdich's Islay Single Grain Scotch Whisky is the first rye whisky to be produced on Islay

This latest launch has been made primarily from locally grown Islay rye, and is a first for both the distillery and the island.

Islay Single Grain Scotch Whisky is the third release in the Buichladdich Project series: The Regeneration Project.

The Regeneration Project was born out of a desire to combat the growing cost of agro-chemicals, avoid monoculture, reduce input and diversify crops.

This has been done by implementing crop rotation on the land of Andrew Jones, Buichladdich's long-standing farming partner.

Jones decided to add rye to his rotation as it has the ability to sequester excess soil nitrate and boasts a fibrous root system that increases soil drainage, helping to conserve moisture.

Not only does this improve soil health, but it reduces costs for the farmer by being less reliant on artificial pesticides and fertilisers.

With no market, rye has never been grown in Islay before. However, keen to support its farming partner, Buichladdich agreed to purchase Jones' entire crop and turn it into whisky.

Douglas Taylor, CEO at Buichladdich Distillery, said: "As a whisky distillery we are accountable for our impact from the ground up, and that starts with understanding where our essential raw ingredients come from, and how they are grown.

"We learned that rye is a hugely beneficial rotational crop which not only reduces the need for artificial input but improves soil health and structure – which matters.

"But with no market for Scottish grown rye, it begs the question – why would a farmer grow it? Well, we could buy it – and create a delicious whisky. All while supporting our vital farming partners, helping the environment and promoting soil health.

"Pursuing flavour while reducing our impact, The Regeneration Project is the start of something much bigger than whisky."

First-of-its-kind whisky

Bottled at 50% ABV, The Regeneration Project Islay Single Grain Scotch Whisky is made up of 55% Islay grown rye and 45% locally grown Islay malted barley. Using a mix of first fill Bourbon casks and first fill American virgin oak casks, the whisky is non-chill-filtered, colouring free and fully traceable. The resulting first-of-its-kind whisky is presented with a colour of golden syrup, with notes of spice delivered instantly on the nose, accompanied with waves of liquorice, black pepper, cinnamon and nutmeg which also speak of the grain and showcase the 'unique characteristics' that rye brings to the whisky.

Over time it is said that the Islay character is 'unmistakable', defined by maritime notes of the ocean, warm sand and delicate citrus and honey.

The softness of the whisky on the palate is counterbalanced by the rye's spicy, peppery heat. Toasted virgin oak brings sweetness of marzipan, vanilla, and chocolate, all of which complements the spice of the rye and the citrus green fruit notes of the Islay grown barley.

Sweet, rich oak, ripe pear and green apple are followed by a delicate malty pastry, with vanilla custard settling on the finish.

This latest innovation from Buichladdich Distillery is described as an example of how regenerative agricultural practices can positively impact both the planet and the flavour of whisky.

With sustainability at the forefront, The Regeneration Project is testament to the distillery's vision to use its business as a force for good.

In May 2020, [Buichladdich became the first Scotch whisky and gin distillery in Europe to become B Corp certified.](#)

The Regeneration Project is part of a small batch of 1,800 bottles. Priced at £125 (US\$153.38), it is available online at www.buichladdich.com.

Diageo launches cask maturation project

22 MARCH 2023 By Alice Brooker

Johnnie Walker owner Diageo has teamed up with scientists from Scottish university Heriot-Watt to investigate how whisky gets its flavour from cask maturation.



The project will be based at Diageo's technical centre in Menstrie, Scotland

Under the three-year Knowledge Transfer Partnership, the team will figure out how to use analytical methods to explore the chemistry of whisky barrel maturation.

This will lead to the creation of a data science platform that will 'demystify' the process of maturation.

According to Diageo, no one has been able to 'pin down scientifically the magic that happens inside the cask' before.

Matthew Crow, research partnerships manager with Diageo's global technical team, said: "Scotch is matured for at least three years and often much longer, a process that enriches and refines its flavour. However, a barrel's potential for imparting flavour, and how the whisky will mature in that barrel involves many complex factors.

"The industry and Diageo in particular have a long history of research across whisky production, and Heriot-Watt's scientists will help us to take our understanding of the maturation process to a new scientific level."

The university has put together a team of experts for the project.

This includes researchers from the International Centre for Brewing and Distilling (ICBD) at Heriot-Watt, but also scientists who specialise in chemistry, physics, machine learning and data science.

Crow added: "Scotch whisky is very much a craft industry, but it has always been forward-thinking and looking for innovative ways to support its blenders and distillers.

"This project will develop a new machine learning tool, backed by huge amounts of data, that will make sure the right barrels are used for the right amount of time to produce the right flavour characteristics in a given whisky."

Martin McCoustra is a professor at Heriot-Watt university, as well as an expert on the interaction of chemical substances with 'complex surfaces'.

He will be coordinating the cross-disciplinary team from Heriot-Watt University.

McCoustra said: "Scientists from across Heriot-Watt University will work on this project to help answer some of the key remaining questions about how a barrel lends flavour and aroma to whisky."

The team will start by scanning the barrels to create a visual representation of them. From this, the chemical 'fingerprints' of the barrels can be collected. "These chemical fingerprints will include information on the various natural compounds that contribute to the flavour of the maturing spirit," McCoustra continued.

"The skills of the coopers, distillers and blenders will give us a sensory evaluation of the barrel and evolving spirit.

"All this data will be used to train a machine learning system that will predict what the flavour quality of the whisky could be.

"This could significantly enhance whisky production, giving better data upon which to base fundamental decisions, such as how long a whisky should stay in a barrel."

The project will be based at Diageo's technical centre in Menstrie, Scotland.

"Strategic academic and industry collaborations like this will play a major role in [the Scotch whisky industry's] continued growth and we're pleased to work in partnership with leading companies like Diageo to explore learnings and innovations that can positively impact the global drinks sector," said David Richardson, chief entrepreneurial executive at Heriot-Watt University.

To mark International Women's Day (8 March), we spoke to [Diageo's global brand ambassador Jenna Ba](#), who highlighted a trio of women trailblazers enhancing the spirits industry across science, storytelling and community.

Duncan Taylor debuts 55YO whisky

22 MARCH 2023 By Nicola Carruthers

Scotland-based Duncan Taylor Scotch Whisky has partnered with English golfer Sir Nick Faldo to release four Black Bull whiskies, including a 55-year-old expression.



Duncan Taylor has released four blended whiskies as part of Black Bull's Tales of Two Legends range

The limited edition releases – 18-, 30-, 50- and 55-year-old whiskies – join the brand's Tale of Two Legends series.

Each expression is blended using spirits from Duncan Taylor's whisky collection.

The 50- and 55-year-old bottlings have been blended with liquid from closed distilleries, and others in Scotland. Bottled at 47% ABV, both expressions are limited to 600 bottles each.

The 50-year-old contains malts from Speyside distillery Caperdonich, which closed in 2002, and The Macallan and Glen Grant. It is priced at RRP £6,000 (US\$7,372).

Matured in ex-Bourbon and ex-Sherry casks, the whisky is said to offer notes of damsons, Highland toffee and caramelised orange peel, with a finish of fruit, spice and toasted oak.

Meanwhile, the 55-year-old is made using Sherry hogsheads, grain and malt whiskies from Lochside Distillery, which stopped production in 1992.

Tasting notes include dark fruits and gentle spice, with nutty notes from first-fill Sherry hogsheads. The whisky carries a price tag of £9,600 (US\$11,800). Milestone moments

The 18-year-old and 30-year-old bottlings were matured in Sherry casks, and were created to mark milestone events in Faldo's career, with the former celebrating the age he became a professional golfer. The 30-year-old pays tribute to the number of wins Faldo collected on the European Tour.

The 18-year-old whisky is bottled at 50% ABV and has an RRP of £120 (US\$147). The 30-year-old (47% ABV) retails at £600 (US\$737).

Euan Shand, chairman of Aberdeenshire-based Duncan Taylor, said: "This year we are going big and bold with our releases and the 'Tale of Two Legends' series comes hot on the heels of one of the oldest Macallan whiskies we've ever launched.

"Together with Sir Nick, we've handpicked some of our best whiskies within our archives and blended them meticulously to create four stunning blends that are worthy of celebrating some of the iconic times in his life."

Faldo selected the whiskies last year alongside Shand and his son, Andrew Shand, who is senior operations and spirits manager.

"I've always loved whisky and it was fascinating to delve deep into the process of blended whiskies to create this range," said Faldo, a three-time winner of both the Open Championship and the Masters golf tournament.

The new additions to the Tale of Two Legends series coincides with a brand refresh for the Black Bull whisky portfolio.

Shand added: "Timing it with our rebrand of the entire portfolio is perfect and we look forward to launching these new releases as the official sponsor of the Pro-Am golf event in Bangalore this week, followed by global distribution."

Lagg Distillery Puts Out First-Ever Core Range Releases

[Gary Carter](#)

[Scotch](#) | March 20, 2023

Share on:

Lagg Distillery out of Scotland recently announced it's bringing to the table a new core range of single malts, the Kilmory and Corriecravie Editions, set to release early this summer.

[A statement from the new distiller](#) notes that these first expressions embody the spirit of the Isle of Arran, where Lagg Distillery is located.

The distiller noted that the Kilmory Edition is Lagg's commitment to peated single malts that hark back to the illicit stills of Arran's past.



Lagg Distillery out of Scotland recently announced it's bringing to the table a new core range of single malts, the Kilmory and Corrieravie Editions, set to release early this summer. (image via Lagg)

The whisky was matured entirely in first-fill bourbon barrels, and bottled at 46% ABV, with no added coloring or chill filtration. The distiller's notes show the Kilmory Edition as a pure embodiment of the earthy smokiness and vanilla notes that make Lagg Single Malts the way they are. Coming shortly after the Kilmory, the Corrieravie Edition will offer a unique twist on the Lagg Distillery spirit. After initially being matured in bourbon barrels, this whisky is finished for about six months in Oloroso Sherry hogsheads sourced directly from producer Miguel Martin in Jerez. It's then bottled at 55% ABV without chill filtration and with no added coloring. The notes explain that this is a whisky that showcases a sweeter smoke and rich fruit notes, balancing the peat and spice. These whiskies are also rooted in the history and traditions of the [Isle of Arran](#), as the flagship Kilmory bottling is named after the small parish in which the Distillery can be found. And Corrieravie is a hamlet just northwest of the village of Lagg with its own tales to tell. As the distiller explains, this area was home to some of the illicit stills that produced the infamous "Arran water" in the days of early distilling on the island. And near the village, there is the Torr a' Chaisteil Dun ... a fort from the later Iron Age about 2,000 years ago, locally known as "Castle Hill." With its sweeping views of the southern coastline of the island, Corrieravie is a place of beauty and intrigue that captures the essence of Arran. Lagg Distillery Manager Graham Omand said that these single malts are rooted in the southside of Arran and their aromatic, peated character embodies the earthiness of the whiskies that would have been among the first to have been distilled on Arran hundreds of years ago. "Today, our Lagg Single Malts represent the spirit and respect for our land that the people here can't wait to share with the wider world," he said. The Lagg Single Malt Kilmory Edition will arrive in late May with a suggested retail price of £49.99. The Corrieravie Edition will arrive in early summer with a suggested price of £64.99.



Inaugural Amber Island bottle releases sell out in seven minutes

Web3 spirits membership community Amber Island has revealed that its launch of inaugural bottle releases have sold out in seven minutes. 30 bottles were produced exclusively for Amber Island members to purchase through a NFT, with each bottle (NFT) selling for \$2,700. The bottling was created by The Glenturret's master distiller Bob Dalgarno from select casks which were laid down over three decades ago and blended with the original 30 year old spirit. Amber Island commissioned digital artist Mark Constantine to design the bottle's label, said to be inspired by a cathedral painting of the genesis. Each bottle owner will also receive an invitation to attend a private tour of The Glenturret, and an even select fewer will be drawn at random to attend an experience at The Glenturret LALIQUE restaurant. Glenturret managing director John Laurie commented: "For such a traditional distillery to move into the web3 space, we would only be comfortable doing this with such a credible, fully backed and well-resourced platform such as Amber Island; engaging with this community of whisky fans has already been a rich and rewarding experience for us, culminating in our first ever drop selling out in a brand record time of just 7 minutes. On a recent masterclass, I noticed the son (in his 20's) of one of our collectors on the call, it struck me that this was the perfect example of how, as a brand, being present in web3 in a credible way; allows us to communicate with a younger audience who share our brand values, but in an environment, they are more comfortable in." Amber Island venture lead Shenr-Jye Hon added: "It has been a privilege to partner with The Glenturret for our inaugural bottle release. They're an iconic brand who recognise the importance of creating the next generation in rare spirits collecting. The success of the inaugural bottle release reinforces the enormous potential of bringing the spirits and web3 worlds together. Amber Island's innovative approach to make purchasing rare spirits easier, more secure and accessible has been extremely well received by international collectors and connoisseurs in both the traditional and web3 space, and we have already seen resales of The Glenturret Amber Island Limited Edition 30 Years Old, since last week's release."

14 March 2023 - Bradley Weir

Whisky and Sherry: Thinking Outside the Cask



The Grand Army in New York City mixes up The Weakest Link, a riff on the Old Fashioned, that features Wild Turkey 101 rye and Alejandro oloroso sherry. Max Flatlow

Whisky and Sherry: Thinking Outside the Cask

March 16, 2023 — [Sally Kral](#)

Sherry is seemingly ever-present in the world of whisky, thanks to the influence of the sherry cask. It's most prominently seen in scotch whisky, of course, but the influence of these casks sourced from Jerez, Spain can be found in whiskies all over the world. Indeed, a conversation about some scotch whiskies can become as much about the sherry influence as the whisky itself. But few whisky lovers ever consider the use of sherry—the wine, not the barrel—as an ingredient in their cocktails.

While fino and manzanilla sherries make excellent bases for light and bright cocktail styles, those on the other end of the sherry spectrum—amontillado, oloroso, palo cortado, and Pedro Ximénez—offer more intense, nutty flavors due to heavy oxidation. That makes them better suited to pairing with aged spirits and other rich ingredients.

"The flavors of a heavily oxidized sherry allow us to add an incredible amount of depth to a cocktail, layering savory and umami flavors that many people would recognize in food but are unaccustomed to tasting in drinks," says Harrison Snow, co-owner and beverage director of [Lullaby](#) in New York City. His The Whiskey Drink (\$16) features Abasolo corn whiskey from Mexico, Lustau oloroso sherry, lime juice, agave syrup, mascarpone cheese, house-made parsley olive oil, and saline. "Sherries tend to pair very easily with spirits or ingredients that impart similarly savory notes like scotch, rye whiskey, and Demerara rum," Snow adds.

At [Bon Vivant](#) in Portland, owner Cheryl Wakerhauser's Zoomie Zoom Zoom (\$10) blends Woodford Reserve rye, Harveys Bristol cream sherry, Gonzalez Byass La Copa Rojo vermouth, Orange Cap ginger beer, and Angostura bitters. "The rye acts as the backbone of the drink, and the cream sherry adds both a dollop of sweetness and a velvety texture that rounds out the power of the rye while also contributing hints of orange, baking spice, and a walnut nuttiness, all which complement the bright, spicy ginger beer," Wakerhauser says. "It's a refreshing cocktail for any season; sip it in the spring or summer for its refreshing qualities and continue into the cooler months, savoring its fall flavors."

The Doc Oc Sazerac (\$15) at [Oloroso](#) in Philadelphia mixes Rittenhouse rye, Xixarito Pedro Ximénez sherry, Lustau brandy, demerara syrup, house-made mole bitters, and Peychaud's bitters. "Amontillado and palo cortado sherries offer complexity and nuttiness, so they can stand up to stronger ingredients; oloroso contributes richness in body and a nose that's super fragrant; and Pedro Ximénez brings in sweetness, richness, and body," notes Gordana Kostovski, Oloroso's general manager and sommelier. "We've found sherry to be a super versatile and wonderful component to use in our signature cocktails—it can add brightness, acid, finesse, nuttiness, sweetness, salinity, and complexity to a drink."

At [Grand Army](#) in New York City, sherry is featured in several takes on classic whisky-based cocktails. Bartender Shannan Lynch's Alex Trebek (\$17) is a Manhattan riff, comprising Powers Signature Irish whiskey, Balvenie Doublewood 12 year old scotch, La Cigarrera amontillado sherry, Method sweet vermouth, St. George Spiced Pear liqueur, and Drambuie scotch liqueur. Bartender Kathryn "Pepper" Stashek's Weakest Link (\$17), meanwhile, is a variation on the Old Fashioned, featuring Wild Turkey 101 rye, Tio Alejandro oloroso sherry, Suze gentian liqueur, pecan orgeat, house-made rosemary tincture, saline, and Angostura bitters. "To complement the sweet elements of the Weakest Link and add salinity, we use oloroso sherry—we chose this over amontillado because it has a longer oxidation period, making its overall flavor darker and more nutty, pairing very well with the pecan orgeat," says beverage director Ally Marrone. "This cocktail would make any American whiskey imbibers happy."

The Whiskey Drink

Harrison Snow, co-owner and beverage director of Lullaby in New York City



- 1 1/2 oz. Abasolo corn whisky
- 1/4 oz. Lustau oloroso sherry
- 3/4 oz. lime juice
- 1/2 oz. agave nectar
- 1 heaping bar spoon mascarpone
- 1 dash parsley olive oil (*see below*)
- 6 drops saline solution
- Parsley sprig, for garnish

Combine all ingredients in a cocktail shaker with a small amount of ice and whip shake until chilled. Double strain into a coupe glass. Garnish with a few drops of parsley olive oil and a small parsley sprig.

Parsley Olive Oil

Blend 2 cups extra-virgin olive oil with 1 bunch parsley. Pass through a fine-mesh strainer, then decant into a dropper bottle.

Zoomie Zoom Zoom

Cheryl Wakerhauser, owner of Bon Vivant in Portland, Oregon



- 1 oz. Woodford Reserve rye whiskey
- 1 oz. Harveys Bristol cream sherry
- 1 oz. Gonzalez Byass La Copa Rojo vermouth
- 3 dashes Angostura bitters
- 5 oz. Orange Cap ginger beer

In a Highball glass, combine the rye, sherry, vermouth, and bitters. Add 3 ice cubes and stir to chill. Top with the ginger beer and give the drink one final stir.

Alex Trebek

Shannan Lynch, bartender at Grand Army in New York City



Max Flatow

- 1 1/4 oz. Power's Signature Irish whiskey
- 1/2 oz. Balvenie Doublewood 12 year old scotch
- 1/4 oz. La Cigarrera amontillado sherry
- 3/4 oz. Method Spirits sweet vermouth
- 1/4 oz. St. George Spiced Pear liqueur
- 1 tsp. Drambuie scotch liqueur
- Orange peel

Stir all ingredients with ice and strain into a Nick and Nora glass. Express an orange peel over the drink, then discard.

The Longest Bar in the World? It's in Tennessee, On the Uncle Nearest Campus



Humble Baron, a new entertainment venue on the campus of the Uncle Nearest distillery in Tennessee, now lays claim to having the longest bar in the world at 525 feet. (Photo by Heather Durham)

The Longest Bar in the World? It's in Tennessee, On the Uncle Nearest Campus

March 16, 2023 — [Julia Higgins](#)

When [Uncle Nearest](#) opened the doors of the Nearest Green Distillery in Shelbyville, Tennessee in 2021, there was talk of a grand campus in the making, with 323 acres undergoing a four-phase, \$50 million build-out that so far has included a visitor center, concession stand, and alcohol-free speakeasy. Now, a new attraction is coming to fruition: an immersive and experiential space dedicated to elevated drinks, food, and live music, [Humble Baron](#), will open its doors on March 23.

Once it opens, Humble Baron will be home to a show-stopping 518-foot bar—the longest bar in the world, topping the previous holder at the Beer Barrel Saloon in Put-In-Bay, Ohio, which stretches 405 feet and 10 inches, according to Guinness World Records. The grand, circular 202-seat bar wraps around a stage and has 17 bartender stations (so you need never worry about having an empty glass).

“Certainly Humble Baron is the longest bar in the world, but from my perspective, it couldn’t be just that, it also needed to be one of the coolest bars in the world, and everything by extension needed to be elevated,” says founder Keith Weaver, husband of Uncle Nearest CEO Fawn Weaver. To that end, he tapped DeAndre Jackson as beverage director and Gin & Luck as a partner for the beverage program. That hospitality team is the brains behind world-class mixology mecca Death & Co., and at Humble Baron it’ll place BIPOC-owned and female-led spirits brands at the fore, including, of course, Uncle Nearest, as well as Sorel liqueur, Hella Cocktail Co. bitters and tonic, Equiano rum, and Freeland gin. Weaver credits his own wide-ranging taste in spirits to the bar’s diverse selection of global whisky, too, ensuring that all fans will be pleased. Even so, Tennessee whiskey will certainly have a starring role, especially given that [the state’s whiskeys are taking off](#).

Among the newly created cocktails are the Queen’s Gambit, made with Uncle Nearest 1856 Tennessee whiskey, Sorel liqueur, Hella Apple Blossom bitters, pineapple gomme, and lemon juice; the Dear Fawn, which is a whiskey version of an Espresso Martini, subbing out vodka for Uncle Nearest 1884; and the Honey I’m Home, mixing Uncle Nearest 1884, Equiano rum, citrus mix, and Nashville hot honey.



Humble Baron’s cocktail menu was made in partnership with Gin & Luck; among the new drinks is the Glenford Street (pictured), made with a base of Uncle Nearest 1884 and mixed with sweet vermouth, coffee liqueur, Campari, and Hella smoke chile bitters (Photo by Heather Durham).

Humble Baron is far from just a bar—it will also have a full-service kitchen (and seating for an additional 300 people) and two stages, one indoor that’s surrounded by the bar and one outdoor, both for live music performances. Chef G. Garvin was brought in for the food menu; previously he’s curated menus at Lowcountry Restaurants in Atlanta. As at Lowcountry, Humble Baron’s food will skew southern, so those who fancy shrimp and grits, snow crab legs, mac and cheese, and the like will be in luck, though there’s more classically American dishes on the menu as well, including wild-caught salmon and a smashburger.

Weaver wanted the music experience to wow the guests, so Humble Baron’s sound system was designed by the same people who created Prince’s Paisley Park (his home and studio). Given that Weaver’s musical taste is as varied as that of his palate, the venue’s performers will hit all genres and styles.

In celebration of the grand opening, Humble Baron will be hosting a ribbon-cutting ceremony at 6 p.m. on the 23rd, followed by a performance from country musician HunterGirl.

HUNGARIAN OAK AMID NEW ADDITIONS TO GLENALLACHIE'S VIRGIN OAK SERIES

21st March 2023



Independent Scotch whisky distillery The GlenAllachie today reveals a new trio of limited-edition single malts joining its [Virgin Oak Series](#). The next tranche of whiskies includes the [8-year-old Scottish Virgin Oak Finish](#) (UK RRSP £65.99), the [7-year-old Hungarian Virgin Oak Finish](#) (UK RRSP £62.99) and the [10-year-old Spanish Virgin Oak Finish](#) (UK RRSP £69.99).

'Virgin oak' refers to wood that has not previously been used to age any other wine or spirit; thus, the influence it has on the whisky is that of the oak alone.



Photo Credit: Gavin Mills

The GlenAllachie's Virgin Oak Series sets out to explore the impact of oak provenance, terroir and genus on flavour development during the whisky maturation process.

The three unusual cask types were adeptly obtained by Scotch whisky industry stalwart [Billy Walker](#) who has built a reputation, during his half-century-long career, for peerless wood innovation.

To create the triad of new whiskies, the spirit was first matured in American Oak (*Quercus Alba*) ex-Bourbon Barrels before undergoing a finishing period of approximately 18 months in the different oak varieties.

The [8-year-old Scottish Virgin Oak Finish](#) enjoyed secondary ageing in Sessile Oak (*Quercus Petraea*) sourced from the Atlantic coast of Scotland.



Scottish oak is rarely used for cask production due to its tendency to knot as it grows, creating challenges in crafting staves; its porosity, boosting the chances of leakages; and its pronounced scarcity, commanding an eye-wateringly high price. Before being filled, the wood was naturally air-dried for 36 months, allowing for further development of flavour characteristics, then toasted and charred to a medium level.

The [7-year-old Hungarian Virgin Oak Finish](#) underwent an 18-month-long stint in *Quercus Petraea* from the Zemplén forest in the mountains of northeast Hungary.



A highly unusual oak type for Scotch whisky maturation, The GlenAllachie are among the first producers to experiment with the use of virgin Hungarian wood.

The rocky volcanic soil, along with the colder climate and higher altitude in which it grows, means trees in the area grow very slowly, developing tighter grain: a desirable trait for ageing spirit.

The [10-year-old Spanish Virgin Oak Finish](#) used hogsheads made of Quercus Robur from the Spanish Cantabrian mountains with a cool yet humid climate.



The oak was dried in open air for 18 months, then subsequently toasted and charred, to open up the pores for flavour extraction by the whisky. All three of the single malts were bottled at a high strength of 48% ABV, without added colouring or chill filtration.

Reflecting on the new product innovations, Walker comments:

“Virgin oak of varying provenance presents endless possibilities to me as a whisky maker. Exploring a variety of oak types, toasting and charring the casks to particular levels, and then closely observing the spirit development over time has been a truly joyful experience.

“These three new bottlings embody the range of flavours offered by oaks of different origins. From the Scottish, expect notes of biscuit, pear and gingerbread; the Hungarian boasts waves of lemon juice, cinnamon and raisins; and the Spanish oak has imparted bursts of toffee sauce and ripe banana. Each is as uniquely enticing as the last.”

The launch coincides with the release of [Batch 9 of The GlenAllachie 10-year-old Cask Strength](#) (UK RRSP £68.99); an expression which was previously crowned [World's Best Single Malt](#) at the World Whiskies Awards in 2021 for its fourth iteration.

With UK RRSPs starting at £62.99, The GlenAllachie's new Virgin Oak Finishes and the 10-year-old Cask Strength Batch 9 will begin hitting shelves from today, with global specialist retailers receiving stock in the coming weeks.

TASTING NOTES

The GlenAllachie 8-year-old Scottish Virgin Oak Finish – 48% ABV

- Colour: Golden Sunset.
- Nose: Bursting with baked oats, butterscotch and toffee, with notes of cinnamon, gingersnaps and heather honey.
- Taste: Lashings of heather honey, orchard fruits and lemon zest, followed by white chocolate, cinnamon and ginger, with toffee and butterscotch on the finish.

The GlenAllachie 7-year-old Hungarian Virgin Oak Finish – 48% ABV

- Colour:
- Nose: Bursting with butterscotch, citrus and milk chocolate, with cinnamon, raisins, orchard fruits and ginger.
- Taste: Lashings of heather honey and cinnamon, followed by chocolate, lemon drops and caramelised brown sugar.

The GlenAllachie 10-year-old Spanish Virgin Oak Finish – 48% ABV

- Colour:
- Nose: Lashings of orchard fruits, baking spices and sticky toffee pudding, with notes of brown sugar, glazed cherries and citrus.
- Taste: Bursting with chocolate, coffee and heather honey, followed by notes of pepper, ginger and molasses, with banana and sultanas on the finish.

InchDairnie partners with LeBlanq

21 MARCH 2023 By Alice Brooker

Scottish distillery InchDairnie has teamed up with luxury cycling specialist LeBlanq to become its global whisky partner.



InchDairnie is due to share its first whisky with LeBlanq guests over the next two years

The whisky brand has been described as the ‘perfect partner’ for LeBlanq, due to its commitment to pushing the ‘boundaries’ of flavour, and its use of new technology.

The cycling specialists also offers weekends away to guests, comprising luxury dining, drinking and the opportunity to bike ride alongside ‘legendary’ cyclists.

InchDairnie Distillery managing director Ian Palmer said: “The story behind the time, effort and precision engineering we have put into creating every precious drop of InchDairnie whisky is the kind LeBlanq’s guests are sure to enjoy.

“The pursuit of interesting and refined flavours is what drives us day to day, and this parallel with the chefs of LeBlanq makes this partnership a very natural place for us to be, as we wheel out our first ever whisky from the distillery in April 2023.”

InchDairnie’s partnership will see its inaugural release, RyeLaw, shared with LeBlanq guests over the next two years.

InchDairnie Distillery will host tastings at each of LeBlanq’s joyriding weekends in 2023, offering LeBlanq’s guests the opportunity to be among the first to taste RyeLaw.

Tickets for the joyriding weekends to destinations including Scotland, Rioja, Flanders, Norway, Ireland, Ibiza and Cape Town, are on sale now.

Ashley Palmer-Watts, LeBlanq co-founder and directeur culinaire, added: “InchDairnie reflects LeBlanq’s ethos perfectly and we are delighted to have them on board as a global partner.

“Innovative, luxurious, breaking away from the norm and determined to deliver a delicious taste experience are attributes that could be used to describe both brands, and we know our clients are going to love being amongst the first to taste their first pours.”

Scapa Distillery unveils tasting room

21 MARCH 2023 By Georgie Collins

Orkney-based Scapa Distillery has revealed a new intimate whisky tasting room, designed to elevate its visitor experience.



The design of the Scapa Noust is reminiscent of the maritime heritage of the destination

The Pernod Ricard-owned Scapa Distillery is situated on the shore of Scapa Flow, on the Scottish island of Orkney.

It is said to be one of the last remaining manually operated distilleries in Scotland, and is manned 24 hours a day by a team of artisans using traditional methods perfected over generations.

The new tasting room, called the Scapa Noust, boasts a distinctive clifftop location with a 'dramatic' backdrop of the Orcadian landscape, and will host uniquely immersive experiences for those looking to taste 'exceptional whisky in a spectacular destination'.

Jacques-Henri, head of brand experience and advocacy at Chivas Brothers, commented: "We are thrilled to open the doors of the new Scapa Noust tasting destination at our Scapa Distillery. The team are so proud to have brought this vision to life, designing a space with a modern and fresh interior, whilst simultaneously honouring the rich traditions of Orkney that make Scapa whisky what it is.

"Orkney is a special place, perfect for those wanting to absorb rich local history and culture and experience the wild beauty of the Orcadian archipelagos. The stunning Scapa Noust offers an incomparable experience for whisky fans and adventure seekers alike".

The Scapa Noust has been designed by local Orcadian architect Mark Fresson, and features touch points reminiscent of the maritime heritage of the destination.

After an [immersive tour of the working distillery and warehouse](#), up to 12 guests will be able to enjoy tastings of Scapa's single malt whiskies around the central hand-carved long table, which features ripples inspired by the sea.

The statement ceiling above has been crafted in the style of a traditional fishing boat's interior.

Visitors will be able to take in views through the floor to ceiling window, looking out over the Scapa Flow, an underwater landmark site where a shipwreck of a sunken fleet resides.

Inside the Scapa Noust, there are nautical design touches from the local area as a reminder of the area's history, including a traditional naval radio desk, as well as a helmet which is more than 100 years old and was used by the British navy up until the 1970s.

To celebrate the opening, Scapa is launching a new addition to its Distillery Reserve Collection, The Cask Finished Edition, Scapa 19-year-old Pedro Ximénez hogshead finish.

The 'rich and spicy' whisky will be available exclusively at Scapa Distillery and on the distillery website, priced at £185 (US\$226.44), with a limited run of 440 bottles.

The Scapa Noust tasting room will open to the public from 4 April, with tasting experiences starting from £40 (US\$49) per person.

Ardbeg launches BBQ-inspired whisky

21 MARCH 2023 By Alice Brooker

Islay-based Ardbeg has unveiled its first limited edition barbecue-inspired whisky, called Ardbeg BizarreBQ.



The BizarreBQ bottling will retail for RRP £75 (US\$91.76)

Created by the brand's director of whisky creation, Dr Bill Lumsden, the liquid boasts flavours of smoky barbecue with a 'meaty, peaty punch'.

The creation process was aided by author and DJ Christian Stevenson, also known as DJ BBQ.

Lumsden said: "Ardbeg BizarreBQ is certainly a hare-brained idea, but with DJ BBQ's help I was able to cook up something truly incredible. Puffs of charcoal and soot mingle with smoky wood and aromatic herbs and spices.

"The undeniable smell of bonfire and barbecue embers linger in the background. Deep, warming smoke follows in flame-grilled steak, chilli oil, cured leather and clove. If there's one Ardbeg you want with you grill-side, it's this one."

The bottling was developed using experimental cask toasting process, with use of double-charred oak casks, Pedro Ximénez Sherry casks and the distillery's unique barbecue casks that have been extra-charred on an old-fashioned brazier.

Ardbeg BizarreBQ clocks in at 50.9% ABV, and is a single malt that is said to complement both whisky making and barbecuing.

"Barbecue lovers and Ardbeg lovers are one and the same – it's all about the smoke – which is something Ardbeg BizarreBQ has in spades," added DJ BBQ.

"I've been on a mission to create and perfect a variety of barbecue dishes and accompanying Ardbeg serves that honour the fundamental laws of smoke, wood and heat for some time. This new limited edition Ardbeg takes this match made in heaven to the next level, and I can't wait for barbecue and whisky fans to try it."

The distillery has been collaborating with DJ BBQ since 2020.

On the nose, the whisky delivers aromas of charcoal and soot mingled with smoky wood and aromatic herbs and spices, while the palate presents flavours of barbecue ribs, ginger, and aniseed.

The finish presents a 'massive, hot aftertaste' with grilled artichoke and black olives.

The whisky will retail for RRP £75 (US\$91.76), and will be available from Ardbeg Distillery Visitor Centre on Islay and in Germany from 3 April.

It will launch in global markets later this year and in the UK in June.

In November last year, the brand created its [first travel retail-exclusive whisky series](#), called Ardbeg Smoketrails.

Linlithgow Distillery up for sale

17 MARCH 2023 By Georgie Collins

Scottish gin producer Linlithgow Distillery is being sold following the founders' decision to step away from the business.



Linlithgow Distillery produces a range of premium gins called LinGin

Founded by couple Alyson and Ross Jamieson in 2017, Linlithgow Distillery produces a range of acclaimed gins and vodkas at its production site in West Lothian, Scotland.

Speaking to *The Spirits Business*, Alyson confirmed that while issues such as the [energy crisis](#), [duty hikes](#), and the incoming [deposit return scheme](#) were a concern, the couple's decision to withdraw from the business was a personal one: "The current climate in this industry is very challenging but not overwhelming, and can all be surmounted by someone with the energy to drive it forward.

"We are getting to that stage where energy is waning, although the passion is still there. Health is part of the decision, too, and we have been discussing this for the past six months – it's just now is the right time to start seeking a new brand owner."

Alyson explained that the purchase of the distillery would include all brand assets, including the company's two stills: a 100-litre still called Gleann luchra, which translates to mean 'Linlithgow' in Gaelic; and a 500-litre still called Scotty after *Star Trek* character Montgomery 'Scotty' Scott, who will be born in Linlithgow in the year 2222.

Furthermore, the buyer will acquire "all finished goods, recipes, intellectual property, trademarks, and empty bottles".

The brand's portfolio includes its range of premium LinGin gins, which is composed of a classic London Dry; multiple limited edition cask-aged expressions; a pink fruit-based gin; a mulled gin; and a navy strength bottling.

In addition, the distillery released four brightly coloured bottles during the Covid-19 lockdowns to "bring a bit of colour back into your life", each of which contains four individual primary flavours designed to be enjoyed individually or mixed and matched to create 15 different flavour combinations. Furthermore, the brand has developed a collection of flavoured gins called Four Marys, inspired by the four ladies-in-waiting to Mary Queen of Scots, who was born at Linlithgow Palace, as well as one quadruple-distilled Four Marys vodka.

[Linlithgow Distillery received a Growth Assistance Grant](#) from Business Gateway West Lothian in 2019, which allowed it to move across the road to a new site that was double the original size. As a result, the distillery was able to increase production, and begin offering tasting sessions and tours for visitors.

Alyson confirmed the company was "already in very early discussions with someone" about an acquisition, "but we are open to speaking to anyone with a genuine interest in taking the brand forward. The best way to contact is by email to contactus@linlithgowdistillery.co.uk.

"It's a great wee business with a quality brand, so all we want is to see it continue," she added.

Edrington workers accept 12% pay rise

15 MARCH 2023 By Georgie Collins

Unite members based at Edrington Distillers have accepted a pay deal worth 12% to end a dispute over new shift patterns and unsociable hours.



Edrington's portfolio includes Scotch whisky brand The Macallan

The pay rise will see workers located at the Drumchapel-based company in Glasgow, Scotland, receive a boost to their annual income of between £2,450 (US\$2,975) and £4,900 (US\$5,951).

The agreement comes after the trade union [balloted Edrington workers in Glasgow for industrial action last month](#).

The dispute was over new shift patterns and associated pay introduced in January 2023 for engineers, electricians and boilermen.

The union said the shift pattern changes had meant some workers were starting at the earlier time of 5.30am instead of 7am, with similar time changes for the back shift.

The employees at Edrington had called for a 5% higher shift allowance for unsociable hours for the early shift and back shift in line with other unionised distillery plants.

Unite general secretary Sharon Graham said: "Unite has achieved a great deal for our members at Edrington. The 12% pay rise over the year means that some workers will have their income boosted by up to £4,900."

The deal will see the workers receive a backdated 3% rise to January 2023, with a further 9% to be added from April 2023.

Unite industrial officer Graham McNab added: "The dispute at Edrington in Drumchapel is now over through this great deal for workers.

"Our members were determined to get what they deserved and in line with industry standards. We are pleased the company has seen sense before the dispute escalated to industrial action, and this should be a lesson for future negotiations."

GMB Scotland agreement

In addition to the agreement reached with Unite, [a vote by more than 300 workers across two Edrington sites](#), including The Macallan distillery, over a pay dispute for unsociable hours, has just been counted. It is *The Spirits Business'* understanding that the count resulted in 'a huge majority vote' to accept Edrington's offer, details of which have not yet been disclosed.

A spokesperson for Edrington commented: "Edrington works hard to be a good employer and to ensure that all our people share in the success of the business, both through their wages, bonuses and also through an industry-leading suite of benefits.

"We are pleased to have agreed a settlement as part of our planned negotiation process with both Unite and the GMB trade unions. During this negotiation we were also able to resolve the dispute over shift premiums. The rise in base pay represents an excellent settlement that is well ahead of average wage rises across the UK and across all sectors.

"It is regrettable that the trade unions did not engage with our offer of a wage settlement at Acas, which could have avoided the uncertainty that ballots have caused to our people."

Edrington saw its [revenue soar by 45% to £821.2 million](#) (US\$988.8m) for the year ending 31 March 2022.

Furthermore, Edrington saw increased turnover to £140.6m (US\$170.75m) in 2022, up from £101.2 million (US\$124.11m) the year before.

Compass Box unveils 20th anniversary release

15 MARCH 2023 By Georgie Collins

Scotch whisky maker Compass Box is celebrating the 20th anniversary of its Peat Monster expression with the release of a limited edition bottling.



Peat Monster Cask Strength: Origin Story is bottled at 56.7%

The Peat Monster Cask Strength: Origin Story celebrates the beginnings of the popular bottling, which was first created in 2003 after Jonathan Goldstein of Park Avenue Liquors joined forces with [Compass Box founder John Glaser](#) for the exclusive release.

The heavily-peated whisky was so successful that it was released to the worldwide market in 2004, and went on to become one of Compass Box's most popular expressions, according to the brand.

"It's always been our mission at Compass Box to create compelling whiskies, even if it means breaking moulds – or creating new ones," said Glaser.

The liquid is presented at a cask strength of 56.7% ABV.

Glaser continued: "Thanks to the early collaboration with Jonathan Goldstein, we created a quintessential peated whisky that has gone on to become one of our core expressions, still beloved by whisky drinkers two decades later and one that we're proud to be celebrating with this cask strength limited edition."

Today, The Peat Monster Cask Strength: Origin Story is comprised of a blend of Williamson Islay malt, aged in refill American oak hogsheads; malt whisky from the Caol Ila Distillery, aged in refill American oak hogsheads, American oak Bourbon barrels, and refill puncheons; and a Highland malt blend aged in custom French oak barrels with a heavy toast.

In addition, Compass Box has celebrated The Peat Monster's US roots by recognising American coopers through a partial finishing of the blend.

Approximately half of the whisky has been placed into barrels made from American white oak for three-to-four months.

These grain-seasoned casks, created by the independent Stave Company, have been air-dried for two years and toasted using a highly technical process before being sent to Scotland and filled with grain spirit for one year.

The resulting blend boasts "big blasts of smoke, cinnamon and tobacco notes", according to the team.

On the nose, there are notes of sooty barbecue smoke, green apple and aromatic citrus oils, underpinned by warming cinnamon.

The palate offers hints of tarry, smoked almond that has mixed with the seasoned virgin oak for added richness and vanilla notes, as well as seaweed, cayenne pepper, and saltiness.

The bottle's label was designed by acclaimed American artist Mark Burckhardt, and features 'Dali-esque' depictions of the monster against skyscrapers, smoking subway steam grates, and a glimpse of Central Park.

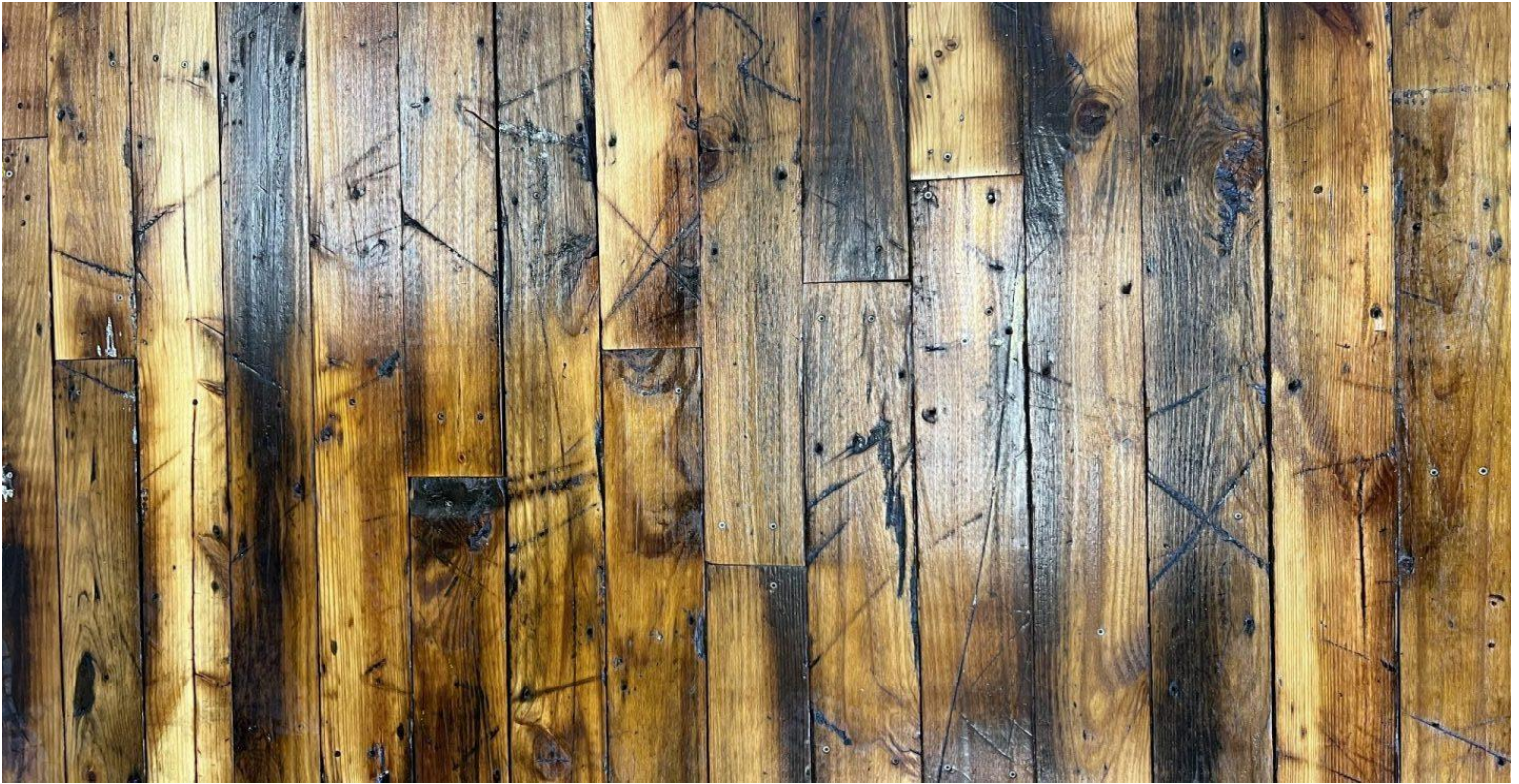
The latest release will see 9,126 bottles available worldwide, for RRP £105 (US\$127.50) each.

Jim Beam Barrel House Reclaimed Wood Could Be Your New Flooring

Flooring boards made from those that propped up the Jim Beam barrel houses of yore are now available to help transform a living space.

[A statement from the maker](#) of the flooring, Old World Timber out of Lexington, Kentucky, notes that each board is made from the old oak barrel house floors that have witnessed some of the world's finest bourbon whiskeys.

Jim Beam has been making whiskey for more than two centuries, with seven generations at the helm. Their master distillers and crafts people's dedication to perfecting their process has resulted in a signature spirit known for its smooth and complex flavor.



Flooring boards made from those that propped up the Jim Beam barrel houses of yore are now available to help transform a living space. (image via Old World Timber)

Old World Timber chose to offer the unique oak flooring made from reclaimed boards from the Jim Beam barrel houses as a unique way to bring history and character into homes.



LOCH GORM 2023

6	2013	8
6	2014	8
6	2015	8

22

OLOROSO SHERRY BUTTS

Loch Gorm 2023 has been released!

MARCH 13, 2023

The eagerly awaited annual release of Loch Gorm has arrived! The vatting has been completed and bottles will be hitting shelves around the world any day now.

Named after the famously dark, peaty loch overlooked by the distillery, our annual Loch Gorm limited edition is our only regular expression matured entirely in oloroso sherry casks.

For the 2023 Edition Anthony and Robin selected a total of 22 casks, 8 distilled in 2013, 6 distilled in 2014, and 8 distilled in 2015. This latest edition of Loch Gorm will be available from Kilchoman stockists around the world from this week (a little longer for those living further away from Scotland). Please contact us if you have any questions about where to find a bottle.



Each cask was chosen for its unique flavour profile which, when combined together with the other 21 casks, create a beautiful balance of rich fruity character with layers of classic Kilchoman peat smoke and citrus sweetness.

“Rather than dominating, Loch Gorm’s oloroso maturation works in harmony with the natural character of Kilchoman. The 2023 release has a fantastic spectrum of flavour, from rich spices and macerated peaches to fresh citrus, ginger, orange zest and waves of salty peat smoke,”
Anthony Wills, Kilchoman Founder.



Loch Gorm 2023 will be available from your regular [Kilchoman stockists](#) around the world from this week. For more information email info@kilchomandistillery.com

In the Scottish Highlands, this distillery has taken inspiration from whisky creation to outfit its handsome boutique hotel
ANDREW SARDONEPHOTOGRAPHY BY RACHELLE SIMONEAUPUBLISHED MARCH 9, 2023



Easter Ross Peninsula in Scotland.

The schmoozy vibe of a private member's club in London's Soho is about as distinct from the cozy Scottish Highlands as you can get. But, on a balmy evening in early November, the team behind Glenmorangie whisky hosted an event at the Century Club that aimed to bridge that aesthetic, spiritual, sonic and atmospheric gap.

On the top floor of the building, just off of Piccadilly Circus, a moody woodland scene appeared, created with walls of edible plants. The occasion was the debut of a campaign shot by British pop art photographer Miles Aldridge and a tease of Glenmorangie's latest bottling, A Tale of the Forest. It was also an opportunity to signal to cocktail enthusiasts that Glenmorangie sees itself as a distillery that's on its own playful, more approachable path. To really experience this evolution, however, you need to get out of Soho, fly to Inverness in Scotland and make the hour-long drive up to the Easter Ross Peninsula where Glenmorangie has been creating its single malts since 1843. There, a few kilometres from the distillery's headquarters near Tain, is Glenmorangie House.



A giraffe sculpture welcomes guests to Glenmorangie House



Each of the six guest rooms draw their colour schemes from Glenmorangie's whiskies.



The inn was recently renovated by maximalist London firm Russell Sage Studio.

The inn's recent renovation by maximalist London firm Russell Sage Studio, aims to capture the brand's new direction in its reception rooms and accommodations through vivid colours, hardy textiles and unexpected details (for example, the four-metre-tall statue of a giraffe that watches over the front door). The 28-hectare estate surrounded by barley fields provides a stylish home base for exploring Scotland's rugged northeast and a comfy bed to come home to after a day of hikes and tastings.

"The scenery in Scotland is quite varied and fabulous wherever you go, but once you go up there, there's all these beautiful natural resources," says Dr. Bill Lumsden, who has been Glenmorangie's director of whisky creation for the past 27 years. "The distilleries were all established there because barley grew in the fertile land and there was a plentiful source of water. If you go north, you're spoilt for choice of all these different distilleries. But you want to go north and east to Glenmorangie. That's where it's at. Of course, I would say that."

Lumsden's domain is a campus of sandstone, pagoda roof-topped production buildings and handsome warehouses overlooking Dornoch Firth. It sits at a lower elevation than Glenmorangie's nearby water source, Tarlogie Springs, which allows gravity to bring in the freshwater needed for distillation. That process happens in five-metre-tall copper pot stills with long necks that are the inspiration for the brand's love of giraffes.

In the distillery gift shop, you'll find examples of the six core expressions it bottles and limited-edition releases including the Lighthouse, a 12-year-old single malt aged in bourbon and sherry casks that's only available on site.



Glenmorangie distillery. Behind Glenmorangie's stone warehouses, a modern tower called the Lighthouse is home to its new research lab. The Lighthouse is an example of Glenmorangie's evolution as a distiller and not just because its packaging eschews the classic look of most whisky bottles in favour of a label wrapped with a rainbow of stripes. The expression was released to mark the opening of the Lighthouse, a 20-metre-tall glass tower looking out toward the North Sea that could be a Bond villain's lair and is equally as secretive. It operates as a distiller's science lab and contains two experimental stills that are being used to push the limits of whisky making. That openness to being innovative in an industry that's reverential about its history is the biggest takeaway of experiencing Glenmorangie at its source. "The drinks industry should be about fun and pleasure and enjoyment. The Scotch whisky industry, and particularly single malt Scotch, was so not about that," Lumsden says. "I want people to love it and find it delicious."



The manor's decor pays homage to elements of whisky making, uniting the past and the present. On the Glenmorangie House estate, that mix of the past and the future comes together even more clearly. The manor is grand but comfortable and decorated in an exuberant style that pays homage to elements of whisky making. In the morning room, a gilded ceiling and floral wallpaper reference fields of barley. The dining room includes an eight-metre-long table inset with panels of hammered copper that hint at those towering stills (curiously for a Canadian visitor, it also displays a historic photo of founder William Matheson captured in Woodstock, Ont.). Each of the six guest rooms (there are also three cottages across a courtyard filled with lawn games), draw their colour schemes from Glenmorangie's whiskies. The Sunset room's palette, pulled from the colours, flavours and textures of the distillery's Lasanta expression, fades from red to tangerine to violet.

STORY CONTINUES BELOW ADVERTISEMENT



A walk through the Glenmorangie House grounds allows visitors to fill their lungs with fresh sea air and cross paths with the locals.

On the property, the hotel can organize archery lessons or foraging for cocktail ingredients but the best way to experience the landscape is a hike down to the water and the reconstruction of the Hilton of Cadboll stone. The replica monument of a stone that is now displayed in the Museum of Scotland in Edinburgh (with a Pictish motif that features prominently on Glenmorangie's labels) sits in a clearing near the village of Hilton. The walk there allows you to stretch your legs, fill your lungs with fresh sea air and cross paths with the locals.

"One of the things I love about going north is, I think you travel in distance and time," says Caspar MacRae, Glenmorangie's marketing and business development director. "I find the sense of community, which is pretty anachronistic in modern day life – the way people know each other, the way people support each other, the way they think about each other – is something I find really refreshing. The scenery is beautiful but the hospitality and the people are probably even more compelling."

ON LOCATION



Glenmorangie offers tours of its distillery, including tastings.

Glenmorangie Distillery

Running daily June through August and Monday through Friday the rest of the year, hour-long tours of the distillery include two tastings of Glenmorangie's core bottles.

Distillery tour, £20 per person through glenmorangie.com.

Glenmorangie House

Aside from its richly decorated bedrooms and cottages, this boutique hotel offers dining experiences spotlighting local ingredients, mixology classes and falconry displays.

Double rooms from £290/night including breakfast through glenmorangie.com/glenmorangie-house.

Portmahomack

This seaside village is home to local dining favourites including the Oystercatcher (the-oystercatcher.co.uk) and the summer seafood pop up Surf and Turf (@surfandturfhq on Instagram).



Tarbat Ness Lighthouse.

Tain Pottery

Near the distillery, this studio welcomes guests to browse pieces glazed in traditional tartans and more abstract florals.

tainpottery.co.uk.

Tarbat Ness Lighthouse

At the northern point of the fault that divides the Scottish Highlands in two sits its third tallest lighthouse.

nlb.org.uk.

Urquart Castle

This ruin overlooks Loch Ness and is an easy detour when travelling near Inverness. Grab lunch nearby at the Clansman Hotel.

Heineken gets final approval for Distell deal

13 MARCH 2023 By Nicola Carruthers

The South Africa Competition Tribunal has given the green light for Heineken's €2.4 billion (US\$2.56bn) takeover of Distell.



Distell produces Amarula cream liqueur

In November 2021, Dutch brewing giant Heineken agreed to buy a [65% stake in South African spirits firm Distell](#), excluding the Scotch whisky business. South Africa's Competition Tribunal has approved Heineken's offer, marking the final regulatory approval it needed. As part of the deal, Heineken agreed to purchase Distell's flavoured alcohol beverages (FABs), and wine and spirits operations, except for certain spirits brands, as well as Namibian Breweries.

Following the merger, a new company based in South Africa will be created, called Newco.

Newco will combine Distell's portfolio of spirits, wine, cider and ready-to-drink beverages with Heineken's Southern Africa and export markets business, which includes Namibia Breweries.

Distell's spirits portfolio includes Amarula liqueur, South African whisky brands Bains and Three Ships, Cruz vodka and Klipdrift brandy.

The rest of Distell's assets would become part of Capevin, a new company that will include the Scotch whisky business, consisting of the Bunnahabhain, Deanston and Tobermory brands.

Certain conditions

South Africa's Competition Commission recommended that the Competition Tribunal [approve the merger](#), subject to conditions, in September 2022.

Among the conditions were the requirement that Heineken sells its Strongbow cider business in South Africa and establish an employee share ownership scheme.

Furthermore, it must establish a R400m rand (US\$23.4m) supplier development fund and donate R200m (US\$11.7m) to promote local initiatives in the country.

Other conditions include investing R175m (US\$10.2m) in a tavern transformation programme, and the creation of a South Africa-based innovation, research and development hub within five years.

The deal is expected to be completed in April 2023.

'Regional beverage champion'

Heineken said the transaction would enable it to create a 'regional beverage champion for Southern Africa'.

Heineken's CEO and chairman of the executive board, Dolf van den Brink, said: "We are delighted the Competition Tribunal has approved the deal.

"We are very excited to bring together three strong businesses to create a regional beverage champion, with a unique multi-category offer to better serve consumers, customers and create shared societal value across Southern Africa.

"We are committed to being a strong partner for growth and making a positive impact in the communities in which we operate, and the proactive and comprehensive public interest package we've put forward is testament to that."

Macallan Aera

JOHNMARCH 8, 2023

This article was inspired by the episode "Food Is Art. So Why Do People Treat It Differently?" from The Dave Chang Show.



In this episode, Dave loudly wonders why people are paying thousands of dollars for paintings, limited edition sneakers, and concert tickets... but no one is willing to pay for expensive dishes. Again, he said dishes and not meals. According to this article, the current most expensive restaurant in the world is Sublimotion in Ibiza, Spain. It costs USD \$2,380 for a 20-course tasting menu. So on average, each dish would cost around \$119.

He goes on to give examples of painters, such as David Choe, whose paintings have ranged from USD \$199 to USD \$32,760. They recall Choe as saying his paintings deserve to be more expensive. Unsurprisingly, his paintings sold faster when he made them more expensive. Aside from that, according to this list, the world's most expensive sneakers cost \$2M. Taylor Swift concert tickets, which very quickly sold out, cost from \$49 to \$449; But ended up going for as much as \$2,200 due to resellers.

Paraphrasing what Dave said, I think we can all agree that paintings, apparel, music, and food are considered art. Granted that not all food is art, as most exists to provide sustenance and comfort, while a small portion takes food to the level of art. If this is the case, why is it that the media and journalists celebrate the extravagant prices of these luxuries, yet they bitch about restaurants with high prices?

It's mentioned in the episode that these voices will scream elitism. I get that highly expensive food is also a luxury. But why treat it differently from other luxuries? It's not like the celebration of more expensive dishes in restaurants for the elite will cause the global increase of food prices. Do these media voices not see the difference between food for sustenance and food for art? Or will they just take any opportunity to make noise for their own agenda?

Dave is not saying we should increase the prices of food for everyone. He's just saying that food should be more expensive at the most elite restaurants. If most of their customers can afford thousands of dollars worth of concert tickets, sneakers, and paintings, they should be able to afford dishes in the same price range. Yet, no restaurant exists with dishes as expensive as this, because restaurateurs know the type of criticism they will get for doing so, thus showing that society devalues food. Not that we need it, but if this doesn't change, no one will be able to raise food to a new level.

But Dave forgot to mention that there are dishes priced at thousands of dollars. One example would be a couple of Salt Bae's restaurants. Just look at the prices of Salt Bae's new restaurant at Las Vegas' The Strip and his London steakhouse. Golden wagyu striploin that can cost from \$650 to \$2700 and Golden Giant Tomahawk steak for £1,450 & Golden Giant Striploin for £1,350 respectively.

With this being Malt, alcohol has to be weaved in. So, another thing Dave forgot to mention is that people are also willing to spend a lot on alcohol. This is not a knock on him or alcohol. I'm well aware that alcohol sales contribute to a huge chunk of a restaurant's profits. Also, based on the shows he's been in (such as Ugly Delicious and Mind of a Chef) he's never struck me as someone who is savvy with alcohol. Still, as a restaurateur who is friends with chefs from Michelin restaurants, I hoped that he would have pointed out how the elite don't mind buying bottles of wine and whisky that go for thousands of dollars. Just check this 10 most expensive wines list, which mentions prices ranging from \$12,824 to \$41,368. Then check this list of 25 most expensive whiskies. The lowest ranked cost \$47,136 while the highest ranked cost \$927,706.

The examples above of food seemingly being devalued might be to the extremes. But keep in mind that Dave's examples are for the elite. For the most part, I agree with Dave that food is seemingly constantly being devalued. Stepping away from his views, I see his point elsewhere. If you want more proof, just look at how farmers – the people responsible for growing our food – are constantly being devalued.

I also see this in every class of society. Locally, I'd see people in the streets settle for the cheapest food as long as they can drink their favorite brand of beer or spirit. Among the middle and upper class, I'm aware of local groups of whisky drinkers who would rather meet up and eat at decently priced restaurants while drinking their expensive bottles of wine or whisky. These don't apply to everyone, but this is my way of agreeing with Dave.

This makes me wonder if this devaluing of food is something hard-wired into our genes, or is it more of a deep-rooted issue in society. With all this extravagance being shared in social media, is the need for validation and attention that much stronger than the urge to eat good food?

I've heard of cases wherein new whisky collectors would be irresponsible with their money. They'd buy an expensive bottle they can't afford so they wouldn't be able to pay for all of their necessities. Influencers will pretend or even think that a well-plated dish or a premium bottle of whisky is really good just because it's presentable, and they're possibly getting paid to promote it. It seems like being illogical is a huge part of being human, thus making it obvious to me that this issue has been around for a long time but has only been made more obvious by social media.

What brand of whisky represents the elite (of absurdity) and lack of logic better than Macallan? The ridiculousness of the demand for their contemporarily mediocre at best – yet stupidly priced – products is something I cannot truly fathom.

Just look at this Macallan Aera. This NAS expression, aged in seasoned "sherry" casks, was originally released for the Taiwan market in 2018. I also heard this was made for the clubs there. Thankfully it seems like the Taiwanese kept their wits about them and didn't go gaga for this, because a lot of bottles became available outside of Taiwan (I was given a bottle as a gift). A lot of bottles are also still available today. I guess this brings a new meaning to them being the strongest single malt market in Asia.

Macallan Aera – Review

40% ABV. USD \$180 locally. €331.91 on Master of Malt.

Color: Honey.

On the nose: The first whiff I get reminds me of the Glendronach 12. Then I get mild aromas of sulfur mixed with mild and soft aromas of apricot jam, fresh peaches, and Fuji apples. There are light aromas of honey, toffee, honeydew melons and cereals. After about five minutes, the sulfur notes end up dominating the dram.

In the mouth: A mixed mess of sulfur and an unrecognizable assortment of fruits with a peppery texture. There might be some dried apricots, kiwi, sapodilla and honey in there. Despite the ABV, it ends up being hot. Because I nosed this for 5 minutes before I took a sip, I wondered if I could taste this better if I poured a new glass. Also, after five minutes of nosing, the sulfur aromas intensified.

There's less sulfur. But everything seems muted. I get light and short tastes of dried apricots, peaches, sapodilla, toffee, nuts, and honey. There's a tinge of honeydew melon at the end.

Conclusions:

As our scoring bands state, this is flawed. At its current state, I'd have given it a 4 if it were cheaper. But if this didn't have the aggressive sulfur notes and if it were cheaper, I'd give this a 5.

There is just nothing exciting about this expression, unless buying this for someone at a club could get them excited and let you score. I guess I'm just immune to the "charms" of Macallan.

If I imagined this without the sulfur notes and stupid price, this would be a perfectly good entry level single malt. But with the price and sulfur, it's just a mess of a light profile single malt. The flavors don't last long. It's hot for the 40% ABV.

The Best Scotch Whiskies Of 2023, According To The International Wine & Spirits Competition Awards

APRIL 4, 2023

There's a lot of great whiskey in this weary old world of ours. The vast majority of that [whiskey comes from Scotland](#). I know, it's a tiny place. But the 140-odd distilleries produce an [astounding amount of Scotch whisky](#) each year. Finding the [perfect Scotch whisky to drink](#), thereby, is no easy task. Special oak cask finishings, [limited edition releases](#), [cask strength bottlings](#), excellent malt blends, and [very old age statements](#) all add an aura to a whisky release (and can make it confusing when shopping). But what really is the best of all those variables? That's where competitions like [the International Wine & Spirits Competition](#) (IWSC) come in.

The IWSC gathers some of the biggest names in the whiskey game every year to judge an incredible amount of spirits, especially [Scotch whisky](#). These whiskies are judged double-blind by [panels of judges](#) that include huge names from distilling like Dr. Bill Lumsden (who makes Glenmorangie and [Ardbeg](#)) to Richard "The Nose" Paterson OBE (Master Blender for Whyte & Mackay for the last 50 years) to David Stewart MBE (who invented the special barrel finish at The Balvenie during his 55-year career — *so far* — in whisky). The judge panels also include [influencers](#), critics, and industry pros who are unassailably in the upper echelon of the whiskey industry. Long story short ([too late](#)), the judges for these whiskies are *the* people to listen to when looking for a new pour.

And now they have spoken — definitively — about what you should be sipping right now. Below, I've listed the 24 Scotch whiskies that achieved the acclaimed "Gold Outstanding" highest honor at the 2023 IWSC. These are the whiskies that achieved a 98 or 99-point rating out of 100. Amazingly, only one whisky got that coveted 99-point rating and you'll have to scroll to the end to see which one.

Besides the list, I've included the tasting notes from the pros who judged the whiskies at IWSC this year and have included [my tasting notes](#) if I've tasted the whisky too. Sound good? Let's dive in!

Loch Lomond Single Malt Scotch Whisky Aged 10 Years — 98 Points



LOCH LOMOND DISTILLERY COMPANY

ABV: 40%

Average Price: [\\$32](#)

The Whisky:

This lightly peated single malt is aged in American oak. 10-year-old casks are chosen for their exacting flavor profile and vatted to create this low-proof local release.

[IWSC Tasting Notes](#):

"A fruit-driven nose showing tropical fruits, especially pineapple, combining with bonfire smoke aromas. Tropical fruits linger on the palate where the gentle smoke is integrated ending with a vanilla sweetness in the finish. Good malt character, estery and fruity."

Bottom Line:

This is made for British grocery stores. So you're not going to see it around the U.S. That said, this feels like a quality highball whisky to have on hand if you're traveling around the U.K. this summer.

The Glendronach Parliament Aged 21 Years Highland Single Malt Scotch Whisky — 98 Points



BROWN-FORMAN

ABV: 48%

Average Price: [\\$279](#)

The Whisky:

Don't let the name fool you. The "parliament" in this case is the collective noun for rooks — a type of European crow that nests above the distillery. That dark essence is rendered in the whisky through 21 long years of maturation in Oloroso and Pedro Ximenez sherry casks exclusively.

[IWSC Tasting Notes:](#)

"Rich fruitcake on the nose with sweet and spicy cloves leading to a balanced palate of dark chocolate, savory notes, and firm tannins giving complexity and balance and finishing on a long juicy raisin mouthfeel."

Our Tasting Notes:

Nose: A lot is going on with this nose, starting with blackberry brambles hanging heavy with ripe fruit leading towards a well-spiced oatmeal cookie, soft marzipan cut with hints of orange zest, a light sense of dark chocolate with a creamy edge, and soft vanilla cookies sprinkled with mint and lavender.

Palate: A sticky toffee pudding sweetness arrives (heavy on the black tea-soaked dates and nutmeg with a well-salted toffee drizzle) with flourishes of bitter dark chocolate notes and a sharp holiday spice matrix that leans into bark and berry botanicals with a dash of sweet nutmeg.

Finish: The end is very long and very velvety with hints of dark fruits, winter spice barks, soft marzipan, and a fleeting sense of a wildflower orchard.

Bottom Line:

This is a perfect whisky. No faults. It's just delicious.

Deanston Highland Single Malt Scotch Whisky 21 Years Old Sherry Cask — 98 Points



DISTELL

ABV: 50.9%

Average Price: [\\$222](#)

The Whisky:

This cask-strength bottling is all about soft sherry cask finishing. The organic malt is finished in organic fino sherry casks (the wood is organic and the sherry was too). Those barrels are bottled with no fussing whatsoever.

[IWSC Tasting Notes:](#)

“Wonderfully rich and bursting with spicy ginger and vanilla aromas. Sweet nutmeg and treacle toffee with hints of tangy orange fill the senses with a soft PX mouthfeel which lingers in the mouth with fabulous complexity.”

Bottom Line:

Deanston is one of those brands that is really gaining traction amongst dyed-in-the-wool whisky fans. This sounds delicious.

Tomintoul Speyside Single Malt Scotch Whisky Aged 21 Years — 98 Points



ANGUS DUNDEE

ABV: 40%

Average Price: [\\$199](#)

The Whisky:

This is classic unpeated Speyside single malt. The whisky spends over two decades mellowing before it's vatted, proofed with local soft Speyside water, and bottled.

[IWSC Tasting Notes:](#)

“Intensely fruity with an excellent complexity. Spiced stem and sweet crystalized ginger enthuse on the palate with a supporting cast of brown sugar, orange blossom, rich dark chocolate, and luxurious vanilla notes. A taste sensation, embracing nutty sherry undertones, pastry, and oak on the journey towards the elegant finish.”

Bottom Line:

Spicy and dark fruit sounds delicious. I'm always weary of 40% or 80-proof Scotch, but this sounds like a winner worth checking out.

Balblair Highland Single Malt Scotch Whisky Aged 25 Years — 98 Points



INVER HOUSE DISTILLERS

ABV: 46%

Average Price: [\\$619](#)

The Whisky:

Balblair lets this malt rest for over 20 years in old bourbon casks. A batch of those barrels that actually survive is re-filled into old Spanish sherry oak for a final few years of rest before proofing and bottling.

IWSC Tasting Notes:

“Warming first impression on the nose showing aroma characteristics of orange peel, blackcurrant, dried fig, dark chocolate, and oak influences shown as spice, nutmeg, and cloves. Full-bodied style showing balance with rich dried fruits and overall sweet indications; a woody finish.”

Bottom Line:

Balblair is a sleeper hit every time I taste it. I can't imagine this not being a great pour of whisky.

The Scotch Malt Whisky Society 55.74 Crazy Flamenco Bravura Single Malt Scotch Whisky — 98 Points



THE SCOTCH MALT WHISKY SOCIETY

ABV: 57.8%

Average Price: [\\$122](#)

The Whisky:

This special bottling from The Scotch Malt Whisky Society (one of the most famous single cask bottlers in the game) is made from a one-of-a-kind barrel. The whisky in this bottle aged for 15 years in a first-fill Olorosso hogshead in Speyside. The Scotch Malt Whisky Society selected a single barrel and bottled it 100% as-is.

IWSC Tasting Notes:

“A good balance of rich dark fruits with cereal notes, esters, and wood extracts on the nose combining with a spiciness, figs, and bourbon cask influences on the palate where the strength of the alcohol comes through. A balanced finish ending with oak.”

Bottom Line:

I've never had a bad pour from The Scotch Malt Whisky Society. I would confidently buy this without the award (and now more so because of it).

The Sassenach Blended Scotch Whisky — 98 Points



THE SASSENACH

ABV: 46%

Average Price: [\\$102](#)

The Whisky:

Yes, Scotch whisky has celebrity white-labeled brands too. This one comes from *Outlander* star Sam Heughan. The whisky's recipe/build is under wraps so there's not much more to say besides that Sam Heughan is not simply slapping his name on a bottle. He's fully involved in the process as a deeply caring whisky fan who wants to put something special on the shelf.

[IWSC Tasting Notes:](#)

"Exquisite nose of vanilla, toffee, and breadcrumbs. Lovely grainy quality on the palate with buttery apple puree, a refined sweetness, and luscious tropical notes. Floral, fruity, malty, and rich, finishing with orange peel and milk chocolate."

Our Tasting Notes:

Nose: Lemon drops and Almond Joys drive the nose with a hint of honey, bourbon vanilla, and dried apricot.

Palate: That apricot gets leathery on the palate as the malts arrive with plenty of honey and cinnamon-forward spice next to a hint of eggnog nutmeg.

Finish: The finish is concise with a little cinnamon, honey, and almond rounding things out.

Bottom Line:

This is a classic blended Scotch whisky from top to bottom. I tend to like it over a big rock on a slow afternoon. It also works wonders in a simple whisky-forward cocktail.

Craigellachie Speyside Single Malt Scotch Whisky Aged 13 Years — 98 Points



BACARDI

ABV: 46%

Average Price: [\\$51](#)

The Whisky:

Craigellachie is another classic Speyside malt that forms the backbone of Dewar's Blended Whisky. This whisky ages for 13 years before it's vatted, proofed, and bottled.

[IWSC Tasting Notes:](#)

"Gentle orchard fruit on the nose that is well balanced with rich and complex dried fruit. Delicate palate of lovely sweetness, honey, and vanilla with punchy heat and subtle baking spices. Beautifully finished with oak and wood spiciness."

Our Tasting Notes:

Nose: Dried apricots and grilled pineapple pop on the nose with a light sense of molasses over what feels like brown sugar basted ham with a thin line of barbecue smoke.

Palate: That hint of sweet smoke leads back to the dried fruit with a hint of creamy vanilla and soft winter spices (cloves and allspice especially).

Finish: Grilled pineapple, mango skins, and marmalade draw out the finish with a hint more of that molasses smokiness and singed winter spices.

Bottom Line:

This is a great cocktail whisky. It adds a subtle fruity/smoky punch to citrus-forward drinks.

Glen Moray Single Malt Scotch Whisky Elgin Limited Edition Aged 10 Years — 98 Points



LA MARTINQUAISE

ABV: 46%

Average Price: [\\$81](#)

The Whisky:

This limited edition whiskey is made from 10-year-old Glen Elgin. The twist here is that this batch was finished in Chardonnay casks and then bottled as-is with a dash of proofing water.

[IWSC Tasting Notes:](#)

“Soft fruits lead this drink to make an unforgettable statement. Magnificent lemon sherbet on the nose with butter icing and freshly sliced apple. The palate is spiced fruit cake building to the finish.”

Bottom Line:

Glen Elgin is another sleeper hit. It’s one of those whiskies that pops up and delivers and a great flavor profile. For this one, I’m interested in how deeply the buttery orchard nature of the Chardonnay cask goes.

Glenfairn Highland Single Malt Scotch Whisky — 98 Points



WHYTE AND MACKAY

ABV: 40%

Average Price: [\\$23](#)

The Whisky:

Glenfairn is a small local bottler in the U.K. This whisky is made from vats of Highland malt. Beyond that, not much else is known.

[IWSC Tasting Notes](#):

“Wonderfully fragrant on the nose with a tropical mango base and a creamy toffee palate that is sweet and unctuous with great balance that finishes with a rich floral character that lingers.”

Bottom Line:

This is another very local U.K. grocery store whisky. I can't see tracking this down unless I had nothing better to do.

Glenfiddich Single Malt Scotch Whisky Solera Aged 15 Years — 98 Points



WILLIAM GRANT AND SONS

ABV: 40%

Average Price: [\\$89](#)

The Whisky:

This unique Glenfiddich has its own vibe. The whisky is aged in ex-bourbon and ex-sherry casks for 15 years. Those barrels are then vatted in a special large-format solera barrel that's never fully emptied as new whisky goes in. The whisky from that vat is proofed down and then bottled.

[IWSC Tasting Notes](#):

“Delicate nose with mineral notes, soft fruit is beautifully balanced with a perfect sweetness that continues to develop onto the palate. Baked green apple drizzled in butterscotch sauce with a hint of marzipan and cinnamon.”

Our Tasting Notes:

Nose: Dark dried red fruit mixes with old vanilla on the nose with a hint of orange and maybe some light winter spice.

Palate: Soft plummy fruit mingles with marzipan and vanilla with a light oaky spiciness that's part spicy mulled wine and part mincemeat pie.

Finish: The holiday sweetness drives the finish with a sense of raisins, marzipan, and gingerbread cookies.

Bottom Line:

This is pretty nice but very light thanks to that low ABV/proof. I wouldn't spend \$90 on it but I wouldn't turn a glass away if someone handed it to me.

Loch Lomond Inchmurrin Single Malt Scotch Whisky Aged 12 Years — 98 Points



LOCH LOMOND DISTILLERY COMPANY

ABV: 46%

Average Price: [\\$45](#)

The Whisky:

This whiskey is made from three casks — American bourbon oak, re-fill oak, and re-charred oak barrels — that rest for 12 years. Those barrels are vatted and whisky is proofed before bottling.

[IWSC Tasting Notes:](#)

“Matured impression on the nose with gentle smoke, vanilla sweetness, red currants, and new season strawberry aromas shining through combining with spice, chili, and smoke on the palate where the fruity body complements the overall complexity with a long finish.”

Bottom Line:

Loch Lomond tends to hit these low-age-statement whiskies out of the park with detectability. This is one I'm genuinely interested in tracking down — though I can see it leaning more toward cocktails than sipping.

Bunnahabhain Moine 2004 Tokaji Cask Finish Single Malt Scotch Whisky — 98 Points



DISTELL

ABV: 52.2%

Average Price: [\\$212](#)

The Whisky:

This special release dropped at last year's Fèis Ile (Islay's premiere whisky folk festival). The whisky in the bottle is classic Bunnahabhain that's aged for just over a year in Hungarian Tokaji dessert wine casks.

[IWSC Tasting Notes:](#)

"Rich and savory aromas predominate with underlying nutty notes and a touch of iodine leading to a soft, sweet, smoky palate and a streak of salinity and finely-tuned tannins. 'The perfect whisky'."

Our Tasting Notes:

Nose: Smoldering incense draws you in with a light sense of burnt white sugar, orange zest, and dried roses on the nose.

Palate: Smoldering vanilla pods and burnt pear skins drive the taste toward rich marzipan, soft red berries with a whisper of tartness, and a lush sense of marmalade and lemon curd.

Finish: The end circles back to the dried roses with a hint of sandalwood and singed cinnamon bark next to soft lemon cream with a touch of sawdust.

Bottom Line:

This is an inexplicable whisky that's genuinely delicious. This is the bottle you pour from when you want to be challenged.

Old Pulteney Single Malt Scotch Whisky Aged 25 Years — 98 Points



INVER HOUSE DISTILLERS

ABV: 46%

Average Price: [\\$594](#)

The Whisky:

This seaside whiskey spends over two decades mellowing in old bourbon barrels. For the last couple of years, the whisky rests in Spanish sherry oak before vatting, a touch of proofing, and bottling.

[IWSC Tasting Notes](#):

“A rich, sweet, and complex example with indications of maturity showing vanilla, honey, dried and exotic fruits on the nose and palate. Full-bodied style with oak influences shown as toast, dark chocolate, and spice, which keep on lingering in the finish.”

Bottom Line:

This is a gap in my Old Pulteney tasting log. That said, I can't imagine that this isn't an absolute banger. The price is high but the reward is likely just as high.

The Glenmorangie Palo Cortado 12 YO Single Malt Scotch Whisky — 98 Points



LVMH

ABV: 46%

Average Price: [\\$93](#)

The Whisky:

This whisky mellows for eight years in former bourbon casks. A blend of those barrels is then transferred to Palo Cortado casks (an extremely rare and old sherry). Once those barrels are just right, they're batched, proofed, and bottled otherwise as-is.

[IWSC Tasting Notes:](#)

“Classic style example with a well-balanced impression on the nose with aroma characteristics of milk chocolate, fudge, and caramelized apple combining on the palate with clear oak characteristics giving a lovely dry mouthfeel and creating complexity with a long spicy finish.”

Bottom Line:

This is a U.K.-only release as of now. It hasn't reached these shores yet, but given the love for Glenmorangie over here, I can't imagine this not arriving soon. I'm pretty excited to try it once it does.

Glencadam Reserva Andalucía Oloroso Sherry Cask Finish Highland Single Malt Scotch Whisky — 98 Points



ANGUS DUNDEE

ABV: 46%

Average Price: [\\$43](#)

The Whisky:

This bespoke whisky is made from special Andalucía sherry casks that are blended with malt aged in ex-bourbon casks. The final product is then finished in fresh Oloroso sherry casks before proofing and bottling.

[IWSC Tasting Notes:](#)

“A wonderful rich single malt bursting with sweet orange marmalade aromas and ginger spice, giving a real tang to the palate; fine vanilla gives an elegant mouthfeel and there’s a hint of chili on the finish. An extremely attractive drop.”

Bottom Line:

This sounds like standard, good whisky. My guess is that it’s one of those that’s solid enough as a table whisky sipper or as a great highball base.

Chivas Brothers Royal Salute Key To The Kingdom 30 Years Old Blended Scotch Whisky — 98 Points



PERNOD RICARD

ABV: 40%

Average Price: [\\$999](#)

The Whisky:

These are special editions of Chivas by the Royal Salute branding Basically, that means that these whiskies are made to celebrate huge anniversaries and events associated with the British monarchy. In this case, that's a blended Scotch whisky made from whiskies from all over Scotland — both grain and malt whiskies — that were over 30 years old.

IWSC Tasting Notes:

“Nicely weighted and complex with flavors of bacon fat and barbecue sauce. Sweet spices shine through with hints of geranium leaf, candied ginger, polished oak, and figs. Well balanced, with a lovely traditional character.”

Bottom Line:

I've had a few of these over the years, and they're always perfectly good whiskies. I guess if you're a monarchist, these are very desirable.

Chivas Brothers Royal Salute 62 Gun Salute Blended Scotch Whisky — 98 Points



PERNOD RICARD

ABV: 43%

Average Price: [\\$3,999](#)

The Whisky:

This is another Royal Salute brand from Chivas Brothers (which celebrates the 21-gun salute at the Tower of London during royal events). This one is made from unpeated Speyside whiskies that clock in between 40 and 44 years old.

IWSC Tasting Notes:

“Old leather and polished mahogany on the nose with an intense sweet and spicy palate. Flavors of sultanas, dried figs, and nutmeg shine through. The finish is bright with some sugar and pineapple syrup. Outstanding.”

Bottom Line:

Again, these tend to be very solid blended Scotch whiskies. But yet again, I can't see bothering with this unless I really cared about the British Crown, or wanted something super insider and show-off-y to drink during the last season of *The Crown* on Netflix.

Talisker Single Malt Scotch Whisky Aged 30 Years — 98 Points



DIAGEO

ABV: 45.8%

Average Price: [\\$1,560](#)

The Whisky:

Talisker's seaside vibes are on full display in this beautiful bottle. The 2021 limited release (the 30-year is on a random release schedule) was around 3,000 bottles, making this a very rare expression from the Isle of Skye distillery. Those bottles were pulled from both ex-bourbon and ex-sherry casks and masterfully blended right next to the sea at cask strength.

[IWSC Tasting Notes:](#)

“Very bright, fresh, fruit-driven style. Stunning balance and mouthfeel. The nose is fragrant with delicate aroma oils and a slight waxiness. The palate shines with stewed fruits and marmalade. Lovely texture. Outstanding.”

Our Tasting Notes:

Nose: The nose is shockingly subtle and soft with velvety notes of smoldering dried nori next to matchsticks that have been dipped in a buttery and rich dark chocolate with sea salt gently sprinkled all over.

Palate: The palate leans into the dialed-back peat by bringing about a smoked cream with fire-seared peaches next to a hint of wet cedar, very old tobacco leaves, and a touch of almond or oat milk flecked with salt.

Finish: That salt drives the mid-palate towards a finish that's like getting kissed by merfolk on a beach next to a campfire that's heating a cauldron full of spicy stewed peaches in more of that cream.

Bottom Line:

This seaside peated malt is so subtle and deeply refined that you'll always find something new and different with every nose and sip. And I promise you that there's something to love in there if you take the time to find it.

The Glenmorangie The Accord Highland Single Malt Scotch Whisky Aged 12 Years — 98 Points



LVMH

ABV: 43%

Average Price: [\\$231](#)

The Whisky:

This is classic Glenmorangie. It's so classic that it's aged in both ex-bourbon and ex-Olorosso sherry casks and is bottled at a lower proof.

[IWSC Tasting Notes](#):

“Rich and spicy sherry aromas with dried fruits to the fore tumbled with dark chocolate, sweet ginger, and cinnamon spice. Bold smoke gives complexity and the finish has praline and a hint of summer blackcurrants giving a fruity touch.”

Bottom Line:

This is a bottle that's far cheaper in the U.K. — it's far more of a table whisky for on the rocks sipping, highballs, and cocktails. Over here, the price is very over-inflated and, frankly, just not worth it.

The Balvenie The Week Of Peat Single Malt Scotch Whisky Aged 19 Years — 98 Points



WILLIAM GRANT AND SONS

ABV: 48.3%

Average Price: [\\$699](#)

The Whisky:

For one week every year, The Balvenie distilled a batch of peated malt whisky (the old-school distillery is world-famous for its unpeated malt). That whisky is left alone in oak until it's just right. In the case of this bottling, that took 19 years. The whisky was bottled as-is to highlight the subtle peatiness.

[IWSC Tasting Notes:](#)

“Complex nose with mineral-led characteristics, coming from smoke and soot with well-integrated pine. The sweetness and complexity continue onto the palate well into the finish with vanilla, tar, and licorice.”

Our Tasting Notes:

Nose: Burnt pine forests and chocolate malted biscuits mingle with rich and almost burnt toffee next to smoldering cinnamon bark and a hint of old maple syrup.

Palate: Gingerbread dipped in vanilla icing mingles with rich and lush marzipan, soft burnt orange, and a sense of winter spices that were just lit on fire.

Finish: Dark smoked cherry and cinnamon dance with lush vanilla, salted black licorice, and subtle cedar plank wisping lines of smoke from an orchard wood fire.

Bottom Line:

This is a delicious peated malt that blends in soft and wintry spices and nuttiness. You cannot go wrong pouring this whisky. If you're not into peated whiskies, this might change your mind thanks to all that lush vanilla, fruit, and nuttiness.

The Balvenie Single Malt Scotch Whisky PortWood Aged 21 Years — 98 Points



WILLIAM GRANT & SONS

ABV: 47.6%

Average Price: [\\$227](#)

The Whisky:

This masterfully crafted expression from The Balvenie takes some serious time. The whisky is initially aged for 21 years in ex-bourbon casks. That whisky is then transferred to small port pipes, which held port in Portugal for 30 long years. That's a long, long time, creating some very rare and well-seasoned oak. The effect is singular and distinct.

[IWSC Tasting Notes:](#)

“Deliciously fruity and expressive on the nose with crisp and vibrant green apple. The palate indicates excellent aging leading to a creamy mouthfeel with vanilla sweetness: like stewed apples and vanilla cream.”

Our Tasting Notes:

Nose: You're pulled in by a gentle sense of ripe yet soft peaches next to wet rose petals and a small billow of cherry tobacco smoke from a pipe.

Palate: The palate, again, is gentle and carries notes of red, sweet, and tart berries, stewed plums, and tiny moments of velvety and buttery pain au chocolat.

Finish: The finish holds onto that chocolate as it slowly meanders through your senses, leaving you with dark fruits, a whisper more of that cherry tobacco, and a pure silk mouthfeel.

Bottom Line:

This is a great whisky for any old bourbon whiskey fan out there. There's a clear continuity to the flavor profile between this and 10-plus-year-old bourbons. So if you're a high-end bourbon fan looking to get into really good high-end scotch, you'll be very happy with this bottle.

The Bowmore Islay Single Malt Scotch Whisky Finished in Mizunara PX Sherry Cask Aged 31 Years — 98 Points



EAST ASIA WHISKY COMPANY

ABV: 50.5%

Average Price: [\\$6,375](#)

The Whisky:

This lightly peated malt from The Bowmore was distilled back in 1990. The whiskey spent 30 years in old bourbon casks, mellowing slowly by the sea in Islay. The whisky that survived that long era was then refilled into Mizunara casks from Hokkaido, Japan, which held PX sherry in Spain before making it to Islay. That cask was then bottled as-is.

[IWSC Tasting Notes:](#)

“A superior malt whisky with lavender and tropical fruit flavors. The floral nose leads to a lovely marzipan and sweet treacle palate with hints of sweet spice and rose. The finish is complex with gentle woodsmoke, sandalwood, and molasses. A masterclass of a malt.”

Bottom Line:

This is probably transcendent whisky. I'm wildly eager to try it.

The Glenturret Highland Single Malt Scotch Whisky Triple Wood 2022 Release — 99 Points



LALIQUE GROUP

ABV: 44%

Average Price: [\\$58](#)

The Whisky:

This pretty standard malt is aged in both bourbon and sherry barrels alongside new American oak barrels, adding a bourbon-iness to it all. Those barrels are then vatted and proofed down before bottling.

IWSC Tasting Notes:

"A summer Turkish delight of sweet raisin, marmalade, and orange blossom aromas with a rich fruitcake palate, hints of brown sugar and honey, with a creamy toffee texture on the finish."

Bottom Line:

This is a whisky that you sometimes see in the U.S., but it's way more prevalent in the EU and the U.K. Is it worth tracking down here? I guess since it's the highest-ranked whisky from this year's IWSC the answer is a "yes."

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 (\$100). It is the responsibility of the member who cancels their (or their guest's) reservation to find a replacement. If I am asked to find a substitute and one is found, then the member will be asked to pay for 50% of their dinner cost.
- Anyone who fails to attend the Monday September 19th, 2022 dinner without having cancelled and been successfully replaced will be expected to pay the full cost (\$100). A member will be responsible for their guest's cancellation (\$110).
- If a member asks to be included at the dinner between Friday September 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 "KSMS2023RDF", to whatever your security question is. Receiving payment in advance will allow everyone the opportunity to socialize before the dinner as well as reduce the accounting work required after.
- For e-transfers, Members are responsible for collecting from their guests, and then forwarding one payment in total by e-transfer.

Assigned / Reserved Seating

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

Perfume / Cologne and Whisky

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

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.



Membership and Dinner prices for 2022-2023

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



Kingston Single Malt Society

Roberto Di Fazio, President

827 Old Colony Road

Kingston, Ontario, K7P 1S1, Canada

613-532-5285

rdifazio04@gmail.com

<http://www.kingstonsinglemaltsociety.com>

