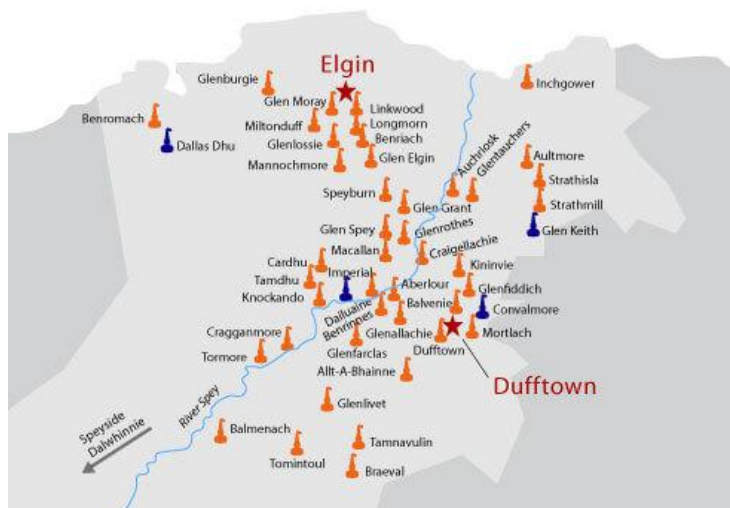


# Kingston Single Malt Society

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

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

October 17<sup>th</sup>, 2022 VOLUME 16; NUMBER 4b; No. 207



## MENU

**1<sup>st</sup> Nosing:** CRAIGELLACHIE 8 YEAR OLD ASTA MORRIS  
(introduced by: Philip Henderson)

**First course:** Carrot & Ginger Soup

**2<sup>nd</sup> Nosing:** JAMES EADIE LINKWOOD 10 YEAR OLD  
(introduced by: Chantaille Buczynski)

**Second Course:** Autumn Butternut Squash Salad with Baby Arugula, Cranberries, Toasted Pecans and Whiskey Cheddar with an Apple Cider Vinaigrette

**3<sup>rd</sup> Nosing:** JAMES EADIE AUCHROISK 12 YEAR OLD  
(introduced by: Chantaille Buczynski)

**Third course:** Apple, Maple & Burnt Lemon Braised Lamb Shanks with Local Purple Potato Mash.

**4<sup>th</sup> Nosing:** CRAIGELLACHIE 13 YEAR OLD  
(introduced by: Philip Henderson)

**5<sup>th</sup> Nosing:** CRAIGELLACHIE 13 YEAR OLD  
BAS-ARMMAGNAC CASK FINISH  
(introduced by: Philip Henderson)

**Fourth course:** Pumpkin Chocolate Bundt Cake with a Butterscotch Glaze

**6<sup>th</sup> Nosing:** JAMES EADIE TEANININCH 10 YEAR OLD  
PALO CORTADO  
(introduced by: Chantaille Buczynski)

## COST OF THE MALTS

**JAMES EADIE LINKWOOD 10 YEAR OLD; Bottling serie: Small Batch; Bottled: 2019; Stated Age: 10 years old; Casktype: 1st Fill Bourbon Casks & Refill Hogsheads; Casknumber: 308678 & 304607; Number of bottles: 651; LCBO 836546 | 700 mL bottle Price: \$119.95 Spirits, Whisky/Whiskey 46.0% Alcohol/Vol.**

**JAMES EADIE TEANININCH 10 YEAR OLD PALO CORTADO; Bottler: JAMES EADIE; Vintage: 17.01.2011; Bottled: 2021; Stated Age: 10 years old; Casktype: Finish in Refill Palo Cortado Hogshead; Casknumber: 354546; Number of bottles: 262 LCBO 836546 | 700 mL bottle Price: \$179.95 Spirits, Whisky/Whiskey 56.9% Alcohol/Vol.**

**JAMES EADIE AUCHROISK 12 YEAR OLD; Bottler: JAMES EADIE; Vintage: 13.07.2009; Bottled: 2021; Stated Age: 12 years old; Casktype: First Fill Bourbon Hogshead; Casknumber: 811630; Number of bottles: 292 LCBO 836546 | 700 mL bottle Price: \$169.95 Spirits, Whisky/Whiskey 55.8% Alcohol/Vol.**

**CRAIGELLACHIE 8 YEAR OLD Bottler: ASTA MORRIS; Vintage: 2013; Bottled: 2021; Stated Age: 08 years old; Casktype: Refill Sherry Cask; Casknumber: AM 067; Bottle #: 359/706; LCBO 614783 | 700 mL bottle Spirits, Price: \$175.95 Whisky/Whiskey 61.3% Alcohol/Vol.**

**CRAIGELLACHIE 13 YEAR OLD LCBO 614783 | 700 mL bottle Spirits, Price: \$75.95 Whisky/Whiskey 46.0% Alcohol/Vol.**

**CRAIGELLACHIE 13 YEAR OLD BAS-ARMMAGNAC CASK FINISH; BOTTLED: 12.03.2022 LCBO 614783 | 700 mL bottle Spirits, Price: \$225.95 Whisky/Whiskey 46.0% Alcohol/Vol.**

**September 19<sup>th</sup> Dinner - KSMS Financial Statement**  
(Money from 33 September attendees @ \$100) = \$3300.00  
September dinner 33 persons = \$2337.84  
(Money remaining for buying Single Malt) = \$962.16  
Cost of Single Malts: = \$990.05  
Cost of Pours per 33 Persons = \$24.75  
KSMS Monthly operational balance = (-\$27.89)  
Cost per person (All inclusive) = \$100.85  
Money for Heels = \$310.00  
Money Raised from Raffle = \$ 0.00  
KSMS Monthly operational balance = \$282.11

## Upcoming Dinner Dates

Monday November 14<sup>th</sup> 2022 - Speyside / Highlands  
Monday November 28<sup>th</sup> 2022 - Smoke'N'Barrel  
Monday December 19<sup>th</sup> 2022 - Christmas Dinner - Blind Tasting  
Monday January 23<sup>rd</sup> 2023 - Robbie Burns - Speyside "Fables"  
Monday February 13<sup>th</sup> 2023 - Speyside  
Monday March 13<sup>th</sup> 2023 - Irish / Speyside  
Monday April 17<sup>th</sup> 2023 - Speyside / Islands (Skye)  
Monday May 29<sup>th</sup> 2023 - Speyside / Islands / Islay  
Monday June 19<sup>th</sup> 2023 - June BBQ - Speyside / Islands / Islay

## Lagavulin Offerman Edition Charred Oak Cask Revealed

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



Labels submitted to the TTB have revealed Lagavulin Offerman Edition Charred Oak Cask, a third Lagavulin limited release created in partnership with Hollywood celebrity Nick Offerman.

Lagavulin and Offerman first partnered on the ex-Bourbon matured [Lagavulin Offerman Edition Aged 11 Years](#), released in 2019, followed by [Lagavulin Offerman Edition Finished in Guinness Casks](#), launched in 2021.

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

## Nick Offerman creates Lagavulin for steak

13 OCTOBER 2022 By *Nicola Carruthers*

Diageo-owned Lagavulin and actor Nick Offerman have revealed an 11-year-old single malt matured in heavily re-charred barrels, designed to be paired with steak.



Scotch lover Nick Offerman recommends pairing the single malt with a seared ribeye steak

The new Lagavulin Offerman Edition: Charred Oak Cask is the third whisky to be launched as part of the Diageo-owned brand's ongoing partnership with *Parks and Recreation* star Offerman, which began in 2014.

It follows the launch of an [11-year-old whisky finished in Guinness beer casks](#) in May 2021, and [Lagavulin Offerman Edition Aged 11 Years](#) in October 2019. Earlier this summer, Offerman and Lagavulin unveiled [their sixth Father's Day spot](#).

As a fan of wood, steak and Scotch, Offerman, who is also a wood craftsman, combined these three passions to create his 'smokiest creation yet'.

The new whisky was aged in American and European oak casks that are shaved down then heavily re-charred. It is said to be the 'perfect pairing for well-barked, medium-rare steak' with Offerman recommending a seared ribeye steak.

Priced at RRP US\$79.99, the single malt is available to purchase for a limited time from select US alcohol retailers, Reserve Bar and Drizly, as well as select retailers in Canada, Australia, Great Britain, China and the Netherlands.

To kick off the launch, the actor and Lagavulin have revealed their latest *My Tales of Whisky* video, Nick Offerman's Smokiest Adventure Yet.

The video follows Offerman on a quest to bring a pairing of steak and Lagavulin to whisky lovers. It depicts the 'epic lengths' that Offerman will go to protect the new whisky.

"Believe me, if there was any way to bring the world this exclusive batch of superlative Scotch without repeatedly defying death, I'd say sign me up.

Pull me up a comfy chair," Offerman added.

"But we all know that's not the world we're living in. Your mission, if you have the guts to accept it, is to pair this new Offerman Edition with an exquisite steak and a mug of action. You won't be sorry... if you survive the pleasure."



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

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

In the four seasonal circles of life, spring is considered the time to "reset". Think about it. The long dark days of winter are finally done and dusted and as the chilly season fades away, we welcome the warm and revitalising gift that is spring. At its very essence, spring is a season of the real *three Rs*: renewal, refreshment and restoration. Perhaps this is why they party so hard every spring in [Game of Thrones](#). Those certainly are some punishing winters the Starks and Lannisters are forced to endure, and unlike us, they don't have their mates at [Glenfiddich](#) to help them get through it, either.





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



**Glenfiddich 30-Year-Old – Suspended Time | Image: Glenfiddich**  
Effortlessly bridging the past with the present, Time Reimagined boasts a pool of 50, 40 and 30-year-old whiskies designed to be enjoyed for many more to come. What will no doubt prove to be a much sought-after collection amongst cashed-up consumers commences with the 30-year-old, Suspended Time.  
According to the fabled producer, this release The Glenfiddich depicts the very moment that Brian Kinsman, Glenfiddich's malt master, suspends the whisky's maturation to bottle it. A painstaking effort to capture lightning in a bottle, this process is characterised by a precise moment in time that can make or break a perfect expression. It's a sentiment that flows through to the outer packaging design as well, which evokes this moment through moving ribbons, frozen in time to form cut-out windows to reveal the decanter inside.  
"In whisky production, we often talk about the role of malt masters and it's our responsibility to find the delicate balance between the taste of the

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

**Colour:** Rich bronze

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

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

**Finish:** Warm, honeyed and exceptionally long-lasting.

**ABV:** 43%



**Glenfiddich 40-Year-Old – Cumulative Time**

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

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

**Colour:** Dark mahogany

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

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

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

**ABV:** 44.6%





Glenfiddich 30 Year Old – Suspended Time | Image: Glenfiddich

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

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

[Check it out](#)

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

Finally, the rarest within this five-star collection is the 50-Year-Old Simultaneous Time, which sounds almost too good to be true. Taking whiskies from three different American Oak refill casks, all matured in the same warehouse, this expression sees them married together and finished in an American oak refill cask for two years.

As we all know, factors such as air pressure, humidity and temperature can greatly impact the maturation process, and after 50 years, this whisky has seen them all. Extremely limited, only 220 decanters of this release will be made available worldwide, with the outer casing set to mark "an artistic representation of the climatic data that created this extraordinary whisky". The piece arrives by way of Manuel Jiménez García, a computational architect, who decrypted the meteorological data into an algorithm, before transforming it into the wild structure that remains.

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

Colour: Antique gold

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

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

Finish: Oaky, sweet and incredibly long lasting.

ABV: 43.8%



Glenfiddich 50 Year Old – Simultaneous Time | Image: Glenfiddich



Glenfiddich 30 Year Old – Suspended Time | Image: Glenfiddich



---

## How to Pair Whisky and Cheese

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



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

Further, Pristine says that from "about 1995 to 2002," North Americans finally started to explore the full scope of that cheese. "I saw it firsthand," he recalls, "People stopped buying the same cheese every time and became much more interested in trying different varieties."

While trying new cheeses is never a bad thing, Pristine notes that it can lead to disappointment. "I tell my customers to buy smaller pieces and shop more often," he says, "Cheese doesn't go bad, but when people overbuy and it sits around too long, it just won't taste the way it should." For storing the cheese you do buy, Pristine suggests avoiding plastic wrap, which can dry out the cheese, and resealable zipper-closure bags, which cause the cheese to sweat. Instead, he recommends wrapping the cheese first in parchment or waxed paper and then in aluminum foil, since the parchment will allow the cheese to breathe while the foil will protect it from absorbing other odors in the fridge and also keep your vegetables from smelling like cheese.

When serving, Pristine says that the longer you can leave it outside of the fridge, "two, three, or even eight hours," the better it will taste. Which is precisely how I approached my tasting of what Pristine identifies as the six basic groupings of cheese: goat/sheep, semi-firm, washed rind, bloomy rind, hard/aged, and blue.

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

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

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

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

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

### PAIR THESE WHISKIES AND CHEESES AT HOME NOW

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

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

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

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

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

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

---

## GlenAllachie debuts its first peated whisky

21 SEPTEMBER 2022 By [Alice Brooker](#)

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Walker added: "The timing of the launch is apt as we celebrate our fifth anniversary of ownership next month. We are so very fortunate to be steering this great distillery into the future. I think the best is yet to come." Only 10,000 bottles of the new release are available to buy through global specialist retailers at RRP £80 (US\$90.74).

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

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

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

---



---

## Old Pulteney kicks off Coastal Series

22 SEPTEMBER 2022 By Nicola Carruthers

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Old Pulteney Pineau des Charentes will be available to buy from 3 October for RRP £75 (US\$85) in the UK, France and Germany from The Whisky Exchange, Old Pulteney Visitor Centre and other specialist whisky retailers. In October 2019, Old Pulteney [launched a US campaign](#) in collaboration with Sustainable Surf, a California-based non-profit organisation.

---



Dear Committee Member

We have news of global importance for our world-wide Committee. A new Ardbeg collection will be arriving in Duty Free shopping aisles the world over: Ardbeg Smoketrails Traveller's Exclusive.

HOLA MANZANILLA!

For the first edition in this unique collection, Shortie (the Distillery's loyal canine mascot) has been zigging and zagging all over the world in search of the perfect casks for Ardbeg Smoketrails.

This edition features the finest Manzanilla Sherry casks he could find. Back on Islay we married together whisky matured in these casks with whisky matured in classic American oak casks. The result is something special...

GET READY FOR A SMOKY BLAST

Manzanilla casks, from Sanlúcar de Barrameda on Spain's Atlantic coast, bring a salty, maritime character to the smoky blast of Ardbeg. Take your senses on a trip towards deep, pungent flavours that hurtle across the palate. A very aromatic whisky, it reveals a hint of moist peat bog, dark chocolate and a very distinctive nuttiness, while storm-churned sea spray soars overhead. Plumes of fennel and pine billow up, leaving a long, lingering trail of aniseed and leather.





#### ARDBEG SMOKETRAILS MANZANILLA EDITION

ARDventure awaits! Ardbeg Smoketrails is a highly collectible series of limited edition whiskies.

Only available from Duty Free and the Distillery Visitor Centre, each edition offers travellers a thrilling way to explore the influence of casks from around the world on the powerful smoky flavour of Ardbeg.

The first in the series – Ardbeg Smoketrails Manzanilla Edition – marries whisky aged in the finest Manzanilla sherry casks and classic Ardbeg American oak casks. The result is a taste adventure that takes in dark chocolate, salty sea spray, Brazil nuts and saddle soap. Follow that smoketrail!

Here's where you can buy Ardbeg Smoketrails around the world:

From the 5th October 2022: exclusively in nine UK airports (London Heathrow, Gatwick, Stansted, Newcastle, Birmingham, Manchester, Aberdeen, Edinburgh and Glasgow)

From the 1st November 2022: in person at the Ardbeg Distillery Visitor Centre and in most international airports globally.

ABV

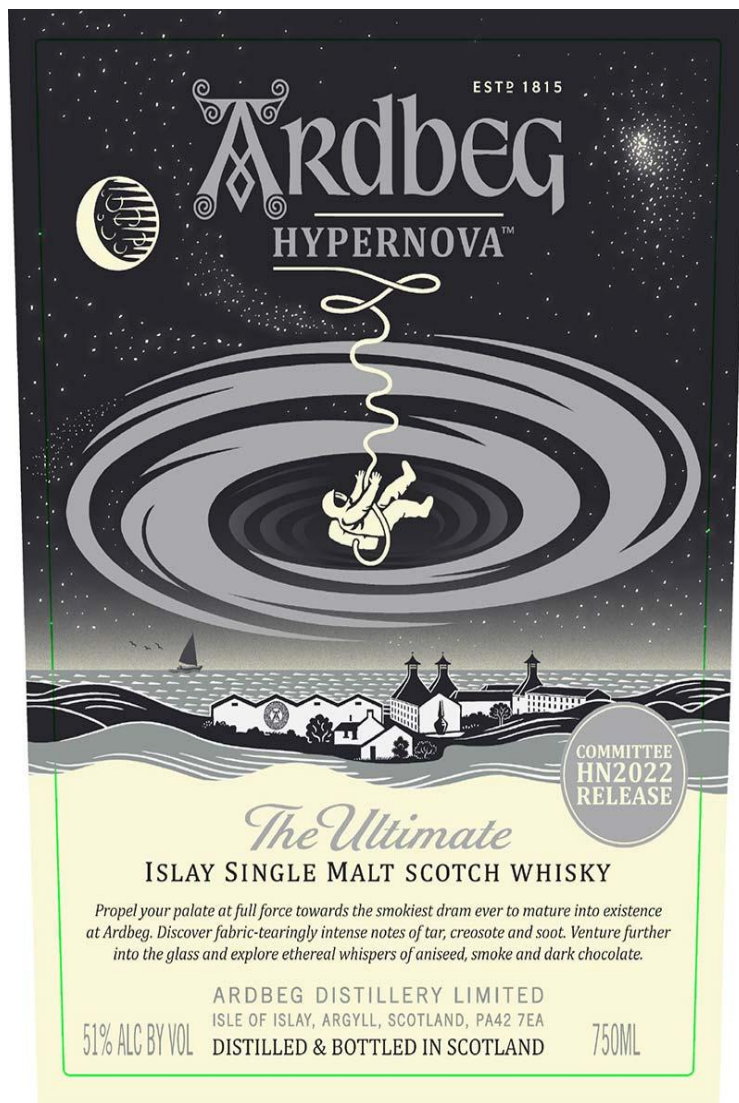
46%

COLOR: Pale Gold

NOSE: Deep, pungent flavours take to the air, a curious combination of tar, saddle soap, pine resin and Brazil nuts. A very aromatic whisky, with lovely herbal notes and a hint of moist peat bog, while storm-churned sea spray soars overhead. With water, some chocolatey notes appear, along with a touch of engine oil.

TASTE: A slightly drying mouthfeel, followed by deep, pungent flavours that hurtle across the palate: tar, soot, dark chocolate and a very distinctive nuttiness, like Brazil nuts or hazelnut.

FINISH: Plumes of fennel and pine billow up, leaving a long, lingering trail of carbolic soap, aniseed and leather.



Labels submitted to the TTB have revealed Ardbeg Hypernova 2022 Committee Release, a limited edition, heavily peated single malt Scotch whisky described as the “smokiest dram ever to mature into existence at Ardbeg.”

The back label describes Ardbeg Hypernova as exhibiting notes of “pungent peat smoke, aniseed, toasted lavender, and bitter almonds and dark chocolate fused with plasticine and burnt rubber,” finishing with “earthy notes of roasted coffee and smoky heather.”

Ardbeg Hypernova 2022 Committee Release will be bottled at 51% ABV and is expected to land in stores in fall/winter 2022.



---

## Macallan reveals James Bond series

27 SEPTEMBER 2022 By Georgie Pursey

The Macallan has unveiled its limited edition James Bond 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Release to mark six decades of the film franchise.



The whisky is offered in six 'uniquely' designed bottles and presentation sleeves

The series comprises six bottles each encasing a single malt whisky. Presented in individually designed sleeves, the bottles also feature an original illustrative design in a behind the scenes exploration of the James Bond archives.

The distinct set tells the story of innovation across 60 years and the pioneering character attributes of James Bond and The Macallan.

Jaume Ferras, global creative director for The Macallan, said: "This October, James Bond will celebrate its 60th anniversary, making it the longest running and one of the most loved franchises in the world of entertainment, comprising 25 films over six decades and six lead actors over time.

"The Macallan is James Bond's whisky of choice, and as two renowned global brands we share many synergies, most notably as modern innovators linked by our Scottish heritage."

The single malt whisky has been created by master whisky maker Kirsteen Campbell to reflect 'the enduring character' of James Bond; a 'force of nature defined by his Scottish heritage, who carries himself with modesty and humility'.

The expression is said to 'exude a sense of style and maturity which has evolved over the years', similar to the series' eponymous character. It has a natural gold colour and is rested at 43.7% ABV.

On the nose the whisky offers fresh and vibrant notes of lemon and lime, hints of sherbet, leading into a sweet vanilla and coconut, with a hint of dried fig and raisin.



Each bottle represents a different decade of the franchise. Orange zest and fizzy sherbet can be detected on the palate, with a lemon freshness, gentle oak and subtle ginger spice, leading into a deep dark chocolate, figs and baked apple tart with a honey drizzle. The finish is sweet and long with complex layers.

The Macallan has also created a series of immersive experiences to celebrate the 60th anniversary of James Bond including a unique exhibition called The Macallan in Cinema at The Macallan Estate in Speyside.

The Macallan has been featured in numerous James Bond films, [including in Skyfall when 007 is seen to drink The Macallan Fine & Rare 1962](#).

The experience will take viewers through The Macallan's history on film and transport them through the six decades of James Bond.

A selection of films from across the years will also be shown at The Macallan Estate during a series of exclusive screenings.

The Macallan James Bond 60th Anniversary Release will have an RRP of £600 (US\$800) and will be available from The Macallan Online Boutique, The Macallan Estate Boutique, the global network of domestic and travel retail boutiques, plus in premium and in specialist global retailers and bars from September 2022.

There will be limited availability worldwide.

Last month The Macallan unveiled the [prototype for its first whisky to be released in partnership with Bentley Motors](#).



The Macallan M Collection launching in Travel Retail

The Macallan has announced the launch of The Macallan M Collection in travel retail, a range of three single malt whiskies said to celebrate the brand's Six Pillars.



Having released earlier in the year, the collection will now be available through travel retail at The Macallan's Airport Boutiques. Jeremy Speirs, regional managing director at Edrington Global Travel Retail, commented: "The Macallan M Collection has long been a distinctive and highly collectible part of The Macallan's prestige offer in travel retail. With the addition to the range of the stunning new M Copper, we are further underlining the collectability of The Macallan while shining a spotlight on our curiously small stills and the role they play in creating our iconic spirit."

The first of the three is The Macallan M 2022 Release, produced using 100% natural ingredients and sherry seasoned oak casks. Bottled at 45% ABV, the expression is described as having aroma notes of sweet black cherry and demerara sugar, with herbal notes of liquorice and tea leaves on the palate. Its RRSP is £5000 for a 70cl decanter.

Second is The Macallan M Black 2022 Release has been created using black ended sherry seasoned oak casks holding peated spirit selected by the whisky mastery team. The producer has described its aroma as fresh apple and pear, with notes of candied oranges and charred peaches on the palate. The RRSP is £5,700 and has an ABV of 46%.

Finally, The Macallan M Copper 2022 Release is the most expensive of the three, with an RRSP of £6,250. Said to reflect the curiously small spirits, a defining feature in the brand's distillation process, the expression is described as having aromas of sweet banana and pear, with notes of pear drops, caramelised banana and sherbet on the palate. It's bottled at 42%, the weakest of the three.

The Six Pillars are described as the foundations of The Macallan's whiskies, comprising of natural colour, mastery, curiously small spirit stills, the Estate, exceptional oak casks and sherry seasoning. Jaume Ferras, global creative Director for The Macallan, said: "Our Six Pillars foundation stones embody all that is unique to The Macallan, together underpinning the renowned quality and rich character of our whisky. The Macallan M Collection tells the story of these unique attributes and our dedication to uncompromised excellence."

23 September 2022 - Bradley Weir

Meanwhile the decanter's case was made using wood from a fallen elm tree though to have been on the Macallan Estate in 1940, the year the spirit was distilled.

The auction, operating from Sotheby's in London, will close on 5 October and has attracted bids of £110,000.



IMAGE SOURCE, SOTHEBY'S

## Rare single malt Macallan whisky up for auction at £110,000



IMAGE SOURCE, SOTHEBY'S

Image caption,

The 81-year-old whisky is thought to be the oldest in the world, according to Sotheby's

A rare bottle of single malt whisky by a Scottish distiller has gone up for auction for at least £110,000.

Named "The Macallan The Reach", the 81-year-old whisky is thought to be the oldest in the world, according to the broker Sotheby's.

The highest estimate for the 70cl bottle is £200,000, which if sold for this price would mean each 25ml measure was worth over £7,100.

The distiller said it would put money towards its apprenticeship fund.

The whisky was made from a single, sherry seasoned oak cask and comes in a mouth-blown glass decanter.

It rests on a bronze sculpture of three hands that represent characters in the history of the Macallan's - a distiller based near Aberlour in Moray.

Image caption,

The rare bottle rests on a bronze sculpture inside an elm case

In June, a cask of The Macallan 1988 whisky [sold at auction for £1m](#), after being bought 34 years ago for just £5,000.

ADVERTISEMENT

Sotheby's said the auction record for the oldest whisky was the 80-year-old "Decanter #1" made by Gordon & Macphail.

It sold for USD \$193,000 (£142,000) at Sotheby's in Hong Kong in October 2021.

The broker said not many barrels in bonded warehouses in Scotland reach the age of 50 due to the rate of alcohol evaporation.

The Macallan said proceeds from the sale of the 81-year-old bottle would benefit its Artisan Apprenticeship Fund.

It said the fund helps businesses recruit new apprentices and provides artisan apprentices with specialist training and development programmes. Jonny Fowle, Sotheby's head of whisky, said: "Age, rarity and provenance combine to spectacular effect in this one of one version of the oldest single malt whisky ever to be released by The Macallan."

"This is Sotheby's third auction partnership with The Macallan in three years, and it is always a special event when we collaborate to launch a unique and exclusive bottle. It is particularly special when that bottle happens to contain the oldest whisky in the world."



---

## Diageo reveals 2022 Special Releases

29 SEPTEMBER 2022 By Alice Brooker

The world's biggest Scotch distiller, Diageo, has launched Elusive Expressions, its 2022 Special Releases whisky collection.

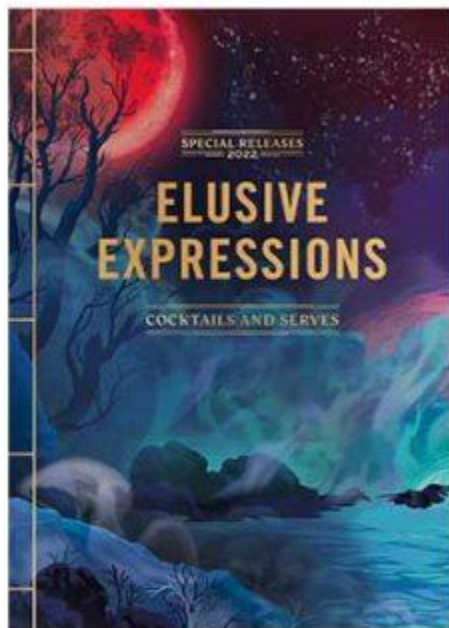


The “boundary-pushing collection” boasts eight whiskies. The eight aged whiskies were hand selected by master blender Dr Craig Wilson.

He said: “Today we reveal and introduce Elusive Expressions, a boundary-pushing collection with flavours and finishes that truly redefine what cask-strength whiskies can be.

“From abundantly rich, to strikingly rare flavours, each one is vividly bought to life with new energy. Featuring some of our oldest whisky dynasties, we’ve embraced the flavour contrasts that exist within the collection, to create an unexpected whisky experience.”

Elusive Expression is the latest launch in Special Releases, which features ‘striking’ artwork and communicates stories.



The book was created by Diageo brand ambassadors

The eight whiskies include:

the Mortlach (57.8% ABV, RRP £250/US\$270), from the Speyside Dufftown distillery; Talisker 11-Year-Old (55.1% ABV, RRP £110/US\$119), from Isle of Skye; Lagavulin 12-Year-Old (57.3% ABV, RRP £135/US\$146), from Islay; The Singleton of Glen Ord 15-Year-Old (57.3% ABV, RRP £120/US\$130), from the Highlands; Cardhu 16-Year-Old (58% ABV, RRP £160/US\$173), from Speyside; Oban 10-Year-Old (57.1% ABV, RRP £105/US\$113),

from the coastal Highlands; Cameronbridge 26-Year-Old (56.2% ABV, RRP £275/US\$299), from the Lowland region; Clynelish 12-Year-Old (58.5% ABV, RRP £175/US\$189), from the Highlands.

While the Glen Ord bottling was aged in refill American and European oak casks, then double-matured in wine-seasoned casks, the ‘unusual’ Clynelish was matured in refill American oak and then finished in PX/oloroso-seasoned casks.

Illustrator Ken Taylor returns this year with his signature style, alongside digital visualisation artist Kevin Tong. The two have partnered to create designs that ‘hero’ the brand’s protagonists, ‘fusing fantasy, art and whisky’.

The release coincides with the unveiling of a book called *Elusive Expressions Cocktails and Serves*, in which cocktail making is ‘reframed’ through characters and journeys. The book was created by Diageo’s brand ambassadors, and explores the ‘legends’ behind Mortlach, The Singleton, Lagavulin and Talisker.

The 2022 Special Releases collection will be rolled out on a limited basis from specialist Scotch whisky retailers from 1 October this year.

Today (29 September), it was announced that Diageo had [purchased Mr Black coffee liqueur](#).

The 2021 iteration of the Special Releases collection was called [Legends Untold](#).



## Ardbeg Smoketrails – Manzanilla

Ardbeg distillery released its first expression in a new Traveller’s Exclusive series: Ardbeg Smoketrails Manzanilla Edition. It is a marriage of classic American oak casks and Manzanilla casks from Sanlúcar de Barrameda. Expect the classic Ardbeg smoke with an extra coastal boost. Ardbeg Smoketrails comes at 46% ABV and launches 5th October across nine UK airports before rolling out in global duty free from 1 November. In practice though it seems to be on the shelves already, for £ 67 (around € 75).



## Fettercairn 18 Year Old

Fettercairn 18 Year Old is a new single malt which claims to be the first ever whisky finished in locally sourced Scottish oak. The wood is sourced from the Highlands and is part of an innovation programme set up by



whisky maker Gregg Glass. Scottish oak supposedly highlights the tropical fruits of the spirit.

Fettercairn 18 Year Old rolls out to select markets beginning in October and carries a suggested retail price of £175. It will become an annual release.



### Aberfeldy Red Wine Collection

For its yearly releases in the Red Wine Collection, Aberfeldy distillery announces two new expressions:

- Aberfeldy 15 Year Old – Cabernet Sauvignon finish (Napa Valley)
- Aberfeldy 18 Year Old – Tuscan red wine finish (Bolgheri)

The collection started in 2019 with the [15 Year Old Pomerol finish](#). The new additions sell through the Dewars online shop before rolling out to the UK, India, Taiwan, China, USA, France and Germany. The price of the 15 Years is € 59 while the 18 Years goes for € 99. Too bad they're bottled at a modest 43% ABV.

### The Luxury Masters 2022 results

03 OCTOBER 2022 By Melita Kiely

With financial belts being tightened the world over, when buying a top-end spirit consumers need to be certain they have made the right choice. Our Luxury Masters competition steers you in the right direction.



The Luxury Masters put super-premium-and-above spirits to the taste test 'Drink less, but better' is a message that is undeniably resonating with consumers. But as living costs spiral around the world, it is becoming increasingly important for brands to give imbibers sound reasons to spend their hard-earned cash on their products. But how do you determine which spirits offer substance, and not just style? That's where the annual Luxury Spirits Masters comes into play.

The aim of the day's tasting was to determine whether each entry, in its respective super-premium or ultra-premium price bracket, was deserving of its price tag.

Two panels of expert tasters were called upon to assess this year's eclectic entries. Forming the first panel were: Bryan Rodriguez, wine and spirits buyer at Harvey Nichols; Anthony Callegari, Edition Hotel London bars manager; and Melita Kiely, editor of *The Spirits Business*, and chair of [The Global Spirits Masters](#).

The second team comprised: David T Smith, spirits consultant, writer and co-founder of the Craft Distilling Expo; Evan Prousaefs, bar manager at Sexy Fish in London; Dimple Athavia, founder of All Things Drinks; and Matt Chambers, co-founder of the *Whisky for Everyone* blog and the North London Whisky Club, who chaired the panel.

In a [flight of Scotch Whisky](#): Blended – Ultra Premium (£51-plus), a Master medal was awarded to The Sassenach. Rodriguez liked the "playful nature" of this whisky, which had notes of "ripe green apple, honey blossom, and a silky-smooth palate". "What I found fascinating was this kept delivering more flavour as you continued tasting it," he noted. "It showed how good blended whiskies can be; a good blended whisky is worth its money." A Gold medal was also given to Old Parr 18 Years Old in this flight, which was found to be a "classic blend with some interesting rum-like notes".

[The Scotch Whisky: Single Malt](#) – Super Premium (£51-£99) heat produced three more Master medallists. [Talisker Surge](#) was one of them, impressing with its "fruity nose – apricots and a whisper of unripe banana", leading to "light smoke, balanced with fruitiness" on the palate. The [Glenturret 7 Years Old Peat Smoke](#) also secured a Master medal for its "very silky texture" with flavours of "dried currants, caramel and smouldering smoke". **(This is the third mention of Glenturret in the past few months .... Don't be caught sleeping on this on going forward ☺)**

Fellow Master winner The [Glenturret 15 Years Old](#) offered a "lovely resinous quality" on the palate, with "warming spice, medjool dates and gingerbread". "Super complex and balanced – very delicious," the judges agreed. **Two Gold awards were handed to The Glenturret 12 Years Old and The Glenturret 10 Years Old Peat Smoked.**



Seven Scotch whiskies secured the top accolade

The high standard of entries continued into the Scotch Whisky: Single Malt – [Ultra Premium](#) (£100-plus) round. Another trio of Master medallists were celebrated. The Glenmorangie Company netted two Masters, including one for [Ardbeg 25 Years Old](#). The whisky had "mushroom notes on the nose; spicy, sweet and tangy on the palate". Prousaefs added: "Excellent mouthfeel and aftertaste for the high ABV."

Master winner [Glenmorangie The Signet](#) also impressed, with "cocoa and mocha coffee" on the nose. The palate brought "a hint of dried fruit and wood spice" to give a "rounded and silky" whisky.

Diageo's The Singleton of Dufftown 21 Years Old was the third Master winner in this heat. It was liked for its "elegant and velvety" palate, which Chambers said was "vibrant with fruits, multi-layered spices, a late hit of tropical fruit, earthy and woody backbone".

Two Gold medals were awarded to The Dalmore 21 Years Old and The Dalmore 18 Years Old, while Ardbeg 19 Years Old Traigh Bhan – Batch 4 picked up a Silver medal.

Athavia said she particularly enjoyed the whiskies that were "subtle, yet complex" in the Scotch whisky flights.

Bushmills made a lasting impression in the Irish Whiskey: Single Malt – Ultra Premium (£91-plus) heat, walking away with a Master and two Gold medals. The top accolade was presented to Bushmills Irish Whiskey Causeway Collection 2000 Port Cask. Chambers noted the whiskey's "delicious, elegant and luxurious nose". Tasting notes included "tropical



fruit and cereals, background red fruit and chocolate". Chambers added: "Quite exquisite and well balanced, even better with water, lovely caramelised tropical fruit."

A Master medal was also awarded to Lambay Single Malt 20 Years Old – Castle Prestige Edition, which had a "rich nose with lots of fruit and honeyed sweetness". The palate delivered "bold spice and cooling caramel on the finish, with some dark chocolate and dried currants".

The American whiskey flights got off to a strong start. In the Bourbon – Super Premium (£31-£50) heat, Yellowstone Select Kentucky Straight Bourbon secured a Master medal for being "a steal for under £50". Tasting notes included "dates, dried fruits and vanilla sweetness – overall, wonderfully complex". Truth Teller 1839 was awarded a Gold medal for being "approachable and greatly balanced".

In the following flight, which looked at Bourbons priced at £51 and above, Sometimes Y secured a Master award. The judges liked the Bourbon's "intriguingly fruity nose" and "delicious resinous quality, dried fruits and warming spice".

Remus Repeal Reserve Series V also secured the top Master accolade for being "an exceptional Bourbon", with "candied orange, cinnamon buns, dates, stewed apple and dryness for added complexity". Rodriguez noted about the entry: "This is everything you want from a top-end Bourbon, it is absolutely brilliant. It's so powerful: the Mouton Rothschild of the Bourbon world."

In the American Whiskey: Tennessee – Super Premium contingent, which looked at whiskeys priced from £31 to £50, Uncle Nearest Premium Whiskey collected two Gold medals. One was awarded to "spicy but sweet" Uncle Nearest 1884 Small Batch Whiskey, and the second was given to "luxuriously textured, complex" Uncle Nearest 1856 Premium Aged Whiskey.

Uncle Nearest nabbed a Master award in the following ultra-premium flight for Uncle Nearest Master Blender Edition Batch 012. The judges were full of praise for the whiskey's "nuttness, oiliness" and notes of "dark cocoa and fruity sweetness".

Single malt is an up-and-coming category in American whiskey, and Bear Fight by Next Century Spirits secured a Gold medal in the super-premium price range. The whiskey was liked for its "bright apple notes, brioche sweetness and fruitiness on the finish".



Judges sipped some top-notch high-end whiskies in this year's competitions

Super-premium-priced world whiskies were put to the test next, with a Gold awarded to "golden syrup, spicy" Canadian whisky Forty Creek Copper Pot Reserve, and a Silver given to stablemate Forty Creek Barrel Select.

In the ultra-premium world whisky category those priced at £51 and above, a Master medal was awarded to Morris Australian Single Malt Whisky Tokay Barrel. The entry was found to be "punchy on the palate" with "red juicy fruits and red wine-like tannins".

Four Gold medals were awarded in this heat, including one to 23rd Street Distillery Australian Single Malt Whisky, which had a "funky and sweet palate" that "starts savoury then moves to caramel sweetness".

A Silver medal for Morris Australian Single Malt Whisky Signature concluded the flight.

Diamond Rock's Master result got the rum portion of the tasting off to a flying start. The medal winner, produced by Distillerie Rhum A1710, had "lovely sweet vegetal aromas, green mango" and a "sweet, spicy and slightly salty palate".

"Unmistakably agricole" Renaissance rum, also from Distillerie Rhum A1710, collected a Gold medal in the Rum: White – Ultra Premium (£31-plus) heat.

A Gold medal was given to Takamaka's Pti Lakaz in the Rum: Gold – Ultra Premium (£41-plus) round for its "good balance of fruitiness and spice". Santa Teresa 1796 was awarded a Gold medal in the Rum: Dark – Super Premium (£26-£40) flight for being "great value for the price", with some "tannin-like qualities" on the finish.

Four Gold medals made for a solid Rum: Dark – Ultra Premium (£41-plus) flight, two of which were awarded to "balanced and delicious" Zacapa XO and Zacapa 23.

In the final rum flight, an ultra-premium spiced rum secured a Gold medal: Welsh Witch. The rum was described as "very consumer-friendly with solid overall balance".

From there, it was time to focus on agave-based spirits, starting with an ultra-premium flight of blanco Tequila. Tequila Exotico Blanco received a Gold medal, described as "superbly fresh and green on the nose".

In the Tequila: Añejo – Ultra Premium heat, two Gold medals were awarded to "deliciously earthy and spicy" El Mayor Tequila Añejo and "elegant and vibrant" Tequila Aman El Profesor Añejo.



Agave-based spirits such as Tequila and mezcal were among some of the award winners

Hugely expressive

One ultra-premium mezcal really impressed the experts, bagging a coveted Master award. Agáveme Tepextate was hailed for being "hugely expressive on the nose". Chambers picked out notes of "green capsicum, a hint of peppermint with a hint of peppery spice". Athavia noted "great complexity" in the agave-based categories.

Moving onto sweeter spirits, and super- premium liqueur Tobago Gold grabbed the Master award. Athavia found this to be "super nostalgic, with so much milk malt – delicious". In addition, Lemon Brothers' Limoncello collected a Gold medal in the ultra-premium liqueur heat, thanks to its "great concentration of flavour".

The tasting then moved to Pre-Mixed/RTD – Ultra Premium expressions, where a Gold medal was bestowed upon Mirror Margarita Tequila. "Slightly on the sweet side, but the agave flavours come out exceptionally, with the lime not overpowering," said Prousaefs. Stablemate Mirror Margarita Mezcal won a Silver medal.

In the super-premium tonic and mixer heat, two Gold medals were awarded, to "dry but expressive" Wildleaf Lumière Tonic, and Wildleaf North African Tonic, which used "citrus to complement the dryness of the quinine".

In the final flight of the day's tasting, Low/No, three Gold medals and four Silver awards were discovered. The Gold medals were awarded to "aromatic, herbaceous" JNPR No.2, "perfumed" Clovendoie Stem 24, and Clovendoie Sprout 24, which had some "citrus peel" on the palate.

One more tasting task faced the judges: deciding The Luxury Taste Master 2022. After retasting fresh samples of the Master medallists, the judges' votes were counted and verified, and the result was that Ardbeg 25 Years Old came away as the deserving Taste Master.

Talking about the overall standard of entries in the competition, Rodriguez said: "There was a lot to unpack here, and some exceptionally well-made liquids.

"Some of these spirits were really deserving of their price tags, with really comforting flavours and great complexity. "There were some brilliant liquids here that I'd be happy to recommend to people."



## New Arrival of the Week: Glenfiddich Orchard Experiment

[HENRY JEFFREYS](#)

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

[NO COMMENTS](#)

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

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



Julian Temperley from the Somerset Cider Brandy Company Glenfiddich Orchard Experiment is here

Well, now is your chance. It's called Glenfiddich Orchard Experiment and it's in the aptly named Experimental Series. But just what is Pomona?

Pomona takes its name from a 17th century book by John Evelyn which became a bible to ambitious cider makers. At the time, West Country producers were making something akin to English Port made from partially-fermented apple juice mixed with apple brandy.

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

How do you like them apples

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

Matilda Temperley added: "With this collaboration we're back doing the same but challenging innovation even further. This is a really exciting marriage of old English and Scottish craft distillates and we can't wait for people to taste the incredible flavours of the Orchard Experiment."

We haven't always loved weird cask finish whiskies. I'm thinking in particular of the Lagavulin 13 year old finished in mezcal casks. Yet this Glenfiddich/Somerset Cider Brandy Company really does sound delicious. As brand ambassador Mark Thompson put it: the

"classic [Glenfiddich](#) notes are accentuated and elevated by the Somerset Pomona spirit casks to a sweet, rich effect. On the first sip, fruit flavours transport you to an orchard on a warm summer's day, then the liquid softens into sweet creamy toffee, caramelised apple and woody spice, leaving a sumptuous, decadent taste on the palate."

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

50ml Glenfiddich Orchard Experiment

10ml [Manzanilla sherry](#)

20ml [sweet vermouth](#)

10ml [Somerset Pomona](#)

1.25ml sugar syrup

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



Glenfiddich Orchard Experiment is available from Master of Malt.

Click [here](#) to buy.

Tasting note from the Chaps at Master of Malt

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

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

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

## Pappy Van Winkle Unveils Its Hotly Anticipated 2022 Lineup

Let the hunt begin.

By [JONAH FLICKER](#)



### Buffalo Trace

It's that most wonderful time of the year again. No, not that one, we're talking about the annual unveiling of the new [Pappy Van Winkle whiskey](#) collection. And no, you're not hallucinating when you read the suggested retail prices of these coveted unicorn bottles.

It's true, we're helping to feed the hype machine here, but the people love their [Pappy](#). This [wheated bourbon](#) brand, which has been produced at the [Buffalo Trace](#) Distillery since 2002, commands thousands of dollars per bottle on the secondary market. Which makes the prices listed by Buffalo Trace seem like a joke—starting at \$69.99 for the 10-year-old, and topping off at \$299.99 for the 23-year-old. Adorable, right? The reality is that a quick search online shows the youngest Old Rip Van Winkle being sold for a minimum of [\\$1,000](#). People drive the market, the market drives the people,

and so on and so forth in a circular pattern that means one thing: [Pappy](#) shows no sign of getting any cheaper. So for those who are interested in starting their annual PVW hunt this year, here are some key details and official tasting notes for the 2022 collection, which marks the 20th year of partnership between the Van Winkle family and Buffalo Trace: Old Rip Van Winkle Handmade [Bourbon](#) 10-Year-Old (\$69.99) is bottled at 107 proof, and has notes of dried fruits, nuts and toasted barrel flavors. Van Winkle Special Reserve Bourbon 12-Year-Old (\$79.99) is bottled at 90.4 proof, with notes of butterscotch, toffee and praline on the palate. Van Winkle Family Reserve Rye 13-Year-Old (\$119.99) is bottled at 95.6 proof, with notes of toffee, caraway, leather and dried cherry. Pappy Van Winkle's Family Reserve Bourbon 15-Year-Old (\$119.99) is bottled at 107 proof, and has notes of molasses, holiday spice cookies and caramel. Pappy Van Winkle's Family Reserve Bourbon 20-Year-Old (\$199.99) is bottled at 90.4 proof and has notes of warm tobacco, treacle, espresso and charred oak. Finally, Pappy Van Winkle's Family Reserve Bourbon 23-Year-Old (\$299.99) is bottled at 95.6 proof with notes of oak, apple, leather and walnuts.

Obviously, the distillery and the Van Winkles are aware that people are going to have a chuckle when they read the pricing, so president of Old Rip Van Winkle Distillery Julian Van Winkle III had this to say in a statement: "Although we would prefer for retailers to charge our suggested retail pricing, unfortunately we cannot legally force them to do so. The best chance to find our products at a fair price is through lotteries offered by many retailers, where fans have a chance to buy our bourbon at MSRP. Many of these lotteries benefit charities, so it's a win-win for everyone." There have been counterfeit bottles of [Pappy](#) sold on the secondary market, which at best is a rip-off and at worst can be harmful to your health, depending on what was actually put into the bottle. This awful latter scenario has actually played out (not specifically with Pappy) in other countries. "We caution people to only buy from a licensed retailer," said president and Buffalo Trace Distillery president and CEO Mark Brown in a statement. "Do not buy from a private seller, even if it's someone you know, as you don't know where they got the whiskey. The counterfeiters have gotten very sophisticated with their technology, so it pays to be safe." The entire Pappy collection will be available starting this month, and as usual supplies are extremely limited. So happy hunting to the diehards, and if you actually manage to find a bottle for these listed prices, definitely post about it on every social media channel to rub it in all of our faces.

-----

The GlenAllachie's Latest Scotch Is Also Its Maiden Peated Whisky  
[Nino Kilgore-Marchetti](#)  
[Scotch](#) | October 3, 2022  
[The GlenAllachie distillery](#) in Scotland recently announced the release of the last bottling in The Past, Present & Future Series as the first ever distillate produced under their ownership: The GlenAllachie Billy Walker 50th Anniversary Future Edition 4-year-old Peated Single Malt Scotch Whisky.

The series this expression is part of, which launched earlier this year, honors Walker's 50-year-long stint in the Scotch whisky industry. It is a young, 4-year-old peated single malt and, [according to those behind it](#), "the first whisky bottled by the distillery to have been created under Walker and impacted by his production modifications. These include an 80% production drop, which allows for greater supervision throughout the maturation journey, and facilitates an increase in fermentation duration to 160 hours creating an ester-rich spirit with thicker mouthfeel." During his time at GlenAllachie, Walker has been producing peated spirit for around six weeks annually to diversify the distillery's offering. This first of its kind was matured in former Rye and Bourbon barrels, as well as virgin oak casks. Made with mainland peat from St Fergus, it is said the flavor "contribution is sweeter with distinguishing oaky tones in contrast to the more medicinal or maritime notes anticipated of a coastal peat."



The GlenAllachie distillery in Scotland recently announced the release of the last bottling in The Past, Present & Future Series as the first ever distillate produced under their ownership: The GlenAllachie Billy Walker 50th Anniversary Future Edition 4-year-old Peated Single Malt Scotch Whisky. (image via The GlenAllachie)

"The barley was kilned to 80ppm (parts per million) offering up distinctive smoky yet sweet flavour characteristics: smouldering oak, cinnamon apples and chocolate-covered hazelnuts, alongside puffs of earthy peat smoke."

"It's beyond exciting to release our very own whisky distilled since we took over this hidden gem of a distillery in 2017," said Walker in a prepared statement. "I eagerly await the reaction amongst whisky fans to this first glimpse at both our own distillate, and our peated work. The response will unquestionably influence where we take things next."

"The timing of the launch is apt as we celebrate our fifth anniversary of ownership next month. We are so very fortunate to be steering this great distillery into the future. I think the best is yet to come." This release is limited to 10,000 bottles worldwide; each presented at cask strength of 60.2% ABV, natural color and non chill filtered. Pricing at £80, you'll find official tasting notes for The GlenAllachie Billy Walker 50th Anniversary Future Edition below.

- Colour: Auburn.
- Nose: Bursting with honeycomb, dried fruits and hazelnut, with hints of smouldering oak, dark chocolate and warm cinnamon apples.
- Taste: Lashings of cinnamon stewed pears, toasted almonds, heather honey and pipe tobacco, followed by smoked barley, vanilla toffee and orchard fruits.

-----

## 'A Single Malt of Elegant Finesse': 11th Batch of GlenDronach Grandeur Arrives

[David Morrow](#) Oct 3rd, 2022, 2:05 pm  
 SHARE



The GlenDronach Distillery has announced the launch of The GlenDronach Grandeur Batch 11. (Photo: The GlenDronach)



Scottish whisky distillery GlenDronach on Monday announced the release of The GlenDronach Grandeur Batch 11, a sherried single malt whisky hand-selected by Master Blender Rachel Barrie from Pedro Ximénez and Oloroso sherry casks.

“The GlenDronach Grandeur is an unparalleled range of the finest aromas and character from masterful Spanish oak sherry cask maturation,” Barrie said in a news release. “A Single Malt of elegant finesse, this expression offers a symphony of sherry aromatics interwoven with dark manuka honey, roasted almond, and walnut. It is intense and full-bodied, as is the signature of The GlenDronach, with a crescendo of black cherry and espresso adorning each mouthful.”

A limited number of Grandeur Batch 11 bottles will be available, with each bottle sealed with wax and hand-numbered. The GlenDronach Grandeur Batch 11 is bottled at 48.9% ABV. It is available in the U.S. at a suggested retail price of \$800.

The GlenDronach Grandeur Batch 11 Tasting Notes, Via the Brand Color: Ruby-tinged walnut.

#### ADVERTISING

Nose: Opulent and powerful with a symphony of sherry aromatics, interwoven with dark manuka honey, roasted almond, and walnut. Baked plum and ginger captivate the senses, deepening to rustic vintage leather and freshly ground coffee.

Taste: Intense and full-bodied with dark fruit notes on a base of velvet and fine leather. A crescendo of black cherry and espresso adorns each mouthful.

Finish: Richly rewarding, with a persistent chocolate, licorice, and walnut finish.

---

## Jack Daniel's to release single malt in GTR

06 OCTOBER 2022 By Nicola Carruthers

Brown-Forman-owned Jack Daniel's has unveiled its first American single malt whiskey, exclusively in global travel retail.



Jack Daniel's American Single Malt made its debut at the TFWA show in Cannes

The expression was revealed during the [Tax Free World Association \(TFWA\) show](#) in Cannes, France, this week.

The new Jack Daniel's American Single Malt is made with 100% malted barley and matured in new charred American oak barrels for five years and finished in oloroso Sherry casks for two years and eight months.

The expression is made with brewer's barley from northern states in the US.

According to Cam Dawson, Jack Daniel's UK brand ambassador, the 45% ABV whiskey offers a “tingling fiery sensation” on the nose with notes of “vanilla and red fruit” with the oloroso Sherry coming through, alongside a nuttiness.

Dawson said the whiskey is a “nod to the way Scotch whisky does things”. The travel retail-exclusive bottling will be released globally, with an RRP of US\$100. The expression will debut in June 2023.

The new product comes several months after the US government's Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau (TTB) [published its proposed standards](#) for American single malt.

Earlier this year, Brown-Forman [appointed David Rodiek](#) as its new vice-president, managing director, global travel retail.

Last October, the company revealed its [global travel retail sustainability strategy](#), including an aim to make packaging for its brands fully recyclable or reusable by 2030.

---

## Knob Creek bottles its oldest Bourbon

06 OCTOBER 2022 By Melita Kiely

Beam Suntory-owned Knob Creek Bourbon has released an 18-year-old expression – its oldest whiskey to date.



The 18-years-old sits at 50% ABV

Knob Creek 18 Years Old marks the 30th anniversary of Knob Creek and the Small Batch Bourbon Collection.

Bottled at 50% ABV, the 18-year-old is said to have notes of caramelised oak, sweet vanilla, baking spices, and warm finish with spice and light floral and fruit flavours.

Fred Noe, Booker Noe's son and seventh-generation master distiller, commented: “As we celebrate 30 years of Knob Creek, it's clear to me that dad was ahead of his time in creating innovative expressions with big, bold flavours that defined pre-Prohibition whiskey.

“This new 18-year-old liquid is a nod to his vision and commitment to quality and craftsmanship, and I know this is a whiskey he'd be proud to serve. I'm honoured to further his legacy with Knob Creek's oldest and boldest expression yet.”

Knob Creek 18 Years Old is available throughout the US for RRP US\$169.99 per 750ml bottle.

In August, parent company Beam Suntory released its [financial results for the first half of 2022](#), which were boosted by its premium brands.

Meanwhile, in May this year James B Beam Distilling Company appointed Freddie Noe as the eighth-generation [master distiller of the Fred B Noe Distillery](#).

The Fred B Noe Distillery was built in tribute to seventh-generation master distiller Fred Noe, [and officially opened last year](#). The facility was part of parent company [Beam Suntory's US\\$60 million investment](#) to revamp the James B Distilling Co in Clermont, Kentucky, in the US.





#### Lagavulin Jazz Festival 2022

After the [2021 Lagavulin Mezcal Cask](#), Lagavulin distillery will now launch two limited edition bottlings to celebrate the Islay Jazz Festival 2022.

Fans who can attend the festival in person can grab the Lagavulin 14 Year Old, taken from refill American oak casks and finished in brandy casks for five years. This cask strength expression (55.4% ABV) retails at £ 220 with 3000 bottles available.

Those at home can choose the Lagavulin 7 Year Old, available for purchase online at [malts.com](#) (now also in The Netherlands and Belgium, by the way). This is also cask strength (59.5% ABV) comes from a combination of refill and ex-bourbon hogshead casks. A total of 2490 bottles are available, retailing at £ 95 / € 120.

## SEPTEMBER SCOTCH: BENRIACH DISTILLERY'S MALTING SEASON AND SMOKE SEASON

EXPLORING FLAVORSOME LIMITED EDITION EXPRESSIONS FROM THE SPEYSIDE SINGLE MALT SCOTCH BRAND

Posted by [David Graver](#)

Posted on 29 September 2022

Not all headline-worthy limited edition single malt scotch whiskies cost tens of thousands of dollars. Two recent releases from acclaimed Speyside whisky-maker [Benriach](#)—[Malting Season](#), which first debuted in October 2021 and is now in its second annual edition, and the magnificently unexpected [Smoke Season](#)—retail for \$150 and \$60 respectively. Both of these expressions impress by way of the noticeable attention to craft that defines the liquid, and the way each highlights a specific part of the whisky-making process. In this final installment of our [September Scotch](#) series for 2022, we delve into these single malts and more with [Stewart Buchanan](#)—the global scotch ambassador for Benriach, The GlenDronach and Glenglassaugh—who was tasked with reopening the then-mothballed distillery in 2004 and later took on the role of production manager in 2006.

From its reopening onward, the Benriach distillery has thoughtfully expanded its portfolio—telegraphing its values along the way. “Benriach is all about exploring the full flavor possibilities of single malt, creating some of the richest, most multi-layered whiskies in Speyside,” Buchanan says. “All of our current and new expressions are reflective of this tradition under the guidance of our master blender, Rachel Barrie. Through the various eclectic casks in our warehouse that once held Madeira, sherry, bourbon, red wine and Marsala, we showcase how Benriach is a hidden gem in the Speyside region.”



Knowing that Benriach is rooted in the Speyside region, which has a historic reputation for producing smoke-free, lighter and sweeter whiskies, aficionados may wonder why the brand has introduced the small-batch smoky single malt, Smoke Season. It's a nod to the brand's deep history and “reflects Benriach's time-honored seasonal production techniques where peated spirit runs through its stills,” Buchanan explains. “If you look back at our distillery's archives, you'll see that heavily peated single malts were the preferred palate of the region in the 19th century.” Benriach achieves something masterful with this special edition that's both “intensely smoked and exquisitely sweet.” On the palate Smoke Season “tastes different from most peated scotches simply because the majority of peat [used by other brands] is sourced near the sea on the west coast and Islay,” he continues. “Our Highland peat is sourced from the mainland and derived from ancient trees and heather. This character produces a distinct aromatic smoke that toasts the barley at Benriach, resulting in an intense thread of sweet smoke interwoven with Benriach's staple orchard fruit character.”



Parallel to this, the name of the Malting Season release nods to the flavor-yielding process of malting barley—from its historic prominence at the Benriach distillery to the fact that it's still done on site today. “There are only eight traditional floor maltings left in operation across all of Scotland's distilleries now,” Buchanan says. The distillery revived the rare practice in 2012 in order to explore more traditional characteristics and styles. As the historic process is low yield, Benriach uses their own malted barley mindfully.

As the name implies, flavors in this limited edition single malt align with those historically derived from the malting process. “The flavor of Malting Season is the result of the barley being steeped in water, then spread across the malting room floor and turned by hand over several days to allow for optimum germination of the barley,” Buchanan says. “The malting team decides when the barley is ready to move to the kiln and the iconic pagoda-shaped chimney comes alive. This time and attention leads to



barley that becomes sweet with a little mandarin orange undertone and white chocolate.”



After last year's successful debut of Malting Season's first edition, Barrie returned to Concerto barley as the grain source. This year, however, she produced a liquid that is .2 degrees stronger in alcohol by volume. Further, Buchanan adds, “The difference between the two editions is the barley's drying time, leading to a slightly different flavor profile, as well as the cask maturation. The first edition's malting process focused on highlighting the malt's sweetness, whereas the second edition's malting process honed in on the earthy flavor profile of the barley.” The second edition was also only matured in first-fill bourbon casks. The result is lasting creamy notes, ranging from a light nuttiness to rich honey.



This year has also seen Benriach unveil delectable [Cask Editions](#) in the US for the first time. “Each of the expressions range from 12 to 24 years old and have been drawn from individual casks selected by master blender Rachel Barrie to offer a rare and unique insight into the versatility of Benriach's eclectic cask styles,” Buchanan says. “We call these casks our sleeping beauties, and source them from all over the world.” This process allows them to test the flavor limits of the Speyside single malt category. For instance, a “Marsala wine hogshead cask brings out clementine, apricot, nectarine and cherry blossom flavors. The Pedro Ximénez puncheon has intense notes of heather honey, butterscotch and sultana. The Oloroso puncheon, on the other hand, gives off flavor notes of chocolate orange at Christmas time, with hazelnuts, sultanas, dried apples and apricots.”

These are milestone releases for a brand that Buchanan helped to build—as he explains, “from painting nearly every wall, stripping down all the equipment and fixing the boiler to tightening the nuts, bolts and screws.” He's observed so much change over his tenure. “Benriach has evolved its style over the years, where they used to release a large amount of expressions in the past to now showcasing their approach to flavor exploration and telling the story through a concise range of expressions,” he concludes. And with pricing that's more accessible than most

competitors, and an emphasis on quality, the brand will only continue to grow.

*Images courtesy of Benriach*

---

## Taste Test: Glendronach's New Single Malt Is One of the Best Whiskies We've Tried This Year

Our whisky critic couldn't get enough of the Grandeur Batch 11, a 28-year-old scotch aged in sherry casks.

By [JONAH FLICKER](#)



### The GlenDronach

Macallan fans, you are seen. We know you can't get enough of that sweet sherry cask-matured [single malt scotch whisky](#), so have no fear because there's more than enough of it to go around. But there's another distillery specializing in sherry cask whisky that you might not be as familiar with, The GlenDronach, and it's about time for you to get to know it better. [The Macallan](#) is famous for releasing bottles approaching a century in age that shatter records at [auctions](#) around the world. [The GlenDronach](#) Grandeur Batch 11 is pricy as well, but with an SRP of \$800 it's far more affordable than the younger Macallan 25. Batch 11 is a 28-year-old [single malt](#) that was aged for nearly three decades in Pedro Ximenez and Oloroso sherry casks. It's another admirable achievement from master blender Rachel Barrie, who is very particular about the barrels she selects for this range (there are only 3,181 bottles of this new release). “The GlenDronach Grandeur is an unparalleled range of the finest aromas and character from masterful Spanish oak sherry cask maturation,” she said in a statement. “A single malt of elegant finesse, this expression offers a symphony of sherry aromatics interwoven with dark manuka honey, roasted almond and walnut. It is intense and full-bodied, as is the signature of The GlenDronach, with a crescendo of black cherry and espresso adorning each mouthful.”

So how does the [whisky](#) stand up to Barrie's tasting notes? I detect just a hint of smoke on the palate—not from peat, mind you, but just the result of many years aging in oak picking up that sherry spice. There's also some charred pineapple, stewed rum raisin, white pepper and vanilla custard on the palate. This is an intense [whisky](#), bottled at 48.9 percent ABV with natural color, and while it veers towards the prominent tropical fruit notes that many whiskies this old start to develop, that wonderful sherry cask maturation tempers it at the last moment.

I am a big fan of The GlenDronach, and this whisky certainly does not disappoint. Other fans of the distillery were disappointed to hear that it started chill filtering its [whisky](#) a few years ago, a step according to GlenDronach reps that would “provide flexibility in their whisky-making processes” and so on and so forth. Okay, this is not a production step that seems at all necessary, but it also kind of doesn't really matter as far as the quality of the whisky is concerned. Thankfully, the whisky is still natural color (again, not really something you can taste). But technical info aside, The GlenDronach is decidedly one of the very best sherry cask-focused scotch whiskies you can find. So [Macallan](#) fans, come join the ranks of us GlenDro heads, because we're always looking for new members.

## 'Pleasured experience' Whisky fans rate the best distillery tours around Scotland

We had a look on Tripadvisor at the top rated distillery tours in Scotland and the reviews that customers left behind - but we want to hear what you think.



Whisky fans can learn all about how this wonderful spirit is made at distilleries across the country. (Image: Getty)

[Whisky](#) fans visiting Scotland will be spoiled for choice when it comes to incredible locations to go to learn how this wonderful spirit is made. All across the country from the Borders to the [Orkney](#) Isles you'll find distilleries producing whisky that is renowned around the world.

However, should you be looking to find the best [distillery](#) tours based on value, education and service then it can be hard to know where to start. That's where the review site Tripadvisor can come in handy.

Whisky fans from around the world have been reviewing and rating distilleries from around the country to state which they think is best and the site has put together a list of the best distiller tours.

Here are the top 10 whisky distillery tours in Scotland, according to Tripadvisor.

Which  
whisky  
distillery tour  
in Scotland  
is the best?

Have a read and let us know in the comments below if your favourite did or did not make the list.

Eden Mill placed in first but as it stands they are currently moving distillery, so aren't offering tours.

**1. Tomatin Distillery, Inverness 987 reviews - 4.5 stars**

This award-winning Highland single malt whisky distillery near Inverness places highly on the list due to its close proximity to the North Coast 500 route.

With 918 reviews which are very good or above, one fan wrote: "Great time. Great tour. The Scotch is special. Highly recommended if you want to see a legit working distillery."

While another added: "My wife and I visited Tomatin as part of a full day tour around Inverness, and the tour and tasting was definitely a highlight of the day. We honestly had not heard of Tomatin before this trip, but we will definitely be regular customers after this experience."

**Read more: [The whisky distillery with its own Michelin-Starred restaurant just an hour's drive from Glasgow](#)**

**Read more: [The 10 best-selling Scotch whiskies worldwide last year](#)**

**2. Oban Distillery, Oban, 4,012 reviews - 4.5 stars**

Based in the heart of the ever-popular tourist town of Oban on the west coast, this exciting distillery is easy to find and offers a range of fun tours. With 3,804 reviews that are very good or above, it's been a popular choice among reviewers.

One fan wrote: "The whiskey [sic] is delicious and it is my favourite. So doing a tour was a must. I learned a lot from our wonderful tour guide Mike. He really was the best. He made the tour fun and informative at the same time. "If you're in Oban, which is stunning, then a tour of the distillery is a must."

**3. Blair Athol Distillery, Pitlochry 2,285 reviews - 4.5 stars**

Found in the picturesque Perthshire town of Pitlochry, Blair Athol is definitely one of the most beautiful distilleries on this list.

Nearly 95% of the reviews for here are very good or above, with fans describing it as "whisky heaven".

One wrote: "Please, please, please take the tour at Blair Athol Distillery.

"Excellent value for money in my opinion. Our guide Andrew was superb.....engaging, witty, funny and clearly very knowledgeable about the whisky industry."

**4. Glengoyne Distillery, Dumgoyne, 1703 reviews - 4.5 stars**

Located close to Glasgow close to the West Highland Way, Glengoyne is one of the most popular distillery tours around.

With over 1,600 of its 1703 reviews rated very good or above, the vast majority of people visiting this idyllic site left happy.

One fan posted: "The distillery is beautiful place, not only for whisky drinkers, whole tour was really pleased experience."

**5. Royal Lochnagar Distillery, 1,238 reviews - 5 stars**

Not as well known as many included on this list, Royal Lochnagar lies close to the late Queen's favourite Scottish location Balmoral.

Fans were clearly delighted to discover this hidden gem, with one very happy visitor writing: "The distillery was beautiful and we had a very thorough tour and clear explanation of the hows and whys of whiskey [sic]. And then capped it off with a great flight of Lochnagar. Can't recommend the whiskey [sic] or the experience more highly. Great time, would do again."

**6. Deanston Distillery, Stirling, 1,024 reviews - 4.5 stars**

Located close to Stirling and Loch Lomond, Deanston may not be the prettiest building on the list but people loved their tours and the whisky.

John C posted: "Hearing all about the way the distillery came about from it's mill heritage and how the plant operates in its own unique way was fascinating. The fact that the employees have such wonderful knowledge which is handed down, relying on very little technology was amazing. The tasting set up was very special and catered for all needs, with those driving given a gift box to take away to try the whisky later!"

**7. Glen Moray Distillery, Elgin, 403 reviews - 4.5 stars**

The cult following for this Elgin institution is justified and over the past few years it's built up a steady following of fans due to its welcoming staff, great value and exciting whiskies.

One delighted visitor posted: "This was a fantastic way to spend the afternoon! Gayle was an amazing tour host, was exceptionally knowledgeable about the whisky-making process and had great recommendations of Glen Moray whiskys [sic] to try at the end of the tour. Can't wait to come back with visiting friends!"

**8. Glenturret Distillery, Perthshire, 1,624 reviews - 4.5 stars**

Considered to be Scotland's oldest working distillery, dating back over 250 years, the distillery also has its own Michelin-star restaurant on site. Keep an eye out for the cats.

One delighted visitor wrote: "Beautiful distillery in a gorgeous setting. I loved the history behind this place and the cats! Best of all, the whiskey [sic] was really good, one of my new favorites!"

**9. Dewar's Aberfeldy Distillery, Aberfeldy, 1,166 reviews - 4.5 stars**

This beautiful and picturesque distillery is the home of blended whisky Dewar's and is hugely popular with visitors.

One fan posted: "Really enjoyed our recent tour of the distillery and the great value for money it offered. Visitors centre is excellent, tour guides very knowledgeable, great to see something that is less commercialised than



others we have been to and the chance to taste straight from the cask should not be missed."

#### 10. Highland Park Distillery, Orkney, 571 reviews - 4.5 stars

This Orkney-based distillery is one of the best in the country to see and learn every part of the whisky-making process including traditional floor malting. As one fan posted: "Finally got to visit the home of one of my favourite malts; great site, friendly knowledgeable staff, amazing malts - what more needs to be said!"

---

## Ardbeg purchases Islay Hotel to create whisky and hospitality experience

12 OCT 2022



*Ardbeg's distillery.*

*Ardbeg Islay single malt whisky is deepening its commitment to its Scottish island home by purchasing The Islay Hotel, located in Port Ellen, which is located near the brand's Distillery.*

This multi-million-pound investment offers Ardbeg the opportunity to create a whisky and hospitality experience a short distance from where it has been making its whisky for more than 200 years.

With missives concluded, the brand aims to complete the sale of the Islay Hotel and take ownership on 31st October 2022.

With its traditional whitewashed walls, sea views and renowned bar and restaurant, the hotel is already a destination for whisky lovers. It is located on Islay's south coast, just a few miles from Ardbeg's iconic Distillery, which draws tens of thousands of the whisky's fans each year. Running the hotel as a going concern, Ardbeg said it looks forward to offering outstanding hospitality to Islay residents, tourists and Ardbeg fans, long into the future.

The purchase is the latest in a series of substantial investments Ardbeg has made on the island. The Distillery has recently built a new still house and enhanced its visitor experience. Furthermore, it is currently partnering to build a new community hub in Port Ellen and has made direct contributions to roads and pathways on the island. In July, Ardbeg pledged to donate £1 million to Islay causes from the record-breaking sale of Ardbeg's oldest ever whisky, the 1975 Cask No. 3.

President and CEO Thomas Moradpour, said: "Ardbeg has been rooted on Islay for over 200 years. And since we plan to be distilling on the island for at least 200 more, we are excited to invest even further in our homeland, by purchasing the Islay Hotel and creating a world-class whisky and hospitality experience. We look forward to welcoming whisky fans from Islay and around the globe."

---

## Islay distillers face peated malt shortages

**HENRY JEFFREYS**

**OCTOBER 12, 2022 7:00 AM**

There's no need to panic buy... yet ... but there are [Islay](#) peated malt shortages on the horizon for the Scotch whisky distillers with Port Ellen maltings especially facing unprecedented demand. Here's the full story. It started as a tip-off from an anonymous source on Islay: the supply from Port Ellen maltings to non-Diageo distilleries will be limited in 2023 and may be stopped entirely in 2024. So we did a bit of digging. Robbie Millar from Beam Suntory, owner of [Bowmore](#) and [Laphroaig](#), had this to say when we asked him: "We are aware of the Port Ellen situation and have

been working to address the consequences of Diageo's decision to restrict supplies."



Demand from Diageo distilleries like Port Ellen means there's less peaty malt to go round

**Peated malt shortages**

Then another major distiller in Islay told us: "Diageo has substantially cut all of their external customers for 2023, and I have not yet had a chat with them about 2024, but it is a distinct possibility". He didn't want to go on the record but Anthony Wills from [Kilchoman](#) was happy to talk: "My understanding is they [Diageo's customers] have been told from 2024, they will not be able to provide the level of malt they currently get."

When we put this to Ian Smith, head of corporate relations at Diageo, he said he "would not contradict what you are saying." He then released the following statement: "We can't comment on the detail of commercial supply contracts, but it is the case that we have seen significant increased demand for malted barley from our Port Ellen maltings. As a result, the maltings are operating at full capacity and we are managing supply accordingly. We deeply value our relationship with our fellow distillers and customers and are doing everything we can to assist them within the supply constraints, alongside considering potential future solutions."



**Georgie Crawford from Elixir distillers**

**Unprecedented demand**

The problem is that demand for peated malt from Port Ellen maltings from Diageo's Islay distilleries is at an unprecedented level. Caol Ila was shut for much of the pandemic – now it's back to seven days a week. Combine that with the resumption of distilling at Port Ellen for the first time since 1983 and the continued demand for Lagavulin, and you have a problem. There was talk in the past of expanding capacity at Port Ellen maltings but for whatever reason it never happened. Georgie Crawford, formerly of Port Ellen and [Lagavulin](#) distilleries, and now at Elixir on Islay said: "It was foreseeable, everyone saw it coming yet Diageo took the option not to expand." Another Islay distiller said, off the record, "they should expand. Why haven't they?"

He continued that it's not just an Islay thing: "Overall malting capacity is an issue. It's creaking at the seams." Anthony Wills from Kilchoman said "Securing malt supply for malt next year is incredibly difficult. Across the industry, there's a squeeze." According to Wills, Bairds malters has just added 57 tonnes of capacity while Simpsons is seeking planning permission for new maltings at Speyside. "Everyone is at full capacity," he

added. Malt supply was further hampered by a fire in the peated kiln at Crisps in Portgordon.



Malt: there's just not enough of it being made to meet demand  
Logistical difficulties

One large Scottish maltster told us that it is not taking on any more customers: "the amount of enquiries we are having to walk away from, it's more than I have seen in the last 30 years." With all the expansion going on, he added, "the industry is in a tight spot." He said that both [Glenmorangie](#) and Beam Suntory had come to him for malt. He hopes that the demand will encourage Diageo and other maltsters to expand. The Islay problem is particularly acute because even if distillers can secure supplies from the mainland, the island's creaking transport infrastructure based around CalMac ferries make getting it there difficult. Currently, CalMac doesn't have the capacity to accommodate the additional freight that would be required. Plus the fact that many distilleries depend on specifically Islay malt for their flavour profile, and their marketing. Not all peated malt is the same. According to Anthony Wills, Laphroaig alone needs five or six loads of malt per week, each one weighing in at around 28 tonnes. That's a pretty hefty carbon footprint if it was all to come from the mainland.

It seems this malt shortage isn't just a Scottish or even a British problem. Apparently, energy shortages in Germany have meant that some maltsters have had to shut down entirely. Never mind a [whisky](#) shortage, what happens if there's a European beer shortage? And winter is coming. Maybe it is time to panic a little.

-----

## Royal Salute debuts 53YO for \$90,000

12 OCTOBER 2022 By Nicola Carruthers

Pernod Ricard-owned Royal Salute has released a 53-year-old whisky as the first expression in a new collection, called The Art of Wonder.



Royal Salute has teamed up with British sculptor Kate McGwire. The new Royal Salute Forces of Nature by Kate McGwire is the first bottling to be released from the brand's new Art of Wonder range.

The collection will be created in collaboration with artists, with British sculptor Kate McGwire becoming the first to partner on the new line. McGwire, who specialises in the use of feathers, created a 'one-of-a-kind' piece to accompany the new 53-year-old whisky from the brand. The 53-year-old whisky is one of the highest age statements to be released by the brand. It alludes to the year 1953, when Queen Elizabeth II was crowned and Royal Salute was established. The liquid offers a 'rich and fruity' nose, with notes of berries, candied walnuts, and sweet toasted oak, followed by a 'long, rich and slightly dry' finish.

'Outstanding expression'

Royal Salute master blender Sandy Hyslop said: "For the first volume from the Art of Wonder collection, I wanted to create an outstanding expression that reflected Royal Salute's desire to push individual craft beyond expectation.

"To do that, together with my expert team, we crafted an opulent 53-year-old blend, one of the highest ages we have ever released.

"This is a thrilling moment, and it's been a privilege to blend such rare and precious whiskies at the pinnacle of what is achievable with delicate high-aged stock laid down by my predecessors."

There are 21 decanters of the whisky available, created by Dartington Crystal.

Each decanter is engraved with intricate feathers and gilded in 24-carat gold leaf, with curves inspired by McGwire's sculptures.

Furthermore, each decanter is accompanied by one of 21 pieces of art, called *Paragon*, created by McGwire using sustainably sourced pheasant feathers.

The whisky and artwork are presented in a hand-crafted wooden cabinet, accompanied by an art book detailing the collaboration between Royal Salute and the British sculptor.

Five out of the 21 decanters will be available to travellers from October 2022 onwards in the following airports: Hainan, Sydney, London Heathrow, Dubai International and Singapore's Changi. It will be priced at RRP US\$90,000.

Liya Zhang, vice-president of marketing at Pernod Ricard Global Travel Retail, said: "With collectability and investment important in this segment, we have noticed a thirst for truly luxury items, so I'm confident this unique expression will excite travellers around the world."

The product will make its debut at the inaugural World of Wines and Spirits (WOWS) event at Changi Airport. Royal Salute, The Art Edition will also be involved in a silent auction to be held on the WOWS portal.

The exclusive set will be displayed from mid-November at the Royal Salute pop-up boutique in Changi Airport's Terminal 3.

The Scotch whisky arm of Pernod Ricard, Chivas Brothers, saw [net sales soar by 25%](#) during the company's 2022 fiscal year.

-----

## Casado Limited Edition Release

OCTOBER 17, 2022



Our first-ever Casado release is now bottled and ready to launch worldwide! Available from this week, the Casado release is another experimental maturation from the distillery.



Casado (Portuguese for marriage) is a limited edition bottling which was matured in fresh bourbon barrels for 6 years before 38 casks were selected and married together for 2 years in two 6,000 litre Portuguese red wine vats.

***“The red wine marriage gives the whisky layers of red fruit and spices which complement the vanilla and butterscotch influence of the bourbon barrels beautifully,” Anthony Wills, Kilchoman Founder.***

Experimenting and exploring different flavours throughout the whisky-making process is something we’re always doing here at Kilchoman. In recent years barley variety and yeast influence have been discussed in depth but wood management remains a key part of any single malt. Anthony had an idea, he wanted to try something out of the norm and purchase these 6,000 litre red wine vats at char level 2 and 3, each giving a slightly different impact on the whisky finishing inside, then marrying them together after a longer than usual finish.

---

## A Guide to the Five Scotch Whisky Regions, Plus the Islands From gentle Lowland malts to peaty Islay whiskies.

By - Audrey Morgan - Published 10/11/22



From the briny malts of seaside Campbeltown to the smoky expressions of peat-covered Islay, Scotch whiskies are undeniably influenced by their local terroir. Although Scotland is a relatively small nation, roughly the size of South Carolina, its terrain and microclimates vary widely: A trip across the country will take you through fertile glens, sloping mountains, and rugged islands.

Even so, you should take the stringent divisions of Scotch whisky regions with a grain of, well, malted barley. Although the Scotch Whisky Regulations of 2009 specified three distinct regions (the Highlands, Lowlands, and Speyside) and two municipalities (Campbeltown and Islay) to boost the spirit’s Geographical Indication, there are no non-geographic requirements for the liquids with the labels. As with any distillate, the unique processes of each producer will affect the final product. That said, these are the key differences between Scotch whisky regions—plus the islands.

## Campbeltown

Although it’s the smallest of the Scotch whisky regions, the town of Campbeltown is known for distinctive whiskies that show oily, briny, and smoky flavors influenced by its seaside location. Campbeltown was once the whisky capital of the world: At one point, more than 30 distilleries called the area home. But by the 1920s, the style that characterized Campbeltown whisky fell out of favor; meanwhile, Prohibition and the Great Depression led to decreased exports to the United States. By the 1930s, only two distilleries—Glen Scotia and Springbank—remained. Glengyle, a distillery with a history dating to 1872, reopened in 2004.

**Location:** The town of Campbeltown is in the southwest of Scotland by the foot of the Kintyre peninsula in west Argyll, which protrudes into the Atlantic.

**Characteristics:** Campbeltown whiskies are known for their briny, salty, and smoky flavors. Fruit, vanilla, and toffee flavors are also common.

**Distilleries:** Glen Scotia, Glengyle, Springbank

## Highlands

The Highlands cover the most geographical ground of all the Scotch whisky regions, and as such, the whisky produced in this region varies quite widely, from full-bodied and sweet Northern Highland whiskies to peaty Eastern Highland ones that might evoke Islay malts. Historically, Highland whiskies were made in smaller stills than their Lowland counterparts because barley was scarcer in this part of the country, producing richer and heavier expressions.

**Location:** Scotland’s largest scotch region spans from the northwest of Glasgow to the Northern islands, encompassing picturesque glens, lochs, mountains, and coast.

**Characteristics:** Northern Highland whiskies, such as The Glenmorangie, are often full-bodied, rich, and sweet. Southern Highland whiskies, such as Aberfeldy, are often lighter, drier, and fruitier; some say they have more in common with their Lowland counterparts. Western Highland whiskies, meanwhile, such as Oban, might call to mind the peated whiskies of Islay. Eastern Highland whiskies display quite the range: They can be dry or sweet, and fruity or herbal.

**Distilleries:** Aberfeldy, Arbikie, Ardmor, Ardnamurchan, Balblair, Ben Nevis, Blair Athol, Brora, Cameronbridge, Clynelish, Dalmore, Dalwhinnie, Deanston, Dornoch, Edradour, Fettercairn, Glen Albyn, Glen Garioch, Glen Mhor, Glen Ord, Glencadam, Glendronach, Glenesk, Glenglassaugh, Glengoyne, Glenlochy, The Glenmorangie, Glenturret, Glenugie, GlenWyvis, Invergordon, Loch Lomond, Lochside, MacDuff, Nc’Nean, North Pool, North Port, Oban, Old Pulteney, Royal Brackla, Royal Lochnagar, Strathearn, Teaninich, Tomatin, Tullibardine, Wolfburn

## Islay

This small island off the southern coast of Scotland is home to just eight distilleries. But what it lacks in acreage, it more than makes up for with the bold peated whiskies for which it is known, such as Ardbeg and Laphroaig. Peat is formed by the decomposition of organic material such as heather, mosses, and grasses, which turn into bogs, and Islay is covered with peat made of mostly sphagnum moss. This peat is often used to fuel the fire in the malting process for single malts, resulting in smoky-tasting expressions. All Islay distilleries make peated whiskies, although Bunnahabhain and Bruichladdach also make unpeated ones.

**Location:** Nicknamed “Whisky Island,” Islay is located off the western coast of Scotland, to the west of the island of Jura. Sphagnum peat dominates the landscape.

**Characteristics:** Islay whisky is known for being heavily peated, although Bunnahabhain and Bruichladdach also make unpeated malts. Peat is what contributes a smoky flavor to the liquid; some find the peat flavor to be iodine-like or medicinal.

**Distilleries:** Ardbeg, Ardnahoe, Bowmore, Bruichladdach, Bunnahabhain, Caol Ila, Kilchoman, Lagavulin, Laphroaig

## Lowlands

Lowlands whiskies are often characterized as soft and gentle, attributes that they owe to their distillation process. Like most Irish whiskeys, many Lowland malt whiskies are triple-distilled instead of double-distilled, resulting in lighter and softer expressions. Also, producers historically used coal instead of peat to fuel the fire during the drying process. Today, much of the whisky produced in the Lowlands is used to make blended whisky due to its gentler flavor profile.

**Location:** The Southernmost parts of Scotland are dominated by rolling countryside and lush, fertile hills. The region is easy to visit for whisky aficionados, thanks to its proximity to Edinburgh and Glasgow.

**Characteristics:** Lowland whiskies are known for being light, sweet, floral, and gentle. They often show notes of honeysuckle, cream, ginger, toast, coffee, and cinnamon.

Distilleries: Ailsa Bay, Annandale, Auchentoshen, Bladnoch, Bonnington, Borders, Chain Pier, Clydesdale, Daftmill, Eden Mill, Jackton, The Glasgow Distillery, Glenkinchie, Holyrood, Kingsbarns, Lochlea, Lindores Abbey  
Continue to 5 of 6 below.

### Speyside

Technically a subregion within the Highlands (producers can use either region on their labels), Speyside is the most densely populated whisky region in the world and lays claim to almost half the distilleries in Scotland, including such household names as The Macallan, Glenlivet, and Glenfiddich. For that, the region can thank its abundance of quality water from the River Spey, which many distillers use in their malts. A typical Speyside whisky is fruit-forward and shows notes of apples, pear, honey, vanilla, and spices, which come from the sherry casks in which it is often aged.

Location: Speyside is located in the lower northeast corner of the Highlands, between Inverness and Aberdeen. The landscape is characterized by fertile glens and its proximity to the River Spey, for which the region is named.

Characteristics: Speyside whiskies typically show fruity, honeyed notes such as apple and pear, as well as vanilla and spice. Much of the flavor profile comes from the aging process, as they are often matured in sherry casks.

Distilleries: Aberlour, Allt-A-Baine, Auchroisk, Aultmore, Ballindalloch, Balmenach, The Balvenie, Benrinnes, Benromach, Braeval, Cardhu, Coleburn, Cragganmore, Craigellachie, Dailuaine, Dalmunach, Dalwhinnie, Dufftown, Glen Elgin, Glen Grant, Glen Keith, Glen Moray, Glen Spey, Glenallachie, Glenburgie, Glendullan, Glenfarclas, Glenfiddich, Glenlivet, Glenlossie, Glenrothes, Glentauchers, Inchgower, Kininvie, Knockando, Knockdhu, Linkwood, Longmorn, The Macallan, Mannochmore, Mortlach, Pittyvaich, Roseisle, Speyburn, Speyside, Strathisla, Strathmill, Tamdhu, Tamnavulin, Tormintoul, Tormore

### The Islands

Although they aren't formally a Scotch region, the islands off the coast of Scotland (excluding Islay) are often considered a category unto themselves. Island whiskies will vary widely, but islands including Orkney, Jura, and Skye generally lay claim to peated, full-bodied malts that result from the windswept, rugged terrain and maritime location.

Location: The islands of Arran, Jura, Mull, Orkney, Skye, and Raasay span Scotland's western perimeter.

Characteristics: Island whiskies will vary widely, although many show briny, salty, and peaty notes that reflect the terroir. Windswept Orkney has no trees, meaning the peat is woodless and comprises mainly heather, producing a uniquely aromatic whisky. Jura whisky is sweet and nutty, thanks to the sherry casks in which it ages.

Distilleries: Abhainn Dearg (Lewis), Arran (Arran), Highland Park (Orkney), Isle of Raasay (Raasay), Jura (Jura), Scapa (Orkney), Talisker (Skye), Tobermory (Mull), Torabhaig (Skye)



Almost Fallen (image via Courtney Kristjana/The Whiskey Wash)  
Angel's Envy is the [rabble-rouser of the bourbon industry](#). The distillery launched in 2011 and broke from tradition with its flagship bourbon double-matured in new American oak and former ruby Port casks. Angel's Envy continues to launch experimental finished whiskies, and for our *Almost Fallen* cocktail, choose your own adventure in making it with any Angel's Envy product.

There are two key ingredients that make this cocktail enviable— port syrup and Cuban tobacco bitters. The [port syrup is from Angel's Envy](#) that I picked up while visiting the distillery. If you do not want to wait for it to arrive, [you can make it at home](#). The port syrup compliments the whiskey because it is made from the same port they mature their bourbon in. The tobacco bitters on the other hand add depth, and bring in inspiration from the Bluegrass State itself. If you are worried about the tobacco bitters, do not fret— they contain NO nicotine.

*Almost Fallen* is not only perfect for Bourbon Heritage Month but is a superb lead into autumn. I have been saving my rich ingredients for my favorite season. The ruby color from the port syrup mixed with the amber hue of the bourbon reminds me of the changing colors of the leaves. This cocktail just gives me another reason to cozy up.

As you can see, Angel's Envy is a great pour to mark on your Bourbon Heritage Month Calendar if you have not already. Here's to the farmers, the distillers, the bottlers, and everyone who gets our favorite bourbons to the shelf. Salute!

Almost Fallen  
Ingredients

- 2 ounces Angel's Envy Bourbon
- ¾ ounce Angel's Envy Port Syrup
- 2 dashes A Better Bitters Cuban Tobacco
- 6 drops Portland Bitters Project Pitch Dark Cacao
- Luxardo Cherry

Tools

- Rocks Glass
- Bar Spoon
- Cocktail Pick

Steps

1. Add bourbon, syrup, and bitters to a rocks glass over a big cube.
2. Stir until chilled.
3. Garnish with a Luxardo cherry.
4. Enjoy responsibly.

## Whiskey Cocktail Hour: Almost Fallen

[Courtney Kristjana](#) - September 21, 2022

Whiskey lovers, rejoice! [September is Bourbon Heritage Month](#). In 2007, four decades after Congress recognized bourbon as a distinct spirit, the U.S. Senate passed a resolution officially declaring September as "National Bourbon Heritage Month." Since then, bourbon enthusiasts have come together to appreciate the craftsmanship, history, contributions and achievements made within the industry.

For thirty days, bourbon fans celebrate the uniquely American spirit. Where others have prevailed sipping a bourbon a day during the month, I have failed in my attempts to do so. However, I still appreciate the spirit and its heritage with a bourbon forward cocktail.

For this edition of Cocktail Hour, we create a simple but decadent cocktail featuring Angel's Envy. Angel's Envy is on the Kentucky Bourbon Trail, and I recommend stopping by for a tour. Their spirit safe is in the shape of their signature bottle, and the craft of making whiskey comes first. Angel's Envy announced this summer an [\\$8.2 million expansion of its facility](#), and they welcome Owen Martin as their new Master Distiller.



---

## Reservation policy

- The agreement with the Kitchen's requires that we provide five (5) business days notice for them to guarantee accommodation for our requested numbers. To accommodate the Kitchen's needs and meet our obligation with them; our members are requested to respond to the emailed invitation five (5) business days prior to the respective dinner to guarantee a seat at the dinner. Following the RSVP date members will be placed on a waitlist.
  - For these individuals the process will be as follows, using the Monday September 19<sup>th</sup>, 2022 dinner date as an example:
    - Dinner invitations will be sent out Friday August 29<sup>th</sup>, 2022. Please respond to me ([rdifazio04@gmail.com](mailto:rdifazio04@gmail.com)) in the form of an e-transfer. I will then acknowledge that you have a seat. Please understand that if you do not receive a response you are not guaranteed a seat at the respective dinner. In such circumstances (e.g., computer glitches) please e-mail me again or call me (613-532-5285).
    - Once payment is received I will send a confirmation and your seat will be guaranteed reserved.
    - An RSVP only does not guarantee the seat and if there is a waiting list, you run the risk of losing your seat.
    - Unless otherwise stated accommodation at the dinner will be guaranteed for all members who respond by Friday September 9<sup>th</sup>, 2022 @ 6pm or until capacity is achieved.
    - Please keep in mind until further notice our maximum attendance will be capped at 40. So delays run the risk of you missing out.
- 

## Cancellation policy

- Using the same example as above, anyone who cancels anytime prior to Friday September 9<sup>th</sup>, 2022 @ 6pm will be removed from the list.
  - Anyone canceling between Friday September 9<sup>th</sup>, 2022 @ 6pm and Monday September 19<sup>th</sup>, 2022 will be expected to pay for the cost of the dinner and scotch (\$100). It is the responsibility of the member who cancels their (or their guest's) reservation to find a replacement. If I am asked to find a substitute and one is found, then the member will be asked to pay for 50% of their dinner cost.
  - Anyone who fails to attend the Monday September 19<sup>th</sup>, 2022 dinner without having cancelled and been successfully replaced will be expected to pay the full cost (\$100). A member will be responsible for their guest's cancellation (\$110).
  - If a member asks to be included at the dinner between Friday September 9<sup>th</sup>, 2022 @ 6pm and Monday September 19<sup>th</sup>, 2022 their name will be placed on a wait-list and be accommodated on a first-come first-serve basis.
- 

## Dinner Payments

- Please consider sending your payment by e-transfer to me at: [rdifazio04@gmail.com](mailto:rdifazio04@gmail.com) prior to the dinner. The password will be "KSMS2022RDF", to whatever your security question is. Receiving payment in advance will allow everyone the opportunity to socialize before the dinner as well as reduce the accounting work required after.
  - For e-transfers, Members are responsible for collecting from their guests, and then forwarding one payment in total by e-transfer.
- 

## Assigned / Reserved Seating

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

## Perfume / Cologne and Whisky

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

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

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

---

### **Just a note because we care.**

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

---



## Membership and Dinner prices for 2022-2023

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

---



## 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>



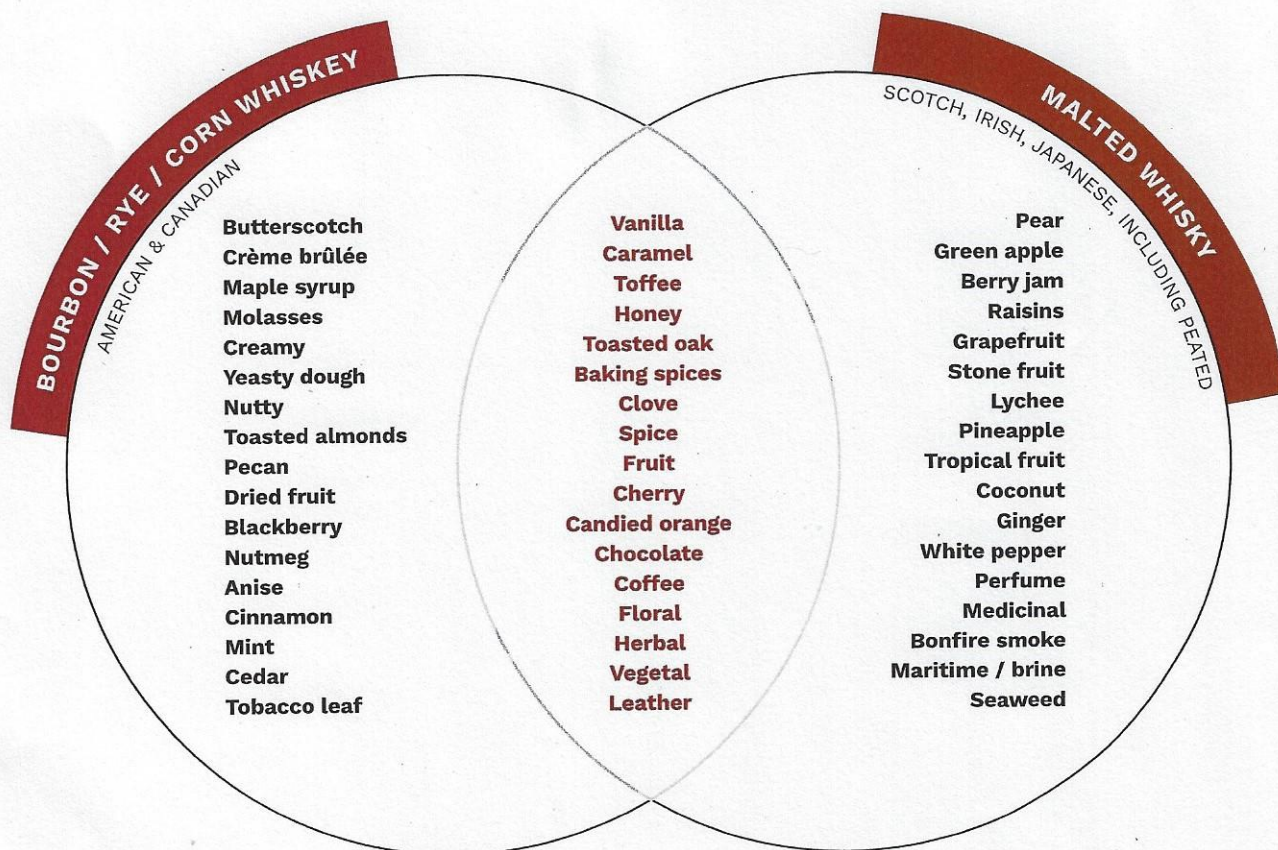
# The Venn of Whisky

## Where Flavor Spectrums Intersect

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

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

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



### HELPFUL TIPS: SEE, SWIRL, SIP

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



An aerial photograph of a dense urban landscape, likely Edinburgh, Scotland. The foreground shows a grassy hill with some trees and a path. The middle ground is filled with a dense cluster of buildings, including a large, modern, light-colored apartment block. The background shows a dense urban landscape with many buildings, including a large, domed building on the left. The text "BELOW THE LINE, BUT RAISING THE BAR" is overlaid in large, white, bold letters across the center of the image.

Regional Focus Lowlands

# BELOW THE LINE, BUT RAISING THE BAR



*The Scottish Lowlands are abuzz with activity, as the region reasserts itself as a whisky-making hub*

WORDS PATRICK CONNELLI

**T**he Lowland region, which once produced some famous names and gave rise to the first of the great whisky families, the Haigs and the Steins, has, much like the wider industry, seen its fortunes both rise and fall over the past century – and now those fortunes are rising again.

Whiskies produced beneath the imaginary 'Highland line', which was first laid out by the Wash Act of 1784 and runs from the Firth of Clyde (Greenock) on the west coast to where the River Tay meets the North Sea at Dundee on the east, have traditionally been known for a very specific style, defined by the Scotch Whisky Association (SWA) as being 'soft and smooth' and 'lighter' than those found elsewhere in the country. However, the existence of this unified regional style in the modern era is debatable.

From Littlemill and Ladyburn in the west to St Magdalene and Rosebank distilleries in the east, this region suffered more than most in the great closures of the 1980s and early '90s, which saw many sites mothballed, eventually demolished and the stills cannibalised. Only a select few single malt distilleries survived to carry the once-proud region forward. For decades, anyone looking to try these lighter malts would have been pointed in the direction of Auchentoshan, close to Glasgow; Glenkinchie, near Edinburgh; and, after a hiatus in the '90s (and again in 2015), Bladnoch to the southwest in Galloway. 🍷



## Regional Focus Lowlands

However, a rising tide lifts all boats, and the rampant growth in interest in whisky – which, according to the SWA, has seen exports of single malt rise by 96 per cent between 2012 and 2021 – has given rise to a renaissance of not only the region itself, through new producers and start-ups, but also a revival of some of its lost giants. Rosebank, in Falkirk, is the latest ‘ghost’ distillery to be given a new lease of life under new ownership.

The region is in a positive position at the moment, rising from the lowest point in the early ‘90s, when just two single malt distilleries remained, to numbers now pushing closer to 20, with more on the way and likely to be producing single malt spirit in the next couple of years.

### Ayrshire

In 2007, William Grant and Sons created a worthy successor for Ladyburn at its Girvan grain distillery site in the form of Ailsa Bay, a powerhouse of production that is capable of making 12 million litres of alcohol per year.

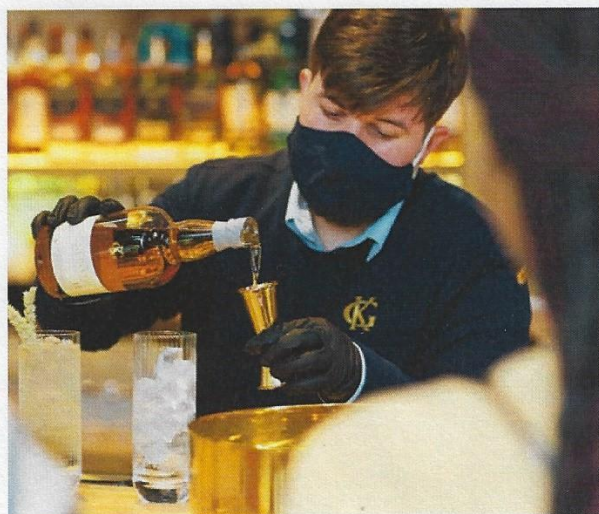
Notably, single malt was not released from the site until 2016, as its focus is on creating blending stock. Led by master blender Brian Kinsman, a novel peated Lowland spirit (just one of five distinct styles made at the distillery) was released, which is subjected to a ‘micro-maturation’ process. This sees new-make spirit filled into Hudson Baby Bourbon casks, smaller barrels typically between 25–100 litres in size, for six to nine months for an ‘intense, rapid’ maturation.

Ailsa Bay is one of just a handful of peated malts to be released from the Lowlands and also one of the only Scotch whiskies marketed with declared phenol levels that have been measured in the final liquid, rather than the ppm measurement of the smoked malt.

At the other end of the scale, the former farm home of Scotland’s national bard, Robert Burns, who not only wrote about whisky but actively worked as an exciseman, is now a distillery. Lochlea, which is run by ex-Laphroaig distillery manager John Campbell, was founded in 2014 and can produce 200,000 litres of pure alcohol (lpa) per year. It now uses its own barley to create seasonal releases named for the key dates on the farming calendar, such as ‘sowing’ and ‘ploughing’ editions.







### Edinburgh & Lothians

The thirst for whisky in the capital is ever evident in the throngs of tourists lining up to enjoy the city's top bars and experiences. Seeking to capitalise on this growth in whisky tourism, Diageo has recently invested part of a £185 million budget in both the new Johnnie Walker Princes Street experience and the recently enhanced offering at Glenkinchie Distillery, at Pencaitland in East Lothian. Glenkinchie's red brick warehouse buildings have been transformed into a multi-level interactive visitor experience, with new tasting rooms, tours and a bar area that serves tasting platters, highballs and a selection of whisky flights.

After nearly a century, spirit has also once again begun to flow from stills in the city itself, for the first time since the closure of the Glen Sciennes Distillery in 1925. In the city centre, former Macallan master distiller David Robertson teamed up with Canadian

### Opening pages:

A view of Edinburgh toward Holyrood Distillery from Arthur's Seat, the volcanic plug that looms large over the city.

### These pages, left to right:

James Macrae, Ailsa Bay ambassador, and the distillery's cooperage team; The Holyrood Distillery still house; Pouring a dram at Glenkinchie; Lucy Geraghty, commercial partnerships manager at Holyrood Distillery.

## Regional Focus Lowlands

Scotch Malt Whisky Society founders Kelly and Rob Carpenter to transform a former goods shed for the long-lost St Leonards Railway Station into Holyrood Distillery in 2019. With a colourful visitor centre and both whisky and gin stills, Rob describes it as the city's very own 'urban distillery'.

In Leith, the less conspicuous Bonnington Distillery, a worthy successor to Halewood International's experimental Chain Pier Distillery at Granton, Edinburgh, is focused solely on producing single malt whisky. Head distiller Jamie Lockhart is the man in charge of ensuring this compelling new spirit is fit to carry the legendary Crabbie's name. John Crabbie was a key figure in the capital's whisky blending heritage and the first chairman of the North British Grain Distillery in 1885; today, however, he is mostly known for his eponymous Crabbie's Ginger Wine.

Lockhart is proud to see a new sense of optimism surrounding whisky making in the Lowlands but explained that his team won't be sticking to tradition when it comes to Bonnington's whisky, with both a heavier spirit and a peated run flowing from the stills.

"We haven't leant on any of the typical Lowland production processes or styles," he says. "I think it's more important to create spirit that is authentic and true to our own history and distillery, rather than fitting in with expectations and regional styles. Maybe that's what Lowland spirits will come to be known for in the future."

Indeed, the former port town of Leith, now a part of Edinburgh, is a hotbed of newer whisky projects. Not too far from the site of Bonnington is what must be one of the most exciting and innovative new distillery projects around, led by two lifelong friends who've set out to create Scotland's first-ever vertical distillery: Port of Leith.

Patrick Fletcher and Ian Stirling, the duo behind the successful Lind and Lime Gin, have already begun construction of their flagship Scotch whisky distillery, which sits on the

edge of the harbour next to the Ocean Terminal shopping centre and the Royal Yacht *Britannia*. The distillery will feature a top-floor whisky bar, with views north to Fife and south to the city's famous castle, and it will have the capacity to eventually produce 400,000lp a year.

The vertical production process will actually create a top-down process, with grain milling and mashing taking place at the top and ingredients working their way down through fermentation to distillation in the Speyside-built stills at the bottom. "I think the new wave is bringing innovation, experimentation, new ideas and a modern outlook to Scotch whisky," Stirling explains. "And I think that's something that might become synonymous with Lowland whisky. Islay has peat, the Highlands and Speyside have heritage and tradition – we have to be pioneers."

For Stirling, a Lowland spirit is a lighter, more delicate kind of whisky compared to a peaty Islay or a heavy, rich Highland malt. "That suited our





## Regional Focus Lowlands

ambition perfectly. We are going to make an exceptional spirit in our distillery, and we're going to marry that very carefully with maturation to ensure that we create an incredibly complex, delicious whisky," he adds.

### Falkirk

Moving across the central belt, old and new will soon sit side by side in the historic town of Falkirk, where the newly opened and family-run Falkirk Distillery sits just 10 minutes along the road from the soon-to-be-restored Rosebank. After a 10-year wait, George Stewart and his daughter Fiona have finally realised their dream of creating Falkirk Distillery, with production beginning in 2020. The duo aim to create a 'light Lowland malt' with a universal appeal, using reconditioned stills from the closed Caperdonich Distillery (or 'Glen Grant II', as it was also known) in Speyside.

Meanwhile, it's full steam ahead on the Rosebank revival, with newly appointed distillery manager Malcolm Rennie overseeing the installation of copper stills created by fabricators Forsyths to the original still blueprints from Abercrombie Copper Smiths. Global brand ambassador Gordon Dundas says that Rosebank's new owner, Ian Macleod Distillers, has a deep understanding of the history of this distillery, its influence, and the esteem that is held for it within the whisky world. "Often named 'King of the Lowlands', we are aware of the responsibility for us to reflect the legacy, but also to produce a whisky that's relevant to modern marketplace when the new single malt arrives," concludes Dundas.

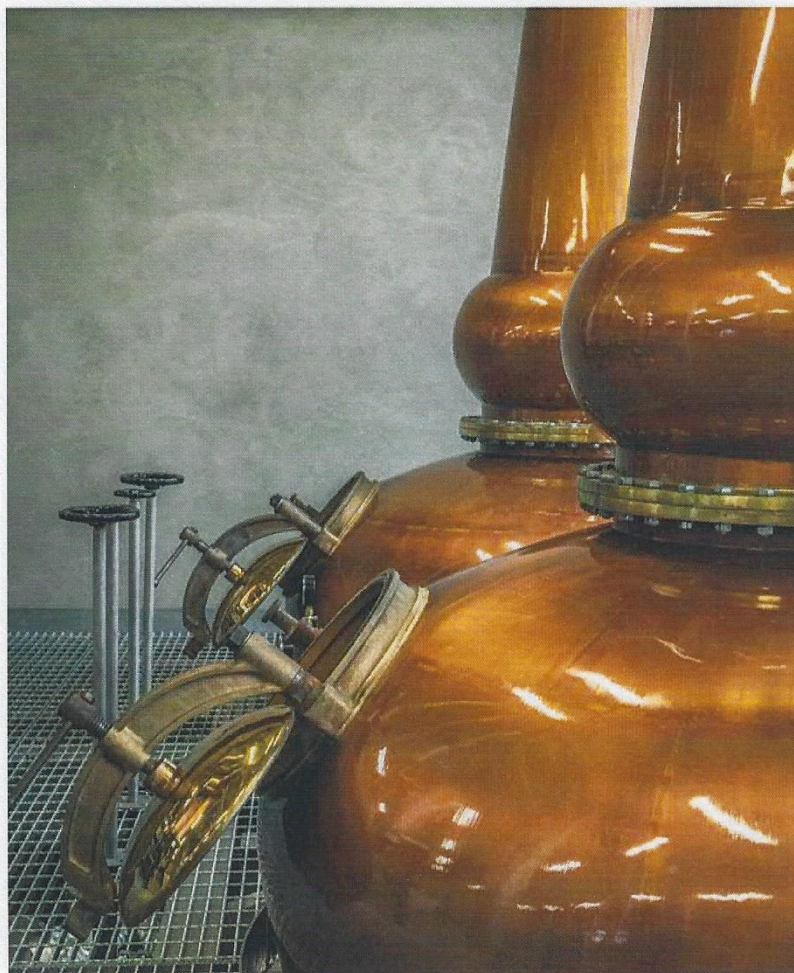
### Fife

Fife now has no less than five thrilling new production sites that are firmly putting the 'Kingdom' back on the map as a whisky destination in its own right. The Wemyss family, owners of Wemyss Family Spirits, saw a derelict farm steading transformed into

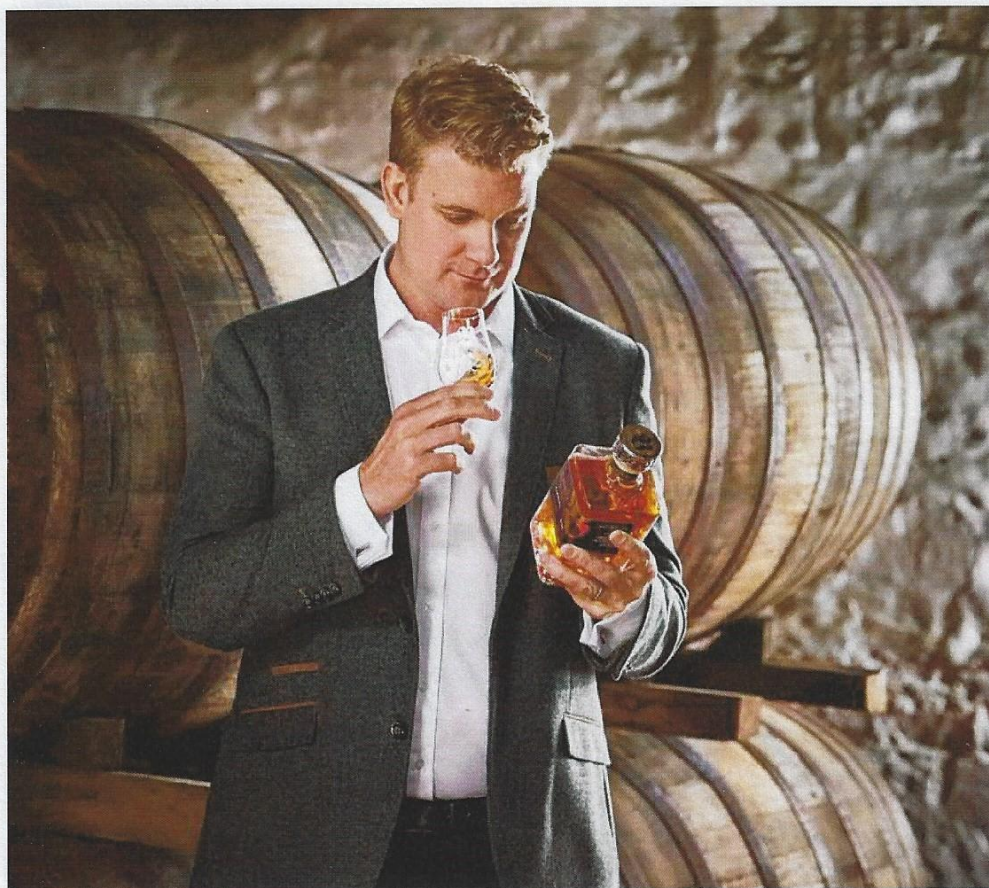


### These pages, left to right:

Rosebank Distillery manager Malcolm Rennie; The still house at Lindores Abbey; Nick Savage, master distiller at Bladnoch; Aberargie Distillery; Raer whisky, bottled by the team behind Jackton Distillery.







## Regional Focus Lowlands

site of a Hillington industrial estate, in the Southside area of the city. The team has named its whisky 1770, a nod to the year in which the first Glasgow Distillery was founded.

With three distinct spirit styles on the go – triple distilled, original and peated – the team has a flavour-first approach that also applies to the maturation process, with limited-edition releases featuring finishes in casks that previously held ruby port, Tokaji and Sauternes wines.

Impressing with its inaugural release – a floral and fruity whisky dubbed Stobcross, after the road on which it was made – Clydeside Distillery can

Kingsbarns Distillery in 2014. Today, the site is capable of producing around 600,000lp per year, and its inaugural release, Dream to Dram, was released in 2019 to much fanfare.

Not far away, the tiny farm distillery Daftmill was only established in 2005 but sits comfortably amidst its long-established peers. The long wait for Daftmill's whisky, the first batches of spirit for which were laid down in 2008, heightened whisky lover's anticipation of founders Frances and Ian Cuthbert's creations. Spirit is only distilled at Daftmill over two months in the summer and two in winter, and its whiskies became an instant sell-out success when they were first released in 2018.

Located on the outskirts of Glenrothes in Fife, InchDairnie has very much flown under the radar since it was first announced way back in 2014. Little discussed at first, technical terms like 'high-gravity fermentation', 'mash conversion techniques' and 'yeast cultivation' began to form part of the conversation as industry veteran Ian Palmer pulled back the curtain a little on what was a very special build. Described as the "culmination of a dream" by its founder, InchDairnie is very much breaking the mould: from using a hammer mill and mash filter to easily control the clarity and quality

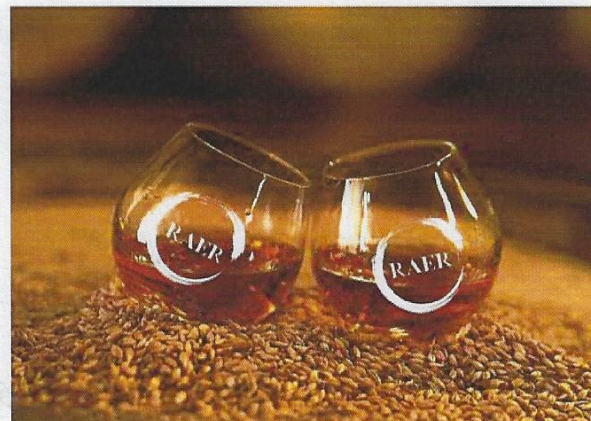
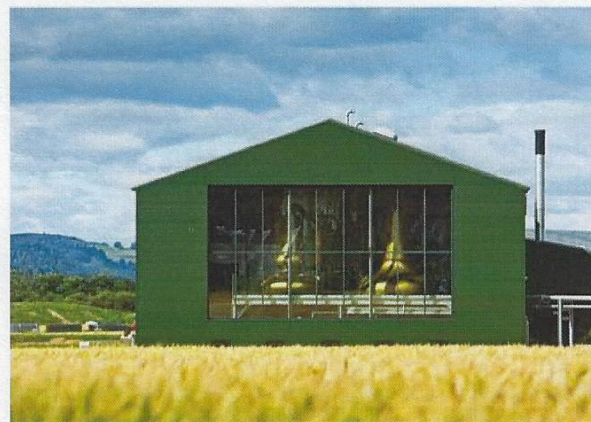
of the wort, to using rye to produce RyeLaw, one of Scotland's first single grain whiskies to be made using both rye and barley.

Making its home on the site of the first recorded whisky distillation in Scotland, Lindores Abbey is a more traditional affair, sourcing barley exclusively from two neighbouring farms – all within two kilometres or so of the stills. The founding McKenzie Smith family is proud to be a "core part of the wonderful Fife whisky renaissance." The distillery now offers bespoke tours of its amazing site, which aims to preserve and promote this historic whisky location.

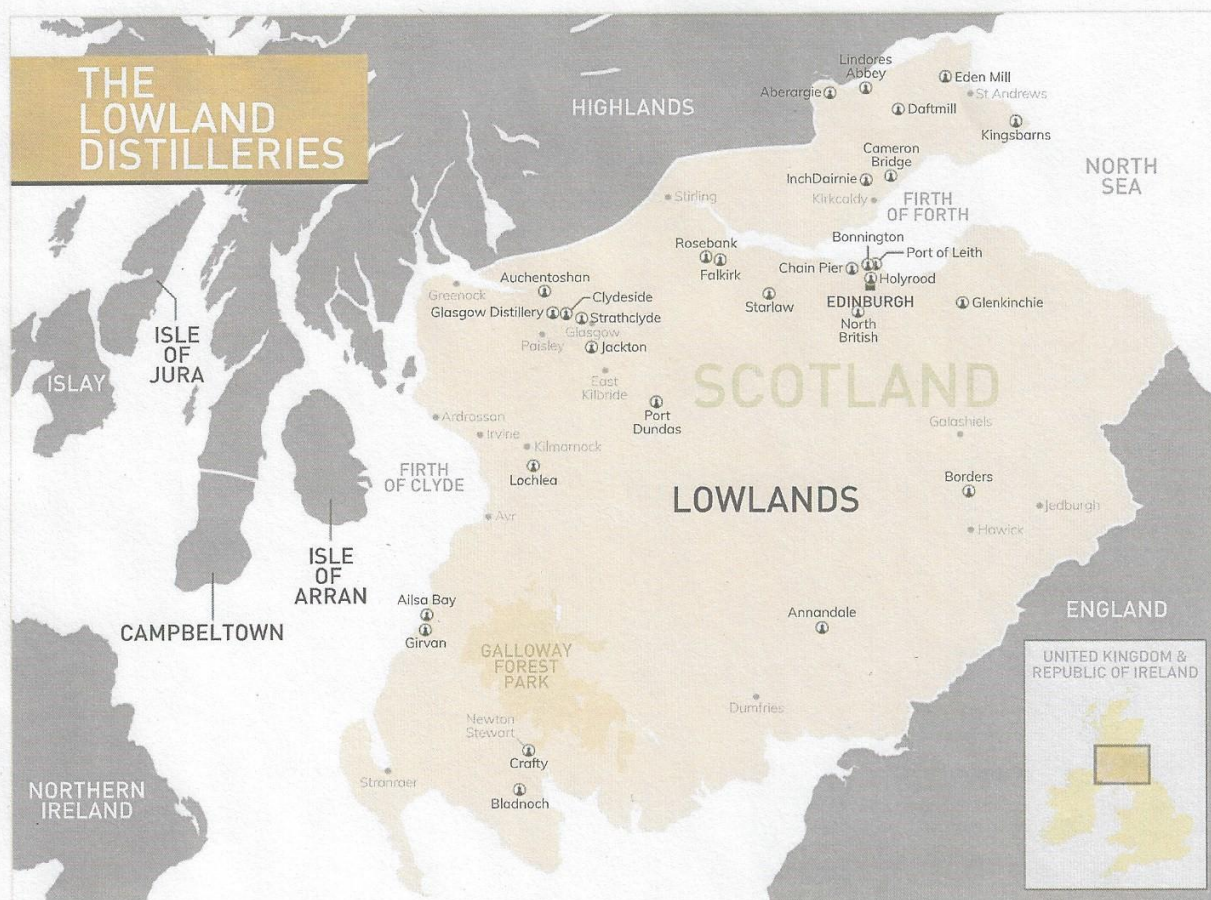
Intriguingly, for a country with such a strong brewing and distilling heritage, it's strange to think that St Andrews' Eden Mill, which is found in part of a former paper mill built on the site of the former Seggie Distillery, is considered to be the country's first multi-product, single-site distillery and brewery, with gin, beer and whisky all made there.

### Glasgow

Much like Edinburgh, Scotland's biggest city is enjoying its own whisky scene flourishing, with not one but three new distilleries joining the ever-popular Auchentoshan. The first, named Glasgow, was founded in 2012 by three friends on the unassuming







be found at the Queen's Dock in a transformed pump house on the banks of the River Clyde. It has won plaudits for its impressive interactive tourism experience, which shares the history of the city's links to the whisky trade through informative displays and knowledgeable tour guides. This is a distillery that is designed to not only handle making great whisky but also to satisfy the city's growing tourism scene.

Jackton, the newest of Glasgow's distilleries, can be found just outside the city in East Kilbride. This small craft distillery laid down its first cask in 2020. Expect big things from this producer, which has already linked up with the prestigious Chambord Estate in France to make a very special gin.

#### Lowland Perthshire

Brian Morrison, of Morrison Bowmore Distillers fame, and his son Jamie expanded their whisky business, Morrison Scotch Whisky Distillers, in 2017 with a distillery built at Aberargie, on the family's 300-acre farm. With

plans to eventually release Aberargie's spirit as single malt (no release date confirmed), this grain-to-glass operation will see the use of Golden Promise barley grown on the farm and aims to create a rich, fruity and waxy style, as well as some peated spirit.

#### South of Scotland

In 2018, the first legal distillery to open in the Borders since 1837 arrived. Founded by former William Grant executives John Fordyce, Tim Carton, Tony Roberts and the late George Tait, this picturesque production site, which lies on the banks of the River Teviot in Hawick, has been put to use creating a popular gin and vodka as well as the spirit that will go on to become a non-peated and floral whisky.

In Dumfries and Galloway, both Bladnoch and Annandale distilleries fly the flag as Scotland's most southerly whisky distilleries, with the former being the newest of the two. In 2007, a project saw husband-and-wife team David Thomson and Teresa Church aim

to restore the former John Walker & Sons-owned Annandale Distillery, with a £10.5 million renovation. Now up and running, the first two expressions – the non-peated Man O' Words (an ode to Robert Burns) and peated Man O'Sword (in honour of Robert the Bruce) – were released in 2018.

It was a similar story at Bladnoch, which was bought in 2015 and restored its former glory in 2017 after a two-year restoration by businessman David Prior, who enlisted former Macallan master distiller Nick Savage to take over production.

The area has a third whisky-producing site on the way in the form of Newton Stewart's tiny Crafty Distillery. Already known for its Hills and Harbour Gin, the team there has branched out into Scotland's national spirit with a very special ode to the founder's late father, William James Taylor. The brand-new Billy&Co whisky will invite community members to share in the tasting and development of each iteration of the new spirit. ●



Distillery Focus Torabhaig

WORDS MALCOLM TRIGGS

# Well-tempered whisky

*A lesson in creative constraint, courtesy of Torabhaig,  
Skye's newest whisky distillery*



**S**tretching from Shetland in the north to the Mull of Kintyre in the south, the Highland whisky region comprises a full third of Scotland's land area and the majority of its mountain ranges. The local geography has an immense influence on the climate: prevailing westerly airflows from the Atlantic jet stream are forced upwards, clouds form, and rain ensues – in abundance. Consequently, the West Highlands (including

the Hebrides) receive some of the wettest weather in the British Isles.

But, in the words of Mark Twain, "While climate is what we expect, weather is what we get" – and, as I arrive on Skye, there is hardly a cloud to be seen. The prevailing wind has presumably changed, and yet there is precious little of that too. Even the midges are conspicuously absent, taking shelter from the sun. All in all, it is, as a local would later tell us,

quite definitely the nicest day of the year on the island so far. It's nearly August.

Torabhaig Distillery sits on Skye's Sleat peninsula, about as far south as four wheels will comfortably take a traveller on the island. Beyond, a narrowing road leads to the village of Armadale a few miles down the coast, where the Mallaig ferry lands, and finally – the road narrower still here – to the crofting township Aird of Sleat, Skye's southernmost settlement. ▶

TORABHAIG





What Sleat lacks in the awesome mountain geography for which the north of Skye is rightly famed it more than makes up for in an oasis-like verdancy that's notably unique to the south. It also boasts what is surely one of the country's most breathtaking coastal views. Looking east across the Sound of Sleat, towards the mainland, the effect is a bit like how I imagine viewing Earth from space would be – and Torabhaig enjoys a front-row seat.

Spirit started flowing from Torabhaig's pair of stills in 2017, and, to date, the distillery has launched two expressions as part of its Legacy Series, charting its journey towards the eventual launch of a flagship 10-year-old single malt. In earnest, though, its story started much earlier.

The distillery occupies a 19th-century farm steading which underwent an extensive restoration courtesy of owner Mossburn Distillers, beginning in 2014. In what the company regards as typically 'Hebridean pragmatism', bricks included in the building of the original farm steading are supposed to have come from the nearby Caisteal Chamuis, an Iron Age fort last owned by Clan MacDonald in 1632.

Incidentally, the original plans for Torabhaig were obtained in 2002 by Sir Ian Noble, founder of the Noble Grossart merchant bank, who had previously purchased 20,000 acres of land which had been part of Lord Macdonald's estate. Sir Ian passed away before his vision for the distillery could be realised, though his name adorns the spirit still and his wife's, Lady Noble, the wash.

Torabhaig has lost little, if any, of the charm one might associate with the original purpose of its premises. Indeed, it's hard to believe that the distillery itself is only five years old, so necessarily respectful was the renovation. That said, standing in the courtyard – formerly the farmstead's midden – I'm told one would have been hard pressed to have envisaged a distillery being installed here before 2014. After decades of abandonment, the farm

“Torabhaig has lost little, if any, of the charm one might associate with the original purpose of its premise”



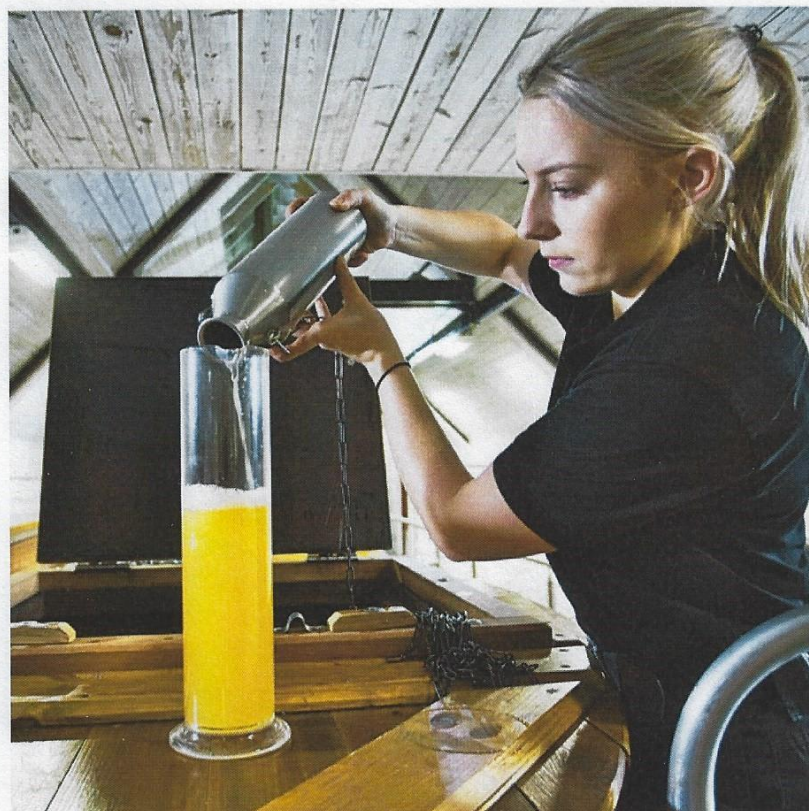
steading was effectively ruined. Given its status as a Category B listed building, little proved easy – not least making a large section of its roof removable to install the two stills and eight 10,000-litre Douglas fir washbacks, or hiring a stonemason to painstakingly repoint every single brick, using traditional methods, over a period of three years.

The importance of the construction of Torabhaig on the ultimate character of its spirit cannot be understated. “The initial design for the distillery flowed from the flavour profile we were looking to obtain, and it had to work with the parameters available to us inside our listed building,” says Mossburn Distillers’ chief executive Neil Mathieson. Unable to adjust the height or pitch of the original roof, for example, the team had to consider the shape and size of the stills, lyne arms and condensers so that the chemistry, which

would create the identified flavour profile, and the physics, the physical constraints of the space and place in which it would be made, aligned.

Torabhaig produces a heavily peated whisky, showcasing what the distillery team describes as ‘well-tempered peat’. While heavily peated, Torabhaig carries a definite finesse, even at a young age. It also shies away from some of the more typically phenolic medicinal flavours associated with other whiskies marketed as ‘heavily peated’, tending more towards subtler woodsmoke and forest floor – the result of an unusually high cut point for a peated whisky.

The term ‘well-tempered’ won’t be lost on classical music enthusiasts, adopted as it was by J.S. Bach in his seminal book of preludes and fugues, *The Well-Tempered Clavier*. Writing in all 24 major and minor keys, Bach demonstrated the seemingly infinite possibility of freedom within form – in



this case, within individual musical forms, specific keys, and a single system of tuning (well-tempered).

I mention this because, to me, Torabhaig represents a distillery engaged in a similar exercise of creating under constraint – in its case, within its physicality and its decision to produce heavily peated malts. What it has done under both of these is nothing short of brilliant. That its first expression, Legacy 2017, was a sell-out success should be testament enough.

The distillery took the unusual step of hiring two teams when it was established. One was an experienced group of industry veterans, brewers, maltsters and distillers comprising between them some two centuries of industry experience. The other was a team of apprentices who now, five years on, constitute the distillery’s passionate team of brewer-distillers. With each coming from a different background, there is only one common thread connecting them: not one of them had worked in brewing or distilling before joining Torabhaig.

**Opening pages:**  
Torabhaig Distillery.

**These pages, left to right:**  
Torabhaig Allt Gleann; Torabhaig distiller Iona Macphie; Torabhaig’s pagoda roof.



## Distillery Focus Torabhaig

What might appear to be a self-imposed constraint on the surface is anything but. "We wanted to choose how we could bring local people of all ages and gender into our industry and train them to work at the very top of our expectations," says Neil. "An aspect that would help foster our relationships within the local community and bring a sense of belonging to what we had to admit was a brand-new distillery with no history behind it."

Following a set of production ideals as closely as possible and recording the results through the first year of operations, Torabhaig's brewer-distillers have been responsible for pioneering how its standard runs will be carried out for years to come. They've also been given an opportunity to specialise in different aspects of production, from gaining a deeper understanding of the fermentation process to wood policy and casking, specifically as part of the distillery's Journeyman's Drams series, which allows each apprentice to produce spirits of their very own design each year and mature them as they wish.


Talk of terroir abounds in the world of whisky these days, and, as we discussed in the previous issue, we're only going to find out the truth by looking for it. Credit, then, where credit is due. Torabhaig may not be the biggest or the most experienced distillery, but it is a philosophy absolutely rooted in a

commitment to a style and an eagerness to examine and preserve what makes its whisky its own. "Simply put," says Bruce Perry, Mossburn Distillers' global brand manager, "you cannot make whisky without distilling the place in which it is made and the people who make it."

For Torabhaig, its place is very definitely Skye – not necessarily the unrelentingly savage and elemental Skye of the north, but a rather more tempered Skye, much like how, on an evening like this, the craggy mountaintops are softened in the reflection of Sleat's millpond shores. On more predictable days, when horizontal rain might make its way in through the pagoda roof and ping off the hot stills, Skye has a say in the spirit. The island's dwellers who constructed the original farm steading are surely also responsible in part (albeit inadvertently) for determining the character of Torabhaig. Even Talisker – and I know the folks at Torabhaig won't mind me saying so – has played a part, having done so much for putting Skye on the whisky map in the first place.

Most notable to me, though, is the people of Torabhaig and their involvement with the distillery at large. "The intention has always been to involve everyone in our journey as we look towards the first age-statement whiskies and the development of the core profile," says Neil. "That's a journey where we are an active passenger in the development process."

Never before have I experienced a distillery tour that ended with sampling new-make spirits in the still room, alongside the very people who designed and made them, and talking not just about whisky but about local life. Nor have I before witnessed distillers cutting the grass and tending to flowerbeds between spirit runs, or seen a distiller have to rush off to play the fiddle at a local ceilidh.

Perhaps it's that old Hebridean pragmatism again. Perhaps this is just Skye. Whatever the case, I'll always remember it when I taste Torabhaig. 

**These pages, left to right:**

The washbacks and wash still at Torabhaig; Opening the manhole; Washback No.8.

