

# Kingston Single Malt Society

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

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

NOVEMBER 16<sup>th</sup>, 2019

VOLUME 14; NUMBER 5b



## *This evening's menu in the company of Speyside / Highlands*



## **MENU**

**1<sup>st</sup> Course:** Smoked Salmon & Chive  
Pancakes

**2<sup>nd</sup> Course:** Chorizo & Cilantro Stuffed  
Mushrooms

**Paired Nosing:**

**GLENALLACHIE MOSCATEL FINISH 11 YO  
GLENALLACHIE 2005 15 YO MADEIRA CASK  
(introduced by : Mike Patchett)**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Course:** Korean Beef Short Ribs with  
Sesame Sriracha Soba Noodle Salad

**Paired Nosing:** TULLIBARDINE SHERRY  
HOGSHEAD 2008 SINGLE MALT CASK #12-  
CUT POINT

**TULLIBARDINE BOURBON BARRELL 2006  
SINGLE MALT CASK #633-CUT POINT  
(introduced by : Bill Gorham)**

**Dessert:** Five Spice Flourless Chocolate  
Cake

**Paired Nosing:**

**GLENMORANGIE CADBOLL ESTATE 15  
YEAR OLD**

**GLENMORANGIE A TALE OF CAKE  
(introduced by : Ken Goodland)**

## **COST OF THE MALTS**

**GLEANALLACHIE MOSCATEL WOOD FINISH  
11 YEAR OLD MALT** LCBO 511804 | 700 mL  
bottle, **Price: \$94.99**, Spirits, Scotch Whisky,  
48.0% Alcohol/Vol.

**GLENALLACHIE 2005 15 YEAR OLD  
MADEIRA CASK; CASK #3756** Distilled:  
**09/02/2005; Bottled: 03/2020; Bottle  
#212/298;** LCBO 614783 | 700 mL bottle Spirits,  
**Price: \$249.95** Whisky/Whiskey 60.7%  
Alcohol/Vol.

**TULLIBARDINE EX-SHERRY HOGSHEAD  
2008 SINGLE MALT CASK #12/084;  
LIMITED TO 309 BOTTLES; VINTAGE 2008;  
11 YEAR OLD; 12-CUT POINT VINTAGES**  
433979 | 700 mL bottle **Price \$135.95** Spirits,  
Whisky/Whiskey, Scotch Single Malts 60.3%  
Alcohol/Vol.

**TULLIBARDINE EX-BOURBON BARREL 2006  
SINGLE MALT CASK #633/086; LIMITED TO  
205 BOTTLES; VINTAGE 2006; 13 YEAR OLD;  
633-CUT POINT VINTAGES** 433979 | 700 mL  
bottle **Price \$135.95** Spirits, Whisky/Whiskey,  
Scotch Single Malts 56.7% Alcohol/Vol.

**GLENMORANGIE CADBOLL ESTATE 15 YEAR  
OLD** LCBO 965063 | 750 mL bottle **Price**  
**\$170.95** Spirits, Whisky/Whiskey 47.0%  
Alcohol/Vol.

**GLENMORANGIE A TALE OF CAKE** LCBO  
965063 | 750 mL bottle **Price \$129.95** Spirits,  
Whisky/Whiskey 46.0% Alcohol/Vol.

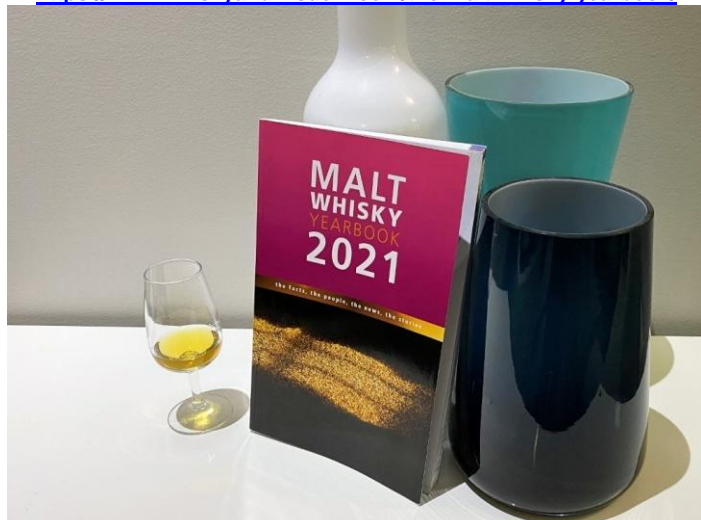
## **Upcoming Dinner Dates**

December 7<sup>th</sup> 2020 - Christmas Dinner  
December 13<sup>th</sup> 2020 - KSMS / Daft Brewing  
December 14<sup>th</sup> 2020 - Christmas Dinner  
January 14<sup>th</sup>, 2021 - Lowlands / Speyside / Highlands  
January 25<sup>th</sup>, 2021 - Robbie Burns Dinner  
February 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2021 - 18 Year Old - Adulthood Arrives !!  
March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021 - Irish / Speyside / Highlands  
April 19<sup>th</sup>, 2021 - Campbeltown / Islands / Islay  
May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2021 - Campbeltown / Speyside

June 28<sup>th</sup>, 2021 - BBQ (Final Exam)  
 July 19<sup>th</sup>, 2021 - 10<sup>th</sup> "Matt" Night  
 Friday August 27<sup>th</sup>, 2021 - 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Premium Night  
 September 20<sup>th</sup>, 2021 - Campbeltown / Lowland / Speyside /  
 Highlands / Islands / Islay  
 October 18<sup>th</sup>, 2021 - Speyside / Highlands  
 November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021 - Speyside  
 December 6<sup>th</sup>, 2021 - Christmas Dinner

## The Malt Whisky Yearbook

<https://www.whiskyandwisdom.com/the-malt-whisky-yearbook/>



The 2021 Malt Whisky Yearbook was released this month, garnering due and appropriate attention around the world. It's worth looking into this remarkable publication....

As any Scotch whisky enthusiast will tell you, the first written reference to whisky being made in Scotland was in 1494. That was in the Royal Exchequer Rolls, but it would be several centuries until someone thought the subject was interesting enough to merit writing a book about it. Alfred Barnard's "The whisky distilleries of the United Kingdom", published in 1887, became a seminal publication. Of course, hundreds of books on whisk(e)y have been written since, but there is just a handful that might universally be considered as being as influential or groundbreaking as Barnard's writings. "Scotch whisky: Its past and present" by David Daiches in 1970 set the tone for "modern" authors, and – in the context of the current Scotch whisky boom, which had its foundations laid in the 1990's – it was the work of Michael Jackson that tore down the mysteries of malt whisky and made the subject matter readable and accessible for the layperson. His "Malt Whisky Companion", first published in 1989 and subsequently updated and re-published six times now (the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> editions published after his death) was the go-to textbook and reference guide for any serious whisky lover. Whilst other authors and books addressed the topic in either a more general/holistic sense, or narrowed the subject matter to a more defined sub-topic (there are numerous fantastic books by the likes of Dave Broom, Charlie Maclean, Jim Murray, Ian Buxton, Dominic Roskrow, Ian Wisniewski, David Wishart, and many more) Michael Jackson's book was unique for its time because it gave a profile on each distillery, plus effectively reviewed and scored its core range expressions. And, with each subsequent edition, it reviewed an increasing (and unmanageable) number of independent expressions. The problem with such books – and the Malt Whisky Companion was particularly prone – is that published facts and information rapidly and continuously changed and became incorrect or out-of-date. Distilleries change ownership; core range expressions and livery change; production methods or equipment change; distilleries expand or re-open or close; and new players arrive on the scene. Such was the rate and extent of change, it was almost as though these books needed to be updated every year. Enter the Malt Whisky Yearbook....

First published in 2005 by Ingvar Ronde and updated, refreshed, and released each year since, the Malt Whisky Yearbook has now become an invaluable resource for anyone wanting the short and fast facts about a distillery and its whiskies. Historical timelines; major releases; and the happenings of the previous twelve months are presented for each of the listed distilleries. With subsequent annual publications, the

book has grown and expanded to incorporate opinion pieces, profile pieces, industry assessments and reports, and it has also grown in its listings and information on distilleries around the rest of the world, outside the "traditional" whisky countries. The 2021 edition covers 665 whisky distilleries from around the world; offers over 200 tasting notes (including independent bottlings), and lists more than 150 of the world's greatest whisky shops.

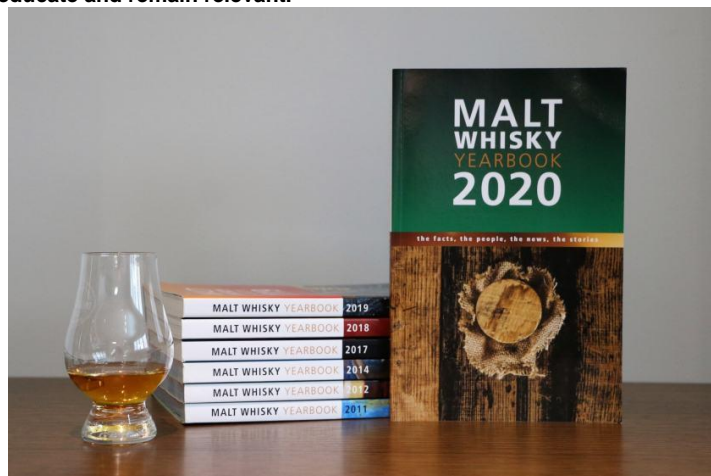
One of the more fundamental and appealing attributes of the yearbook is its accuracy. Whilst the notion of a physical hardcopy book might seem antiquated to *some* folks in a world with Google and the internet, it can often be a very difficult task to find correct and up-to-date information in the ocean of web pages that often propagate or stem from the same *outdated* source material.

Not surprisingly, the book focusses chiefly on Scotch whisky, and its pages and information are structured accordingly. However, as malt whisky production extends further and wider into "new world" territories, the pages devoted to the international scene outside Scotland grow with each subsequent edition.

Of particular use and value, the Malt Whisky Yearbook also lists and provides information on the plethora of *new* distilleries that have emerged in the last ten years or so. For the Scotch whisky enthusiast, this section brings you instantly up to date with the details and activities of the many smaller (and some [large](#)) distilleries that have commenced operations across Scotland, but have yet to release matured stock to the market.

For those who like their facts and figures, the Malt Whisky Yearbook goes beyond a mere listing of distilleries, but also gives summary insights into the industry at large. Sections towards the back of the book feature lists that outline overall production levels, comparisons of international production and export data, industry statistics, ownership details, tables and details of the relative *size* of each distillery, geographical maps, and so on.

One of the more appealing aspects of the Malt Whisky Yearbook is that its *additional content* changes a little each year. Whilst the information on the distilleries is paramount and key (and they're the bits that need updating each year), the *other* feature articles and inserts make for interesting and informative reading also. And, contrary to what you might think, many of those inserts are less time-sensitive. In other words, there is merit and reward in acquiring *previous* editions of the Yearbook, as they contain informative and interesting snippets that educate and remain relevant.



The previous editions of the Yearbook remain invaluable whisky resources

For example, last year's 2020 Yearbook had a series of profiles on *Pioneers of Whisky*; the 2018 Yearbook had profiles on each of the major whisky companies and how they were founded/formed; the 2017 Yearbook interspersed the distillery listings with a fascinating series of "Six burning questions" that were asked of key industry personnel. Similarly, the 2014 Yearbook had a series of profiles on famous blended whisky brands and whisky scenes/people around the world. The latest 2021 edition has a series of profiles on the industry's "whisky icons", looking at the names and personalities of key figures who've been in the industry, for three, four, and five decades. In short, the previous editions should not be viewed as being obsolete or out of date – there is more beyond the distillery listings.

And for those who seek further reading on the subject matter, the Malt Whisky Yearbook shines a light on the whisky blogs and resources that are "Websites to watch". Whisky & Wisdom is humbled to make the list once again.



So...as someone whose whisky education and enthusiasm for the subject was heavily cultivated by reading the whisky books of the late 1990's, I can sincerely and heartily endorse the Malt Whisky Yearbook to anyone wanting to further their knowledge of whisky. You can get your copy of the 2021 Yearbook (and also back-issues back to 2008) at [www.maltwhiskyyearbook.com](http://www.maltwhiskyyearbook.com) for £14.95 + shipping. Recommended reading. Cheers, AD

## Distell unveils eight limited edition single malts

28th August, 2020 by Nicola Carruthers

Spirits producer Distell has released eight new limited edition Scotch whiskies, including two from Islay distillery Bunnahabhain and three from Tobermory.

The eight single malts were bottled from Distell's three Scotch whisky distilleries – Bunnahabhain, Deanston and Tobermory, the latter of which also produces Ledaig. Each expression is bottled at natural colour and is non-chill-filtered.

Julieann Fernandez, master blender at Distell, said: "Our annual collection of limited editions always bring the distillery team's talent and craft to the forefront, with unique takes on our beloved core classics. And this year's expressions are truly special.

"Having been slumbering away in their casks at our distilleries around Scotland, these stunning malts are finally ready for our loyal fans to experience them. With a combined age of nearly 150 years across the eight expressions, we've been waiting a very long time to hear what you think."

The new bottlings comprise of three from Tobermory Distillery on the Isle of Mull, including a Tobermory 2007 Port Pipe Finish (55.8% ABV), initially aged in refill hogsheads before undergoing a final maturation in Port pipes for four years.

In addition, the distillery has created two Ledaig bottlings: the Ledaig 1998 Marsala Finish (58.6% ABV), matured for 21 years including four years in Marsala wine casks, and a Pedro Ximenez Finish 2007 (55.5% ABV) – the third and final release in the Collector's Edition series. From Bunnahabhain is a 2008 Manzanilla Matured whisky (55.4% ABV), described as having "coastal-infused flavours" after maturing in former manzanilla Sherry casks for 11 years. There is also the Bunnahabhain Moine 1997 Pedro Ximenez Finish (50% ABV), a "peppery, peated" single malt bottled at cask strength.

Deanston Distillery has created a 2002 Organic Pedro Ximenez Finish bottled at cask strength 49.3% ABV; Deanston 1991 Muscat Finish (45% ABV), and Deanston 2002 Pinot Noir (50% ABV).

Each distillery will hold an online tasting of the new expressions with Top Whiskies on Instagram TV this autumn. The whiskies are available to purchase globally.

In March this year, Distell pledged to [donate 10% of online sales](#) from its Tobermory, Bunnahabhain and Deanston distilleries to support hospitality workers across the country.

## Tobermory debuts 23-year-old Sherry cask-finished whisky

24th September, 2020 by Nicola Carruthers

Scotland's Tobermory Distillery has added a 23-year-old whisky finished in oloroso Sherry casks to its core range.



*Tobermory has created a 23-year-old whisky and a quaich*

The single malt uses the same liquid that makes the 15-year-old Tobermory, which has been aged for longer in oloroso Sherry casks at the distillery on the Isle of Mull.

The resulting whisky has notes of vanilla, ripe oranges, toasted barley and fruitcake on the nose. The Sherry-influenced palate offers salted toffee, candied citrus and floral honey, followed by a subtle salty finish with caramelised walnuts.

Julieann Fernandez, master blender at Tobermory Distillery, said: "Our team at the distillery have been working hard for many years on the return of this old friend, and we're incredibly proud to be introducing whisky drinkers around the world to this exciting addition to the core range.

"Absence certainly makes the heart grow fonder and the extra years have been spent well, as our whisky has continued to mature into the new Sherried expression.

The Tobermory 23 Year Old (46.3% ABV) will join the Tobermory 12 Year Old, Ledaig 10 Year Old and Ledaig 18 Year Old in the distillery's core range. The new expression will launch in Europe, Asia and the UK. It is priced at RRP £320 (US\$408).

In addition, Tobermory has teamed up with local jeweller Isle of Mull Silver and Goldsmiths to create a sterling silver and gold quaich, which will be auctioned alongside the new expression in the coming months. The quaich is said to celebrate the "creative and expressive nature" of Tobermory and its island home. Funds raised from the auction will be given to Scottish hospitality charity The Ben.

Fernandez added: "The island of Mull is a remarkable melting pot of artistry and creativity. This one-off silver quaich is a visualisation of the expert craftsmanship and care that goes into the exceptional spirit we are releasing. By bringing together two makers on the island, we're celebrating this passion for creativity on the world stage."

Last year, Tobermory expanded its portfolio with the [launch of its first gin](#).

South African drinks group Distell, which owns Tobermory Distillery, also [recently unveiled three new bottlings](#) from the Scotch whisky producer.

## Distell FY sales hit by South Africa alcohol ban

28th August, 2020 by Nicola Carruthers

South African drinks group Distell saw its fiscal 2020 revenue fall by 14.6% due to the alcohol ban in its home market.



Distell's Bunnahabhain Scotch whisky performed well during the fiscal year. In the year ending 30 June 2020, the Amarula cream liqueur and Bunnahabhain Scotch whisky owner saw its revenue fall 14.6% to 22.37 billion rand (US\$1.33bn).

Distell CEO Richard Rushton said: "The resilience of our business and culture was severely tested during the pandemic and I'm proud of the way we are responding. We acted fast in strengthening our balance sheet and placed the wellbeing and safety of our staff, key suppliers and customers first."

The group was hit particularly hard by South Africa's alcohol ban, which resulted in a loss of around 100 million litres in sale volumes and 4.3bn rand (US\$255.4m) in revenue.

South Africa introduced a ban on alcohol sales on 27 March in response to the coronavirus pandemic, which was lifted on 1 June. However, the ban was reinstated on 12 July without warning.

The [second ban was lifted on 17 August](#).

Distell's revenue in South Africa fell by 18.2% as a result of "tough operating conditions". The group noted its spirits portfolio recorded some growth in South Africa following the lifting of the first ban. Distell said gin and vodka brands performed well despite a "competitive environment".

In African markets outside of South Africa, revenue fell 3% due to a 19.1% decline in volume in Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia and Eswatini. Global markets, excluding Africa, saw revenue fall by 8.8% as the firm "realigned" its focus on premium spirits.

Total whisky revenue grew by 8.4%, boosted by Bunnahabhain and Deanston in "challenging trading conditions", the group said. Rushton added: "Our measured investments into key African markets have provided a resilient performance alongside our focused whisky portfolio in international markets even in the midst of Covid-19 challenges. I'm especially pleased at the start of our execution around new innovations which will carry on throughout 2021." Distell noted that Amarula liqueur and its export wine brands were impacted by export restrictions and global travel retail as a result of the Covid-19 crisis.

**Salary reduction**

Rushton said the firm had decided not to make job cuts but to instead take a "painful, but necessary decision" to cut salaries, beginning with its executives and directors.

The firm noted it was in a "strong" financial position and had committed banking facilities of 7.5bn rand (US\$447.2m) for its South African business, of which 4.8bn (US\$286m) has already been used. The group has also invested in helping to ensure the responsible consumption of alcohol in South Africa through a harm reduction programme.

Rushton said: "Distell is playing a partnership role with government, alongside key industry players, to address this through an effective social compact to minimise the long-term effect of alcohol abuse on society as a whole. Further prohibition or blunt instruments do not work – real partnerships, enforcement of current laws and targeted interventions do."

Looking ahead, the firm expects a "tough domestic environment with falling disposable income and increasing unemployment" as the group's key concerns.

Rushton said: "We are, however, confident of the way we are managing the business to remain flexible and recession-proof."

"Our more focused and diversified portfolio of brands along price points, occasions and innovation in response to consumer trends will enable us to position ourselves well for any recovery."

"Africa remains a priority for us to expand our local route to market on the continent with local brands in key mainstream occasions. The venture business will continue to grow its core premium spirits brands as it positions itself for partnerships outside of Africa."

"The board is confident in the long-term strength and resilience of the business in spite of the current headwinds and challenges, and resolved to temporarily suspend dividends as part of the measures introduced to improve the liquidity of the group following the impact of Covid-19."



*The revamped The Glenturret Scotch range (image via The Glenturret)*

With all of this as background, last month what's described as a new chapter began for The Glenturret, complete with a revamping of the brand and the introduction of a group of new single malt whiskies. It is said as this next phase rolls out there will be an honoring of "the provenance of the distillery located in the heart of Crieff, its prowess in traditional distilling and passion to preserve and enrich whisky making for future generations."

The new The Glenturret line up, [according to those behind it](#), will feature "four core expressions: Triple Wood, 10 years old Peat Smoked, 12 years old and 15 years old, as well as the 25 and 30 years old, an 'Extremely Scarce' release limited to 1,000 bottles in total." All of these whiskies are under the care of Bob Dalgarno, regarded as one of the better whisky makers in the industry.

"I saw Glenturret as a great opportunity to work alongside an understated yet highly skilled team who influence the creation of the distillery New Make Spirit as only their hands can," said Dalgarno in a prepared statement. "Alongside this was the challenge of creating a new range of whiskies with a different cask and character profile. Building on previous experiences and having the freedom to influence and develop, respecting the history whilst writing new chapters was a perfect fit."

"Having Bob on board is a recognition of the scale of our ambition and a testament to our transformative work over the past eight months," added Ian Renwick, Distillery Manager at The Glenturret. "Throughout the process, from distillation through to maturation, we have been working closely together every day with Bob and our team. We cannot wait to share the new expressions with the world."

The new Glenturret range, of which more information can be found on each expression below, will be available at select hotels, restaurants, bars and retailers across several markets including the UK, France, Germany, Netherlands, Switzerland, Australia, New Zealand, China and Taiwan.

### The Glenturret Triple Wood

Aged in AMERICAN and EUROPEAN SHERRY casks and BOURBON barrels, sweet FRUIT and CARAMEL flirt with sticky GINGER cake and VANILLA, maturing OAK and light SPICES look on with interest from the sidelines. Bottled at 43%vol. Natural in Colour.

### The Glenturret 10 Years Old Peat Smoked

SMOKE from the PEAT FIRE envelopes. Fresh CITRUS FRUIT, VANILLA and light SPICE drift from the embers with hints of SEA SALT and smouldering HEATHER. Bottled at 50%vol. Natural in Colour. Non-Chill-Filtered.

### The Glenturret 12 Years Old

Rich FRUIT CAKE dressed with WALNUTS. Sweet APPLE and GINGER in balance enjoyed with LEMON TEA. The EUROPEAN OAK politely drives the chosen strength. Bottled at 46%vol. Natural in Colour and Non-Chill-Filtered.

### The Glenturret 15 Years Old

Vibrant LEMON ZEST sings, harmonising with TOFFEE APPLE and notes of SPICE. A soft baritone of OAK in the background, STRENGTH steps forward and adds its voice. Bottled at 55%vol. Natural in Colour and Non-Chill-Filtered.

### The Glenturret 25 Years Old

A slice of FRUIT SPONGE, LEMON and CARAMELISED APPLE lightly coated with SYRUP. Layers of CINNAMON and VANILLA add sweetness

## Ancient The Glenturret Distillery Revamps Its Scotch Single Malt Offerings

By [Nino Kilgore-Marchetti](#) / October 15, 2020

Scotland's The Glenturret distillery is considered to perhaps be the oldest working distillery in that whisky making region, sporting a 250 year old history that begins back in 1763, with the first historical reference to a distillery and what we would later know today as this brand. It is believed distilling was perhaps going on there even before that.

As was common with the Scottish distilleries, particularly the older ones, history saw The Glenturret change ownership hands a few times and also fall silent for a period of time from 1923 to 1957. Jump forward to 2019 and this facility was purchased by a joint venture led by The Liqueur Group, a French luxury lifestyle company.



with aromatics, SOFT OAK and GINGER. Bottled at 44.5%vol. Natural in Colour and Non-Chill-Filtered.

### The Glenturret 30 Years Old

TROPICAL FRUIT and VANILLA discretely chaperone GREEN APPLE, PEAR and OAK as they dance together in a slow waltz of aroma and flavour. Bottled at 45.7%vol. Natural in Colour and Non-Chill-Filtered

### The Glenturret New Make Spirit

Cornerstones of ORANGE and APPLE bound together with a touch of PEAR, TOFFEE APPLE sweetness, CEREAL notes, and a hint of oiliness. Placed into cask at 63.5%vol.

## Puni Italian Malt Whisky Arrives In The United States

By [Nino Kilgore-Marchetti](#) / October 15, 2020

Of the different nations that make up the European Union, a good number of them embrace making whisky to one degree or another. Italy happens to be one of these, and the Puni distillery has long been a leader, by craft standards any how, in that country. Now, [after years of being overseas only](#), the Puni malt whiskies are coming to the United States.

The Puni malt whiskies, [according to those behind them](#), herald from a brand that's been making this style in Italy for a decade. Puni was founded by the Ebensperger family in 2010 in the midst of the Italian Alps, near the Ortler mountain range, just outside the small town of Glorenza. Four of their expressions, as outlined below, are being imported for Americans:

- Puni Gold, matured in first-fill ex-bourbon casks, establishing the house style
- Puni Alba (Italian for "dawn" and Scottish Gaelic for "Scotland"), matured in Sicilian Marsala casks and finished in ex-Islay barrels
- Puni Vina, the first in a range of limited edition wine cask-matured whiskies and aged in ex-Marsala casks from Sicily
- Puni Sole, finished for two years in rich Pedro Ximénez Sherry casks from Jerez, Spain

"After working on it for years, we are very proud to finally be able to share 'The Italian Malt Whisky' with the US," said Puni distiller Jonas Ebensperger, one of the founders of the family-run business, in a prepared statement. "We put our hearts into the making of our whisky and are very excited to now give whisky lovers in the US a chance to taste it."



### *The malt whiskies of Italy's Puni (image via Puni)*

What is said to be of note around Puni is that its distiller "employs an unusual recipe using three different malted grains – barley, wheat and locally-grown rye – to create a signature mash bill. The local rye grows in the foothills of the Alps near the Ortler mountain range in the Trentino-Alto Adige region, where the distillery sits as a landmark to modern Italian design and distillery innovation.

"The Alpine climate contributes to the particularity of Puni's whiskies, which are aged on the family's stunning new distillery campus."

As it stands now these Italian malt whiskies can initially be found in IL, CA, MN, NY, NJ, WA, TX, and FL, with more states to come. They range in price from \$90 to \$130.

## The most beautiful distilleries in Scotland



If beauty is in the eye of the beholder, how does one assemble a definitive list of Scotland's most beautiful distilleries that adequately captures all the subjectivity from amongst the whisky community? And when it comes to distilleries – which are nothing more than factories to produce alcohol – what metrics do we use to define beauty? Is it architectural flair? Aesthetic lines and symmetry? And how do we compare architectural and construction fashions across timelines? Many would suggest that the classic, quaint, stone-built distilleries of the Victorian era have a romantic advantage, but purists are correct to assert there is beauty in the functional architecture of modern behemoths such as Roseisle or Dalmanach.

There are further complexities: How much does the surrounding environment impact our assessment of a distillery's beauty? For example, Lagavulin is, in reality, just a clump of relatively plain, white-washed buildings nestled together. However, put them in a coastal location on the water, add some colour from the local vegetation, and throw in the ruins of a medieval castle nearby for good measure, and you have one *extremely* beautiful distillery.

A further difficulty arises when you look at the many distilleries that have been bastardised over the years with unsympathetic expansions, often resulting in clashing, jarring visuals. There are many such examples that mix their original old-world Victorian charm with 1960's modernism or 1970's brutalism.

Following a [poll](#) that Whisky & Wisdom ran on Twitter a few weeks ago to gauge public opinion, we offer you – in no particular order – the following list of Scotland's most beautiful distilleries:

### Strathisla



The oldest licensed distillery in Scotland (1786) is frequently cited and held by many as being one of Scotland's prettiest distilleries.



Repurposed after serving as a brewery, it is situated in the town of Keith in the north-east of Speyside and fashions itself these days as the home of Chivas Regal. It's just as well the distillery is suited for taking photographs of the exterior, because the interior is a rabbit's warren of small, twisting, turning passages and spaces that use every square metre to pack in the production equipment whilst leaving just enough room to walk around! Is it mere coincidence that the twin pagodas bear an uncanny resemblance to Whisky & Wisdom's logo?

## Lagavulin



Already mentioned above, Lagavulin is a clean, white-washed facility (like many of the other distilleries on Islay), but its location on the bay is stunning. The ruins of Dunyvaig Castle out on the head of the bay add a touch of drama. Built in 1816, its old malting floors now make up most of the visitor centre and admin areas. The tunroom and stillhouse are in separate areas, and the stillhouse – which is surprisingly small for a distillery with such a global reputation – is testament to the fact that its owners, Diageo, are committed to quality and not quantity here. The old dunnage warehouses onsite also round out the picture.

## Edradour



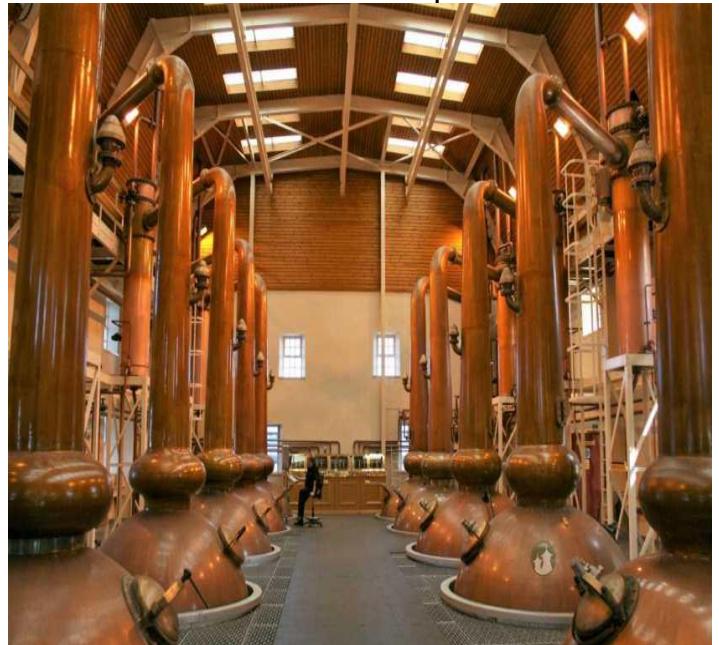
Billed and marketed for many years as “Scotland’s smallest distillery” and a compulsory stop on every tartan and bagpipe coach tour of the

Highlands, Edradour’s charm lies not just in its quaint size and attractive colours, but also in its local setting. Nestled in the rolling hills above Pitlochry, it captures the essence of small-scale whisky production, which it’s been doing since 1837. It’s almost as though time stood still for this small farm-style distillery, whilst all its siblings and contemporaries expanded and grew to become bigger commercial ventures. Its visitor facilities and warehouses have expanded further up the hill in the last five years, but they’ve kept the architectural style consistent. And the production building – which houses the mill, the mashtun, the washbacks, and two tiny stills – still looks little more than just a cottage from the outside. Oh, and bonus points for still using wormtubs!

## Glenmorangie



Glenmorangie’s warehouses by the water’s edge  
Perhaps a surprise entry here for some readers, Glenmorangie merits inclusion on this list not just for some aspects of its visual appearance, but also for the beauty of its design and functionality. Converted from a brewery to a distillery in 1843, its main buildings are typical of the stone-built construction and architectural trends of the time. A feature often overlooked by whisky fans, and chiefly ignored in LVMH’s marketing material, is that the distillery is right on the Dornoch Forth, with the warehouses on the water’s edge. The stillhouse – featuring the tallest stills in Scotland – resembles something more akin to a barn on the inside, but there’s no doubt that the stills make for a striking image and a stark contrast to the more traditional pot stills seen elsewhere.



However, the main reason for its inclusion here in this list is the beauty of its engineering design. Sited on a gentle slope, the distillery was originally set out and designed to take advantage of gravity: The entire production process, from start to finish, used downhill gravity to feed and flow the sequence. The barley was delivered at the top of the hill and malted. It fed into the next building downslope where mashing took place. The wort then flowed downhill to the next building which housed the washbacks for the fermentation, and – you guessed it – this



then flowed downhill to the stillhouse for distillation. And, finally, the casks were filled at the bottom of the hill where all the warehouses sat. Whilst the scale and nature of production today necessitates pumps and more automated, mechanical processes, the distillery's outer appearance is little changed from its original configuration.



Following gravity: The stepped and falling buildings and phases of production at Glenmorangie

## Tormore



In an architectural style all of its own, Tormore looks unlike any other distillery in Scotland. Purpose designed by celebrated architect, Sir Albert Richardson, and built between 1958 and 1960, it is a heritage listed building these days. The story goes that the pond out the front of the distillery was originally intended as an ice rink for curling to keep distillery workers active and entertained in the winter, however, the heat from the stillhouse evidently prevented the ice from freezing satisfactorily.

Located directly on the main road through Speyside and surrounded by green lawns, manicured gardens, and the cottages originally built to house distillery workers, it's a striking sight from both directions as you drive past.

## Dalwhinnie



Your impression of Dalwhinnie will be heavily influenced by the time of year you visit. In summer, it is a delightful distillery, sited on a flat plain and adjacent to the tiny village with the Cairngorms framing out the picture. In winter, it is in a bitterly cold, snow-swept landscape, where you'll crowd into the stillhouse to enjoy the warmth from the stills! Often touted as the highest distillery in Scotland (but refuted by the good folks at Braeval, who apparently enjoy an extra 2.7m of altitude), it's not only scenic, but also very "old school" – including the impressive wormtubs that sit out the front of the distillery and greet you as get out of your car.



Dalwhinnie's giant wormtubs are on the back of the distillery. At least, it was the back of the distillery when it was first built and originally "faced" the railway! Now that the main road is on the other side and the entrance has changed, the wormtubs greet you on what is now perceived as the front of the building!

### Honourable mentions...

Arran, built in 1995 and cleverly displaying faux pagodas on the roof of both its production and visitor centre buildings, the distillery is in a stunning location and mixes modernity with tradition.





### Arran Distillery

Knockdhu, built in 1893, is almost the stereotypical Victorian distillery in Speyside, set out in the traditional manner with the maltings floors and kiln at one end, which then fed into the production areas with the mashtun, washbacks, and stills all in adjoining buildings or rooms. With a façade and appearance that's largely unchanged from its original construction – complete with the old railway siding alongside the building – it's a quaint yet informative insight into late 19<sup>th</sup>-century whisky making.



### Knockdhu Distillery



Knockdhu's old railway siding along side the maltings and kiln. (The railway tracks were removed decades ago).

Roseisle and Dalmunach are BIG distilleries. Purpose built for bulk production and employing the latest state-of-the-art, energy-efficient kit and gear for mashing, brewing, and distilling, they are designed for volume and efficiency – not for visitors, nor for glamour pics on postcards. And, yet, they each offer a different kind of beauty that fuses modern, striking architecture with raw power, flexibility, and scale. (Click [here](#) for Whisky & Wisdom's feature article on Dalmunach).



### Roseisle Distillery



### Dalmunach Distillery

Ardnamurchan finds itself as a beautiful distillery on one very beautiful peninsula of Scotland. A trek to get to, and a haven for midgies in the summer months, it's worth the journey just for the welcoming visitor centre and the view out of the stillhouse upstairs. Isle of Raasay Distillery also boasts an incredible view from the windows of its production area. (For Whisky & Wisdom's feature piece on Ardnamurchan, click [here](#)).

Glengoyne, built in 1833, is a distillery that benefits from its proximity to both Glasgow and also Loch Lomond and the Trossachs. It thus finds itself with a healthy stream of visitors and coach tourists that enjoy its quaint setting, cut into the hillside.

The Glen Grant distillery is perhaps neither here nor there on a list of "most beautiful" distilleries, but there's no doubt that a stroll around the Major's gardens – located directly behind the distillery – is one of the more beautiful short walks you can do in Speyside. (After you've seen around the stills and warehouses, of course!)



A small portion of the walk through the Major's gardens...



A recent entrant that was built in 2017, The Clydeside is an impressive distillery that has successfully blended the old and new in a stunning location, directly on the River Clyde. The old pumphouse building from 1877 has been converted into the visitor centre, and the distillery is housed in a new addition with glass walls that let you see in and appreciate the action.  
Cheers, AD

## Loch Lomond adds 30-year-old whisky to core range

16th October, 2020 by Owen Bellwood

Highland distiller Loch Lomond has unveiled two age-statement single malt whiskies as part of its core range, including a cask strength 30-year-old Scotch.



*Loch Lomond has bottled 21- and 30-year-old Scotch whiskies*

Loch Lomond Whiskies has launched its 21 Years Old and 30 Years Old whiskies, each said to capture the 'signature fruity character' of the distillery.

Michael Henry, Loch Lomond Whiskies master blender, said: "Working on these two aged products has been a pleasure. Each expression perfectly showcases our signature style and the range of flavours that Loch Lomond Whiskies is known for – fruits, spice and a hint of peat. Working with both American oak and oloroso casks has created wonderfully distinctive, warming flavours that we hope whisky lovers will enjoy."

Loch Lomond 30 Years Old has been matured in American oak casks and half the liquid used in its production was finished in oloroso Sherry casks.

Bottled at a cask strength of 47% ABV, the 30-year-old whisky is said to have aromas of honey, peach, vanilla and cinnamon spice on the nose. On the palate, it has flavours of toffee, fresh pineapple and a subtle spice of ginger and nutmeg.

Loch Lomond 30 Years Old is priced at RRP £500 (US\$645).

Meanwhile, the Loch Lomond 21 Years Old Single Malt is made using three styles of spirit, two of which are peated. Each whisky was matured in American oak casks, before being married together for up to three months.

Loch Lomond 21 Years Old is said to offer flavours of sweet vanilla fudge, peaches, pears and a touch of cinnamon.

Bottled at 46% and non-chill-filtered, Loch Lomond 21 Year Old Single Malt Scotch Whisky is priced at RRP £140 (US\$180).

Both Loch Lomond 21 Years Old and Loch Lomond 30 Years Old will be available globally.

John Grieveson, chief marketing officer at Loch Lomond Whiskies, said "The launch of the Loch Lomond 21 and 30 Year Old completes our new core range, following on from the [restructure of our Loch Lomond Whisky portfolio earlier this year](#) which also included a complete brand refresh.

"Each of these super-premium expressions are contained in a beautiful new bespoke bottle and luxury carton. We know that these exceptional liquids will excite our existing Loch Lomond Whisky customers and whisky fans, further enhancing our core range."

## Whisky, women and sexism

All too often drinks are described in gender-specific terms, it's high time that stopped



High spirits: the Penderyn distillery is unusual in the industry in that it has an all-female distilling and blending team. Photograph: Christopher Jones/Alamy

[David Williams](#)

Sun 18 Oct 2020 06.00 BST

Penderyn Celt Whisky, Wales (£36.88, [penderynstore.com](#)) A ripple from the culture war disturbed the placid surface of the drinks industry earlier this month. The cause: a liberal sprinkling of liberal-baiting tasting notes from the pen of spirits writer Jim Murray, as published in the latest edition of his annual Whisky Bible. In an Instagram post, fellow whisky writer Becky Paskin took issue with the apparent sexism of Murray's notes: Paskin found "34 references to whisky being 'sexy' and many more crudely comparing drinking whisky to having sex with women." The descriptions of the whiskies made by Welsh distiller Penderyn were particularly distasteful. As Paskin pointed out, Penderyn has an all-female distilling and blending team. Given his power in the whisky industry, that gives Murray's Swiss Tony-ish response to Penderyn Celt ("If this was a woman, I'd want to make love to it every night. And in the morning. And afternoon, if I could find the time... and energy...") a distinctly creepy cast – not to mention an image that I'd rather not have in my head when I have a dram of this fine whisky. Zuccardi Valles Torrontés, Salta, Argentina 2019 (from £13.99, [cambridgewine.com](#); [kingsgatewineswinchester.co.uk](#); [portlandwines.com](#)) Murray for his part has defended his corner stoutly, and, as is the depressing modern reactionary way, has invoked principles of free speech being imperilled by a miserably over-sensitive and humourless woke generation. Since his book is widely available, it would be hard to argue that such deathless phrases as "if whisky could be sexed this would be a woman" have not been freely and widely expressed. Still, let he without sin and all that, and the Murray furore has prompted me to ask if my own tasting notes are entirely free of the sort of casual sexism that Murray's reveal. The wine trade as a whole is certainly guilty of a habit of describing wines in stereotypically gendered ways: lighter, perfumed, pretty wines are routinely described as feminine. Mea culpa: I've fallen into this language unthinkingly when describing such aromatically floral wines as Zuccardi's beautifully balanced torrontés employing archaic imagery I'd never ordinarily use: boudoir, buxom, though thankfully not sexy. This time around I'll simply say it's a beautiful, spicy-food-friendly white. Fonseca Unfiltered Late Bottled Vintage Port, Douro, Portugal 2014 (from £14.99, [robertsandspeight.co.uk](#); [frazierswine.co.uk](#); [cadmanfinewines.co.uk](#); [noblegreenwines.co.uk](#)) No prizes for guessing which types of wine get to be described as masculine: it's the "powerful" wines that are high in alcohol, tough or "muscular" in tannin and strong in flavour. These vinous Marlboro men are generally red wines, or fortified wines such as port, although a red wine can apparently have a feminine and masculine side. Certainly, I've seen the ports of Fonseca, with their combination of silky texture, violet-edged fruits of the forest fruitiness, and deep concentration and intensity (qualities all very much present in the 2014 LBV) described as both feminine and masculine. Is this kind of thing offensive? To me it's representative of the dated worldview of the milieu in which modern wine writing developed: a world dominated first by English upper-class men and then American ex-fratboys. As the wine-writing (and spirits-writing) world has become more inclusive, so the tics and mannerisms of the old school have come to seem ridiculous. Like a badly stored old bottle of claret, today they're best left alone. Follow David Williams on Twitter [@Daveydaibach](#)



## The 10 Best Spirits For Old Fashioneds, According To Bartenders

By [Taylor Tobin](#) October 16, 2020 1:00PM PST

Prohibition-era cocktails have experienced a remarkable renaissance in recent years, but there's one such beverage that's managed to maintain its relevance and popularity all throughout the 20th and 21st centuries, and that's the [Old Fashioned](#). Don Draper's signature drink passes the test of time because of its elegant simplicity; a classic Old Fashioned requires only whiskey (traditionally bourbon), Angostura bitters, Demerara sugar, and a twist of orange.

That said, the minimalist formula of an [Old Fashioned](#) makes it a prime candidate for experimentation, and enterprising bartenders don't hesitate to try replacing the whiskey with other spirits, thus creating intriguing twists on the classic. Keeping the flexibility of the Old Fashioned recipe in mind, we asked 10 bartenders for their top Old Fashioned spirits recommendations, and they provided a wide range of suggestions to suit every preference and palate.

Elijah Craig Small Batch Bourbon



Bourbon's status as the long-established spirit choice for Old Fashioneds comes from its unique flavor profile; its toasted wood notes and subtle sweetness play very nicely with Demerara sugar and Angostura bitters. Co-owner and head mixologist Stefan Huebner of [Dot Dot Dot](#) in Charlotte, North Carolina particularly favors Elijah Craig Small Batch Bourbon for Old Fashioneds, telling us that "at 94 proof, it has enough heat to stand up to the sugar and bitters in an Old Fashioned. The high amount of corn in its mashbill lends to a sweetness and complexity that I really enjoy. The fact that it is readily available and really reasonably priced is a major bonus. The consistency in the bourbon leads to consistency in the cocktail."

Four Roses Bourbon



When making a cocktail like an Old Fashioned, which features ingredients with strong personalities, a high-priced bottle of rare whiskey doesn't necessarily feel like a worthwhile expense. Instead, beverage director Laura Ganci of [Courtland Club](#) in Providence, Rhode Island urges you to select a reliable, gently priced workhorse bourbon like Four Roses. "Four Roses has been my go to for an Old Fashioned for many years because of its accessibility. Its smooth flavor and fall fruit notes are easily balanced with a small amount of sugar and bitters and some expressed orange oil. I never really understand when people go for a top-shelf spirit in an Old Fashioned. The drink was designed to dress up imperfections. Save the single-barrel bourbons for a neat pour, or open them up with a cube of ice.

The Four Roses flagship blend, though just fine on its own, does very well in this classic cocktail," explains Ganci.

Wyoming Whiskey Outryder



Wyoming Whiskey describes its "Outryder" expression as "a straight American whiskey with higher rye content than our bourbon, but short of a true rye whiskey." The notable presence of rye in this spirit provides it with a boldness that works beautifully in the context of an Old Fashioned, according to wine and beverage director Neil Loomis of [Fine Dining Restaurant Group](#) in Jackson Hole, Wyoming. "'I like using rye whiskey in my Old Fashioneds because rye has a natural spicy character that melds well with the slight fruitiness and sweetness of the cocktail. My go-to is Wyoming Whiskey Outryder. At almost 50% rye, the notes of clove, allspice, and orange blossom honey make for the perfect Old Fashioned,'" says Loomis.

Casa Noble Añejo



The use of agave spirits in Old Fashioneds counts among the most popular variations on this cocktail staple, and it's hardly surprising that dark, aged tequilas like reposados and añejos make especially fitting substitutes for whiskey. "I enjoy aged tequila in an Old Fashioned. Casa Noble Añejo works particularly well, as it's aged 2 years in French oak, which gives it many of the tasting notes and aromas we love in bourbon, such as caramel, vanilla, and baking spices. Even so, the agave flavors are still present, which adds complexity to the drink," Nashville, Tennessee-based bar director Patricia Grimm of [The 404 Kitchen](#) tells us of her preferred Old Fashioned spirit base.

Mezcal Vago Elote





Smoky, assertive mezcal always makes its presence known when added to cocktails, and a simple libation like the Old Fashioned gives this spirit the opportunity to truly shine. Owner River Hawkins of [The Milkman's Bar](#) in Charlottesville, Virginia recommends Mezcal Vago Elote for Old Fashioned-making purposes, citing this mezcal's inclusion of roasted corn as a top-selling point. "[Mezcal Vago] Elote is rolled with roasted corn between the second and third distillations, giving it a robust corn sweetness. That, mingled with the rich minerality of a good Espadin smoked to perfection in underground earthen ovens, adds a complexity to Old Fashioneds [that] I believe is better than the original rye or bourbon base. The Vago Elote corn sweetness is almost an homage to good moonshine whiskey, but with so much more to offer because it's a mezcal," Hawkins insists.

Rhum Barbancourt 15



Hailing from the island nation of Haiti, Rhum Barbancourt is famous for its distillation style; unlike most rums, this "rum" (like rum agricole from Martinique) is made from sugarcane juice rather than from molasses. Bar manager Christian Favier of [The Gin Joint](#) in Charleston, South Carolina believes that the unique botanical notes of this spirit (especially the 15-year version) are ideal for an Old Fashioned: "I love a good rye or bourbon Old Fashioned as much as the next guy, but as a rum head and lover of all things Caribbean, my go-to Old Fashioned is made with Rhum Barbancourt 15. A beautiful rum made in the style of classic French spirits on the island of Haiti, Barbancourt 15 has the perfect mix of funk, woody tannin, and concentration of beautiful sugarcane flavor. When you add a few dashes of bitters and cane syrup, it becomes a truly perfect drink."

Abelha Organic Cachaça Ouro



A South American sugarcane spirit with origins dating back to the 16th century, cachaça's similarities to rum agricole earn it the nickname of "Brazilian rum." The unaged ("white" or "silver") version of cachaça is a popular cocktail ingredient (most notably, it's the liquor used in caipirinhas), but aged ("gold") cachaça boasts a depth of flavor that renders it a spirit largely enjoyed neat or on the rocks. However, like whiskey, this brown liquor can easily fit into a mixed drink, especially one designed for darker spirits, like the Old Fashioned. "When you're looking to do something a little different than a classic Old Fashioned, Abelha Organic Cachaça Gold is a great alternative or substitute for bourbon. This aged cachaça is designed as a sipping spirit and the wood it's aged in, Garapeira, imparts unique characteristics, which make it stand up very well in classic stirred cocktails. The Old-Fashioned is a truly historic cocktail and was created by a famous mixologist – for me, it's the best way to valorize a great product: With few ingredients and simple

technique," says bartender Giaime Mauri of [Epistrophy](#) in New York, New York.

Bols Genever Barrel-Aged



Genever, popularly considered the precursor to gin, doesn't seem like an obvious choice for an Old Fashioned. If that opinion sounds familiar to you, then take a look at this history lesson (and spirits suggestion) from Anthony Caporale, the Director of Spirits Education at the [Institute of Culinary Education](#):

"The Old Fashioned is a style, not a recipe, and it refers to drinking spirits the way we did before Prohibition — the old-fashioned way. This meant just adding sweetener and a couple dashes of cocktails bitters for balance. I don't think most people realize that our most iconic drink, the martini, started as a variation on an Old Fashioned, and it was originally made with cask-aged Old Tom gin. Building on that theme, I like to make Old Fashioneds with barrel-aged genever. For my Old Fashioned of choice, I like to use Bols Genever Barrel-Aged. This genever has a lot in common with whiskey and makes an ideal base for an Old Fashioned. In addition to being aged in oak casks for 18 months, it's distilled from rye, wheat, and corn in copper pot stills. Unique botanicals like hops and cloves complement the namesake juniper as well as the malt wine base. Try varying your choice of bitters to see which you prefer with the 19th-century Lucas Bols recipe."

Pierre Ferrand Ambre Cognac



Redolent of baking spices and dried fruits, Cognac has a flavor profile very conducive to holiday-season drinking, and using it in an Old Fashioned gives that cocktail a timely cool-weather update. Proprietor H. Joseph Ehrmann of [Elixir](#) in San Francisco, California selects Pierre Ferrand Ambre Cognac for his Old Fashioneds because "this is a Cognac that is both incredibly complex and though delicious on its own, [yet] it is still in the price range to not scare anyone from making a cocktail with it. Without an age designation, it qualifies as an XO with 10 years in Tronçais oak barrels, which differ from American oak [barrels] and what they do to bourbon. I like to use light brown sugar and a mix of chocolate and orange bitters to highlight those characteristics in the spirit."



## Singani 63 Brandy



The unaged Bolivian brandy known as Singani 63 bears many similarities to pisco (another South American unaged brandy), thanks to its bright notes of flowers and fruits and its delicate sweetness. Beverage director Rael Petit of [Kokomo](#) in Brooklyn, New York eschews brown spirits in his Old Fashioneds in favor of Singani 63, stating that “Singani 63 is an extremely versatile spirit. The effervescent scent of orange blossom perfectly balances out the touch of sweetener from the Old Fashioned cocktail.”

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## Bowmore unveils 30-year-old single malt whisky

6th October, 2020 by Nicola Carruthers

Islay Scotch whisky Bowmore has launched a limited edition 30-year-old single malt, which will be released annually.



*Bowmore 30 Year Old is limited to 2,580 bottles for the 2020 release*

Distilled in 1989, the whisky has matured for three decades in Sherry hogsheads and Bourbon barrels. The liquid used to make the single malt will be selected from just two casks each year.

Bottled at a cask strength of 45.3% ABV, the new expression is said to be “defined, shaped and crafted by time”.

Bowmore plans to release a new edition of the 30-year-old bottling every year in limited quantities.

David Turner, Bowmore Distillery manager, said: “By adding an ongoing 30-year-old Bowmore to the portfolio, we are able to showcase how vital time spent in cask shapes and influences our spirit, making it even more exceptional and characterful.

“Each annual release will tell the rich stories of Bowmore, but importantly each will have their own unique style and character. As for this release, this is another perfect example of classic Bowmore but with boundless depth and intrigue reflecting the long standing interaction of spirit and wood.”

On the nose the whisky brings notes of heather, bananas, peaches, pineapple, vanilla and butterscotch. The palate offers tropical fruits and honey sweetness, along with subtle peat smoke and hints of eucalyptus.

Limited to 2,580 bottles for the 2020 release, Bowmore 30 Year Old will be available across all key markets for RRP US\$1,850.

Last month, Beam Suntory-owned Bowmore [created a new global campaign](#) to celebrate more than 240 years of the brand’s history, called The Art of Time.

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## Royal Lochnagar celebrates 175th anniversary

19th October, 2020 by Melita Kiely

Diageo is marking 175 years of the Royal Lochnagar Distillery with a limited edition 17-year-old single malt Scotch whisky.



*Royal Lochnagar has bottled a 17-year-old whisky to mark its 175th anniversary*

Bottled at 56.3% ABV, the whisky was aged in refill, Pedro Ximénez and oloroso Sherry-seasoned casks.

Only 3,000 bottles of the 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary whisky have been created, priced at RRP £250 (US\$325) per 700ml. It will be available from select specialist retailers and from the Royal Lochnagar Distillery.

Sean Phillips, distillery manager at Royal Lochnagar, said: “Selected by our expert team, this rare release portrays true Royal Lochnagar character and celebrates its history as a tiny treat for the whisky connoisseur.”

Royal Lochnagar 17<sup>th</sup> Anniversary whisky is said to have aromas of mango, melon, hints of wood, bracken and brambles, leading to flavours of chocolate, light coffee, sweetness and juicy acidity. The finish is said to be long and dry, with a touch of sandalwood.

Highland distillery Royal Lochnagar was founded in 1845, one mile from the royal family’s Balmoral Castle. It was originally called New Lochnagar, but was renamed after Queen Victoria and Prince Albert took the first distillery tour in 1848 and issued a Royal Warrant, permitting the use of ‘royal’ in its name.

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## Whisky Hammer auctions 78-year-old Macallan

19th October, 2020 by Owen Bellwood

Online auctioneer Whisky Hammer is selling a bottle of 78-year-old Macallan, which is believed to be the oldest whisky launched by a distillery.



*The Macallan 78 Year Old is the oldest whisky in the Red Collection*

Released as part of the distillery’s Red Collection, a selection of ongoing aged whisky releases from the Speyside producer, the whisky is the oldest expression in the series.

The Red Collection comprises 40-, 50-, 60-, 71-, 74- and 78-year-old whiskies and is described as “an exquisite range of distinguished and rare single malt Scotch whiskies”.

The collection is also said to celebrate the colour red and its prominence through the brand’s history and processes.

A bottle of the oldest whisky in the series is now being auctioned at Whisky Hammer, with a starting price of £10,000. The current highest

bid at the time of writing is £73,500 (US\$95,365) and the auction will run until Sunday 25 October.

The 78-year old is being presented by The Macallan's lead whisky maker, Sarah Burgess, and was laid down to mature decades ago in hand-picked oak casks.

The 42.2% ABV whisky is said to have aromas of "a fresh fruit medley of apple, peach and grape," as well as antique oak and soft leather. On the palate, drinkers will find flavours of warming oak spice, nutmeg and ginger, which "open into the rich dried fruits of raisin, prune, date and a hint of almond nuttiness".

The Macallan 78 Years Old is presented in an oak box crafted by hand in the UK using the same European oak used to make The Macallan casks. The box is upholstered with sustainably sourced Scottish leather.

Daniel Milne, managing director of Whisky Hammer, said: "We're really excited to be able to offer something as rare as this 78-year-old expression from The Macallan Red Collection for auction and we expect a very high level of interest in this lot.

"The Macallan is one of the most well known and loved Scotch whisky brands and is regarded globally as the epitome of quality and taste – add to this the thrill of the oldest single malt ever released by Macallan, the end result is a true icon in whisky history."

[An online auction run by Sotheby's](#) also recently offered expressions from The Macallan Red Collection for sale.

## The Glenrothes Adds An Old 50 Year Scotch To Its Whisky Offerings

By [Nino Kilgore-Marchetti](#) / October 19, 2020

Scotland's The Glenrothes distillery has been producing Scotch single malt whisky in the Speyside town of Rothes since 1879. Known for its five water sources drawn from across its estate and its use of sherry seasoned oak casks as part of its whisky maturation program, it is now releasing its oldest expression ever.

The new The Glenrothes 50 Year Old, according to those behind it, was distilled back in 1968 and then matured for half a century in sherry and bourbon oak casks before recently being bottled at 48% ABV. This whisky was decanted into individually numbered, handmade faceted crystal decanters which were then housed in a lacquered black presentation case.



*The Glenrothes 50 Year Old (image via The Glenrothes)*

Those who purchase one of the just 50 bottles of this Scotch being released globally will become members of a special insiders club The Glenrothes team has created. Perks of this club include a visit to the invitation-only Glenrothes Estate (which is closed to the public), continued access to prestige releases, and future brand experiences. "This 50-year-old single malt is a dramatic blend of aromas with layers of complexity only a whisky of this age can deliver – truly luxurious, dark and fragrant," said Laura Rampling, Master Whisky Maker at The Glenrothes, in a prepared statement.

"As our oldest ever release, this 50-year-old is a salute to the loyalty and craft of our distillery team, several of whom have over 40 years' service," added Kerr Arthur, Director of The Glenrothes brand. "They truly understand the art of whisky making The Glenrothes way and now 50 people will have the privilege of sharing in this milestone release." Plans call for The Glenrothes 50 Year Old to price around \$35,000 per 750 ml bottle. You'll find some official tasting notes below.

- **Aroma:** A cascade of fragrant woody spices, lilting between cedar wood and cloves, with grounding notes of linseed oil and rich muscovite sugar. A hint of fragrant jasmine.
- **Taste:** A drama of complexity. Intensely sweet and spicy, with flares of cardamom, fennel seeds and vanilla pods, while notes of cedar play throughout.

- **Finish:** Delicate and refined. A gentle lingering of woody spices.

## Whiskey Salespeople – The Forgotten Link

By [Robin Robinson](#) / October 20, 2020

The cool packaging. The alluring lines of the bottle and the color of the liquid inside. From our phones and in our libraries we can read the tasting notes of experts, their colorful and sometimes overwrought language describing the tastes and smells we might have difficulty putting words to. We remember the charm and knowledge of the brand ambassador, or were in awe of the maker, the distiller or blender, who broke down the components for us in a master class and afterwards posed for a selfie for our social media accounts.

So much goes into the experience of whiskey that we either forget, or are unaware of, the one link in the chain that if it were to disappear, causes the entire experience to fall into a heap: the salesperson. You've heard of Pappy Van Winkle, of course. Julian "Pappy" Van Winkle Sr. got his start as a salesman for the old W.L. Weller distillery in Kentucky, at a time when the definition of "bourbon" was still being debated. Later, as a distiller, he was quoted as saying "we make a fine bourbon at a profit if we can, at a loss if we must, but always a fine bourbon". A sales guy.



*A whisky travel retail store at Gatwick in London, UK. (image via [Punchy/Flickr](#))*

Dewar's Blended Scotch is what it is today because of the efforts of Tommy Dewar, maybe the most prolific and widely traveled whisky salesperson of his day. According to him, the whisky coming from Scotland lacked a certain flair, it needed a grounding, an emotional anchor that a consumer can attach themselves to. His father's whisky needed the symbol of The Scotsman, a fully-battle-arrayed bagpiper that graced every bottle, turning whiskey from Scotland into "Scotch Whisky". A sales guy.

All the whisky in Scotland in the 19th century was managed by a rich layer of middlemen who purchased raw spirit from the Highland distillers and sold it to the bonders and blenders close to the ports of transportation in the Lowlands to make the blended Scotch that ruled the early 20th century. And then another group left for France and created a market that is still today the largest importer of blended Scotch whisky. Sam Bronfman bought the Seagram's distillery and name in Canada at the height of the Great Depression and rounded up third party "agents" who got his whisky across the border to the speakeasies of a thirsty US public. Later, the unheralded Harry Hatch, parlayed his whisky sales expertise into pulling off one of the greatest purchases of all: for a brief period, he owned the 4 largest distilleries in Canada.

Salesmen all, and the most maligned sector of business today. But if you are holding any object in your hands, whether a whiskey bottle, a medical prescription or an iPhone, a salesperson got it there for you. Someone had to make the phone call, write the email, get the pricing right, make the visit, do the pitch, ensure the delivery, and then set up the service conditions. In today's whiskey industry, and in the larger alcoholic beverages industry as a whole, adding to the complexity is what is known as the "three-tier" system, a uniquely American hold-over from the temperance attitudes that provoked Prohibition. With minor variations, it works like this: a maker of alcoholic beverages can only sell directly to a state authorized wholesale distributor. That wholesaler (and their salespeople) in turn can only sell to the next tier, the "trade": either package stores where the product is consumed "off premise"; or restaurants and bars, where



the product is consumed “on premise”. Both are licensed to sell directly to the consumer, completing all three tiers. With 50 different states (and DC), there are 51 different variations of this and wending their way through it all are the salespeople.

Today, when we hear of or encounter salespeople in the liquor industry, either male and increasingly female, we still have a similar negative gut check: shady and dishonest or full of hyperbole guaranteed to separate us from our hard-earned dollars. And indeed, those archetypes surely exist. The bad rap on today’s whiskey salesperson is that they know nothing of the product and are only interested in making the sale in order to qualify for the rich incentives mandated by quotas of the current large suppliers: Diageo, Pernod-Ricard, Bacardi or Beam-Suntory being in the lead, and others following. The distribution field is dominated by 3 large organizations that distribute close to 60% of all wine and spirits: SouthernGlazers, RNDC and Breakthru, followed by a raft of mid-size and small wholesalers state to state. The overall feeling within the industry is that the salesperson has been relegated to the role of order-taker only. No promotional commitment, no passion regarding the nuances of the product, just get it in, on the shelf or behind the bar, and move on to the next account. It’s a sad reality that, for the most part, is true. But it wasn’t always that way.

“At one time, distributors had an allegiance to a brand. I had the owner of the distributor personally walk me into many of the accounts to make sure we got the brand in there. There was a tighter connection between the supplier and the distributor”. Giacomo “Jim” Butera would know, he is a third generation salesman. For over 30 years, “some of the happiest days of my life,” he was part of the sales organization of the old Austin Nichols Company that made Wild Turkey Bourbon and imported brands like Bailey’s, Metaxa and Campari. Jim now owns his own brokerage, Margeaux and Associates, but in those days, as a Vice President of Sales based in Texas, he participated in an organization that had more of a bottom up style of communication. “The top management would listen to what the field needed and make the appropriate adjustments, whether it was the point-of-sale materials or feedback from buyers on the brand’s qualities.”

What changed was the times and the technology. “Computers are great in that we can get real-time data on sales and depletions; back in the old days everything was hand-written. But they destroyed the personalization and the relationships. I used to know everyone in top management of all the distributors, but now we’re just numbers,” says Butera. That same feeling was echoed by Arthur Shapiro, now an industry brand consultant, but once a top-level executive with the Seagram’s Corporation. “In the post-war period, consumer demand pushed the goods out into the marketplace and the salesman’s job was to satisfy that demand. But in the 80s and 90s, business turned to consumer polling and big data and marketing was ascendent.”

At one time in American business there was little or no distinction between sales and marketing, they were all part of account teams that took care of everything from surveying the field, to merchandising the product to closing the sale. Recruits were hired and trained to do the merchandising (from stocking the shelves to setting up displays to surveying the retailer’s needs) and gradually worked their way up to sales. In this way, they got to make the relationships that would later set the tone for sales and promotion. Brand strategies were set forth in a fashion very similar to what we witnessed on “MadMen”: creative and account people working together to build brands. After Prohibition, huge suppliers like Seagram’s, Pernod-Ricard, National, Heublein, Moet Hennessey and Hiram Walker worked hand in hand with import/marketing agencies like Schieffelin & Somerset and Sunbelt to build brands using advertising (liquor was heavily campaigned through magazines, radio and TV) and follow all the way through to the sale and promotion of each brand. There was a continuity of relationships to the degree that transcended business. “I was invited to their kid’s weddings”, quipped Butera.

Along with the arrival of big computing came the natural disruptions of the marketplace: National was consolidated, Seagram’s folded, Wild Turkey was assumed by Pernod-Ricard then later sold off to Campari. Tastes changed, people passed on, hierarchies were moved and melded together. Universities and grad schools produced marketers with degrees who never met a customer on their way to the C-level suites in corporations, and sales was relegated solely to the local distribution level, programmed by their marketing counterparts to hit quotas based on market research. The brand ambassador was introduced, once known as the “Good Will Man” from the old account teams and set in the middle to be the cultural educator or talented ex-bartender who could extol the virtues of a particular brand as long as the marketing budget could hold out. No longer the brand builder, the salesman’s job was just to get as much of the product as possible out

into the marketplace and let the brand people worry about getting it off the shelves

Formal sales training programs, like the expansive one set up by Gallo Wine years ago, were reduced just to “brand education” conducted at a weekly general sales meeting by brand representatives or ambassadors. The profession of selling was traditionally something you learned from a supervisor, not by formal training. “You got hired, and the first week your manager took you out into the field, introduced you to accounts and you watched how he did it. Then the second week, you were on your own,” says Butera. In those days of long-term commitments, of hand-written orders and hitting every account in your territory every week, you got to know the owners, the buyers, the bartenders and staff of every account. Suppliers didn’t jump from one wholesaler to another or threaten them with leaving if an ever-increasing quota wasn’t met. But this was a “sink or swim” methodology, and turnover in wholesale houses was rampant as a result.

At the dawn of the 21st century, with the rise of the craft spirits movement and the expansion of whiskey brands from throughout the world, the whole world shifted again. Many distributors were holding onto the old thinking about sales in an environment that no longer supported it. One executive of a large distributor told me, “we’ve been working from an old paradigm. What we found out was that the large brands ruined our salespeople, and we weren’t paying attention to it” as their sales force slowly became order takers, not sales people. Many of the veterans were parlaying off the old “relationship” sale in an environment where the retail buyer or bartender was transitory, staying long enough and making enough contacts to secure a job with a brand. Newer salespeople came into the job with just the minimum “manager” training and if they were both lucky and hard-working, they could make a go of it for a few years before leaving for greener pastures.

Small brands competing with the multi-nationals now were forced out into the marketplace to take up the slack, becoming not just the brand experts but the relationship holders, promoters, inventory trackers and “good will men.” With this many free agents roaming through the aisles and setting up at bars, a combination of fatigue and confusion reigns. The chorus of complaints from both retailers and bartenders ranges from “I have no idea who my sales person is” to “this is the fourth brand ambassador for this brand” to “that visit was worthless, I can get just as much information from my phone.”

Now, Covid-19 has reduced the forces of many of the distribution houses and brands, furloughing many salespeople. Consolidations in the industry have reset much of the budgeting for promotional efforts and the engagement rules within the store or bar are constantly being re-written to match the devastation of an entire industry.

It’s a time for reflection, pivoting and re-invention of how a brand can go to market. It’s a time for the professional salesperson to re-emerge, schooled in a methodology that is flexible and yet tested by time. A relationship builder, a trusted confidant, a category expert, a person dedicated to the service of his or her customer and to the promotion of the brands within their domain. Sales is the oldest profession on earth, an honest interaction of value between two interested parties. That makes it the noblest profession as well. The new salesperson will endure and rise again to fill that space and we will all be the better for it.

## Glasgow Whisky releases 30-year-old Macallan

20th October, 2020 by Owen Bellwood

Scotland’s Glasgow Whisky has bottled a 30-year-old Macallan single malt as part of its Munros collection, the first in a new series of super-premium whiskies in the range.



The 30-year-old Macallan is bottled in a Glencairn Crystal decanter

The Munros Macallan 30 Years Old is priced at more than RRP £5,000 (US\$6,482) and just 133 decanters have been produced. The collection was created to honour Scottish mountains that are more than 3,000ft (914m) tall, known as the Munros. Distilled in January 1989, The Macallan whisky was matured for 30 years in an ex-Sherry cask. Bottled at its natural cask strength of 49.1% ABV, the whisky does not contain any additional colour and has received "minimal filtration".

Rory Taylor, Glasgow Whisky sales manager, said: "We are passionate about single malts and are excited to be adding a new premium level to our much-loved Munros single cask collection, starting with this superb Macallan 30 Years Old. We intend to release a new Munros super-premium single malt each year going forwards." The rare whisky has been bottled in a decanter made by Glencairn Crystal Studio. Produced from lead-free crystal, it features an engraving of a Scottish mountain range, which is magnified through the whisky to the front of the decanter. The decanter also features white and copper detailing, and the Munros mountain theme is continued on the copper stopper.

Kenny Tweeddale, Glencairn new product development manager, added: "Our task was to create an elegant decanter that allowed the whisky to do the talking, whilst celebrating the Munros, so we made this exceptional Macallan integral to the overall design with the mountain range emerging through the liquid."

Earlier this month, crystal manufacturer [Glencairn marked 20 years of its signature whisky glass](#) with the release of five coloured variants.

## Covid-19 vaccine could see travel recover in six months

20th October, 2020 by Melita Kiely

Once a Covid-19 vaccine is widely available, international travel could rebound in six months but business travel will remain suppressed, Mohit Lal, chair and CEO of Pernod Ricard Global Travel Retail, has said.



*Mohit Lal, chair and CEO of Pernod Ricard Global Travel Retail*

Like many companies, Pernod Ricard has experienced a challenging year in global travel retail (GTR) due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The company's full-year results, published in September, showed a [double-digit decline in the channel](#).

In an interview with *The Spirits Business* last week, Lal said while he could not predict when alcohol sales in GTR would rebound, he believes that a widely available vaccine would restore consumer confidence in travel, and see the channel swiftly bounce back.

"Tomorrow, if there is a simple drug that is available everywhere that prevents Covid from being anything more than a regular flu, you will see travel get back in six months time," Lal said.

"If tomorrow there is a vaccine that immunises large populations for a 10-year period with one signal shot, between the time [from when] the vaccine gets widely available and international travel will rebound [will be] a period of about six months.

"But when will these triggers happen, I don't know. And therefore rather than worry about when they're happening, our assumption is if it's happening over the next six months, are we ready? And if we're ready in six months, what if it happens in three months, what do we need to do to be ready? That's our key concern."

Business travel will 'stay suppressed'

Pernod Ricard GTR is remaining agile in the face of the pandemic, Lal said, and noted that business travel was likely to experience a slower recovery than travel for leisure.

"Business travel is not going to be getting back to what it used to be because businesses have learned to continue to run effectively and efficiently without the need of people who physically travel to different locations," Lal noted.

"And this is true of my own team within travel retail. Lots of us have not been on a flight for many, many months now, but the fact is we still work effectively as an organisation. So when things normalise, I don't see business travel coming back to exactly the same levels very quickly.

"It'll stay suppressed to an extent, maybe 70-80% of what it used to be, but all other forms of travel will, I think, spring back very quickly to normal."

## Rosebank 30-year-old marks new chapter for distillery

21st October, 2020 by Nicola Carruthers

Revived Lowland distillery Rosebank has unveiled a 30-year-old whisky as the first expression in a new series of annual limited edition releases.



*Rosebank 30 Year Old is the first global release from the revived distillery*

The new Rosebank 30 Year Old is a hand selected vintage from 1990, three years before the iconic distillery's closure.

In October 2017, Scottish spirits firm Ian Macleod Distillers [acquired the Rosebank site](#) and the last remaining stocks. The restoration of the site in Falkirk [began in November last year](#), which includes the construction of a 1,000-square-metre, energy-efficient distillery, a visitor centre, tasting room, shop and warehouse.

Once open, Rosebank Distillery is expected to create 25 full-time jobs and attract around 50,000 visitors a year to Falkirk.

A new limited edition expression will be released every year until the first new Rosebank liquid from the distillery is ready.

Robbie Hughes, group distillation manager for Ian Macleod Distillers, said: "The first global release of Rosebank 30 Year Old is a truly iconic moment for the distillery. It has matured in 62% refill Sherry butts and 38% refill Bourbon hogsheads for decades, patiently waiting to be awoken, and delivers layers of incredible flavour that you won't find in other whiskies."

The non-chill-filtered bottling is marked with the words Release One to mark a new chapter in Rosebank's legacy.

The first 200 people to scan the QR code on the neck collar of their Release One bottle will be given the opportunity to taste Release Two at their nearest high-end bar or whisky retailer in 2021 and the chance to receive an early link to purchase Release Two before the public.

Hughes added: "What makes Release One so exciting is that we're giving Rosebank fans the chance to join us on this monumental journey over the next decade, as we revive the iconic distillery. With a chance to 'bank' exclusive access to next year's release, we're not only inviting them to become part of Rosebank's legacy, but to become part of Rosebank's family."

Only 4,350 bottles of Rosebank 30 Year Old will be available to buy globally, priced at £1,600 (US\$2,100).

Ian Macleod [released two Rosebank single cask whiskies](#) distilled in 1993 through a ballot sale in February this year.



## Loch Ness Spirits wins trademark appeal

21st October, 2020 by Melita Kiely

Duncan Taylor Scotch Whisky has lost its trademark appeal against Loch Ness Spirits over the use of the famous Scottish loch's name.



*Lorien and Kevin Cameron-Ross, co-founders of Loch Ness Spirits*  
Lorien and Kevin Cameron-Ross, a doctor and retired detective respectively, [founded Loch Ness Spirits in 2015](#).

Duncan Taylor Scotch Whisky filed an application to invalidate six trademarks registered by Inverness-based Loch Ness Spirits on 18 November 2018. The six trademarks were: Loch Ness Gin, Loch Ness Vodka, Loch Ness Rum, Loch Ness Whisky and Loch Ness Spirits, as well as a Loch Ness Spirits logo.

Duncan Taylor argued that one of its first brands was called Loch Ness Whisky, which was launched through its subsidiary, The Original Loch Ness Whisky Company. Duncan Taylor's chairman, Euan Shand, who is also a director of The Original Loch Ness Whisky Company, said the 'Loch Ness' trademark had been in "continuous use" since 2008 and was applied to goods by the sister company under an implied licence. In the appeal decision, James Mellor QC (Queen's Counsel) noted that evidence provided by Shand "indicates that The Original Loch Ness Whisky Company Limited filed dormant company accounts between 2009 and 2016, i.e. the years leading up to the relevant dates". Mellor stated: "Based on the evidence, it seems some (small) sales of Loch Ness whisky were made to traders in the UK by the applicant. But on this evidence, the applicant was effectively a wholesaler who also applied the mark on behalf of The Original Loch Ness Whisky Company."

He added: "I find there is nothing in any of the applicant's criticisms. Mr [Alan] James [senior hearing officer at the UK Intellectual Property Office] conducted a careful and measured review of the relevant materials. I was unable to find any error in his reasoning which would have entitled me to intervene. I agree with his reasoning and his conclusion."

Mellor has ordered Duncan Taylor Scotch Whisky to pay Loch Ness Spirits £7,200 (around US\$9,405), a combination of the award made by the hearing officer, James, and Mellor's award in respect of the appeal. 'Correct and just decision'

In an open letter, Loch Ness Spirits said: "After nearly three years of defending our legitimate trademarks, the appeal to have them invalidated by Duncan Taylor Scotch Whisky has been dismissed. To say this is a relief, is an understatement.

"We live on the banks of Loch Ness in an area where our family have been living for more than 500 years. At Loch Ness Spirits, we distil our products on site, using the botanicals that are picked from the land around us. We use our own pure water supply and bottle our products here too. When we launched our company, we couldn't conceive calling it anything else. We literally are Loch Ness Spirits.

"[When we won the case in December 2019](#), we hoped that we could start looking forward again and concentrate our energies on building our company. However, our hopes were short-lived when Duncan Taylor launched an appeal. It's been a tough year waiting for this process to play out but we can finally rest and recharge, now that the appointed person has dismissed their appeal.

"Having felt threatened, bullied and forced to defend our authentic local brand, we are heartened at this correct and just outcome. We have also been overwhelmed by the enormous support we have had locally and beyond. There are thousands of kindred Loch Ness Spirits who have backed us the whole way through. We are looking forward to continuing to craft our spirits at our home on the banks of Loch Ness, giving them the provenance that they rightly deserve."

Duncan Taylor Scotch Whisky declined to comment.

## Remote Ardnamurchan Distillery Has Its First Scotch Single Malt At Market

By [Nino Kilgore-Marchetti](#) / October 21, 2020

The Ardnamurchan Distillery, opened in mid-2014, is said to be one of the most remote of the Scottish distilleries. It is located, according to the brand, "on the Ardnamurchan peninsula, a wonderfully secluded 'finger' of rocky land that stretches out to the furthest westerly point of the UK, just to the north of the Isle of Mull, and south of the Isle of Skye." It is from here they recently launched their first single malt with a global audience in mind.

The new Ardnamurchan Single Malt AD:09.20:01, [according to those behind it](#), was released earlier this month, crafted from a 50/50 split of peated and unpeated whiskies. The distillery is noted for producing "two signature styles of spirit" that correspond to the split just mentioned. Said expression is matured in a 65%/35% mixture of ex-bourbon and ex-sherry oak casks.



*Ardnamurchan Single Malt (image via Ardnamurchan)*

"When we filled the first spirit into casks, just over 6 years ago," said Ardnamurchan Managing Director, Alex Bruce, [in a prepared statement](#), "the concept of being able to disgorge those casks into bottles seemed very distant. However, we have had an incredible journey, building our 100% local team, filling the warehouses with over 10,000 casks and preparing national and international distribution.

"We relied on the unique local maturation climate to do the rest, and are really excited by the quality and consistency that has been reached." As it stands now this first single malt whisky release, bottled at 46.8% ABV and being both non-chill filtered and of natural color, is debuting in 25 global markets for a price of around £45, or close to \$60 USD. Limited official tasting notes speak of "honeycomb, waxy peel, oyster shells, brine, strawberries with black pepper and bonfire embers."

An interesting side note on this distillery is the fact that, according to the brand, "all the power and heat requirements for the Ardnamurchan Distillery come from local renewables – the river that provides the distillery's cooling water has a hydro-electricity generator and the biomass boiler is fuelled by woodchip from local forestry – the overall footprint of the distillery is a light one.

"In addition, the by-products of the whisky-making process are recycled on the peninsula – the still energy-rich draff is combined with the pot ale to produce animal feed for use on the peninsula."

## 11 New Limited-Edition Scotch Whiskies to Drink Right Now

Many will be tucked away by collectors, but they're worth cracking now.  
BY [JONAH FLICKER](#) ON OCTOBER 20, 2020



Photo: courtesy GlenDronach

Ultra-aged [scotch](#) whisky, particularly [single malt](#), can command astronomical prices, much more so than any other spirits category (cognac does come close, though). Prices rise from hundreds to tens of thousands of dollars as the age statements increase by decades, due to the extremely limited nature of these releases. Some come from single casks, some are literally the last drops of liquid left from a shuttered distillery and some are unique experiments never to be enjoyed again once the whisky is gone. Of course, many people collect these bottles, eventually flipping them for twice what they paid. But whisky is meant to be drunk, so don't be afraid to crack these bottles open and sip at your leisure. Here are 11 outstanding limited edition single malts for people unafraid to break the bank.

Fettercairn 46 Years Old



Photo: courtesy Fettercairn

[Fettercairn](#) is a Highland distillery with a long history dating back to the first half of the 19th century, though the general public might not be so familiar with the name. The core lineup consists of whiskies aging from 12 to 40 years old, but now a 46-year-old whisky has joined the family. It was distilled on May 8th, 1973 and aged for most of its time in ex-bourbon barrels, with four years spent in 40-year-old Tawny port pipes as well. This infused the vanilla and oak top flavors with notes of tropical fruit, coffee and a touch of licorice on the palate. The whisky was bottled at 42.5% ABV with no chill filtration or color added.

[BUY NOW: \\$9,155](#)

The GlenDronach Kingsman Edition 1989 Vintage



Photo: courtesy GlenDronach

This is the second [GlenDronach](#) collaboration with *The Kingsman* movie franchise, the first having come about in 2017. This new release is a 29-year-old whisky aged for the majority of time in just six Oloroso sherry casks, with a final maturation period in Pedro Ximenez casks. Just 3,052 bottles are available, each with a Kingsman insignia and housed in a gift box signed by master blender Dr. Rachel Barrie and *The King's Man* director Matthew Vaughn (the film is set to be released in 2021). It's a lovely and full-flavored whisky, with notes of dark fig, candied cherry and blackberry throughout, along with a bit of spice and tobacco. It's bottled at 90.4 proof with no color added.

[BUY NOW: \\$2,000](#)

The Dalmore Rare & Aged



Photo: courtesy The Dalmore

[The Dalmore](#) is no stranger to expensive whisky releases, but this trio of ultra-aged single malts truly lives up to the name Rare & Aged—it's released in very limited quantities and it's really old. The collection is as follows: a 35-year-old aged in bourbon, sherry and port barrels; a 40-year-old aged in bourbon, sherry and first-fill bourbon barrels; and a 45-year-old aged in bourbon, vintage port pipes and first-fill bourbon barrels. These are all delicious whiskies with varying degrees of tropical fruits, cinnamon and vanilla on the palate. The best thing about them is that, surprisingly given their age, they do not taste overly tannic or oaky.

[BUY NOW: \\$4,964 \(FOR THE 35\)](#)

Ardbeg 19 Years Old Traigh Bhan



Photo: courtesy Ardbeg

[Ardbeg](#) is an iconic Islay distillery, producing whisky that is heavily peated and aged in a variety of cask types. The latest addition to the lineup is Ardbeg 19 Years Old Traigh Bhan, which is older than the whiskies that make up the core range. This is the second batch to be released and it's aged in a combination of bourbon and sherry casks that imbue it with notes of sweet smoke, apple, pear and iodine on the palate. Traigh Bhan, if you're interested, refers to a volcanic beach on Islay known to locals as "Singing Sands."

[BUY NOW: \\$358](#)

Diageo's 2020 Special Releases Collection



Photo: courtesy Diageo



This year's Special Releases Collection from [Diageo](#), known as "Rare By Nature," highlights eight distilleries, some dormant and some very much alive. All are bottled at cask strength and offer a taste of something aged, a unique finish, or just an exemplary expression of what defines a particular region or distillery. The 2020 lineup is as follows: [Cardhu 11-Year-Old](#), [Cragganmore 20-Year-Old](#), [Dalwhinnie 30-Year-Old](#), [Lagavulin 12-Year-Old](#), [Mortlach 21-Year-Old](#), [Pittvaich 30-Year-Old](#), [Talisker 8-Year-Old](#) (the first release to be finished in pot-still Caribbean rum casks) and [The Singleton of Dufftown 17-Year-Old](#). And over at the Whiskey Exchange, you can buy a package with a sample of each.

[BUY NOW: \\$110 \(FOR THE SAMPLER\)](#)

Octomore 11 Series



Photo: courtesy Bruichladdich

[Bruichladdich](#) is an Islay distillery that is always up to interesting things, two of which happen to be making some of the most heavily peated whisky available and experimenting with the concept of terroir by using barley from individual farms for certain releases. This year's Octomore series consists of four expressions that vary in significant ways, each bringing its own defining characteristic to the palate: [11.1 is a five-year-old](#), intensely smoky whisky; 11.2 is a five-year-old blend of whisky aged in red wine and bourbon casks (available to purchase online only); 11.3 is made using barley from a single farm and peated to nearly 200 PPM; and Octomore Ten Years rounds it out, an even more heavily peated whisky aged entirely in virgin oak.

[BUY NOW: \\$230](#)

Aberfeldy 18 and 20 Years Old



Photo: courtesy Aberfeldy

[Aberfeldy's](#) Exceptional Cask series has unveiled some fantastic whiskies from this Highland distillery, which produces much of the whisky that goes into Dewar's blended scotch. This year, two really tasty 18- and 20-year old expressions have been released. The 18 was put into French red wine casks from Paullic for about five months after initial maturation, giving it some dry spice and explosions of red fruit and berries. The 20-year-old was also finished in Sauternes casks and the finishing period lasted a full year. The result is exceptional, with sweet honey and caramel notes that complement the whisky without overpowering it at all.

[BUY NOW: \\$190](#)

Muckety-Muck 24 Year Old Single Grain Scotch Whisky



Photo: courtesy Orphan Barrel

The whole schtick of the [Orphan Barrel](#) brand (owned by Diageo) is forgotten whiskies that have been newly discovered and released. This is pretty unlikely, given how closely warehouses are monitored and inventory is watched. But no matter, the ultra-aged whisky is often very good, and this new release keeps pace. This is the second Orphan Barrel scotch release and interestingly, this is a single grain whisky, not a single malt. It was distilled at the now shuttered Port Dundas distillery. Muckety-Muck is a velvety sipper, with big notes of vanilla, caramel, apple and pear on the palate, really showing why single grain is a category of scotch whisky worth exploring.

[BUY NOW: \\$270](#)

John Walker & Sons Bicentenary Blend



Photo: courtesy Johnnie Walker

[Johnnie Walker](#), one of the best known names in scotch, is celebrating its bicentennial this year. So the brand is pulling out the stops and releasing several high-end, limited-edition releases led by master blender Jim Beveridge. This Bicentenary Blend isn't just Johnnie Walker Blue Label with pretty packaging. It's a blend of 28-year-old whisky from the "ghost" distilleries of Pittvaich, Cambus and Port Ellen (the latter of which is reopening this year), meant to evoke the flavors of blends from the 1820s.

[BUY NOW: \\$800](#)

The Glenrothes 50-Year-Old



The Glenrothes

This new bottle from [The Glenrothes](#) is the oldest whisky ever released by the distillery and probably the most expensive. It's a 50-year-old single malt distilled in 1968, with only 50 bottles available. The price is high—\$35,000, if you must ask—but it also comes with a membership to the FIFTY club, which includes an exclusive visit to the distillery (which is closed to the public) where you'll be able to meet the team behind the liquid. Speaking of which, the whisky was matured in both sherry and bourbon casks and comes in a fetching crystal decanter. Look for sweet and spicy notes, hints of cardamom and fennel and a bit of cedar underlying the palate.

[LEARN MORE](#)

## The Balvenie Tun 1509 Batch 7



Photo: credit The Balvenie

This is the latest release in [The Balvenie's](#) Tun 1509 series. This odd name refers to the tun, or large oak vat, that the whisky is put into to allow it to marry and rest before bottling. Malt master David C. Stewart has been at the distillery for nearly 60 years, so he knows a thing or two about the inventory. For this seventh batch, he's selected 21 casks (sherry hogshead, ex-bourbon American oak, DoubleWood refill sherry butts) and let them marry for three months in the tun.

[BUY NOW: \\$330](#)

## Jim Beam debuts GTR-exclusive Lineage Bourbon

22nd October, 2020 by Nicola Carruthers

Beam Suntory has released a new Jim Beam Bourbon exclusively for global travel retail, called Lineage.



*Lineage is the first Jim Beam Bourbon to have Freddie Noe's name on the bottle*

The new Bourbon is the first to be created as part of a collaboration between seventh-generation Beam family master distiller Fred Noe and his son Freddie.

Fred Noe said: "Lineage represents a significant moment in the history of Jim Beam. Not only is it a collaboration between the seventh and eighth generation of distillers in our family, but it's a blend of the past, the present and the future."

"Having spent a lot of time exploring travel retail outlets in my time, it was important to me to offer something special to travellers – especially during these trying times."

"Launching a product exclusively to travel retail is not something we often do, so we are excited to bring such a unique expression to our friends in airports across the world."

Lineage is the first Jim Beam Bourbon to have Freddie's name on the bottle. Bottled at 55% ABV, Lineage was aged for 15 years in charred white oak barrels in warehouse k.

Freddie Noe added: "I really enjoy breaking the rules and creating new and exciting expressions, so it was an honour to create this unique whiskey with my dad – one that's different from anything out there in the Bourbon world."

The resulting liquid has notes of spice, vanilla and caramel, followed by a "smooth, warm" finish. The Bourbon is recommended served neat or over ice.

Ed Stening, head of marketing, global travel retail (GTR) at Beam Suntory, said: "The collaboration between Fred and Freddie is a landmark moment in Jim Beam's long-standing history. The chemistry between the father-and-son duo is undeniable and has led to the creation of a truly unique whiskey."

"Championing innovation like this in travel retail is extremely important to us and something we're committed to as we look to ensure the growth of the channel now and in the future."

Lineage will be available to buy in global travel retail from early 2021 for US\$250.

In September this year, Beam Suntory [overhauled its operating model](#) in travel retail. The firm said it had invested in the premiumisation of its GTR portfolio with a new innovation pipeline.

## Singleton unveils 38-year-old single malt

22nd October, 2020 by Melita Kiely

Diageo has released a 38-year-old single malt Scotch whisky from The Singleton of Glen Ord distillery, priced at £2,100 (US\$2,760).



*The Singleton 38-Year-old under went a 26-year secondary maturation period*

Only 1,689 bottles of The Singleton 38-Year-Old will be available globally.

The cask strength whisky was drawn from eight casks and under went a 26-year secondary maturation, the longest in the brand's history. After 12 years of ageing, the whisky was poured into a selection of experimental casks of ex-Bourbon, Pedro Ximénez oloroso-seasoned casks and new American oak casks.

With an ABV of 49.6%, The Singleton 38-Year-Old is said to have aromas of red apple, mango and candied citrus fruit, leading to flavours of cinnamon-spiced baked apple, caramel fudge, a trace of salt and a touch of Szechuan pepper.

Maureen Robinson, master of malts, said: "The Singleton 38-year-old was crafted during an era that was very exciting at The Singleton – a time of flavour experimentation an innovation across our whisky-making."

"Selecting new American oak casks was very new for us at the time at the distillery and we decided on a lengthy secondary maturation to continue to unlock the decadent layers of flavour in this single malt. "I remember tasting cask samples just three years into the secondary maturation and I was struck how even at such an early stage, we could identify the richness of flavour the new casks had presented."

"To mature those casks for more than two decades further was an exploration of how it is possible to unearth exceptional flavour within whisky, and it feels a real privilege to now share this truly delicious single malt with the world."

Last year, The Singleton released its oldest bottling – [a 53-year-old single cask expression](#).



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## Richard Paterson joins Wolfcraig Distillery

22nd October, 2020 by Nicola Carruthers

The new Wolfcraig Distillery, co-founded by former Whyte & Mackay chief executive Michael Lunn, has appointed Richard Paterson as master blender.



Richard Paterson recently celebrated 50 years with Whyte & Mackay Michael Lunn and co-directors John Moore and Jamie Lunn [revealed plans to build the new £15 million \(US\\$19m\) Scotch whisky distillery](#) near Stirling last month. The site is subject to planning approval with construction expected to begin in spring 2021. "We are honoured and proud to welcome Richard as Wolfcraig's master blender," said Michael Lunn. "Together with our already formidable team his knowledge, commitment and long-term vision will help establish the Wolfcraig brand both at home and internationally." After 50 years with Whyte & Mackay, Paterson [recently stepped back from his day-to-day involvement](#) across the company's whisky portfolio to focus on The Dalmore. The move also allowed him to pursue other interests.

Paterson's passion for Scotch attracted him to the Wolfcraig project, where he will be able to play a key role in establishing the new Highland distillery.

"This will be an opportunity for me to use all the knowledge I have learned over 55 years in the business to create a truly exceptional Highland single malt, one that can be enjoyed the world over," said Paterson.

Paterson will work alongside the management team, which includes Dr Alan Rutherford OBE, a former production director at Diageo; Iain Lochhead, former Bacardi UK operations director; and Ian Macmillan, the former master distiller of Lowland distillery Bladnoch.

The Wolfcraig Distillery project will incorporate a distillery, an interactive, education-focused visitor attraction, private tasting room and a 180-cover bistro restaurant and bar.

The facility will have the capacity to produce up to 1.5m litres of spirit per year and will make premium Wolfcraig Highland single malt Scotch whisky and a range of spirits.

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## "King Of The Lowlands" Rosebank Releases Its First Global Scotch Single Malt Offering

By [Nino Kilgore-Marchetti](#) / October 22, 2020

The Rosebank distillery in Scotland was once known as "King of the Lowlands" and considered a top tier whisky making operation. Shuttered by Diageo in 1993, it eventually came into the hands of Ian Macleod Distillers, who [set about on an ambitious plan to restore Rosebank](#) to its former glory. A step in this direction occurred earlier this year [with the release of a couple of single cask bottlings](#) and now, in an even more major step forward, its first global single malt offering under its new owners has been announced.

The new Rosebank 30 Year Old, [according to those behind it](#), is the first in what will be a series of annual, limited edition releases. This particular expression was laid down back in 1990, just a few years ahead of the distillery's closure. It slumbered for some three decades, being matured in 62% refill sherry butts and 38% refill bourbon hogsheads, before recently being bottled non-chill filtered at 48.6% ABV.



*Rosebank 30 Year Old (image via Rosebank)*

"The first global release of Rosebank 30 Year Old is a truly iconic moment for the distillery," said Robbie Hughes, Group Distillation Manager for Ian Macleod Distillers, [in a prepared statement](#). "It has matured in 62% refill sherry butts and 38% refill bourbon hogsheads for decades, patiently waiting to be awoken, and delivers layers of incredible flavour that you won't find in other whiskies."

"What makes Release One so exciting is that we're giving Rosebank fans the chance to join us on this monumental journey over the next decade, as we revive the iconic distillery. With a chance to 'bank' exclusive access to next year's release, we're not only inviting them to become part of Rosebank's legacy, but to become part of Rosebank's family."

What Hughes is referring to by "bank" above is that, noted the brand, "the the first 200 people to scan the QR code on the neck of their Release One bottle will be given the opportunity to enjoy a dram of Release Two at their nearest high-end, luxury bar in 2021 as well as a chance to purchase Release Two before anyone else through an early purchase link."

As it stands now plans call for Rosebank 30 Year Old, Release One, to have a global release of just 4,350 bottles, each pricing £1,650, or almost \$2,200 USD. Limited official tasting notes suggest that, on the nose, this whisky is "soft and creamy with layers of caramel wafer, vanilla and nutmeg. On the palate, there's a wonderful balance of gentle syrup, pear and pleasing oak spice. The finish lingers with candied violets, orange and faint mint."

As a side note, when Rosebank does eventually officially reopen it will bring to its hometown of Falkirk some 25 full time jobs and around 50,000 projected visitors a year. It will also "offer a wide range of distillery tours, with some featuring the very last drams of Rosebank distilled prior to the 1993 closure."

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## Remote Ardnamurchan Distillery Has Its First Scotch Single Malt At Market

By [Nino Kilgore-Marchetti](#) / October 21, 2020

The Ardnamurchan Distillery, opened in mid-2014, is said to be one of the most remote of the Scottish distilleries. It is located, according to the brand, "on the Ardnamurchan peninsula, a wonderfully secluded 'finger' of rocky land that stretches out to the furthest westerly point of the UK, just to the north of the Isle of Mull, and south of the Isle of Skye." It is from here they recently launched their first single malt with a global audience in mind.

The new Ardnamurchan Single Malt AD:09.20:01, [according to those behind it](#), was released earlier this month, crafted from a 50/50 split of peated and unpeated whiskies. The distillery is noted for producing "two signature styles of spirit" that correspond to the split just mentioned. Said expression is matured in a 65%/35% mixture of ex-bourbon and ex-sherry oak casks.



#### Ardnamurchan Single Malt (image via Ardnamurchan)

"When we filled the first spirit into casks, just over 6 years ago," said Ardnamurchan Managing Director, Alex Bruce, [in a prepared statement](#), "the concept of being able to disgorge those casks into bottles seemed very distant. However, we have had an incredible journey, building our 100% local team, filling the warehouses with over 10,000 casks and preparing national and international distribution. "We relied on the unique local maturation climate to do the rest, and are really excited by the quality and consistency that has been reached." As it stands now this first single malt whisky release, bottled at 46.8% ABV and being both non-chill filtered and of natural color, is debuting in 25 global markets for a price of around £45, or close to \$60 USD. Limited official tasting notes speak of "honeycomb, waxy peel, oyster shells, brine, strawberries with black pepper and bonfire embers." An interesting side note on this distillery is the fact that, according to the brand, "all the power and heat requirements for the Ardnamurchan Distillery come from local renewables – the river that provides the distillery's cooling water has a hydro-electricity generator and the biomass boiler is fuelled by woodchip from local forestry – the overall footprint of the distillery is a light one. "In addition, the by-products of the whisky-making process are recycled on the peninsula – the still energy-rich draff is combined with the pot ale to produce animal feed for use on the peninsula."

### The Macallan Double Cask Whisky: Everything You Need to Know

[MICHAEL VANE](#), 28 OCT 2020

Any conversation regarding single malt whisky will inevitably lead to someone namedropping The Macallan, or simply referring to the whisky as Macallan. That's because this Speyside label was one of the first distilleries to be legally established in Scotland during the early 1800s and has always possessed a reputation for producing some of the best single malt whisky available.

Before we delve into the delectable The Macallan [Double Cask range](#), we're taking a closer look at what makes The Macallan so special. And it all starts with the label's strong foundations referred to as The Six Pillars.



The Six Pillars of The Macallan Single Malt Whisky  
The Six Pillars refers to a list of guiding principles that can be felt in every whisky The Macallan produces. The Pillars are more than rules

that ensure premium whisky production; they're also an attitude and sense of place that truly makes these whiskies stand tall above the rest. The Six Pillars are:

#### 1. Spiritual Home

The Speyside distillery that produces these exquisite expressions resides on the 485-acre Macallan Estate which also features the rustic Easter Elchies House. Built way back in the year 1700, this Highland manor represents the spiritual home of The Macallan. It acts as a constant reminder of the label's historical origins when viewed from the modern, innovative distillery nearby.

#### 2. Curiously Small Stills

Unlike several of its whisky-producing neighbours, The Macallan's Curiously Small Stills are amongst the smallest on Speyside. Their unique design ensures the whisky within has maximum contact with the copper, helping to concentrate the spirit and provide those appealingly rich, fruity and full-bodied flavours. The Macallan distillery houses 24 of these stills, each capable of holding up to 3,900 litres of spirits.



#### 3. The Finest Cut

The Finest Cut refers to the process for selecting the spirit that starts off all The Macallan whiskies. The finest cut spirit is primarily responsible for the full-bodied richness of a whisky and adhering to these principals ensures each release features the signature viscous mouthfeel and fruity aromas and flavours we know and love.

#### 4. Exceptional Oak Casks

The Macallan says its exceptional oak casks are the single most significant contributor to the outstanding quality, natural colours and distinctive traits of its whiskies. Whether the casks are crafted from American or European oak, The Macallan prides itself on spending more time and effort sourcing, crafting, seasoning and caring for its casks than any other distillery. These unique oak casks account for up to 80% of the final aroma and flavour profile of every whisky.



#### 5. Natural Colour

From light oak through to the darkest mahogany, all whiskies bottled by The Macallan distillery possess natural colours. Unlike artificial colouring which fades in sunlight, natural colours remain fixed and occur as a result of the maturation of the spirit within the oak casks. The Macallan says a whisky maker requires great skills to achieve consistency of the natural colour from one bottling to the next.

#### 6. A Peerless Spirit

From place and production to people and passion, every bottle of Macallan whisky is the result of unmatched mastery and intricacy, which you can experience for yourself. Why not start with The Macallan Double Cask range?





#### Exploring The Macallan Double Cask Whisky Range

The Macallan Double Cask range is renowned for using both American oak and European sherry-seasoned oak casks to imbue their unique characteristics on the whisky with the spirit maturing in a hand-picked selection of both, before being bottled for consumption. The Macallan refers to the Double Cask range as offering the best of two worlds, by bringing these unique characters to the forefront, while also possessing the familiar flavours that make Macallan the go-to label for whisky connoisseurs.



#### The Macallan Double Cask 12 Years Old

The Macallan's Double Cask 12 Years Old is a fully rounded single malt that perfectly balances the unmistakable sweetness of American oak with both sweet and zesty flavours. On the nose, creamy butterscotch leads to a hint of toffee apple, candied orange, vanilla custard and newly felled oak. On the palate, the whisky is deliciously honeyed, complemented by wood spices, citrus and balanced with raisins and caramel. Oak lingers on the finish. The natural colour of this drop is called 'Harvest Sun' and the 12 Years Old is bottled at 40% ABV.

#### The Macallan Double Cask 15 Years Old

The Macallan Double Cask 15 Years Old expression marries sherry-seasoned American oak with the subtle spices of European oak, delivering a whisky with a warmer taste and character. On the nose, this aged whisky opens with aromas of dried fruit, toffee, and vanilla, smooth oak and baked apple. On the palate, flavours of sweet raisin and sultana build as hints of vanilla, wood spice and citrus lead to a

warm ginger and caramel finish that lingers with its creamy mouthfeel. The colour is named 'Golden Butterscotch' and the 15 Years Old is bottled at 43% ABV.



#### The Macallan Double Cask 18 Years Old

As the patriarch of the Double Cask range, The Macallan 18 Years Old is perfectly matured, balancing the American and European oak for a whisky that's subtly-spiced and deliciously drinkable. On the nose, dried fruit and toffee give way to rich orange with hints of clove and nutmeg. Rich raisin and sultana on the palate are aided by notes of caramel, vanilla and ginger, then balanced by wood spice and zesty citrus. The warm oak spice finish turns to sweet orange and completes the experience. This one's darker natural colour is called 'Amber Honey' and it's bottled at 43% ABV.

And that's what you need to know about The Macallan and its Double Cask range. The next step is sampling the whisky for yourself with the 12 Years Old being readily available at all good bottle shops and you can find out more about the 15 and 18 Year Old expressions via The Macallan website linked below.

#### Beam Suntory to pay \$19.6m penalty in bribery case

28th October, 2020 by Nicola Carruthers

Jim Beam owner Beam Suntory has agreed to pay a US\$19.6 million fine to resolve an investigation into the firm's Indian subsidiary, which paid bribes to government officials from 2006 to 2012.



*Beam Suntory owns the Jim Beam Bourbon brand*



Chicago-headquartered Beam Suntory entered into the agreement with the US Department of Justice (DOJ) to conclude the government's inquiry into conduct by the drinks group and its Indian subsidiary, which was disclosed in 2012.

The company will pay a criminal monetary penalty of US\$19,572,885 for violations of the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act (FCPA). Beam Suntory received a 10% reduction on the fine in recognition for its cooperation with the DOJ's investigation.

In July 2018, Maker's Mark owner Beam Suntory agreed to pay a fine of US\$2m and interest that totalled around US\$6m in a related matter with the US Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC). Beam said the deal also recognised the company's self-disclosure, cooperation and remedial efforts.

The legal matter predates Suntory Holdings' purchase of US producer Beam Inc for US\$16 billion in 2014 to create the world's third-largest alcoholic drinks company: Beam Suntory. The Indian business was purchased by Beam in 2006.

From 2006 until the end of Q3 in 2012, Beam's Indian arm paid bribes and made other inappropriate payments to various Indian government executives, including corrupt payments to obtain or retain business in India, the court document said.

During the period, the company's Indian subsidiary paid a bribe of one million Indian rupees (around US\$18,000 at the time) to a senior Indian government official in exchange for a license to bottle ready-to-drink products for the firm to sell and market in India.

Furthermore, the bribe was said to be authorised by a high-ranking executive at Beam's Asia Pacific/South America business unit, who ordered the payment be made through Beam India's third-party bottler in order to hide it.

The majority of the corrupt payments were made through third-party sales promoters and distributors to secure orders of Beam products at government-controlled depots and retail stores.

The payments were also used to gain prominent placement of Beam products in government retail stores, buy and renew label registrations and licenses, and enable the distribution of spirits from Beam India's Behror bottling facility to warehouses in other states throughout India. The DOJ also said that Beam had purposely failed to maintain a satisfactory system of internal accounting controls, which "would have helped to detect and halt Beam India's long-standing practice of making corrupt payments to Indian government officials, and to falsify its books and records".

Beam was warned frequently by external advisors of the need to apply satisfactory internal accounting controls in association with improper activities by third parties in India, however the firm failed to implement this sufficiently, the DOJ said. The company had also falsely recorded the bribes as commission expenses and fabricated certifications.

The prosecution agreement was deferred by three years and was unsealed yesterday (27 October) in the US District Court for the Northern District of Illinois.

As part of the delayed agreement, Beam Suntory will continue to cooperate with the department in any ongoing or future criminal investigations related to the firm.

Furthermore, the agreement stipulates that Beam will enhance its compliance programme and report to the government on its execution. The DOJ said the resolution was reached based on a number of factors including the failure to timely disclose the conduct that triggered the investigation, and "significant delays caused by Beam in reaching a timely resolution and its refusal to accept responsibility for several years".

**Beam Suntory response**

"We are pleased to move past this matter," said Todd Bloomquist, general counsel of Beam Suntory. "Our company is committed to doing business the right way, and we take pride in our approach to resolving these issues, with integrity and transparency at every step of the process.

"Our company in 2012 initiated and publicly disclosed a thorough and independent investigation in cooperation with the US government and took decisive corrective action. We're confident in our ambitious growth plans in India, which are built on a business that has become a model example of success through sustainable and compliant business practices."

As a result of the investigation, Beam Suntory said it had dismissed employees who violated the firm's business conduct code and ethics, and suspended all commercial activity in India until it was satisfied the business could be operated compliantly.

The firm also said it had applied "stringent controls" and strengthened its global compliance function to identify issues quickly.

Beam Suntory has around 375 employees in India, with offices in Gurgaon, New Delhi, Mumbai, Bangalore, Hyderabad, Kolkata and a primary bottling facility in Rajasthan.

The company has [set a "billion-dollar goal" for India by 2030](#), according to the firm's CEO. Last year, the company [appointed Praveen K Kadle as independent director and chairman of the board](#) for the firm's Indian arm.

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## The Dalmore Announces Its New 12 Year Old Sherry Cask Select Single Malt

By [Lilly Lion](#) / October 29, 2020

The Dalmore's newest offering for its Principal Collection, a 12 year old single malt sherry cask, aims to showcase the brand's affinity to its relationship to Spain's sherry making industry. [The Dalmore 12 Year Old Sherry Cask Select Single Malt](#) matures in oak casks selected by three cask partners from Andalucia to realise its flavor.

This Scotch is initially matured for ten years in American white-oak ex-bourbon casks. In the meanwhile, according to the distillery team, "European and American Oak oaks are selected precisely for their active, extractive qualities, and crafted into casks. A bespoke sherry blend of aged oloroso and Pedro Ximénez sherry is crafted by our coopers, and further customised for each maker ahead of seasoning and filling the casks for a full finish of up to three years."



*The Dalmore 12 Year Old Sherry Cask Select (image via The Dalmore)*

"The 12 Year Old Sherry Cask Select is elegance personified and an excellent addition to our Principal Collection," explained The Dalmore Master Distiller, Richard Paterson, in a [prepared statement](#).

"Its full finish in oloroso and Pedro Ximénez sherry casks reveals a more floral, light, and refined side to The Dalmore. It is a truly decadent whisky which celebrates the deep-rooted alliances with our cooverture partners to source the most exquisite casks and truly showcase the depth of The Dalmore's Character."

The Dalmore 12 year Old Sherry Cask Select pricing at £69, or around \$90 USD. It is available in the UK and also across major Asian markets including Taiwan and China. It will be made available in the US from 2021.

The Dalmore, for those unfamiliar with it, is a Scottish distillery that has been around for about 180 years. Paterson has been the creative force behind the brand for the last 50 of those years, as well as the sourcer of the company's curation of rare casks.

Official tasting notes for this whisky are below.

- The Aroma: Caramelised orange, ginger and sultanas, laced with honey
- On the Palate: Dark chocolate and crushed almonds with a dusting of cinnamon
- Finishing Notes: Sweet mangos, panna cotta and lemon sponge cake

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Six delicious peated Scotch whiskies perfect for beginners Names like Ardbeg, Lagavulin and Laphroaig can seem enticing but they are big hitting whiskies which can often seem a little daunting if you don't have much experience with this style.

By - [Sean Murphy](#) Tourism Writer

When you subscribe we will use the information you provide to send If you enjoy a wee Scotch [whisky](#) and are looking to [expand your options](#), then peated (or smoky) varieties could be your next port of call.



Names like [Ardbeg](#), Lagavulin and Laphroaig can seem enticing but they are big hitting whiskies, which can often seem a little daunting if you don't have much experience with this style. To help, we've picked out five shall we say, more approachable, peated whiskies for you to try out first.

### **Benromach 10 year old** (Distillery: Benromach, Region: Speyside)



Benromach 10 (Image: Whisky Exchange.) This accessible Speyside distillery use a very light, mainland peat to make their whiskies. Think soft fruits doused in vanilla and then a little puff of smoke just on the finish. A great all rounder, it's a great introduction into that peaty, smoky flavour.

### **BenRiach The Smoky 10** (Distillery: Ben Riach, Region: Speyside)



The BenRiach Smoky 10 is a balance of sweetness and smoke (Image: Whisky Exchange) This relative newcomer from BenRiach is a return to the peaty whiskies they've become well known for over the past few years.

The Smoky 10 is a combination of bourbon and virgin-oak casks, and Jamaican-rum casks, creating a great balance between sweetness and smoke.

### **Cu Bocan Signature** (Distillery: Tomatin, Region: Highlands)



Cu Bocan has a teasing hint of smoke (Image: Whisky Exchange.) It might be named after a mythical monster that supposedly terrorised the village of Tomatin for centuries but there's nothing scary about this delightfully smooth peated single malt. Matured in a combination of ex bourbon, ex sherry and virgin oak casks, it's light and very creamy with just a teasing hint of smoke.

### **Longrow Peated** (Distillery: Springbank, Region: Campbeltown)



Longrow Peated is a truly lovely dram (Image: Whisky Exchange) Springbank is a smaller distillery that is popular for its wonderful traditional whiskies, and Longrow - their peated expression - is a truly lovely dram. With notes of charred marshmallows and sweet fruits, it'll have you coming back for more. Slightly meatier than the Benromach, this will give more of a hint at what you can expect from the smokier end of the spectrum.

Best of all, should you like it, they regularly experiment with casks giving you a range of different flavours to explore.

## Ardmore Legacy

(Distillery: Ardmore, Region: Highlands)



Ardmore Legacy. (Image: Whisky Exchange)

Hailing from a distillery that bears a little more attention than it gets, the Legacy is a great value intro to peat.

A mix of 80% peated and 20% unpeated malt, it has a full-bodied hit of flavour that includes that peat smoke and more than a little spice.

## Bowmore 15

(Distillery: Bowmore, Region: Islay)



Bowmore 15 is a little richer (Image: Whisky Exchange)

For those seeking something a little richer, the Bowmore 15 is the ideal dram.

Popular, decadent and great value, the Bowmore's combination of both bourbon and sherry casks give it an intriguing mix of toffee notes, sweet fruit and peat smoke that makes it very moreish.

## Watches, Whiskies, and More: Six Pairings of High-End Timepieces and Top-Shelf Spirits

Written by - [Mark Bernardo](#) - October 30, 2020

There's nothing like a well-earned, sublime sip of your favorite libation at the end of a long workday, whether at home or out-and-about — especially if you're wearing just the right wristwatch to count down to your Happy Hour. Here we match up six noteworthy spirits — four Scotch whiskies, a mezcal and a brandy — with an ideal timepiece companion.

Benriach Smoky Twelve and Hermès Arceau Squelette Master Blender Rachel Barrie created the Smoky Twelve (\$64.99) for the Award-winning Speyside distillery [Benriach](#) as part of its recently released range of expressions paying tribute to Benriach's origins in 1898. The heavily peated single malt is matured for 12 years in three separate cask woods: Bourbon, sherry, and Marsala wine, resulting in a burnished gold color, smoke and vanilla notes on the nose, and cocoa, brown sugar, orange peel, and smoothly layered smoke on the palate. Playing partner is a Hermès timepiece that also pays tribute to its maker's origins and evokes elegant smokiness with its dial. The [Arceau Squelette](#) is perhaps the watch that best expresses Hermes' historical roots as a saddle maker: its asymmetrical lugs are shaped like stirrups and the sloping font of its hour numerals evoke the silhouettes of galloping horses. This model has a skeletonized self-winding movement and frames a smoked, sapphire dial through which that mechanism can be glimpsed. It's attached via the stirrup lugs to a matte-black alligator leather strap from Hermès's own atelier.



Benriach Smoky Twelve



Hermès Arceau Squelette

Glendronach Kingsman Edition 1989 Vintage and Jaeger-LeCoultre Master Ultra Thin Kingsman Knife Edition

What could be more natural a pairing than a Scotch whisky and a watch that were both developed in collaboration with the makers of this year's *Kingsman* sequel, *The King's Man*? On the whisky side, we have the [Glendronach](#) Kingsman Edition 1989 Vintage (\$1,299) — also blended by the busy Ms. Barrie, with input from *Kingsman* franchise



director Matthew Vaughn. Matured for 29 years and drawn from just six casks from rare vintages, this copper-colored whisky is aged in both Oloroso sherry and Pedro Ximenez casks and offers dark berry and plum notes interwoven with walnut, cedar and leather undertones, leaving a rich finish of cocoa, truffle and raisin. Jaeger-LeCoultre contributes the watch to this pairing, the [Master Ultra Thin Kingsman Knife Edition](#), which takes its inspiration from a “couteau” (knife) pocketwatch Jaeger-LeCoultre made in 1907. The 40-mm rose-gold watch is only 4.25 mm thick, with a broad bezel that slopes gently toward the edge of the case to create a profile reminiscent of a knife blade. The caseback is engraved with the Kingsman logo, as well as its special edition number (out of 100 pieces).



- 
- Glendronach Kingsman Edition 1989 Vintage



- 
- Jaeger-LeCoultre Master Ultra Thin Kingsman Knife Edition

Octomore 10.4 Single Malt and Bulgari Octo Finissimo Minute Repeater  
Developed by the peated-malt maestros at Bruichladdach Distillery in 2002, the [Octomore](#) series has garnered an avid following for its heavily peated, briny, aggressively smoky flavors. Hailing from the 10th series of the Octomore, the 10.4 expression (\$219.99) tackles the challenging question as to whether older is always better in Scotch whiskies. Distilled in 2016 from the 2015 harvest, it's the youngest whisky ever released by the Islay distillery, aged three years in high-toast virgin limousin oak casks that bring out its powerful, well-rounded, peaty profile, which caresses the palate with bittersweet cocoa, aged leather, and a honeyed, lingering finish. Standing up to the Octomore is an Octo watch of similar youth and equal complexity: Bulgari's [Octo Finissimo Minute Repeater](#). Released in 2016, it's the slimmest chiming watch on the market, with a case measuring just 6.85 mm thick. The ultra-thin Caliber BVL 362 operates the chiming of the time, which is amplified behind the cleverly constructed cut-out dial.



- 
- The Octomore 10.4 Virgin Oak



- 
- Bulgari Octo Finissimo Minute Repeater

Hatozaki Small Batch Whisky and Grand Seiko Toge Special Edition  
Both the watch and the whisky in this match-up are inspired by the art and culture of Japan. [Hatozaki](#), from Master Blender Kimio Yonezawa of Kaikyo Distillery, is named for Japan's oldest stone lighthouse, constructed in 1657 and its branding pays tribute to the naturalistic art of the Edo era (1603-1867). The flavor profile of the Hatozaki Small Batch (\$60), an artisanal blend of 5- and 6-year old malt whiskies produced in batches of fewer than 20 casks, is heavy on honey, dried fruits, and lightly smoky undertones, resulting from its maturation in bourbon, sherry, and mizunara oak casks from Japanese forests. Japan's natural wonders also inform the dial of the [Toge Special Edition](#), whose British racing green dial features a special textured finish designed to evoke the slopes of Mount Iwate, the highest peak in Iwate prefecture in northern Honshu.





- Hatozaki Small Batch



- Grand Seiko Toge Special Edition

Vamonos Riendo Mezcal and Zenith Defy 21 Ultraviolet

Super-premium mezcals are generally known more for bracing bite than subtle smoothness but [Vamonos Riendo](#) (\$59.99) is an exception. This triple distilled, high-altitude artisanal mezcal takes pride in its “bright” easy-drinking flavor profile, with a medley of citrus and herbal notes interlaced with traces of mint, anise and pepper. And its playful, colorful label, inspired by the traditional art of the state of Oaxaca, the heartland of mezcal, makes it the perfect companion for the [Zenith Defy 21 Ultraviolet](#), whose open dial showcases the world’s first violet-finished skeleton movement. Royal purple tones highlight the bridges and the star-shaped rotor, and the tonneau-shaped Defy 21 case, made of titanium, is mounted on a matching violet textile strap to complete the ensemble.



Vamonos Riendo Mezcal



- Zenith Defy 21 Ultraviolet

Frérot Extra Cognac and F.P. Journe Automatique Lune

Finally, we unite a bottle and a timepiece that both trace their origins to French artisans. [Frérot Extra](#) (\$200) is an Hors d’âge Cognac from the Grande Champagne region of France, mixing *eaux-de-vies* aged from 30 to 50 years. Matured in Limousin oak, it’s as pure as a cognac can be, with no boisé or caramel added and very minimal sugar, making for a bountiful nose of orchard fruits and a lavish blend of walnuts, caramel and cardamon on the palate with subtle hints of tobacco. Francois-Paul Journe, born in Marseille, takes a similar, resolutely traditional approach to making his eponymous brand’s timepieces, and the [Automatique Lune](#), in a 42-mm rose gold case and a “Havana” brown dial, is among his most elegant creations. The dial is notable for its engraved clous-de-Paris motif and hosts, a moon-phase display at 7:30, a large date at 11:00, and an indicator for its impressive 120-hour power reserve at 9:00.





• Frérot Extra



• F.P. Journe Automatique Lune

Are there any timepiece-and-spirits pairings you'd recommend? Send us your own ideas in the comments!

## Global drinks sales to rebound in 2021

2nd November, 2020 by Nicola Carruthers

Global beverage sales are expected to grow by up to low double digits over the next 12 to 18 months, with premium spirits forecast to continue outperforming entry-level products, according to a recent report.



*Demand for premium offerings will remain strong, Moody's said*

A new report from credit rating agency Moody's on the global beverage industry predicts that the sector will grow operating profits by high single digits to low double digits over the next 12-18 months following "unprecedented declines" in the first half of 2020 due to the pandemic. The report said growth will "accelerate" in 2021 if on-trade venues are open, however earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation, and amortisation (EBITDA) for drinks companies are not expected to return to 2019 levels until 2022.

Furthermore, Moody's noted that recovery will be stronger for firms that operated in markets that witnessed steep declines in the first half of 2020 as a result of on-trade closures.

The report noted that European-based companies and those with large European operations suffered more than US-focused firms because bars and restaurants are of greater importance for alcohol consumption in Europe.

The companies with a full supply chain shutdown will see "stronger growth in a post-pandemic environment", the report continued.

The report also noted that off-trade demand for spirits was strong at the peak of the virus, most notably in the US. Sales were up by double digits in off-trade channels in March and April.

Companies with a big presence in global travel retail suffered because international travel dropped abruptly. The report said travel retail exposures vary from less than 5% of sales for companies like Brown-Forman, Diageo and Bacardi to high-single-digit and low-double-digit percentages for Pernod Ricard and Rémy Cointreau.

'Better premium spirits innovation'

In addition, demand for premium offerings will remain strong, according to Moody's. The report said: "The industry's premiumisation trend has been particularly pronounced in spirits, which have been gaining market share from wine and beer, partly because of better premium spirits innovation."

Premium spirits have "far outperformed" lower-priced products and Moody's expects this trend to continue "despite overall volume declines" this year.

The report noted that premiumisation "opens the door for more innovation" pointing to the example of hard seltzers, which saw growth rates of around 220% in 2019 and will nearly double in 2020.

However, the hard seltzer sector has become more crowded and the producers that are likely to be more successful are those with "first mover advantages, unique offerings, strong brand names and strong distribution", the report said.

Moody's also noted the challenge of tariffs with trade tension expected to be an "ongoing source of uncertainty" for the alcohol industry. Furthermore, the threat of excise and sugar taxes "is heightened" and increased pricing passed onto the consumer could depress volumes for a year or less.

"However this depends on the level of the price increase because larger increases could shift consumption patterns to more affordable products, or to categories with lower taxes," the report said.

## Ultimate Whisky Collection Part II sells for \$1.4m

2nd November, 2020 by Nicola Carruthers

The second part of the Ultimate Whisky Collection sold for US\$1.4 million during an auction that also saw The Macallan Red Collection sell for nearly four times its estimate.



*The six-strong Macallan Red Collection was sold for nearly US\$1m*

The first part of The Ultimate Whisky Collection [fetched £7.6m \(US\\$9.8m\) in total when the auction](#), comprised of 391 lots, concluded in October 2019. During the sale, a bottle of Macallan 1926 60-year-old

Scotch whisky set a new world record after fetching £1.5m (US\$1.9m). The sale was Sotheby's first spirits offering from a single owner. On 31 October 2020, Sotheby's [offered the Ultimate Whisky Collection Part II](#) as part of a larger sale. It presented 190 lots of Scotch, Japanese and Irish whiskies, estimated to sell for £800,000 (US\$1m) in total. Part II sold for £1,057,364 (US\$1,366,431), bringing the combined total of the collection to £8.7m (US\$11.2m).

For the second part of the sale, Sotheby's collaborated with The Macallan to mark the launch of a new collection of single malts from the Speyside distillery. The Macallan Red Collection is a complete set of six whiskies aged from 40 years old to 78 years old, the oldest expression ever released by the brand. The series also features a 50-year-old, 60-year-old, 71-year-old and a 74-year-old whisky.

The Macallan Red Collection was estimated to sell for £200,000 (US\$258,340), but ultimately went for £756,400 (US\$975,756). It was purchased by an Asian private collector.

Proceeds from the sale were donated to the City Harvest charity, which redistributes surplus from the food industry to vulnerable people internationally.

'Most valuable whisky collection'

Jonny Fowle, Sotheby's spirits specialist, said: "This exceptional result for The Red Collection is testament not only to the strength of the whisky market but also to the esteem with which The Macallan is held. Equally, the result of the Ultimate Whisky Collection Part II cements its position as the most valuable whisky collection ever sold at auction.

"The overall total for the Ultimate Whisky Collection speaks volumes of the diversity in today's premium whisky market and the importance of provenance to collectors. A fantastic result for Sotheby's inaugural Halloween spirits sale and City Harvest London."

Each bottle in The Red Collection is encased in a hand-crafted oak presentation box created from the same European oak used to make The Macallan's oak casks.

The colour red has enduring significance for the Scotch brand, dating back to 1824 when farmer and teacher Alexander Reid founded The Macallan. The origin of his surname means 'red' in Scotland and was initially associated with red hair.

The Macallan Red Collection is distinguished by exclusive labels, which are illustrated and signed by Spanish artist Javi Aznarez. Only two sets feature these labels with set one kept in The Macallan's archives. Set two was sold by Sotheby's and included two exclusive display cases and two bespoke tables.

The auction included 63 Macallan lots, whiskies from Bowmore, Glenfiddich and The Dalmore, and independent bottles from Silvano Samaroli.

to sit down in your comfy sofa and pass away a few hours being entertained by 007, then having a good dram in your hand goes a long way to enhancing the James Bond experience.

Of course, Jimmy's drink of choice may be a vodka martini, but we can shake and stir things up for the whisky drinkers out there who are James Bond fans: Here is our attempt to pair and match the perfect whisky to every (official) James Bond film.

### Dr No (1962)

Noting the year that this came out and what a defining moment it was, it's hard not to go past the Dalmore 1962 for this. However, we'd like this list to feature whiskies that all of us can actually access and afford! (Besides which, the '62 Dalmore was given due reverence in *Kingsman*.) No, with so much of this movie set in the Caribbean, it follows that this movie should be watched whilst quietly sipping away at The Balvenie 14yo Caribbean Cask.

### From Russia with love (1963)

It says something about this film that it is remembered so fondly and ranks highly in any online poll – and yet it is relatively devoid of the big-budget action, stunts and sets that would come to define later movies. *From Russia with love* benefits from the depth of its characters, whilst painting a deep and defining picture of SPECTRE – its operations and its agents. And, whilst we never see Blofeld's face, we're left under no illusion as to his villainy. This is "old school" Bond and it screams for an old school whisky: Glenfarclas 15yo is the perfect accompaniment.



## Matching a whisky to every James Bond film



James Bond and whisky? Whisky has been paired with food for decades, although in more recent years we've seen whiskies paired and matched to cigars, watches, [music](#), and even movies! If you're going

### Goldfinger (1964)

Opinion is divided over which is the *worst* James Bond film (there are several contenders!) but there is near universal agreement about which one is the *best*: Goldfinger. It strikes the perfect balance of action and humour; it has excellent gadgets, villains, henchmen, Bond girls, dialogue, and an evil plot. It's a brilliant, all-rounder of a movie that demands an excellent, all-rounder of a whisky. So pour yourself a Highland Park 12yo and settle back.



(Although, as an alternative, with much of the action taking place at Goldfinger's horse stud and racing farm, as well as being set in Kentucky, then a bottle of Blantons wouldn't go astray either!)



## Thunderball (1965)

James Bond films are defined by many things: The actor playing Bond, the villain, the gadgets, the love interest, and so on. One of the other tangible aspects on which each film is judged is the opening credits sequence and the theme song. With *Thunderball* being absolutely belted out by a young and exuberant Tom Jones, this movie calls for a Welsh whisky. Penderyn it is.

## You only live twice (1967)

With a lot of the action set in Japan, it would be easy and lazy to reach for a Japanese whisky here. But the early Bond films are more cerebral than that. Blofeld's lair and the movie's climatic battle take place in a volcano, and the volcano was one of the first "big sets" built and featured in a Bond film. And what whisky do you think of when you think of volcanos? The Cuillin ranges of Skye are hard to go past, and Talisker 10yo works beautifully with this film.



The Cuillins on Skye

## On Her Majesty's Secret Service (1969)

Is OHMSS a good or bad film? Or will it forever be judged simply because it didn't feature Sean Connery? Australia's George Lazenby certainly brought something to the role and captured a side of Fleming's Bond that one or two future actors failed to grasp. But in a nod to Lazenby's Bond, you should watch this film armed with a big glass of Australian whisky. We won't start an argument by nominating just one (particularly since availability is limited in different markets around the world), but Whisky & Wisdom recently watched OHMSS with a dram of Heartwood. Top work, Money Penny.

## Diamonds are forever (1971)

Sean Connery returned for this romp through Las Vegas and the film is predominantly set in the US. So an American whisk(e)y wouldn't go astray here – or at least something featuring American oak. Since the movie blends Connery's Scottishness with America so seamlessly, we need a whisky that also combines Scotland and America. With its rich and sublime use of American oak, Glenmorangie Astar fits the bill beautifully, but if you can't find Astar, then Glenmorangie "The Original" will do just fine.

## Live and let die (1973)

Roger Moore's first outing sees Bond return to the Caribbean, with a plot that revolves around voodoo and drug trafficking. Glenfiddich's 21yo expression has gone by several different names over the last 15 years (Havana Reserve, Gran Reserva, and now Reserva Rum Finish), but it has always remained an enjoyable malt that sees well-aged Glenfiddich finished in Caribbean rum casks. Regardless of the name on the label, it's a great whisky that carries what is otherwise one of the weaker films in the Bond canon.



## The man with the golden gun (1974)

This movie was a missed opportunity, with Christopher Lee's excellent Scaramanga having so much potential to be an incredible Bond villain. Instead, it was a weak and confused film that fell short whilst trying to cash in on the Kung Fu film craze of the time. Nonetheless, a movie about a golden gun that fires golden bullets surely needs a golden whisky. The old Johnnie Walker Gold Label (the Centenary Blend) would be a good choice (if you can find it), but if you'd prefer a single malt, then Macallan Gold (also recently discontinued) or Dalwhinnie's Winter's Gold might distract you for two hours.

## The spy who loved me (1977)

After two duds, Roger Moore finally delivers with the film that many believe to be the best of his Bond outings. Jaws was a genuinely terrifying henchman; Stromberg was a suitably ruthless villain, and Barbara Bach was...well, stunning. The film is notable for so many memorable moments (including the Lotus Esprit submarine), but one of its most stunning was the ski chase at the start and the iconic stunt as Bond flew off the snow-capped mountain and released his Union Jack parachute. Glenfiddich's Snow Phoenix would thus be a great match for the movie, but if you can't get your hands on this, then a good maritime malt pairs nicely with the rest of the film's maritime themes. Q would hand you a standard issue Old Pulteney 12yo.



## Moonraker (1979)

*For your eyes only* was supposed to be the next film in the series, but with Star Wars mania everywhere, *Moonraker* was fast-tracked through production instead. Jaws made a welcome return (and delivered some comic relief) as Hugo Drax played out his deadly scheme to rid the world of mankind and to start a new master race of humans. With the

climatic battle played out in space, Ardbeg Galileo is a great whisky to cheer Bond through his usual array of girls, gadgets, and guns.

### For your eyes only (1981)

After the spectacle of *Moonraker*, *For your eyes only* saw a return to a more grounded storyline of espionage as MI6 and the KGB raced to be first to recover the missing ATAC device from a sunken British ship. The film makes good use of outdoor scenes; glamorous locations; and some memorable action and stunts. Glenlivet 12yo is equally well-grounded yet delivers glamorous moments, and you can't help but feel a wee bit more sophisticated and Bond-like yourself as you sip this special Speysider whilst watching the film.

### Octopussy (1983)

A consistently high performer on the "Worst Bond films of all time" lists, *Octopussy* almost fell into parody. Much of the action takes place in India, and so an Indian whisky is definitely called for. Paul John "Bold" matches the colour and vibrancy of the film, and has suitable depth and seriousness to offset the fluff of the final circus scene.



### A view to a kill (1985)

Roger Moore was 57 when he filmed his last outing as Bond, and – well, let's just say it shows. Watching his love scene with Grace Jones is about as comfortable as drinking Chivas Regal at a Diageo convention. Whisky matches can be like-with-like or they can work via *contrast*, and Moore's geriatric performance in this film needs to be offset and contrasted with a young whisky. The Glen Moray *Elgin Classic* range has five NAS expressions, although former Distillery Manager Graham Coull happily once shared that they're all roughly around six years old. The youthful but very flavoursome Glen Moray Elgin Classic Port Cask helps to carry the movie. It also pairs well with Duran Duran's excellent title song.

### The living daylights (1987)

Timothy Dalton brought a harder edge to Bond (which wasn't too difficult after Moore's efforts) and Dalton's interpretation was praised for being more like the Bond that Fleming described in the books. It's a no-nonsense film that pairs with a no-nonsense whisky, and the dry, iodine-like Lagavulin 16yo is the perfect clinical match.

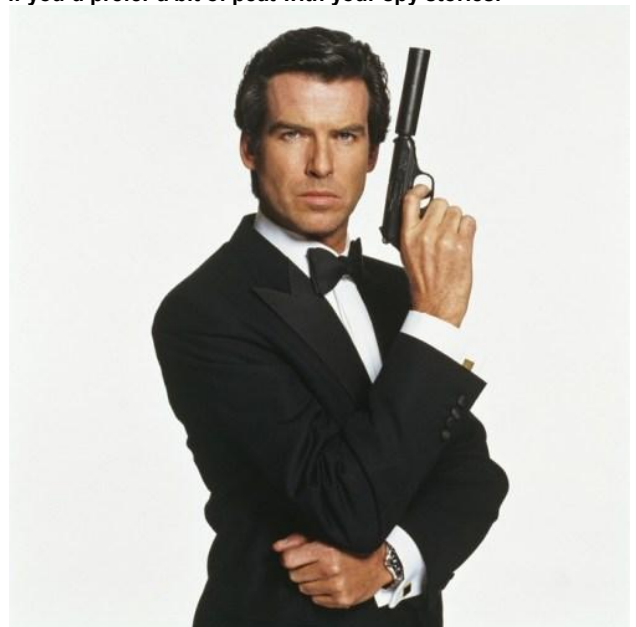


### Licence to kill (1989)

This was a dark and violent film with a plot that revolved around revenge as Bond ruthlessly sets out to avenge the attempt on Felix Leiter's life and the murder of Leiter's wife. Dalton succeeds brilliantly at showcasing Bond's darker, more brutal side, but it was a side that audiences didn't want to see. It's definitely a "love it or hate it" film with many opinions – and thus it begs to be matched with Laphroaig 10yo. For bonus points, make it a Laphroaig 10yo Cask Strength Batch 007.

### Goldeneye (1995)

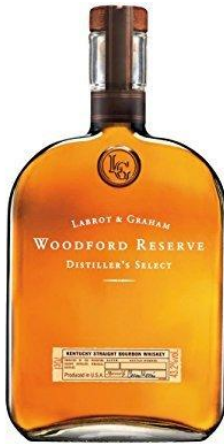
Six long years passed before the series re-booted with Pierce Brosnan gaining his licence to kill. Much had changed in the international arena since the last film, and the fall of the Berlin wall and communism across eastern Europe meant that the writers had to find a new "bad guy". *Goldeneye* was fast and slick; it had its moments; and it represented a renaissance of sorts – all of which are traits shared with a vibrant Benriach. Try this with Benriach 10yo, or perhaps Benriach Curiositas 10yo if you'd prefer a bit of peat with your spy stories.



### Tomorrow never dies (1997)

Whilst a number of fans cite this as a disappointing instalment, Whisky & Wisdom believes this is the best Bond film to star Pierce Brosnan. It's a fantastic Bond outing that mixes brilliant excitement and action with some wonderful humour. Sheryl Crowe's title track was also a winner. The "baddies" are genuinely *bad* in this flick, and Herr Stamper is one of the series' more memorable henchmen. But it's hard to get past Crowe's signature vocals in the opening credits – her raspy drawl just screams *bourbon* at you, and the film is that much richer as you watch whilst knocking back a Woodford Reserve.





### The world is not enough (1999)

Mixed reviews at the time leave this film somewhat in no-man's land. It has the requisite Bond girls (including the scrummy Sophie Marceau) although the decision to cast Denise Richards as Dr Christmas Jones drew appropriate ire. Robbie Coltrane injects some humour (as does John Cleese), and Robert Carlyle's "Renard" ticks the box for maniacal villain. However, the plot is convoluted and the film is weighed down as a result. This calls for a light yet full-flavoured whisky to keep your palate entertained – Clynelish 14yo has just the right amount of depth without being too serious a dram.

### Die another day (2002)

Pierce Brosnan's final outing as Bond had a promising and entertaining beginning, although it rapidly descended into a farce of outlandish stunts (parasurfing), outlandish gadgets (the invisible car), outlandish sets (ice palace, anyone?) and outlandish – and very cringeworthy – CGI production. The film was also criticised for its excessive *product placement*, and keen Scotch drinkers will spot a bottle of Talisker on M's desk during one scene in the film. But that's no reason to pair this film with Talisker.

Just as pre-production on the film was underway in 2001, a particular distillery on Islay was brought back to life – one that would also go on to achieve some outlandish things. Bruichladdich forged new ground with undertakings such as its quadruple-distilled spirit; its steadfast belief in terroir; and the multitude of new releases that came out every second week as they dealt with their cask inventory. But some of Bruichladdich's outlandish pursuits became a great success, and *Die another day* is actually half-enjoyable if you've got a big glass of Octomore in your hand.

### Casino Royale (2006)

Daniel Craig was a revelation as Bond, and *Casino Royale* was a tremendous re-boot for the series, not to mention an exceptionally sophisticated and action-packed film – even allowing for the action that took place around a card table! Bond's scenes with Vesper Lynd (particularly their introduction aboard the train) were suave, sexy, clever, and wonderfully understated. Just like Caol Ila 18yo. It's also a whisky that will call your bluff.



### Quantum of solace (2008)

The follow-up to *Casino Royale* was the first Bond film to officially be a "sequel" and continue the story of the previous film. But the film disappointed on several fronts, and was ultimately a *confused* affair. It

would pair beautifully with Ardbeg Serendipity, which was also the most confused *whisky* ever to be bottled, but that's obviously a difficult bottle to find these days. Even the film's villain, Dominic Greene, is a weedy, pitiful chap, and it takes a big whisky to inject some fire and "oomph" into this particular viewing. Aberlour a'Bunadh does the trick quite nicely.

### Skyfall (2012)

One of the best Bond films ever, this movie works on so many levels. It was a joy also for whisky spotters, noting that there are four scenes that feature a bottle of Macallan! The 1962 Macallan 50yo features in one particularly memorable scene, but I daresay that bottle's beyond the reach of most of us. Macallan has changed its tune and its badging as much as Bond has changed its actors over the years, so whether you choose to pair this with a Fine Oak, or a Double Oak, or a Sherry Oak, or something from the multitude of limited release series, we'll leave that up to you.



### Spectre (2015)

After the success and excitement of *Skyfall*, you find yourself watching *Spectre* with an almost unhealthy air of expectation. At two hours and forty minutes, it's a long film and you'll need a whisky that can sustain the interest of your tastebuds for its duration. Too much sherry or peat would simply fatigue your palate over this movie's set pieces, so we'll play this one straight: Oban 14yo

### Coming soon: No time to die

(supposedly 2020, COVID-19 permitting....)

So there's our list and a sensible selection of whiskies to accompany you as you enjoy 007's exploits. And for those wondering about *Never say never again*.... a Macallan Replica bottling seems most appropriate.

Cheers, AD

## Opinion: Whiskey Knowledge Comes From Personal Experience, Not Reviews

By [Steve Coomes](#) / November 2, 2020

If you want to think, drink and talk like a whiskey like a pro, take this tip: Rely less on subjective reviews and more on personal experience for your education.

Reviewer's palates are like yours: one of a kind; perhaps refined but still not yours. What you like, they may not, yet those differences should be celebrated, never denigrated as often happens. Believing everything reviewers say about how a whiskey tastes or smells is risky because they could be wrong, or more likely, your mileage will vary. Other times they just write crazy!



*Tasting with friends is another way to widen your whiskey experiences. (image via Steve Coomes/The Whiskey Wash)*

When I read one reviewer who claimed a certain whiskey smelled of goat urine, I thought, “Really? You’re so experienced with goat urine that you can liken it to what’s in your glass?” Some other reviewers just try too hard to impress the reader. Their work runs like a list of adjectives lifted from product tags at Yankee Candle. And just like visiting Yankee Candle, my head aches after the experience. The truth is, you learn a lot more about whiskeys over time, through tasting correctly, making notes and repeating that cycle.

The basics in 4 steps

1. Use proper glassware. I like three types:
  - The standard narrow [Glencairn Glass](#) is well suited for most spirits, especially lower proof ones. It focuses aromas directly into the nose.
  - The wider [Glencairn Canadian Glass](#) is also a fave for nosing high-proof spirits since it doesn’t direct all the spirit’s vapors directly toward the nose. Its wider base also increases the amount of air mingling with the spirit, which softens the alcohol burn.
  - The [NEAT Glass](#) is much shorter than the comparable Glencairn, but it’s wide bowl is similar, and it also helps dissipate alcohol vapors. It’s also the increasingly common choice in spirits competitions.
2. Once poured, let your whiskey rest and open up for 10 minutes. While it’s resting, wash your hands with odor-free soap to remove any unwanted odors.
3. Swirl the spirit to “open it up” a bit, place your nose near the glass’s rim and inhale through your mouth, not your nose. Take your time with this and write down the aromas you notice—even if those ideas seem weird (more on that below).
4. Sip the spirit, roll it around your palate to coat it and swallow slowly to judge the finish. And again, write down your findings.

Hydrate before tasting

A fully hydrated body ensures a viscous palate that comingles saliva with whiskey easily and flavorfully. Dry mouths are less sensitive to whiskeys’ nuances.

Believe your own nose and palate

If all you get from a whiskey is caramel, vanilla and citrus, trust that you’re on the right track to learning much more. Searching for obscure notes of lilac and horehound candy—just because pros say they’re in there—is productive only if you know what those smell and taste like. Trust yourself and continue asking, “What else *do I really taste* in this?”

Taste and discuss with others

When at a table with whiskey friends, it’s educational to hear their remarks about a shared bottle. People are more honest when tasting in a group, which invites fun conversation. People get it when someone smells dried grain or smoke or butterscotch because most understand those aromas, but friends also are intrigued when a trusted friend mentions something unusual. Disagreement also is often good among friends.

Most palates aren’t ‘gifted,’ they’re trained

Friends sometimes tell me I have “a gifted palate,” but I don’t agree. I do have an open palate that loves a wide range of food and drink, but gaining the ability to breakdown the micro-attributes of taste, texture and viscosity of both happened over years with guidance from chefs and wine wonks in restaurants where I worked. Even better, those experiences were repeated daily. I learned in wine tastings that an over-oaked wine does smell like an old attic and that it’s OK to say that out loud because someone else might say it smells like old socks.

Plus, after 25 years of food writing before getting into spirits reviewing, I was comfortable around other spirits professionals and enthusiasts who were similarly experienced. I wasn’t afraid to say a whiskey smelled like the contents of an old filing cabinet because, to me, it did, and I knew why it did.

Bottom line: Find whiskey experts and enthusiasts and hang around with them. Listen to what they say, consider those opinions for yourself and be confident in your own. And, of course, try lots and lots of different bottles. Nothing adds to your knowledge base more than your own experiences.

## Gordon & MacPhail names Speyside distillery The Cairn

3rd November, 2020 by Nicola Carruthers

Scotch whisky bottler Gordon & MacPhail has named its new Speyside distillery The Cairn, which is due to open in spring 2022.



*The Cairn distillery in Cairngorms National Park is expected to open by spring 2022*

Gordon & MacPhail [first announced plans to construct a distillery and visitor centre](#) in Craggan, near Grantown-on-Spey, in May 2018. The producer [secured planning approval to build the new distillery](#) in the Cairngorms National Park in October last year.

Work on the site began in July this year, with the distillery scheduled to open in spring 2022. Construction work on the multi-million-pound distillery [was delayed by the coronavirus lockdown](#).

The name reflects the site’s location overlooking the Cairngorm mountains. The word ‘cairn’ comes from Scottish Gaelic and means a man-made pile of stones constructed as a memorial or landmark. Ian Chapman, brands director, said: “We have put the consumer right at the heart of the process of creating the brand, as we have with the design of the distillery itself. We wanted to make sure it was clearly Scottish, but easy for consumers to pronounce and to spell. This will be particularly important for our international markets when English is not the first language.”

The new distillery will be the company’s second, and follows its purchase and refurbishment of the Benromach Distillery. Gordon & Macphail said Benromach is positioned as a “traditional hand crafted brand”.

Chapman added: “We also had to be mindful of Benromach, our other distillery. We wanted the new brand to complement, not compete.” The company had more than 300 suggestions for the name, which was whittled down to meet the company’s criteria.

Gordon & MacPhail has also developed an icon for the brand, a fragmented shape to represent the “coming together of many pieces to form the cairn”. A serif font is used for the word ‘distillery’ to offer “contemporary craft cues that imply heritage and legacy”.

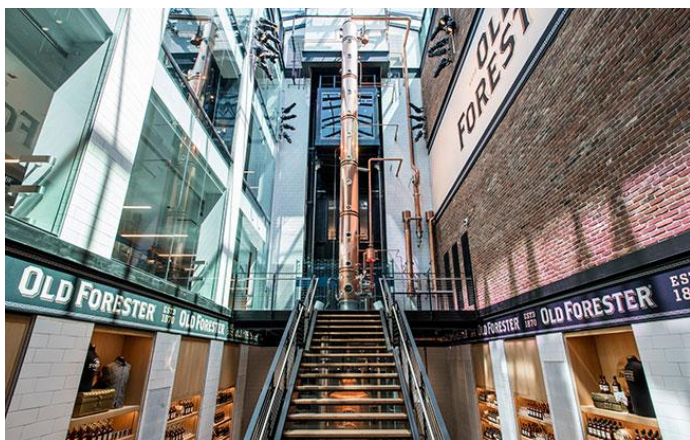
The Cairn distillery will include a visitor experience, tasting rooms, retail space and coffee shop. When it opens, the site will become the first new distillery based in the Cairngorms National Park since its creation in 2003.

## Brown-Forman considers \$96m distillery expansion

3rd November, 2020 by Nicola Carruthers

US drinks firm Brown-Forman is contemplating a US\$96 million expansion of its Louisville distillery to meet forecasted demand for Bourbon.





*The Old Forester distillery in Louisville, Kentucky*

Jack Daniel's owner Brown-Forman received preliminary approval for US\$5m in tax incentives from the Kentucky Economic Development Finance Authority (KEDFA) for the proposed project. A statement from Brown-Forman said: "The preliminary approval for tax incentives is another step in our process as we evaluate options related to growing and modernising our Louisville-based distillery. We have no announced project at this time." Brown-Forman said it had applied for permits in December last year as a "preliminary step in a production expansion review". The project is currently in the evaluation phase. According to a document released by the KEDFA, the distillery equipment currently used by Brown-Forman is from an expansion that took place more than five decades ago. The document read: "The facility and equipment, while operational, are being operated long past their useful lives and a reinvestment is necessary to sustain long-term operations. Brown-Forman is operating at maximum capacity and will require an expansion in order to meet forecasted demand of Kentucky Bourbon." The proposed project would create 35 jobs with an average hourly wage of US\$35.83. If approved, the company expects the project to be completed by the end of 2023, the document said. Brown-Forman produces Bourbon brands Old Forester and Woodford Reserve, which [surpassed the one million nine-litre-case mark](#) earlier this year. In 2013, the Woodford Reserve distillery [embarked on a US\\$35m expansion](#) and "continues to invest a lot of capital", [according to master distiller Chris Morris](#). In June 2018, Old Forester [opened its distillery in Louisville](#), almost two years later than initially planned.

## Gordon & MacPhail bottles 1979 Mosstowie whisky

5th November, 2020 by Nicola Carruthers

Scotch whisky bottler Gordon & MacPhail has launched a 40-year-old single malt from Milntonduff Distillery as the third release to mark its 125th anniversary this year.



*Gordon & MacPhail 1979 Mosstowie from Milntonduff Distillery is the third anniversary bottling*

In September 2020, Gordon & MacPhail revealed plans to release four single malts to mark its 125th anniversary this year. All four whiskies come from casks filled at closed distilleries or made on Lomond stills that are no longer in production.

The Gordon & MacPhail 1972 from Coleburn Distillery in Speyside was the [first of the commemorative whiskies to be released](#), followed by the launch of a 1984 expression from Glenury Royal last month. The penultimate anniversary bottling is Gordon & MacPhail 1979 Mosstowie from Milntonduff Distillery. The "smoky and soft" Mosstowie whisky was produced using Milntonduff's Lomond stills. Mosstowie was founded in 1964 by Hiram Walker, who used Lomond stills due to the variety of flavour profiles it produced. However, the stills used to make Mosstowie were removed in 1981 due to the difficulty of cleaning its longer arms. The Gordon & MacPhail 1979 Mosstowie is the bottler's last remaining cask from the distillery. The 40-year-old was laid down in the producer's Elgin warehouse in a refill Sherry hogshead on 13 September 1979. Stephen Rankin, a fourth-generation member of the Gordon & MacPhail family and the company's director of prestige, said: "Each of the extremely rare whiskies released to commemorate our 125th anniversary is truly unique as they are the last cask of that particular make we have maturing in our warehouse. "With no official bottling ever available of the elusive Mosstowie malt, we are particularly excited to bring this special whisky to the market." The resulting liquid has a nose of vanilla pod, butterscotch and stewed apples. The palate offers flavours of black pepper, spiced grapefruit, dark chocolate and raspberries. Bottled at 49.8% ABV, there are only 164 bottles of the whisky available globally. Like the rest of the anniversary bottlings, the 40-year-old whisky is priced at RRP £1,500 (US\$1,956). The final commemorative whisky will be released on 7 December. Gordon & MacPhail recently [revealed the name of its new Speyside distillery](#), which is due to open in spring 2022.

## Glengoyne creates new puzzle and gift sets

6th November, 2020 by Nicola Carruthers

Scotch whisky brand Glengoyne has released a new 500-piece jigsaw puzzle and two time-inspired gift sets ahead of the festive period.



The jigsaw piece is said to take around four to six hours to complete. The new puzzle follows the [success of the first 500-piece jigsaw](#) released during the UK lockdown in April 2020.

A painting by Scottish artist John Lowrie Morrison features on the new puzzle, called 'Heavy Snow at Glengoyne Distillery'.

The piece is said to take around four to six hours to complete, and comes free with a purchase of Glengoyne 18 Year Old in store or online from Glengoyne over the festive period. The 18-year-old whisky and puzzle are also available to buy online from John Lewis and in specialists whisky retailers for RRP £109.99 (US\$145).

The jigsaw is also free with purchases of any 700ml bottle priced at more than £100 (US\$131), or as a £10 (US\$13) add on with any 700ml bottle with a value of less than £100, when purchased directly from Glengoyne.

In addition, Glengoyne has released two gift sets to mark the brand's link to time as Scotland's "slowest distilled malt".

Katy Muggeridge, senior brand manager for Glengoyne, said: "Time plays a pivotal role in our whisky making, so it made sense to develop a festive gifting range that celebrates this connection and helps people enjoy a great dram this Christmas in their own time."

The Time Capsule gift set offers three samples of Glengoyne's 12-year-old and 18-year-old expressions, and the [new Legacy Series: Chapter Two](#). It can be purchased in two sizes that come with three 50ml or 200ml bottles. The Time Capsule 50ml set is priced at £25 (US\$33), while the 200ml set is priced at £65 (US\$85).

Meanwhile, the Time Keeper gift set features a 700ml bottle of Glengoyne 12 Year Old, a tasting booklet and a branded glass. It has an RRP of £50 (US\$66).



The Glengoyne Time Capsule and Time Keeper sets are available from Glengoyne's website, in store and online from John Lewis, Moonpig, Selfridges and specialist whisky retailers.

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### Tesla launches \$250 Tequila

6th November, 2020 by Nicola Carruthers

Automotive and energy firm Tesla has moved into spirits with the release of a namesake Tequila priced at US\$250.



*The Tesla Tequila bottle is shaped as a lightning strike*

The new Tesla Tequila is described as a small batch, premium, 100% agave añejo expression, made from sustainably sourced highland and lowland agaves. It was aged in French oak barrels for 15 months. According to the Tesla website, the expression is a sipping Tequila and has a 'dry fruit and light vanilla nose with a balanced cinnamon pepper finish'. The hand-blown glass bottle is shaped as a lightning bolt. The website notes that the product is produced by Tequila maker Nosotros and sold by Speakeasy Co, an e-commerce platform based in California.

The 40% ABV Tequila is already out of stock on the car maker's online store, with purchases expected to be shipped in late 2020. The product is available in select US states.

Tesla CEO Elon Musk first [revealed plans to launch a Tequila](#) in October 2018 under the name 'Teslaquila' after registering for the trademark in the US Patent and Trademark Office.

At the time, Musk took to Twitter to reveal a 'visual approximation' of the Teslaquila bottle design, which differs vastly from the Tesla Tequila brand with a rectangular bottle.

However, a month later, Musk [faced opposition from the Tequila Regulatory Council](#) for registering the 'Teslaquila' name as a 'distilled agave liquor' and 'distilled blue agave liquor'. The trade group argued against the name as it evokes the word 'Tequila', which is protected in the US.

In January 2017, the Mexican trade body [won the right to register 'Tequila'](#) as a certification mark in the US following a legal battle with drinks group Luxco.

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### Kingsbarns Distillery launches Balcomie whisky

9th November, 2020 by Nicola Carruthers

Fife-based Kingsbarns Distillery has added a new permanent Scotch whisky to its range, called Balcomie.



*The new whisky is named after Balcomie Castle in Fife*

The new Balcomie whisky is the first in a series of future releases that will be named after landmarks in the distillery's home of Fife. The new expression is named after Balcomie Castle.

William Wemyss, founder and managing director of Kingsbarns Distillery, said: "Place and heritage is hugely important to us as a company and we're proud of where we come from, therefore, we're naming each of our future core range releases after different landmarks in Fife – starting with Balcomie.

"Our distillery is surrounded by a magnificent landscape with a wealth of history and we wanted to capture the essence of this with Balcomie – a product we're really excited to share."

The 'spicy, citrusy and balanced' whisky is matured in 100% ex-oloroso American oak Sherry butts from Jerez in Spain.

The 46% ABV whisky offers a nose of treacle, sultanas, fruit loaf with cinnamon icing, dark chocolate and summer berries. The palate brings flavours of tinned pineapple, orange peel, cake spice, dried apricot and a hint of roasted hazelnut.

Wemyss added: "The new addition to our range allows whisky lovers to enjoy fruity and indulgent flavours from an original bottle designed to honour our Scottish heritage. The Balcomie is perfect for cold, autumnal evenings and is guaranteed to take whisky fans on a stunning flavour journey – we hope customers love it as much as we do."

Balcomie is available to buy for £49.99 (US\$66) from Kingsbarns' website.

In December last year, Kingsbarns Distillery [released its 2019 Founders' Reserve Scotch whisky](#) to mark the company's fifth anniversary.

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### Work starts on £12m Scotch whisky distillery

9th November, 2020 by Nicola Carruthers

Construction of the new £12 million (US\$16m) Port of Leith Distillery in Edinburgh has begun after initially being delayed by the pandemic, with the site due to open in 2022.



*The Port of Leith Distillery will make a "new style of Scotch using a modern approach"*

Plans for the Scotch whisky distillery were [first unveiled by childhood friends Ian Stirling and Patrick Fletcher](#) in March 2017. It is thought to be the first in the Scottish district of Leith for more than a century. The site was originally [due to begin construction in January 2019](#), with the distillery expected to be up and running by autumn 2020.

The distillery was then scheduled to commence construction at the start of this year, however the Covid-19 pandemic delayed its plans.

"We have always been passionate about whisky and it's been a long-held dream for us to create an amazing, modern Scotch whisky distillery in our home city," said Stirling. "It began 10 years ago as a mad idea over a dram when we were working together in London and it grew from there."

The Port of Leith Distillery will be built in Edinburgh's port district beside Ocean Terminal Shopping Centre and The Royal Yacht Britannia. The site will feature a whisky bar on the top floor with views of Edinburgh Castle. It will also house two copper stills with the capacity to produce up to one million bottles of single malt whisky annually.

Stirling added: "Our ambition is to create an outstanding new style of Scotch using a modern approach, based on years of research we have already undertaken – and building on the remarkable heritage of the historic whisky district of Leith."

The £12m project has been funded by a combination of global private investors and whisky fans, including two unnamed drinks industry CEOs.



The construction of the site created 30 jobs – including six staff in the distillery team – and will generate around 50 long-term jobs once complete.

The Port of Leith Distillery's inaugural spirit, Lind and Lime Gin, was released in November 2018 and is now available in 14 markets across the world. The producer's range, which also includes a Sherry and a Port, is currently made at Tower Street Stillhouse close to the future distillery's site in Leith.

Fletcher said: "Lockdown had an impact on our build programme and of course has made us look hard at our tourism projections, but in contrast Lind & Lime online [sales] has flourished.

"It has been really important for us to learn how to make and market our own spirit and build relationships with suppliers. Our Sherry comes from Bodegas Baron – a 480-year-old family business in the heart of Jerez, and we will use their barrels to mature our own whisky, when the time comes."

giant [Glenfiddich](#), a sprawling campus of creation and enterprise which makes the world's best-selling single malt whisky and more. The other was [Benromach Distillery](#).

The contrast was stark. Benromach is a small-scale, manual distillery. Every process is carried out and monitored by a small staff and its production capacity is 380,000 litres of whisky per year (Glenfiddich makes 13,000,000 litres in that time). The humble approach and rustic charm is no accident, however. After purchasing the site back in 1993, Gordon & MacPhail's goal was to create traditional handcrafted single malt influenced by the kind of whisky that would have been produced in Speyside in Scotch's 19th century heyday.

"Since the distillery restarted production, we have used traditional production methods, and each stage of the process is designed to give a spirit character that is traditional, lightly peated and handcrafted," says Keith Cruickshank, Benromach's distillery manager. "Our small team of distillers has long relied entirely on their expertise and senses to make the finest handmade whisky and that's something that hasn't changed since the distillery reopened 22 years ago."

## Glenfiddich adds 22-year-old whisky to Grand Series

10th November, 2020 by Nicola Carruthers

Scotch whisky brand Glenfiddich has released a 22-year-old Sherry cask-finished single malt as the second expression in its Grand Series Collection.



*Glenfiddich Gran Cortes XXII is only available to buy in Mainland China and Taiwan*

William Grant & Sons kicked off its new Grand Series Collection last year with the [launch of Grand Cru](#), a 23-year-old whisky finished in French oak cuvée casks. The experimental range seeks to push the boundaries of single malt.

The latest addition to the "innovative" line is Gran Cortes XXII, a 22-year-old whisky finished in rare Spanish Palo Cortado Sherry casks. The single malt is named after the grand palaces of Spain.

Glenfiddich malt master Brian Kinsman visited wineries in Andalucía to explore the world of Spanish winemaking for the second Grand Series whisky.

Kinsman said: "We researched age-old processes, testing finishing times and maturations to find the perfect composition of character, depth and aroma. After careful experimentation, we found our match. "The 22-year-old Glenfiddich malts from our old-age collection were finished in Palo Cortado oak casks. The alchemy that takes place in the oak casks pushes the boundaries once again. The finished product is a truly unique whisky with a dark red hue and distinctive character. It's an unforgettable spirit to mark the most special occasions."

The resulting whisky has 'rich and intense layers of deep sweetness', with an aroma of dates, dark chocolate and raisins. The palate offers oak, sweet vanilla and marzipan, followed by citrus and fruitcake on the finish.

Gran Cortes XXII, which comes in a Sherry-red box, has been created exclusively for consumers in Mainland China and Taiwan. It is available to buy in luxury retail outlets and premium establishments.



The small, charming Benromach makes a distinctive style of whisky. The distillery had passed through a number of hands after it was first established in Forres, Scotland in 1898, sadly closing in 1983 before it was revived by Gordon & MacPhail. By 1998 production had restarted using locally-grown Scottish barley which is malted with a little peat smoke, recalling the Speyside tradition of topping up fires with cuts of peat when coal ran low. The barley is ground into grist in a 120 year-old four-roller Boby Mill over a 90 minute period, before it's mixed with water drawn from the nearby Chapelton Spring in the Romach Hills, the same source used by Benromach since it first opened.

The aim is to create a medium-bodied spirit suitable for variable lengths of maturation, which explains the long fermentation process, which lasts between three and five days in larch washbacks that Cruickshank says creates a rich, complex, fruity new make. The brand also takes the unusual step of using two types of yeast: brewer's and distiller's yeast. "We feel it creates a more complete fermentation – this all contributes to the development of more complex flavours".

Distillation takes place in a 7,500-litre short and squat wash still and a 5,500-litre spirit still. Cruickshank explains that the former has an almost horizontal lyne arm to create more copper contact with the alcohol, which lends to the desired medium-heavy spirit character and that the latter has a reflux ball which pushes back down the very heavy vapours, allowing lighter vapours to travel up the still. Once the spirit is distilled, it's hand-filled into first-fill casks exclusively and rolled into traditional dunnage style warehouses, which provide "consistent temperatures and the ideal conditions for maturing single malt whisky," according to Cruickshank.

## Master of Malt tastes... Benromach 21 Year Old

[ADAM O'CONNELL](#)

[NOVEMBER 9, 2020 11:30 AM](#)

When we heard that Benromach had released a [21-year-old expression](#), we were intrigued to see how the brand's distinctive brand of whisky matured over the years. So, we had a taste. And we liked.

Back in May 2018, I had the good fortune of visiting two [Speyside](#) distilleries on the same day. One was the



First-fill casks are used exclusively at Benromach. This process has enabled Benromach to establish an impressive core range in a short space of time. For my money, the [10 Year Old](#) is one of the finest bottlings available at its price point and the brand has demonstrated an ability to experiment and innovate, with limited-edition [cask strength expressions](#), [organic bottlings](#) and intriguing [wood finishes](#). Its latest release is what has taken our focus today, however. [Benromach 21 Year Old](#) is the oldest permanent addition to its core range. It was matured in first-fill sherry and bourbon and bottled at 43% ABV, ready to be launched just as the distillery announced a redesign, inspired by the hand-painted sign that used to adorn the roof above the kiln, along with the distinctive red doors around the distillery and the red brick chimney. Its release caught my eye because the dram should provide a window into how 'new' Benromach matures over a long period of time. Is the distillery character preserved? What effect does the commitment to first-fill casks have? For Cruickshank, the 21 year old represents a progression of the brand's signature style. "It perfectly embodies the decades of hard work, pride and passion that have gone into recreating that lost character of Speyside whiskies from the 1950s and 1960s. As an older whisky which is still grounded in our commitment to using only the finest first-fill bourbon and sherry casks, it provides a unique take on the classic Benromach style." It's a take I thoroughly enjoyed. Since the late nineties, Benromach has demonstrated the story of revival can be understated, patient and methodical, and the 21 Year Old is just rewards. It's a dram of variety and vibrancy. The melding of sherry and bourbon casks is measured and graceful, pairing plenty of distillery character with a subtle and understated maturity. It's got tremendous clarity and style. Take your time and savour this one. You can purchase [Benromach 21 Year Old here](#) and the full tasting note is below.



#### [Benromach 21 Year Old](#) Tasting Note:

**Nose:** Deep Oloroso sherry comes through, with stewed plums, raspberry jam and juicy sultanas initially followed by hints of Pinot Noir, orange peel and dried apricots. Vanilla, toasted brown sugar, milk chocolate and aromatic ginger spice appear underneath with sweet peat warmth throughout.

**Palate:** Notes of stewed orchard fruit, chocolate-covered raisins and Seville orange marmalade are followed by hints of set honey, praline, red berries and gingerbread. In the backdrop, there's cracked black pepper, tangy oak and smoke from a smouldering bonfire.

**Finish:** Sherry tones lead the finish, with a hint of buttery toffee apples, oak spice and fruitcake.

## The Secret Behind the Perfect Old Fashioned

In Partnership with [Woodford Reserve](#)  
[JACOB OSBORN](#), 10 NOV 2020

Old Fashioned Week just came to a close and if you participated, you might have noticed something peculiar. While simple by design, this popular whiskey-based cocktail can vary wildly in terms of execution and taste. Some bartenders use simple syrup while others muddle a sugar cube. Often but not always, a cherry is involved. Dingy dive bars will use small ice cubes but modern bars will employ a single, giant cube. Despite all these potential variables, however, you learned that one ingredient matters more than anything else: a quality [whiskey](#). Whereas some mixed drinks aim to conceal the base liquor, a proper old fashioned takes things in the opposite direction. The world's most famous spirit-forward cocktail, this one tends to highlight the natural flavours of its foremost ingredient. Quality is therefore imperative because the whiskey itself plays a predominant role in the outcome. Should your the bartender grab the cheapest booze out of his well, you can expect to feel the heat and taste the burn. Should he reach for something like [Woodford Reserve](#), you might very well be sipping on the best and most nuanced cocktail you've ever tasted.



Why Woodford Reserve? Because their product is expertly crafted and impressively versatile. Not ones to mess with perfection, the distillery never tinkers with their dependable mash bill (recipe: 72% corn, 10% Barley and 18% Rye). Even when they experiment with additional cask maturation, it's with the intent of bringing out the buried components of their flagship expression. No matter what the release, the dynamism remains palpable and so too does the quality. Balancing over 200 flavours within its dense and creamy body, the whiskey offers different but equally pleasant experiences with every sip. Whether you're making an old fashioned at home or ordering one at the bar, Woodford Reserve takes this extraordinary cocktail to new heights. The whiskey's creamy texture and versatile character blend perfectly with the other ingredients, cultivating a glorious sense of interplay. With its aromas and tasting notes of dried fruit, custard, vanilla, and citrus, one might even say that Woodford Reserve already exhibits the natural qualities of an understated old fashioned. Bring a little orange peel, sugar, and bitters into the mix and you're simply swimming in flavour.

Old Fashioned Week has just ended, but the world-famous spirit lives on. Here's hoping you went out and supported your local bars and restaurants, many of which can use all the help they can get. You might have discovered some favourite new watering holes along the way, where the bartender or mixologist has proven himself a master of the old fashioned. The next time you side up to the bar, ask them to use Woodford Reserve as the base. Like that, you've just made a great thing even greater.

[Buy Woodford Reserve Bourbon](#)





### Woodford Reserve Old Fashioned Cocktail Recipe INGREDIENTS:

- 60 ml Woodford Reserve Straight Bourbon Whiskey
- 15 ml Demerara Syrup
- 3 dashes Angostura® Bitters
- 2 dashes Regans'® Orange Bitters

### INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Add ingredients to the mixing glass.
2. Add ice to mixing glass and serving glass.
3. Stir ingredients for 30-40 secs.
4. Strain into serving glass.
5. Garnish with a lightly expressed orange peel.
6. Sip and enjoy. Ahhhhhhhh...

### On the Hunt for Long-Lost Whisky, This Man Is Ready to Dig NOVEMBER 4, 2020 | TED SIMMONS



Tim Robinson co-owns Terry Robard's Wines & Spirits in Lake Placid, New York and carries two Canadian Club whiskies. He's on the hunt, however, for a much more elusive offering from the Canadian brand. When most people go hunting for whisky, they comb local liquor stores and enlist out-of-state friends. Tim Robinson's quest, however, has him digging through dirt. Robinson and a few of his Lake Placid, New York neighbors are hoping to find a long-buried case of [Canadian Club](#). Starting in 1967 and until 1981, the brand buried whisky around the globe as part of its "Hide a Case" campaign. From Australia to Arizona, fans could uncover the hidden treasure using cryptic clues offered in print advertisements. Some—like one hidden under a desk in a Manhattan skyscraper—were found, while others remain hidden to this day. Among them is the case Robinson believes is buried in Lake Placid, hidden in 1979 ahead of the 1980 Olympic games. "I've got a lot of pride in this town," says Robinson, who co-owns [Terry Robard's Wine & Spirits](#). "So to see something this big that fits exactly what I love and my passion, which is whisky, plus you mix in the history of the town and everything else, it just really makes for something special."

### CANADIAN CLUES

The hidden case of whisky has become a bit of local lore, with its precise location highly speculated upon for years. Robinson first learned about it from his friend D.J. O'Neil in April and later during a local [Lions Club](#) meeting. With the help of his sleuthing neighbors, he feels confident he knows where to look. The original advertisement notes "those who seek gold will miss [it] by a quarter mile" and that the team that buried it "followed our sixth sense." These hints led Robinson to a piece of land owned by O'Neil, about a quarter-mile away from the Olympic ski jump site, an address formerly listed as 6 Riverside Drive.



Canadian Club printed ads such as this one to give whisky drinkers clues about the whisky cases' locations. (Photo from [messynessychic.com](#))

What's more, the previous land owner apparently assisted the Canadian Club team in burying the case, which Robinson learned about through a mutual friend of the family. Barb Erickson's husband, John, went out into the snow on that fateful night and while she won't divulge the exact spot, the family secret as to the case's whereabouts has passed through a few hands on its way to Robinson. "There hasn't been any real recovery effort, but a lot of the locals I've talked to remember this ad campaign and the rumors are still around town about the missing whisky case," he says. "We're just going to kind of dig some holes right where we think it's going to be at the edge of the cedar trees. All of the clues kind of line up."

Robinson began digging on Nov. 7, after spending the previous weekend searching for fence posts to better locate the case. The ad mentions a "fence row," but like the address, a lot of the landscape has changed in the decades since the whisky was hidden. O'Neil is joining Robinson in the search, as are representatives from distributor [Southern Glazer's Wine & Spirits](#).

### FINDERS KEEPERS

But what will happen to the whisky if or when they find it? "We haven't even talked about how we'd split up the case," Robinson says, figuring that if the case holds 12 bottles, he, O'Neil, and others aiding in the search could divide the loot among themselves. One thing's for sure, though: He intends to open at least one bottle. "I would 100% open up the bottle and taste it and share it with a lot of people, as far as it would stretch," he says. If he's able to keep a few bottles, Robinson says he'd like to feature one as a showpiece in his store and add another to his personal collection.

Canadian Club has been part of Beam Suntory since 2011, the year after the brand revived the "Hide A Case" campaign with a connection to an upcoming season of "Survivor." Under the new ownership, though, Canadian Club can't help Robinson in his quest, saying records of any remaining cases have been lost to history. "While we at Canadian Club weren't able to assist Tim in his current search for a hidden case in Lake Placid, we're rooting him on and wishing him a safe, fruitful dig!" Tish Marcus, Canadian Club global brand ambassador, tells *Whisky Advocate*. "We can't guarantee that any whisky that remains would be advisable to drink, but it sure would be a once-in-a-lifetime piece of whisky history."

Robinson plans to document the journey on his [Instagram page](#) and hopes to garner some buzz for both his liquor store and Lake Placid. "There's a whole community out there that are really interested in

whisky, [though] not so much Canadian whisky—but this is also mixed in the history of it too,” he said. “Apparently Canadian Club, back in 2008, claimed four or five of the cases [were] just completely lost. It’ll be cool to just revive one of those lost cases and see if the whisky’s any good.”

**Update 11/9/2020:** After 15 hours of digging over the course of three days, Robinson and his crew have yet to find the hidden case of Canadian Club (though they made quite the mess of O’Neil’s yard). But they haven’t lost hope. Barb Erickson herself came out to the site, pointing to a cluster of trees near which she remembered the case being hid. While that tip came up empty, Robinson remains optimistic. “I believe we’re searching in the right spot and we inspected everything with lots of eyes on the whole process” he said. “It’s very possible that the case has sunk too deep into the mud. It’s also possible that we we’re too deep into the brush and the case is closer to the field.” We will continue to update this story as Robinson continues to dig. You can follow his journey via his Instagram page.

## Blue Spot Single Pot Still Irish Whiskey Returns After Decades Of Absence

By [Nino Kilgore-Marchetti](#) / November 11, 2020

The [Spot family of Irish whiskeys](#) has a particular fondness in the hearts and minds of lovers of this whiskey category. It came about starting in the early 1900s, when wine and spirits merchants, Mitchell & Son, began maturing whiskey from the local Jameson Distillery in Bow Street in their underground cellars in Dublin City Center. The Spot whiskeys traditionally had splotches of colored paint that were used to indicate the aging potential of each cask. Blue spots indicated seven years, green spots 10, yellow spots 12, and red spots 15, the pinnacle of the range.

The Spot range today is managed by Irish Distillers/Pernod Ricard, in conjunction with the Mitchell family. The [Green](#) expression had been around for some time, [Yellow returned in 2012](#) and the [Red was reintroduced back in 2018](#) for the first time since the mid-1960s. That left only Blue Spot, which we first took [notice of its potential return to the fold](#) earlier this year. Now it has officially been brought back.



*Blue Spot Single Pot Still Irish Whiskey (image via Irish Distillers/Pernod Ricard)*

The new Blue Spot Single Pot Still Irish Whiskey, according to those behind it, launches after the most recent existing record of it was found to be 1964. Some 56 years later, reuniting the historic Spot Family for the first time in over half a century, what one has here is a reimagined offering that first builds upon the foundation of bourbon and sherry casks. What is added in is whiskey aged in ex-Madeira casks, said to be “inspired by the historical inventory of Mitchell & Son and typical of the Spot style of whiskey.”

In notes from the brand, “the team at Irish Distillers’ Midleton Distillery have been sourcing Madeira wine seasoned casks for over 20 years. These casks are carefully handcrafted in a cooperage in the north of Portugal and then sent to the island of Madeira. Once seasoned, the casks are shipped back to Midleton and filled with pot still distillate and left to mature, allowing the Madeira wine influence to impart wonderful flavours of stewed apples, hazelnuts and sweet spices. These Madeira casks, along with ex-Bourbon and ex-sherry casks are then hand selected and married together.”

“It is with absolute pleasure that we reintroduce Blue Spot and bring a piece of Dublin’s rich whiskey history back to life,” said Kevin O’Gorman, Master Distiller at Irish Distillers, in a prepared statement.

“Over the years I have had the honour of collaborating with the Mitchell family, who for generations have celebrated the influence of fine wines on Irish whiskey, as we have reintroduced expressions to the beloved Spot range.

“I am incredibly proud to celebrate with Jonathan and Robert Mitchell on this historic day as Blue Spot takes its place alongside Green, Yellow and Red Spot, reuniting the whole family once again.”

“It’s been a privilege to shed light on the history of whiskey bonding in Ireland and the role our family had to play in it as we relaunch Blue Spot,” added Jonathan Mitchell, Managing Director at Mitchell & Son. “The inclusion of whiskey aged in Madeira casks adds flavours that would have been originally introduced into Irish whiskey by the Mitchell family. As the full Spot range comes back to life, we find ourselves bursting with pride for the role our family played in the creation of this treasured range of whiskeys.”

As it stands now, plans call for a non chill filtered, cask strength release that will see ABV varying annually, Blue Spot is available from this month for €80 (around \$95 USD) in Ireland, UK, France, Canada, Northern Ireland and Global Travel Retail, and in the USA from February 2021. You’ll find official tasting notes for it below.

- **Nose:** A light mix of pineapple, kiwi, green banana and lime zest followed by Pot Still spices, baked apple, hazelnut and toasted wood.
- **Taste:** A smooth mouthfeel with a subtle mix of fruit, a hint of clove oil and cracked black pepper corns. Sweet spices, vanilla and cinnamon add to the wood’s nutty contribution.
- **Finish:** A lasting and distinctly palatable balance of exotic fruits and spices.

## Glenfarclas unveils 60YO single malt

11th November, 2020 by Nicola Carruthers  
Speyside distillery Glenfarclas has released a limited edition 60-year-old Scotch whisky in the UK, priced at £19,500 (US\$25,870).



The 60-year-old Glenfarclas comes in a red presentation box that slides open. The 40.9% ABV single cask whisky was distilled on 2 June 1959 in a first-fill oloroso Sherry hogshead. Christmas Day in 1959 was the last time the distillery distilled and filled Glenfarclas on Christmas Day. The year was also a record production year for Glenfarclas.

The summer of 1959 saw the completion of Glenfarclas’ new farm steading and work had started on a new still house to increase the site’s stills from two to four, enabling the distillery to double production by 1961.

On the nose, the 60-year-old whisky has notes of Christmas cake, spice, orange and dark chocolate. The palate is described as tasting like ‘Christmas pudding drenched in brandy butter and set alight’. The finish offers flavours of marzipan and Christmas Sherry.

The whisky comes in a presentation box made with English oak and lined with suede, which was created by NEJ Stevenson. The hand-blown decanter was made by Glencairn and features hand-drawn illustrations inspired by the red warehouse doors at Glenfarclas Distillery.

Limited to 105 700ml bottles, the expression is available to buy in the UK from Hedonism, The Whisky Exchange and BI Fine Wine & Spirits. In March this year, Glenfarclas [unveiled its oldest whisky to date](#), a Scotch aged for 62 years in an ex-Sherry butt.

To read a brand history of Glenfarclas, click [here](#).



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## Gordan & MacPhail Releases Rare 1984 Glenury Royal Scotch Whisky

By [Lilly Lion](#) / November 11, 2020

Independent Scotch whisky bottler Gordon & MacPhail recently launched a series of four commemorative whiskies in celebration of their 125th anniversary. The second of these, having come to market last month, is a rare 1984 expression from Glenury Royal that takes the form of a 35-year-old bottling that comes from the last cask of the make maturing in the Gordon & MacPhail's warehouse. Hailing from Stonehaven in the eastern Highlands, Glenury Royal closed its doors for the final time in 1985 and was demolished after a 160 year old history. Founded in 1825 by Captain James Barclay, the suffix 'Royal' was added due to the owner's friendship with King William IV. Gordon & MacPhail 1984 from Glenury Royal was laid down on Thursday, June 7th 1984 and has been fully matured in cask number 2335, a first-fill sherry butt.



Gordon & MacPhail 1984 from Glenury Royal (image via Gordon & MacPhail)

The rare whisky is bottled at 49.1% ABV, with official tasting notes that speak of a rich amber color and aromas of stewed fruit, cocoa powder, cinnamon, and toasted oak. To taste, the whisky provides sweet orange peel, cherry, burnt sugar and dried fig with a fruity finale balance with aniseed and sherry.

"Since 1895 Gordon & MacPhail has released single malts from over 100 distilleries, many of which are lesser-known or closed," said Stephen Rankin, a fourth-generation member of Gordon & MacPhail's owning family, [in a prepared statement](#). "The anniversary series is a true homage to this endeavour."

Gordon & MacPhail is a 125-year-old independent family-owned firm and malt whisky specialist. The company has gone through over four generations of family ownership and matched spirits from over 100 Scottish distilleries to its own casks.

With just 397 bottles available, Gordon & MacPhail 1984 from Glenury Royal will be available around \$2,500. Prices in international markets may vary due to local taxes and import duties. Its release follows upon the heels [of a 1972 Coleburn whisky launched in September](#).

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## Bartenders Shout Out Scotch Whiskies They Love In The \$50-200 Range

[CHRISTOPHER OSBURN](#) TWITTER NOVEMBER 10, 2020

Besides the air of superiority and overall assumed fanciness surrounding it, what turns off many drinkers to the thought of purchasing a bottle of [Scotch](#) is the price. Even the most inexpensive offering from a well-known distillery is going to be more expensive than your go-to [bourbons](#) or [ryes](#). But if you can get past that sticker shock, you'll be opening the door to a brand-new flavor experience while broadening your whisk(e)y palate.

Plus, [Scotch](#) is perfect for fall drinking. Especially its smokier expressions (remember, it's sort of *always* fall in Scotland). Below, we asked a handful of [bartenders](#) to tell us the Scotch whiskies they feel are worth the price. They range in price from \$50 to \$175 but their value is really what the bartenders are commenting on.

The Balvenie 12 Year American Oak

Andy Printy, beverage director at [Chao Baan](#) in St. Louis  
*My current go-to for Highland single malts is Balvenie's 12 Year American Oak. Logged into the Highlands subcategory of Speyside, this particular expression is not only super approachable but seasonally appropriate! A nose of cocoa, baking spice, and dank*

*lumber gives way to citrus, butterscotch, and baking spices on the palate.*

*I recommend drinking neat or with just a couple drops of water.*

Price: [\\$72.99](#)

Compass Box Peat Monster

Nicholas Wyatt, bar manager at [Teddy's Bourbon Bar](#) in Prattville, Alabama

*The Peat Monster from Compass Box is more than a great dram. It's an experience that every whisky lover should treat themselves to. Once you can get past the nearly overwhelming smokiness, there is a unique elegance there.*

*Much of our ability to taste is linked to specific memories. For me, it's like drinking green tea with my wife while tending a bonfire.*

Price: [\\$49.99](#)

Oban 14

Frederic Yarm, USBG bartender in Boston

*Oban 14 Year is my favorite Highland single malt, for it elegantly spans the traditional softer and fruitier notes of Highland whisky with the sea-laden peat smoke aspects of an Islay.*

Price: [\\$79.99](#)

Glenfiddich Project XX

Roberto Berdecia from [La Factoria](#) in Old San Juan, Puerto Rico  
*Glenfiddich Project XX. Different from the rest of the whiskeys and very affordable. Created by 20 malt masters, using 20 different barrels, this unique whisky is filled with hints of vanilla, caramel, cinnamon, and charred oak.*

Price: [\\$79.99](#)

The Balvenie 14 Year Caribbean Cask

Marta De La Cruz Marrero, food and beverage supervisor at [Burlock Coast](#) in Fort Lauderdale

*The Balvenie 14 years Caribbean Cask. Caribbean Cask has been matured in traditional oak whisky casks for 14 years, and then 'finished' in casks that previously held Caribbean rum. This creates the ideal finish. Malt Master David Stewart filled American oak casks with his own blend of select West Indian rums. When he judged the casks to be ready, the rum was replaced with the 14-year-old spirit and the wood was put to work adding the final touches.*

*The result is an exceptional single malt whisky with the traditional smooth, honeyed character of The Balvenie, married with notes of toffee and a hint of fruit, with a warm, lingering finish.*

Price: [\\$74.99](#)

Highland Park 12

Pete Marzulli, general manager at [Agave West Village](#) in New York City  
*Highland Park 12 is my pick. This single malt Scotch has nice and approachable yet complex flavors like clover honey, cinnamon, toasted caramel, and just a hint of smoke.*

Price: [\\$51.99](#)

Tullibardine 225 Sauternes Finish

Sebastien Derbomez, brand advocacy manager at [William Grant & Sons](#)  
*Tullibardine is one of my favorites, they have a Sauternes Finish at a good price that I can't get enough of. It reminds me of home — where we often used to finish a big family dinner with a Sauternes wine.*

Price: [\\$50.99](#)

Laphroaig 10

Antonio Lumbrazo, bartender at [Richard's Bar](#) in Chicago

*I love the smokiness of a Laphroaig 10. It's one of the best, reasonably-priced Islay whiskies on the market. It's smoky, sweet, and ends with a unique hint of brine.*

Price: [\\$62.09](#)

Highland Park 18

Deen Ghaleb, bartender at [Wayfare Tavern](#) in San Francisco

*Highland Park 18 year smooth and not too smoky. Aged in sherry season oak casks, it's highlighted by sweet dried cherry, caramel, and vanilla flavors.*

*It's not super cheap, but well worth the price.*

Price: [\\$159.99](#)

Oban 18

Brennen Brainard, bartender at [Gigglewaters Social Club](#) in Clearwater, Florida

*The Oban 18 is a wonderful Scotch with tons of character and smoothness. Between the fruity aroma of cucumber cordial, lychee, ripe pears, and candied oranges with the long finish of allspice, toasted cookies with a bit of anise.*

*This is a Scotch that's difficult not to love. You might pay over \$100 for a bottle, but it's a value at any price.*

Price: [\\$174.99](#)

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## **Membership and Dinner prices for 2020-2021**

Membership Fee:	\$50 (singles) \$75 (couples)
One Time Initiation Fee:	\$15
Standard Dinner Fee:	\$80 (member) \$85 (non-member)
Christmas Dinner Fee:	\$80 (member) \$85 (non-member)
Robbie Burns Dinner Fee:	\$80 (member) \$85 (non-member)
June BBQ Dinner Fee:	\$80 (member) \$80 (non-member)

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## **Reservation policy**

- The agreement with the Kitchen's requires that we provide seven (7) business days notice for them to guarantee accommodation for our requested numbers. To accommodate the Kitchen's needs and meet our contractual obligation with them; our members are requested to respond to the emailed invitation seven (7) business days prior to the respective dinner to guarantee a seat at the dinner. Following the RSVP date members will be placed on a waitlist.
  - For these individuals the process will be as follows, using the Monday September 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2019 dinner date as an example:
    - Dinner invitations will be sent out Friday August 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2019. Please respond to me ([rdifazio04@gmail.com](mailto:rdifazio04@gmail.com)). 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).
    - Unless otherwise stated accommodation at the dinner will be guaranteed for all members who respond by Friday September 6<sup>th</sup>, 2019 @ 6pm.
    - Once the RSVP date has been achieved I will e-mail a spreadsheet informing everyone of their status and amount due.
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## **Cancellation policy**

- Using the same example as above, anyone who cancels anytime prior to Friday September 6<sup>th</sup>, 2019 @ 6pm will be removed from the list.
  - Anyone canceling between Friday September 6<sup>th</sup>, 2019 @ 6pm and Monday September 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2019 will be expected to pay for the cost of the dinner and scotch (\$70). 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 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2019 dinner without having cancelled and been successfully replaced will be expected to pay the full cost (\$70). A member will be responsible for their guest's cancellation (\$80).
  - If a member asks to be included at the dinner between Friday September 6<sup>th</sup>, 2019 @ 6pm and Monday September 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2019, their name will be placed on a wait-list and be accommodated on a first-come first-serve basis.
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## **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.
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## **Perfume / Cologne and Whisky**

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

a fingerprint and has the ability to evoke some of the most precious, rewarding and distinctive moments. Unfortunately strong perfumes can mask and distort other aromas and smells and interfere with the ability to register and recognize subtler fragrances.

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

- Please consider sending your payment by e-transfer prior to the dinner. The password will be "KSMS2020RDF", 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.
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## **Just a note because we care.**

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

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## **Kingston Single Malt Society**

Roberto Di Fazio, President

827 Old Colony Road

Kingston, Ontario, K7P 1S1, Canada

613-532-5285

[rdifazio04@gmail.com](mailto:rdifazio04@gmail.com)

<http://www.kingstonsinglemaltsociety.com>

