

Kingston Single Malt Society

www.kingstonsinglemaltsociety.com

A social club for the appreciation of Single Malt Whisky since 1998
DECEMBER 10th, 2018 VOLUME 12; NUMBER 6



MENU

1st Nosing: MACALLAN EDITION NO. 4
(introduced by: Mike Patchett)

1st Nosing: GLENROTHES PEATED CASK RESERVE
(introduced by: Chantaille Buczynski)

1st Course: Cauliflower Soup, Bagna Cauda, Roasted Cauliflower

3rd Nosing: EDRADOUR CASK STRENGTH BOURBON MATURED
(introduced by: John Leighton)

2nd Course: Kale, Spinach, Grilled Pork Belly, Colin's Caesar Dressing, Crostini, Romano, Pickled Onions, Fried Capers

4th Nosing: CLYNELISH 14 YEAR OLD
(introduced by: Doug Perkins)

5th Nosing: LAPHROAIG CAIRDEAS CASK STRENGTH
(introduced by: John Creber)

Choice of Main Course Entree:

Roasted Turkey, Mashed Potatoes, Brussels, Carrots, Beets, Gravy, Cranberry
Or

Grilled Salmon, Braised Romano Beans, Cumin and Honey Roasted Carrots

6th Nosing: DEANSTON 2008 BORDEAUX RED WINE CASK
(introduced by: Rob Arnoth)

Dessert: Cookies and Truffles

COST OF THE MALTS

MACALLAN EDITION No. 4 VINTAGES 535161 | 750 mL bottle
Price \$179.95 Spirits, Whisky/Whiskey, Scotch Single Malts 48.4% Alcohol/Vol.

THE GLENROTHES PEATED CASK RESERVE SPEYSIDE SINGLE MALT SCOTCH WHISKY VINTAGES 568972 | 750 mL bottle **Price: \$59.95** Spirits, Whisky/Whiskey, Scotch Single Malts 40.0% Alcohol/Vol.

EDRADOUR SINGLE MALT CASK STRENGTH BOURBON MATURED 2006 VINTAGES 337841 | 700 mL bottle **Price: \$142.00** Spirits 59.2% Alcohol/Vol.

CLYNELISH 14 YEAR OLD LCBO 139188 | 750 mL bottle **Price: \$99.95** Spirits, Scotch Whisky 46.0% Alcohol/Vol.

LAPHROAIG CAIRDEAS CASK STRENGTH QUARTER CASK LCBO 552760 | 750 mL bottle **Price \$104.95** Spirits, Whisky/Whiskey, Scotch Single Malts 57.2% Alcohol/Vol.

DEANSTON 2008 BORDEAUX RED WINE CASK MATURED LCBO 577437 | 750 mL bottle **Price \$98.80** Spirits, Whisky/Whiskey 56.0% Alcohol/Vol.

Upcoming Dinner Dates

January 21st, 2019 - Robbie Burns Dinner
February 18th, 2019 - Islands / Islay
Friday March 1st, 2019 - Game of Thrones Single Malt Collection
March 18th, 2019 - Speyside
April 22nd, 2019 - Campbeltown / Speyside / Islands - River Mill
May 13th, 2019 - Speyside
June 17th, 2019 - BBQ (Final Exam)
July 22nd, 2019 - World Whisk(e)y
Friday August 23rd 2019 - 12th Annual Premium Night
September 16th, 2019 - Campbeltown / Lowland / Speyside / Highlands / Islands / Islay
October 21st, 2019 - Speyside / Highlands
Wednesday Oct. 30th, 2019 - Macallan / Highland Park / Glenrothes
November 18th, 2019 - Speyside
December 9th 2019 - Christmas Dinner
January 20th, 2020 - Robbie Burns Dinner
February 17th, 2020 - Islands / Islay
March 16th, 2020 - Speyside
April 20th, 2020 - Campbeltown / Speyside / Islands - River Mill
May 25th, 2020 - Speyside
June 22nd, 2020 - BBQ (Final Exam)
July 20th, 2020 - World Whisk(e)y - Matt Jones
Friday August 28th 2020 - 12th Annual Premium Night
September 21st, 2020 - Campbeltown / Lowland / Speyside / Highlands / Islands / Islay
October 20th, 2020 - Speyside / Highlands
November 16th, 2020 - Speyside
December 14th 2020 - Christmas Dinner

NOVEMBER - KSMS Financial Statement

(Money from 54 November attendees @ \$70) = \$3780.00
November dinner 54 persons = \$45.00/ea = \$2430.00
(Money remaining for buying Single Malt) = \$1350.00
Cost of Single Malts: = \$1957.90
Cost of Pours per Person = \$36.26
KSMS Monthly operational balance = (-\$607.90)
Cost per person 26 attendees (All inclusive) = \$81.24

November Raffle Result

Congratulations to Chantaille Buczynski; Anne Holley-Hime; & Brian Simchison

During the course of the raffle
a total of \$485 was raised.

Thank you everyone!

DECONSTRUCTING WHISKY WORDS FOR NEWBIES

28 September 2018 by *The Whisky Virgin* – www.scotchwhisky.com

They say Scotch is one of the most difficult spirits to understand, and with a proliferation of marketing jargon and technical speak littering the shelves, the Whisky Virgin dissects some of those confusing him most.

Whisky labels: There's so much confusing terminology used, but what does it all mean?

I've learned a lot of new vocabulary on my journey up the whisky river and into the heart of malty darkness. Cask strength = no added water, too easy; single cask = just one barrel in the bottle, mate. But as far as I've come, I still don't understand a lot of the stuff I read on whisky labels. How limited is a 'limited edition'? How chill is 'chill filtering'? And how old and/or rare does a 'rare old' whisky have to be?

I've been tipped off that there might be some marketing fancy talk used on whisky labels and that not everything I read will mean what it seems. With that in mind, I'll try to suppress my natural trusting optimism as I look for the truth behind the labels and unpick expectations from reality. Come with me, as I deviate a bit from the usual format and try to get educated.

'Natural colour': If a label carries this statement it doesn't contain any spirit caramel

OLD AND/OR RARE

The Expectation

Pretty self-explanatory, this one. You'd think that if something's called old and/or rare it's going to be something special, something from a bygone era, a real treasure... right?

The Reality

So, it looks like a bottle of Scotch could be three years old and one of a million others just like it, and still have the words 'old and/or rare' on the wrapper. I reckon this is a bit like when my estate agent described the flat I now rent as 'cosy' and 'liveable' and 'free of owl infestation' – which is to say liberal with the dictionary definitions. It seems obvious now I think about it, but not every bottle of no-age-statement 'Old-Glen-Scottish-y' in the off-licence on the corner is probably that ancient.

NATURAL COLOUR

The Expectation

Aren't they all natural colour?

The Reality

Apparently not. Turns out the whisky feds are okay with Scotch makers darkening up their wares a little for looks and consistency. I've been told 100% that if the label on my bottle says it's 'natural colour' then no food colouring, or 'spirit caramel', has been added. So there we go, 'natural colour' is a straight up promise.

'TRADITIONALLY MADE', 'FINEST OAK CASK', 'GLUTEN FREE'

The Expectation

It's special in some way. Like, they did a bit extra when they were making it. Really went above and beyond.

The Reality

I found out during vigorous research – bothering bartenders and people on twitter, and stuff – that all of these things are legal requirements or facts of how Scotch whisky is made. If a label says the single malt it's selling was 'aged in 100% oak casks' or whatever, that's a given. You wouldn't write on your Tinder bio that you've got lungs, or that you own a phone, or were born of mammal parents. Also, turns out whisky is all gluten free anyway.

NON-CHILL-FILTERED

The Expectation

Unfiltered is better, right?

The Reality

This had to be explained to me a few times. Apparently when whisky comes out of the barrel it's all thick and chewy full of bits and it can look kind of cloudy, especially if cold water is added. In an effort to make whisky clear and presentable, producers will chill it down and

pass it through a filter at low temp, leaving all the oily and hazy bits behind. I've heard some people say this takes a little flavour and texture out too, but that's probs something for me to look into another day. Non-chill-filtered booze might not be 'better' than the next thing but if I see these words on a whisky tin I know they tell me something about what happened to the liquid inside. Nice.

SELECT/ RESERVE/ CUT

The Expectation

You've seen this sort of thing before. Whiskies called something like 'Loch Swally: Master Blender's Selection'. Come to think of it, I've seen a lot of 'cooper's reserves' and 'master distiller's cuts' out there in whisky land. Seems like this should mean they took extra care with this one: your drink wasn't built in a giant factory by whisky robots, the master blender selected it special, like.

The Reality

Lots of firms sell whiskies with select/reserve/cut on the label but they all seem to mean something a bit different. One distiller's reserve could be a pricier version of your favourite Scotch aged in a different type of cask, another could be their entry level offering. The problem, I reckon, with this sort of language on whisky tubes is that it sounds good but leaves me asking more questions. In what way is it different? Did the manager really select it? Who normally does the selecting? We may never know.

LIMITED EDITION

The Expectation

Seems to me this should mean a finite number of bottles have been made. I should buy one before it's too late, for the bragging rights, and the glory, and the millions I'll make flogging it on later.

The Reality

In my rummaging around the Scotch market, I found out that some companies put the number of bottles in a release right there on the box, some post that info online, and others keep it on the down low. Seems like an edition can be technically limited – as in not part of an ongoing production – but still be pretty massive. Seems to me I've been easily swayed by this sort of thing in the past, but I guess I need to dig a little more when I see something that calls itself limited before throwing down my hard-earned sofa change. I mean, everything's limited if you think about it; life, the sun, student loan debt – but that doesn't necessarily mean that everything limited is hard to get. Wow, it seems like the whisky cartels really play their cards close to their chests, right? Everything's code words and double-talk and propaganda. I'll be honest, I feel a little more confused than I did when we started this whole thing. It seems like the more I read whisky labels the more questions I have. Will the opaque whisky business turn your boy into a stone-cold booze cynic? Nah, I'm just going to make sure I keep asking questions. This Scotch is an exquisite-oak-revival-vatting: what do you mean by that, my good fella? Why is it different? How does it taste? Why should I buy it? I just wish I'd started thinking like this before I threw down on that case of limited edition Rare-Old-Glen-Scottish-y at my local off-licence. Oh well, we're all learning here, right?

OUR FAVORITE BREAKFAST WHISKEY PICKS

<https://distiller.com/lists/our-favorite-breakfast-whiskey-picks>

Since whiskeys are made from grains, it's no wonder some of them venture into breakfast territory. Toasted cereal, orange peel, honey...the list goes on. Serve neat, on the rocks or in your favorite eye-opener cocktail. These are all easy like Sunday morning (and all under \$50).

10. [THE GLENLIVET FOUNDER'S RESERVE](#) - 83- FRUITY & SWEET

In 1824, farmer George Smith was one of the first to obtain a distiller's license. Neighbors hiding illicit stills from the law resented Smith's new freedom. They reacted by threatening to burn down Smith's distillery – with him in it. Smith retaliated by openly carrying two pistols. The neighbors cowered and he got busy creating the iconic Glenlivet whisky. This new expression is a tribute to Smith and the techniques he used to produce whisky. Master Distiller, Alan Winchester, distills his spirits using the same lantern shaped stills designed by Smith. Whiskies aged in traditional oak casks and first-fill American oak casks are blended based on flavor for this NAS whisky.

9. [KILBEGGAN SINGLE GRAIN](#) - 84 - SWEET

Released in late June 2017, this single grain whiskey will first be made available in the US. It is made from 94% corn and 6% malted barley. The initial maturation is done in ex-bourbon barrels with further finishing in a marriage of ex-bourbon and various fortified wine barrels. Bottled at 43% ABV.

8. [THE SINGLETON OF GLENDULLAN 12 YEAR](#) - 84 - TART & FRUITY

You might be surprised to learn that the Glendullan distillery produces almost 4 million liters of whisky per year. Most of the whisky is used in blends such as Old Parr and, until 2007 when they were reintroduced as a single malt by Diageo that was their only function. The Singleton distilleries will vary throughout the world so if you order a Singleton in Asia, you'll get whisky from Glen Ord and in Europe you'll be poured Dufftown.

7. [GLENMORANGIE ORIGINAL](#) - 85 - FRUITY & VANILLA

Naming your Scotch whisky "The Original" takes fortitude, but when you've got a product that is at once accessible and complex, well, it's only natural to have a moniker that compliments it. The Original serves as the base for their Extra Matured whiskies that spend 2 more years in a variety of wine barrels such as Sauternes and Port. Famous for the height of their pot stills (the tallest in all of Scotland), The Original is a quintessential Highland style Single Malt.

6. [GLEN GRANT 12 YEAR](#) - 87 RICH

Glen Grant 12 debuted in a handful of U.S. markets in June 2016, with a nationwide release slated for 2017. The release was made partially in honor of the 55 years that Master Distiller Dennis Malcolm has spent in the industry. It's also said to show off the unique-to-Speyside Glen Grant process, with water-cooling purifiers used on both of the distillation runs, allowing only the lightest vapors through. An 18 year-old is being rolled out as well, along with revamped labeling and logos for the entire portfolio.

5. [TYRCONNELL SINGLE MALT](#) - 87 FRUITY & VANILLA

Tyrconnell was an Irish whiskey brand produced at now defunct Watt Distillery. They named a whiskey after their horse, The Tyrconnell, which subsequently won a race at 100 to 1 odds back in 1876. This whiskey is currently distilled at Cooley Distillery (and soon at the refurbished Kilbeggan Distillery) and is a double distilled single malt whiskey. Most Irish whiskeys on the market are triple distilled and/or blended, but that is trend is slowly changing.

4. [NAKED GROUSE BLENDED MALT](#) - 88 - FRUITY & SWEET

Naked Grouse Blended Malt first started to roll out in August 2017 in select global markets and is expected to appear in select US markets beginning April 2018. This is a blended malt whisky featuring single malts from Glenturret, Glenrothes, Highland Park and The Macallan. These were aged in first and second-fill American and European oak before blending together. The blend then finished in first-fill oloroso sherry butts for six months further. It is chill-filtered and bottled at 43% ABV. This replaces the Naked Grouse Blended Whisky which has been removed from the market.

3. [TEELING WHISKEY COMPANY SMALL BATCH](#) - 89 - SWEET & RICH

After its initial aging in oak barrels, this blended whiskey is further aged in casks that previously held Flor de Caña rum. The whiskey is currently sourced from Cooley Distillery, a distillery previously owned by the Teeling family now owned by Beam. It is then further matured in Teeling's own warehouses. The Teeling Whiskey Co is expected to begin producing its own whiskey in late 2014. It will be Dublin's only working distillery.

2. [MAKER'S MARK](#) - 90 - FRUITY

Established in 1954, Maker's Mark is one of the nation's best selling small batch bourbons. While the majority of bourbons on the market are made with corn, rye, and malted barley, Maker's Mark is a 'wheated' bourbon, replacing rye in the mashbill with red winter wheat. It is bottled at 45% ABV.

1. [BERNHEIM ORIGINAL WHEAT WHISKEY](#) - 91 - SWEET & FRUITY

First introduced into the market in 2005, this is the first wheat whiskey released in the US. The mash bill is predominantly winter wheat with corn and malted barley taking supporting roles. Recently (Spring 2014) this whiskey has gone from having no age statement to having one of 7 years, quite the reverse of what large whiskey brands are releasing.

HOW TO 'NOT TASTE' WHISKY

21 November 2018 by [Dave Broom](#)

It's the same every week. There's work to be done. So, I pour them out, cover them, wait, and then get started. Don't rush, take your time, don't force it – trying to nail that elusive aroma that's on the tip of your nose often ends up with you falling over from inhaling too many fumes. It's never good to collapse during a tasting. Learned that the hard way. It's a routine, but a pleasant one.

Yes there should ideally be silence and no intrusive aromas, sounds etc. providing you with a sensory blank slate for the tastes and flavours to emerge. Simple really. Why then is it so hard?

Why does it work some days and not others? Why do the aromas fly out and hit you when you go through the same ritual, at the same time of day. It seems like the same conditions – but of course the conditions have

changed because you are not the same today as you were yesterday. So you do the best you can and work at it, steadily.

Concentrate, focus, you bugger. Go through the flight, get the initial impressions, go back, and compare one whisky against the others. Then go back again and compare another against the rest, but in a different order. Repeat. Write it all down.

Then taste neat. Think about texture, taste again, now work out how the flavours emerge across the tongue, what's the structure, is it balanced, what happens on the finish, what can you tell about wood, maturity or oxidation, what of the distillery character, the positives, and faults? There are so many permutations. What's the story, what's the whisky trying to tell you about itself? Concentrate. Focus. Write. Rest. Add water, repeat. Rest. Repeat.

It's revealing, it is necessary, but it is unnatural. You find yourself thinking about the mechanics of tasting: form, structure, aromas, acidity, fruit, complexity, balance. Boxes to tick. It's at times like this that I wonder whether all this talk of sensory evaluation and tasting techniques are just putting more barriers between the whisky and the drinker.

I have to be uncharacteristically methodical in this, but while I'm concentrating I also realise that I'm also stopping thinking about what I am experiencing and am thinking instead of what the next box on the ticklist of techniques has to be. I'm thinking about the 'tasting', and not the whisky.

Recently though, I've done the session, covered the glass, walked off, and returned later. There'll be music on, as I sit down again and sip. I'm not thinking about 'tasting' anymore, but relaxing with a dram. And, you know what? New things emerge, hidden qualities appear. I've been so busy thinking about how to untie the knots and find the secrets that I've missed the heart. It's not drinking, rather it's 'not tasting' which, unsurprisingly perhaps, sounds somewhat Zen.

Hang on Dave, you say (and not unreasonably, as I said it to myself just a moment ago), isn't that just drinking? Not really. Drinking is when the whisky is part, an important part, but nonetheless just a part, of a wider experience. During the drinking you may suddenly taste, but tasting isn't the main purpose.

'Not tasting' happens when you've allowed the technique to slip into the background, leaving just you, and the whisky, and the moment. I suppose that the ultimate aim is to have the focus there, but simultaneously not worry about it and relax into 'not tasting'. The analytical side is important, but never at the expense of the enjoyment. It's there in front of you. Just be open and aware.

JIM MURRAY'S WHISKY BIBLE 2020 – THE WINNERS

Posted on 9 October 2018 by Billy - <http://blog.thewhiskyexchange.com>

It's that time again: [Jim Murray's Whisky Bible 2020](#) is landing imminently and Jim's picks of the world's top whiskies are in.

After a few years of controversial choices, with Scotch whisky bouncing in and out of the top three, and Japanese and Canadian whisky making headlines around the world, we're back to safer ground with the most traditional set of results since 2014.

To grab all the results you can grab your own copy of the bible from [our website](#), but in the meantime...

The winner of Jim Murray's award for 2020 World Whisky of the Year is:

[WILLIAM LARUE WELLER 128.2 PROOF – BUFFALO TRACE ANTIQUE COLLECTION 2017](#)

An old favourite and one of Jim's top three whiskies in every year but one since 2012. Unfortunately, as is always the case with the whiskies in the yearly Buffalo Trace Antique collection (BTAC), it's sold out. You can sign up for an email alert in case we do find some more on the [William Larue Weller 2017](#) page.

[SECOND FINEST WHISKY IN THE WORLD: GLEN GRANT 18 YEARS OLD](#)

A third appearance in the top three for the Glen Grant: second in the Whisky Bible 2017, third in 2018 and now second in the 2020 edition. Not bad for a whisky that hadn't been officially released when it received its first award. It's a delicate and complex dram and a worthy entry in the line-up. As of writing we have a few bottles left, but it's sure to be sold out shortly – you can find out over on our [Glen Grant 18 year old](#) page.

[THIRD FINEST WHISKY IN THE WORLD: THOMAS H HANDY SAZERAC 127.2 PROOF – BUFFALO TRACE ANTIQUE COLLECTION 2017](#)

Another BTAC entry, the Thomas H Handy has long been the geek's choice in the yearly collection, and it has popped up in Jim's top list a

few times. Again it's sold out, but you can sign up to get an email if we find more on the [Thomas H Handy Sazerac 2017](#) page.

While full-sized bottles of both the Weller and Handy are sold out, we've just had a few more sample packs of the whole of the 2017 Buffalo Trace Antique Collection arrive – you can find them on our website [here](#).

JIM MURRAY'S SINGLE CASK OF THE YEAR: BLANTON'S GOLD EDITION SINGLE BARREL BOURBON

A potentially contentious winner: a bourbon that's not regularly available in the USA. Blanton's Gold almost all goes overseas, and a lot of it ends up being sent back to American whiskey lovers. It's, as the award name suggests, a single-barrel bourbon, with every bottle produced from a single cask, without any mixing with others.

Unfortunately, this does mean that it's unlikely that you'll get to try the same one as Jim, as we get a mix of different bottlings in every order and can't guarantee which you'll get. However, if you do get a bottle of barrel #40 dumped on 3 June 2017 and matured in warehouse H, rick 79 then you're in luck – that's the winner.

It's in stock as I type, but it probably won't last long – don't worry, we get it in regularly. You can grab a bottle from our [Blanton's Gold Edition](#)

THE FULL LIST OF WINNERS

The Whisky Bible is more than just the top awards, with Jim's year-long tasteathon throwing out more great drams. Here's the full list:

2020 World Whisky of the Year - [William Larue Weller 128.2 Proof](#)
Second Finest Whisky in the World - [Glen Grant Aged 18 Years](#)
Third Finest Whisky in the World - [Thomas Handy Sazerac Rye 127.2 Proof](#)
Single Cask of the Year - [Blanton's Gold Edition Single Barrel](#)

SCOTCH

Scotch Whisky of the Year - [Glen Grant Aged 18 Year Old](#)
Single Malt of the Year (Multiple Casks) - [Glen Grant Aged 18 Year Old](#)
Single Malt of the Year (Single Cask) - The Last Drop Glenrothes 1969 Cask 16207
Scotch Blend of the Year - [Ballantine's 17 Year Old](#)
Scotch Grain of the Year - Berry Bros & Rudd Cambus 26 Years Old
Scotch Vatted Malt of the Year - [Collectivum XXVIII](#)

SINGLE MALT SCOTCH

No Age Statement - [Laphroaig Lore](#)
10 Years & Under (Multiple Casks) - [Laphroaig 10 Year Old](#)
10 Years & Under (Single Cask) - Berry Bros & Rudd Ardmore 9 Year Old
11-15 Years (Multiple Casks) - [Lagavulin 12 Year Old 17th Release](#)
[Special Releases 2017](#)
11-15 Years (Single Cask) - Cadenhead's Rum Cask Mortlach 14 Year Old
16-21 Years (Multiple Casks) - [Glen Grant Aged 18 Year Old](#)
16-21 Years (Single Cask) - Bowmore 19 Year Old The Feis Ile Collection
22-27 Years (Multiple Casks) - [Talisker 25 Year Old Bot.2017](#)
22-27 Years (Single Cask) - Scotch Malt Whisky Society Glen Grant Cask 9.128 24 Year Old
28-34 Years (Multiple Casks) - [Convalmore 32 Year Old](#)
28-34 Years (Single Cask) - Gleann Mor Port Ellen Aged 33 Year Old
35-40 Years (Multiple Casks) - [Benromach 39 Year Old 1977 Vintage](#)
35-40 Years (Single Cask) - Glenfarclas The Family Casks 1979
41 Years & Over (Multiple Casks) - [Tomatin Warehouse 6 Collection 1972](#)
41 Years & Over (Single Cask) - The Last Drop Glenrothes 1969 Cask 16207

BLENDED SCOTCH

No Age Statement (Standard) - [Ballantine's Finest](#)
5-12 Years - [Johnnie Walker Black Label 12 Year Old](#)
13-18 Years - [Ballantine's 17 Year Old](#)
19 – 25 Years - [Royal Salute 21 Year Old](#)
26 – 50 Years - [Royal Salute 32 Year Old Union of the Crowns](#)

IRISH WHISKEY

Irish Whiskey of the Year - [Redbreast Aged 12 Year Cask Strength](#)
Irish Pot Still Whiskey of the Year - [Redbreast Aged 12 Year Cask Strength](#)
Irish Single Malt of the Year - Bushmills Distillery Reserve 12 Year Old
Irish Blend of the Year - [Bushmills Black Bush](#)
Irish Single Cask of the Year - The Irishman 17 Year Old

AMERICAN WHISKEY

Bourbon of the Year - [William Larue Weller 128.2 Proof](#)
Rye of the Year - [Thomas H. Handy Sazerac 127.2 Proof](#)
US Micro Whisky of the Year - Garrison Brothers Balmorhea
US Micro Whisky of the Year (Runner Up) - Balcones Peated Texas Single Malt

BOURBON

No Age Statement (Single Barrel) - [Blanton's Gold Edition Single Barrel](#)
No Age Statement (Multiple Barrels) - [William Larue Weller 128.2 Proof](#)
Up To 10 Years - [Eagle Rare 10 Year Old](#)
11 – 15 Years - Pappy Van Winkle Family Reserve 15 Year Old
16 – 20 Years - Abraham Bowman Sweet XVI Bourbon
11 Years & Over - Orphan Barrel Rhetoric 24 Year Old

RYE

No Age Statement - [Thomas H. Handy Sazerac 127.2 Proof](#)
Up to 10 Years - Knob Creek Cask Strength
11 Years & Over - [Sazerac 18 Year Old \(2017 Edition\)](#)

CANADIAN WHISKY

Canadian Whisky of the Year - Canadian Club Chronicles: Issue No. 1
Water of Windsor 41 Year Old

JAPANESE WHISKY

Japanese Whisky of the Year - The Hakushu Paul Rusch

EUROPEAN WHISKY

European Whisky of the Year (Multiple) - Nestville Master Blender 8 Years Old Whisky (Slovakia)
European Whisky of the Year (Single) - [The Norfolk Farmers Single Grain Whisky](#) (England)

WORLD WHISKIES

Asian Whisky of the Year - [Amrut Greedy Angels 8 Year Old](#) (India)
Southern Hemisphere Whisky of the Year - Belgrove Peated Rye (Australia)

TOP 10 BEST-SELLING SCOTCH MALT WHISKIES

24 September 2018 by [Richard Woodard](#) – [www.scotchwhisky.com](#)

While blends rule the roost in terms of sales volumes, single malt Scotch whisky is more popular than ever around the world. But which are the most popular drops from distilleries around Scotland? Richard Woodard investigates.

Favourite drops: These are the best-selling malt Scotch whiskies on the planet

This is a golden age for malt whisky, certainly in terms of global interest and sales. More people are drinking more malt Scotch than ever before – well over 100m bottles in 2017 alone.

Malts are still dwarfed by blends – which sell roughly 1bn bottles a year – but, from the US to China, they are growing fast and beginning, very slowly, to eat into the market share of the likes of [Johnnie Walker](#) and [Ballantine's](#).

Nothing illustrates this phenomenon better than the fact that there are now two 'millionaire' malts on the market:

[Glenfiddich](#) and [The Glenlivet](#) both sell more than 1m nine-litre cases of whisky a year, and they could soon be joined by [Macallan](#).

Below this clear top three, the rankings are more fluid, with none of the rest of the top 10 occupying the same position as in 2016; nonetheless, only two – [Glenmorangie](#) and [Aberlour](#) – saw their sales decline last year.

The biggest mover is not a single malt at all, but blended malt [Monkey Shoulder](#), which enjoyed remarkable growth of more than 30% last year. Being able to draw on [William Grant & Sons'](#) full roster of distilleries helps counteract the supply shortages that are currently affecting many single malts.

Another name on the rise is Diageo's [Singleton](#) brand which, it's important to note, covers not one but three malt distilleries:

[Dufftown](#), [Glen Ord](#) and [Glendullan](#). Their combined sales are featured here, since no individual breakdown is available.

As with [our recent rundown of the world's best-selling blends](#), our list is based on 2017 volume figures, provided by the leading drinks industry data provider and commentator, [The IWSR Magazine](#), and measured in terms of sales of nine-litre cases.

1: GLENFIDDICH

Sales in 2017: 1.22m cases

Versus 2016: +2.9%

Ranking in 2016: 1

Popular in...: Duty free, US, UK

Owner: William Grant & Sons

In 1886, the manager of [Mortlach](#) distillery in Dufftown decided to go it alone, investing his life savings and considerable physical effort to build his own plant by the banks of the Fiddich river.

[William Grant](#) would scarcely be able to believe what has happened since and, in particular, since Glenfiddich was fully launched as a single malt during the 1960s: more than 1m nine-litre cases a year sold around the world, and the already vast distillery undergoing further expansion.

Built on a new make style that is notably light and estery, Glenfiddich's range has grown and diversified over the years, centred now on a solid offering of age-stated variants, and supported by a long list of one-off and limited releases, including four (to date) entries in its Experimental Series.

2: THE GLENLIVET

Sales in 2017: 1.07m cases

Versus 2016: +2.4%

Ranking in 2016: 2

Popular in...: US, duty free, Taiwan, Canada

Owner: Chivas Brothers/Pernod Ricard

When Bill Smith Grant began a serious push behind The Glenlivet in the US in the 1950s, annual sales stood at less than 700 cases; in 2017, they topped 1m cases for the fourth year running, with the US accounting for about 40% of that figure.

Since The Glenlivet came under the ownership of French drinks group Pernod Ricard in 2001, the ambition has been to make it the world's best-selling single malt – which it achieved briefly in 2014, before being overtaken again by main rival Glenfiddich.

This modern era has been characterised by an expanding distillery trying to keep pace with demand: The Glenlivet's 12-year-old age-stated product was withdrawn from most markets in 2015 in favour of NAS expression Founder's Reserve – but it should be back on sale by 2020.

3: MACALLAN

Sales in 2017: 907,000 cases

Versus 2016: +8.7%

Ranking in 2016: 3

Popular in...: US, duty free, Taiwan

Owner: Edrington

Beloved by collectors and by a new breed of whisky investor, Macallan dominates the rare whisky auction scene, which in turn casts a beneficial halo over what has become the world's most lucrative single malt whisky.

If this top 10 were measured by dollar sales, rather than case volumes, Macallan would top the chart by some distance – its annual revenues are only beaten by four Scotch whisky brands, the big blends of Johnnie Walker, Chivas Regal, Ballantine's and Grant's.

Macallan's secret? Small stills and a heavy new make character that finds its richest and most complex expression through long maturation in ex-Sherry wood; and, more prosaically, a single-minded and long-term focus on pursuing luxury brand positioning, especially in the US and the Far East.

This is encapsulated by Macallan's recently-opened, jaw-dropping £140m new distillery, which aims to do far more than expand its production; a long way indeed from the humble beginnings of one of Speyside's original, early 19th-century farm distilleries.

4: SINGLETON

Sales in 2017: 518,000 cases

Versus 2016: +4.0%

Ranking in 2016: 5

Popular in...: Taiwan, duty free

Owner: Diageo

Singleton is a creation of the modern, 21st-century age of single malt – a determined effort by owner Diageo to create a brand vehicle to take on the might of Glenfiddich and The Glenlivet.

How to play catch-up? Take three malt distilleries – Dufftown, Glen Ord and Glendullan – and bring them together under one umbrella brand. Historically, each had a regional focus (Europe, Asia and North America respectively), but that's changing now in favour of a more global approach.

While 12-year-old whiskies form the core, a plethora of age-stated and NAS expressions play around the fringes, including the oldest yet, a 40-year-old Singleton of Glendullan release in February this year.

5: GLENMORANGIE

Sales in 2017: 508,000 cases

Versus 2016: -0.5%

Ranking in 2016: 4

Popular in...: US, duty free, UK, Taiwan

Owner: Moët Hennessy/LVMH

Currently celebrating the 175th anniversary of its founding in the Highland town of Tain, Glenmorangie was one of the pioneers of the modern malt boom – but was already marketing itself as a single malt back in the Victorian age.

A light, fruit-forward spirit owes its character to some famously tall stills, married in more recent times to the enlightened cask

maturation policy of Dr Bill Lumsden and the financial clout of its owner since 2004, French luxury goods monolith LVMH. That tenure has included the wholesale makeover of the Glenmorangie range around Original and a tight roster of finishes, alongside regular high-end and limited releases, such as the annual Private Edition bottlings.

By 2020, the distillery will have expanded further, with a new stillhouse housing two more stills currently under construction.

6: BALVENIE

Sales in 2017: 335,500 cases

Versus 2016: +11.2%

Ranking in 2016: 8

Popular in...: US, Taiwan, duty free

Owner: William Grant & Sons

William Grant's second-string single malt continues to grow apace, with a double-digit sales volume increase last year built on strong momentum in the US, Far East and duty free.

From its beginnings as a single malt in the mid-1970s, Balvenie's liquid has been overseen by one man, David Stewart MBE, one of the early explorers of 'finishing' or extra-maturation, particularly with the creation of the popular DoubleWood expression 25 years ago.

Stewart's immense contribution has been recognised through the DCS Compendium concept – a run of five annual releases of high-end single cask single malts, arranged thematically and chosen by Stewart himself.

Other limited expressions include Balvenie Fifty, a series of batch releases under the Balvenie Tun 1509 banner, and peated single malt Balvenie Peat Week, which launched last year.

7: MONKEY SHOULDER

Sales in 2017: 311,000 cases

Versus 2016: +31.4%

Ranking in 2016: 10

Popular in...: France, US, duty free

Owner: William Grant & Sons

Launched in 2005, this new-generation blended malt originally took all its whisky from three William Grant-owned distilleries:

Glenfiddich, Balvenie and Kininvie.

More recently, however, the company has stopped communicating this element of provenance, freeing it up to use other malts (specifically Ailsa Bay, located within its Girvan grain complex) when needed.

A thoroughly modern whisky brand that pushes mixing more than sipping, Monkey Shoulder owes its name to a painful ailment suffered by malt men, who were sometimes left with one arm hanging down after long shifts of turning barley by hand.

As a brand, Monkey Shoulder is currently on fire, enjoying rapidly rising sales in the US, and has been named the 'trendiest' Scotch whisky by trade magazine Drinks International four years running.

An offshoot with a peated element, Smokey Monkey, was launched last year.

8: LAPHROAIG

Sales in 2017: 306,000 cases

Versus 2016: +0.7%

Ranking in 2016: 7

Popular in...: US, duty free, Germany

Owner: Beam Suntory

Famously medicinal, tarry Laphroaig now finds itself under the same corporate roof as fellow Islay distillery Bowmore, since Japanese group Suntory bought US-based Beam Global in 2014.

There's a determination to maintain the unique character of the Prince of Wales' favourite single malt, both through the preservation of the distillery's floor maltings (accounting for 20% of Laphroaig's needs) and the careful approach to current plans to expand production.

Laphroaig was being sold as a single malt almost a century ago; more recently, pressure on stocks has led to a growing number of NAS bottlings and the withdrawal of some age statements.

9: ABERLOUR

Sales in 2017: 297,000 cases

Versus 2016: -12.9%

Ranking in 2016: 6

Popular in...: France, UK

Owner: Chivas Brothers/Pernod Ricard

More than four decades of French ownership have given Aberlour a strong following in France, but trade issues in that country cost the brand a chunk of its expected sales last year, dropping it down the top 10.

Whatever value you may attach to regional stereotypes, Aberlour is what many people think of as archetypical Speyside: fruit, malt, sweetness and enough weight to lend itself to ageing in ex-Sherry casks.

There are a number of expressions out there, but perhaps the most loved is A'Bunadh, a 100% Sherry-matured, cask strength single malt released in batches since the year 2000 – a no-age-statement success story from the days before NAS cynicism set in. Aberlour is now continuing to plough the Sherrid furrow with the recent release of Casq Annamh, another NAS malt matured in oloroso Sherry casks.

10: GLEN GRANT

Sales in 2017: 296,500 cases

Versus 2016: +0.3%

Ranking in 2016: 9

Popular in...: Italy, France, Germany

Owner: Campari Group

For many years, Glen Grant was a family affair: established by brothers John and James Grant, with John's son (also John, but better known as 'The Major') setting up the distillery to produce the trademark Glen Grant new make style of light, fresh and fruity.

As early as the late 19th century, Glen Grant's whiskies were to be found all over the world, but the post-war era has been one of much change in terms of ownership: Seagram, Pernod Ricard and, from 2006, Campari Group.

The attraction of Glen Grant to an Italian company should be obvious, given that the single malt has legendary status in Italy, which remains its biggest market. Campari oversaw a revamp of the core range in 2016, with age-stated whiskies created by master distiller Dennis Malcolm OBE, who was born at the distillery in 1946.

Membership and Dinner prices for 2018-2019

Membership Fee:	\$50 (singles) \$75 (couples)
One Time Initiation Fee:	\$15
Standard Dinner Fee:	\$70 (member) \$85 (non-member)
Christmas Dinner Fee:	\$75 (member) \$90 (non-member)
Robbie Burns Dinner Fee:	\$80 (member) \$95 (non-member)
June BBQ Dinner Fee:	\$80 (member) \$95 (non-member)

Reserved Seating

- Reserved Seating will only be provided in the case of groups consisting of four (4) or greater.

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 17th, 2018 dinner date as an example:

- Dinner invitations will be sent out Friday August 24th, 2018. Please respond to me (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 7th, 2018 @ 6pm.

- Once the RSVP date has been achieved I will e-mail a spreadsheet informing everyone of their status and amount due.

Cancellation policy

- Using the same example as above, anyone who cancels anytime prior to Friday September 7th, 2018 @ 6pm will be removed from the list.

- Anyone canceling between Friday September 7th, 2018 @ 6pm and Monday September 17th, 2018 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 17th, 2018 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 7th, 2018 @ 6pm and Monday September 17th, 2018, their name will be placed on a wait-list and be accommodated on a first-come first-serve basis.

Just a note because we care.

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



Kingston Single Malt Society

Roberto Di Fazio, President

827 Old Colony Road

Kingston, Ontario, K7P 1S1, Canada

613-532-5285

rdifazio04@gmail.com

<http://www.kingstonsinglemaltsociety.com>

