

# Kingston Single Malt Society

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

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

March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2023 VOLUME 16; NUMBER 9a; No. 217



**4<sup>th</sup> Course: Millionaire Shortbread**  
**5<sup>th</sup> Nosing: GLENDRONACH 2012; Hand-filled at the distillery; Calculated age: 10 years old; Casktype: Oloroso**  
**6<sup>th</sup> Nosing: GLENDRONACH 2009: Cask Bottling - Batch 18; Stated Age: 11YO; Casktype: Pedro Ximenez Puncheon (introduced by: Conrad Falkson)**

## COST OF THE MALTS

**GREEN SPOT CHATEAU MONTELENA** LCBO 573782 | 700 mL bottle **Price: \$165.00** Spirits, Whisky/Whiskey, Scotch Single Malts 46.0% Alcohol/Vol.

**GREEN SPOT CHATEAU BARTON** LCBO 573782 | 700 mL bottle **Price: \$165.00** Spirits, Whisky/Whiskey, Scotch Single Malts 46.0% Alcohol/Vol.

**LAGAVULIN OFFERMAN EDITION CHARRED OAK CASK 11 YEARS OLD VINTAGES 248997** | 700 mL bottle **Price: \$149.95** Spirits, Whisky/Whiskey, Single Malt Scotch 46.0% Alcohol/Vol.

**LAGAVULIN 13 YEARS OLD; BOTTLED SERIE: ESPECIALLY TO CELEBRATE FEIS ILE 2021; BOTTLED: 2021; STATED AGE: 13 YEARS OLD; WOODTYPE: FINISHED IN PORT-SEASONED AMERICAN OAK CASKS; BOTTLE: 272 OF 6000 VINTAGES 248997** | 700 mL bottle **Price: \$475.95** Spirits, Whisky/Whiskey, Single Malt Scotch 56.1% Alcohol/Vol.

**GLENDRONACH 2012 Bottling serie: Hand-filled at the distillery; Vintage: 05.06.2012; Bottled: 20.10.2022; Calculated age: 10 years old; Casktype: Oloroso; Casknumber: 257/914; LCBO 463844** | 700 mL bottle **Price \$290.95** Spirits, Whisky/Whiskey, Scotch Single Malts 61.0% Alcohol/Vol.

**GLENDRONACH 2009 Bottling serie: Cask Bottling - Batch 18; Vintage: 26.02.2009; Bottled: 2020; Stated Age: 11 years old; Casktype: Pedro Ximenez Puncheon; Casknumber: 2039; Bottle Number: 587/728; LCBO 463844** | 700 mL bottle **Price \$290.95** Spirits, Whisky/Whiskey, Scotch Single Malts 59.3% Alcohol/Vol.

## MENU

**1<sup>st</sup> Course: Pub Salad with Bib lettuce, Cucumber, Tomatoes, Pickled Beans, Hard Boiled Eggs and Smoked Cheddar with a Creamy Tarragon Dressing**

**1<sup>st</sup> Nosing: GREEN SPOT CHATEAU MONTELENA**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Nosing: GREEN SPOT CHATEAU BARTON**  
(introduced by: Philip Henderson)

**2<sup>nd</sup> Course: Irish Boxty with Chive Sour Cream**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Nosing: LAGAVULIN 13 YO; FEIS ILE 2021; WOODTYPE: FINISHED IN PORT-SEASONED AMERICAN OAK CASKS**  
(introduced by: John Leighton)

**3<sup>rd</sup> Course: Stout Braised Lamb Shanks with Fried Cabbage and Bacon**

**4<sup>th</sup> Nosing: LAGAVULIN OFFERMAN CHARRED OAK 11 YO**  
(introduced by: John Leighton)

**February 10<sup>th</sup> Dinner - KSMS Financial Statement**

Money from 15 February attendees @ \$125)	= \$1875.00
February dinner 15 persons =	= \$1070.48
(Money remaining for buying Single Malt)	= \$804.52
Cost of Single Malts:	= \$1310.70
Cost of Pours per Person = \$87.38	
KSMS Monthly operational balance	= (-\$506.18)
Cost per person (All inclusive)	= \$158.73
Money for Heels	= \$860.00
Money Raised from Raffle	= \$0.00
KSMS Monthly operational balance	= \$353.82

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## Upcoming Dinner Dates

Friday April 14<sup>th</sup> 2023 - Speyside / Islay

Monday May 29<sup>th</sup> 2023 - Speyside / Islands

Monday June 19<sup>th</sup> 2023 - June BBQ - Speyside / Islay

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### Macallan buys 50% stake in Grupo Estévez

10 MARCH 2023 By Nicola Carruthers

The Macallan has taken a 50% stake in Spanish producer Grupo Estévez to have exclusive supply of its Sherry casks.



The deal marks the first time Grupo Estévez has provided its Sherry for cask seasoning

The deal – the terms of which were not disclosed – will see The Macallan and Jerez-based Sherry maker Grupo Estévez form a joint venture. Igor Boyadjian, managing director of Edrington-owned The Macallan, said the move will provide the company with a sustainable supply of high-quality Sherry production for its Sherry-seasoned casks.

“Our partnership with Grupo Estévez builds on The Macallan’s long-standing, deep relationship with the Jerez community and with our wide range of valued suppliers in the Sherry industry that have always played a critical role in the quality of our exceptional Scotch whisky,” he said.

“We hand select our Sherry-seasoned oak casks from Jerez for richness and complexity. The partnership with Grupo Estévez demonstrates the creativity and innovation that has driven The Macallan since it was founded almost 200 years ago and continues the brand’s evolution through masters collaborating with masters.”

Grupo Estévez is led by CEO José Ramón Estévez, who will remain part of the leadership team following the deal.

**Exclusive Sherry provider**

Estévez said: “This will be the first time we have used our beautiful Sherry for cask seasoning, and we are so pleased that we will do this exclusively for The Macallan, which is synonymous with the highest quality Scotch whisky.

“We look forward to contributing to that quality in the years ahead through the seasoning of The Macallan casks with our Sherry.”

Grupo Estévez owns vineyards and bodegas in Jerez’s ‘Sherry Triangle’ and produces the ultra-premium Valdespino brand of Sherries and aperitifs.

Valdespino is described as one of the most historic bodegas in Jerez, dating back to 1264. Its vineyards in the Pago de Macharnudo are considered the ‘Grand Cru’ of Jerez.

As a result of the new partnership, Valdespino will join the Edrington portfolio, which includes Brugal rum, Highland Park whisky and The Famous Grouse.

Valdespino’s growth will be supported by the distribution and marketing capabilities of The Macallan in select international markets.

Scott McCroskie, CEO of Edrington, added: “The Estévez family are a perfect partner for The Macallan in Jerez, owning some of the finest Sherries and vermouths in the world, and custodians of such historic vineyards and bodegas.

“This is a partnership full of promise for The Macallan in the brand’s constant quest to continue producing exceptional quality single malt Scotch whiskies that are so well-loved by consumers around the globe.”

In other news, Edrington is [facing potential strike action](#) in Scotland from trade unions GMB and [Unite](#) over a pay dispute.

Fellow Scottish producer Ardgowan recently [signed a £100 million \(US\\$112m\) deal](#) for a decades-long supply of Sherry casks from Bodegas Miguel Martín, one of Spain’s oldest Sherry cask producers.

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### Brown-Forman sales boosted by Jack Daniel’s

09 MARCH 2023 By Alice Brooker

Finlandia Vodka owner Brown-Forman saw net sales increase by 8% for the nine months ending 31 January 2023, bolstered by Jack Daniel’s Tennessee whiskey.



Jack Daniel’s ready-to-drink canned cocktails saw a sales boost in the past nine months

During the first nine months of the financial year, reported net sales reached US\$3.2 billion, year on year.

Portfolio growth was bolstered by Brown-Forman’s Tennessee whiskey brand Jack Daniel’s in international markets and the travel retail channel. Jack Daniel’s also saw gains for its Tennessee Fire and Tennessee Honey whiskeys. Sales also benefitted from the launch of the brand’s Bonded bottling.

Across the same nine months, reported operating income fell by 13% to US\$829 million.

Reported net sales for the three months to 31 January 2023 increased by 4% to US\$1.1bn, compared to the same period last year.

However, in the third quarter (Q3) its operating income plummeted by 50% to US\$173m, due to a lower gross margin, higher operating expenses, financial setbacks from the acquisitions of [Gin Mare](#) and [Diplomatico rum](#), and a non-cash impairment charge of US\$96m for [Finlandia Vodka](#).

An impairment charge is a process businesses use to write off assets that have dropped in value.

Lawson Whiting, Brown-Forman’s president and chief executive officer, said: “Brown-Forman continues to deliver strong net sales growth year-to-date, as we executed our strategic priorities and invested boldly behind our brands and our people.

“Even as trends begin to normalise, we believe our business will remain robust given the premiumisation of our portfolio, the health of our brands, and the resolve of our people. We also believe our long-term perspective enables us to navigate the changes of our world and drive consistent, reliable growth year after year.”

During Brown-Forman’s first three quarters, results showed a ‘broad-based’ reported net sales growth across all ‘geographic clusters’, and the travel retail channel was driven by strong consumer demand. Sales benefitted from the launch of Jack Daniel’s Bonded, as well as the rest of its portfolio.

The firm’s [first six months \(H1\) of the 2023 fiscal year](#) (May-October 2022) saw double-digit growth of 11%, as it reported a net sales increase to US\$2.12bn compared to the same period last year.

**Brand performance**

Premium Bourbons witnessed a 33% reported net sales growth, as Woodford Reserve and Old Forester welcomed demand in the US. Brown-Forman’s ready-to-drink (RTD) offerings also proved to be popular with consumers.

RTD cocktail New Mix gained market share in Mexico as reported net sales of the brand saw a jump of 45%.

Jack Daniel's RTDs grew by 6%, led by Australia and Germany. Brown-Forman's Tequila portfolio delivered double-digit net sales growth of 12%, with El Jimador rising by 18% and Herradura by 10%.

#### Geographical regions

Reported net sales in Brown-Forman's largest market, the US, grew 4%. This was backed by Woodford Reserve, and the Jack Daniel's family of brands.

Meanwhile, sales in emerging markets rose by 18%, which includes the success of Jack Daniel's in the United Arab Emirates and Brazil.

The travel retail channel sustained strong growth, up by 48%.

Brown-Forman anticipates strong growth in 2023 despite 'macroeconomic volatilities and geopolitical uncertainties'. It also expects high-single digit organic operating income growth this year, despite the dip so far.

In October 2022, Jack Daniel's released an [American single malt whiskey](#) aged in charred white oak barrels and finished in Oloroso sherry casks.

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## Green Spot creates Pinor Noir cask finish

09 MARCH 2023 By Nicola Carruthers

Jameson owner Irish Distillers has partnered with Canadian winery Quails' Gate to release a Green Spot whiskey finished in Pinot Noir casks.



Green Spot Quails' Gate was finished for 16 months in Pinot Noir casks. The limited edition Green Spot Quails' Gate is the third instalment in the Irish whiskey's Wine Geese Series, which celebrates Ireland's historic contribution to the wine world.

The bottling follows other releases in the line, including [Green Spot Château Leoville Barton](#) in 2015 and [Green Spot Château Montelena](#) in 2017.

The new whiskey takes inspiration from two Irish households, the Mitchell family and the Stewart family.

Green Spot was originally produced exclusively for the Mitchell family, who began their whiskey bonding business in 1887 in Dublin, transporting empty wine, Sherry and Port casks to the local Jameson Distillery. Based in British Columbia, Quails' Gate Winery was founded by the Stewart family in 1908 after Richard Stewart Senior immigrated to Canada from Kildare, Ireland.

Initially matured in American oak and ex-Sherry casks, the liquid was then finished for 16 months in Pinot Noir casks, leading to notes of ripe cherry and juicy raspberries.

The wine's residual tannins provide a 'silky sweet texture' to the palate with notes of dried cranberries that compliment Green Spot's signature tastes of red apple, sweet pear, vanilla and nutmeg.

[Deirdre O'Carroll, blender at Irish Distillers](#), said:

"Maturing Green Spot Irish whiskey in the Pinot Noir casks from Quails' Gate adds a fascinating and delectable assortment of rich red berries from the red wine seasoning that perfectly balances Green Spot's orchard fruits and toasted wood finish for a flavoursome, complex expression."

The 46% ABV whiskey will be released from March 2023 in limited quantities in the US, Canada, Ireland, France, the UK and global travel retail.

It has an RRP of US\$80, €72, £56.

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## The Neck Pour - myth, fact, or scapegoat?



Of all the terms to rise into common use amongst whisky drinkers these days, the "neck pour" is one of the more interesting concepts. So what is the neck pour? Is it good or bad? Does it even exist? Read on....

In very simple terms, the neck pour is the very first dram to be poured out of the bottle when you first break the seal and pop the cork on a whisky. By this definition, it is thus the whisky that was sitting in the top of the bottle (i.e. in the neck), and is the first portion of liquid to be consumed from your new purchase. The reason the term exists in the vernacular is because of the perceived observation by many that it tastes different to the rest of the whisky in the bottle....well, at least when you subsequently return to the whisky at a later time. (That's the important bit, as we'll explore shortly). In real life, it plays out along the lines of someone observing, "The neck pour wasn't very impressive, but when I returned to the bottle a few days later, I suddenly found it far more enjoyable."

So is the neck pour somehow *different* to the rest of the whisky? Does it have some different chemical composition or character by virtue of being at the top of the bottle? A rational analysis of the situation should dismiss that notion immediately: After all, bottles get moved, displaced, and handled in such a way that the contents of the bottle are mixed and homogenous. So what's really going on, and is there any merit to the perceived change in the character of the spirit after the first pour? As was hinted at above, the variable and catalyst here is *time*. And, hand in hand with that is the phenomenon that is commonly described as – for better or worse – *oxidation*. Now, oxidation is a complex beast, and if you want to get familiar with all the ins and outs, you could read Whisky & Wisdom's feature piece, [Oxidation – does whisky go off in the bottle?](#) As we discussed in that article, the change that whisky undergoes is not true *oxidation* in the scientific sense of the term. (In science, oxidation is the loss of electrons from one species to another, and requires that the other species gains those electrons). However, for better or worse, *oxidation* is the word that the wine and whisky communities commonly use to describe the changes that occur to drinks when they "breathe" or are simply exposed to air.

In this sense, then, the change and difference we occasionally perceive between the neck pour and the rest of the whisky can be one of the following, or – more likely – a *combination* of the following:

- **Oxidation:** When you pop the cork and pour out your first dram, you are introducing air into the bottle. The introduction of air sets in motion changes to the whisky. Some of the lighter volatiles that may have been present in the spirit pre-opening are allowed to escape/evaporate, and the whisky may have a different character when you return to it a day, a week, or a month later. Depending on the actual chemistry of the spirit (i.e. the presence of volatiles and lighter esters), some whiskies will be prone to exhibiting more change than others after the removal of just one dram from the bottle.
- **Time:** It is rare to hear people speak of the neck pour if the bottle is opened and mostly consumed in a single session. (For example, cracking a bottle amongst friends and putting a serious dent in the contents that same day or evening). The concept of the neck pour invariably revolves around situations where the first dram is consumed on Day 1, and then the second dram is poured on Day (1 + x). Obviously, the bigger the value of "x", the more time elapses and the more scope there is for change in the presence of air in the bottle.
- **Apples and oranges:** As any experienced whisky drinker will confirm, how you perceive the same whisky on different occasions is never consistent or the same. Your perception of a whisky and how it tastes is a function of variables such as the time of day, what other things you've eaten or drunk in the

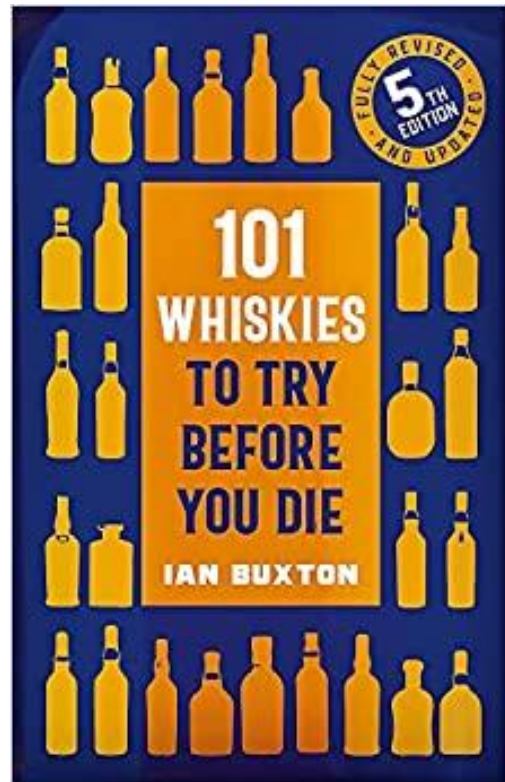
preceding hours, your mood, your state of alertness and concentration, and your general health. When you try the same whisky on different occasions, say three or four days apart, all those parameters and variables that influence your palate's assessment will likely be different. As such, you're not really comparing apples with apples. The trick is to acknowledge you may be holding an orange.

So, on the above basis, yes, the neck pour *does* exist. On the same basis, there should also be a shoulder pour, a chest pour, and a bottom pour. But no one talks about those, do they? And the reason for that is deeply rooted in psychology. The reason why the neck pour is a thing is because it's so closely tied to our *expectations*. When you open a bottle for the first time – particularly an expression you've never tried previously and you're keen to discover – we make *demands* on that whisky: We demand that it meet our expectations. It has to justify the price we paid for it, or justify the hype we heard about it, or justify the story on the label, or its rarity, and so on. And so the first pour out of the bottle is being judged and interrogated with, arguably, a higher level of scrutiny. And it is, indeed, *judged*. We pass judgement on the neck pour; we subsequently give the whisky a metaphorical score; we pigeonhole/categorise it; and we form our opinion.

It's when that first opinion is in any way negative that the neck pour becomes a *thing* and also (hopefully) becomes the reference point for the whisky's future salvation! For it is under those circumstances that we return to the whisky a few days, weeks or months later and try our second dram from the bottle. And it is then that we seemingly discover the whisky has improved. You'll rarely, if ever, hear someone say, "The neck pour was delicious, but the whisky absolutely fell apart a week later." No, it's always the other way around....the whisky has improved since the neck pour.

The truth is, some whiskies *need* the benefit of the neck pour being poured out. Whether it be due to *bottle shock*; a higher concentration of volatiles; or just the need for some interaction with oxygen, there are a growing number of big-name whisky expressions that seem to consistently benefit from the introduction of oxygen into the bottle (via a neck pour) and then being given a week or two to settle. It has not gone unnoticed that many of these consistent performers are cask-strength or high-ABV bottlings. So what's the takeaway here? Perhaps think of the neck pour as being the equivalent of a book's cover. And as you all know....never judge a book by its cover.

Cheers, AD



We review *101 Whiskies To Try Before You Die (5th Edition)*, the latest edition of a popular introduction to whisky book from author Ian Buxton. (image via Headline Publishing)

Regardless of price or prestige, Buxton makes a case for each whisky's place in this book. Avoiding specifics of taste, he tells a story for each expression that justifies why a whisky enthusiast would benefit from tasting it. Some are iconic bottles which even a casual drinker would recognize, some are obscure expressions that are great for their price, and others are doing innovative enough things that he recommends tasting them just to keep stay on top of trends.

In spinning these stories, he builds a broader narrative of distillation as a whole. Going through each bottle, I picked up on recurring themes of whisky's decline and recent resurgence. He frequently describes distilleries closing, only to be purchased and revitalized by new investors. He seeds in commentary on how the industry approaches branding, the experts whose contributions have shaped so many of these expressions, and his own history with many of these bottles.

In addition to having interesting information, Buxton infuses his write-ups with a readable, playful style. He often leans into Scottish slang and dialect, but was never hard for me to follow. He is never above humor when discussing the quality of a cheaper dram, particularly overdone marketing campaigns, or the unrealistic prices some bottles command. It's a tone that helps maintain humility, even as it broadens perspectives. After finishing the list of recommendations, I found that I'd already tried about a dozen of them. Even then, the concept of finishing this list is a daunting task. Befitting of whisky, though, it's not something to rush. Reading this book gave me more than a list of whiskies to try, it made a case for how much variety and depth the medium can offer. It does what only top shelf whisky writing can: it renewed my excitement to seek out new expressions.

This book manages to cover a wide cross-section of what whisky can offer. It also subtly educates readers in the modern history of the industry. Moreover, it gets across its information through a playful, immensely readable style. It's an excellent starting point for new readers, and will give inspiration to veterans. I would recommend this to anyone interested in whisky, and feel it would make an excellent gift for even the most casual fan.

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### Book Review: 101 Whiskies To Try Before You Die (5th Edition)

[Taylor Shiells](#) - March 5, 2023

*Editor's Note: This book was provided to us as a review sample by the party behind it. This in no way, per [our editorial policies](#), influenced the final outcome of this review.*

I'd heard of [Ian Buxton's](#) "101 Whiskies to Try Before you Die" several times before I had a chance to read it. Commentators spoke well of it, as I expect from a book successful enough to spawn [five editions](#). What stood out in those mentions, though, was how many people were suggesting the book for people with no background in whiskey.

It made sense that a list of recommendations would be a good place to start experiencing whiskey. Once I was into the first few write-ups, I saw an even more compelling reason to introduce neophytes to the book. Buxton's writing is accessible, in the best sense of the word. He avoids the dense, arcane language that too often makes whiskey writing insular and off-putting. In his choice of recommendations and his approach to writing about them, Buxton makes getting into whiskey an appealing and lively endeavor.

The book opens with a declaration of purpose. Buxton lets us know that this is not a list of the "best" whiskies, nor is it a list of obscure and noteworthy finds. These are repeating releases, the vast majority are available for under 200 USD, and several would qualify as "bottom shelf" expressions for most readers. I found high class spirits like Old Pulteney 18 Year and [Glenglassaugh](#) 12 Year, but they're only a few pages away from Cutty Sark, Suntory Toki, and Aldi supermarket exclusive [Glen Marnoch](#).

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## Jim Beam Orange debuts in UK

06 MARCH 2023 By Alice Brooker

Beam Suntory has launched Jim Beam Orange in the UK via supermarket Asda.



The orange-flavoured spirit is a mix of orange liqueur and Kentucky straight Bourbon

Jim Beam [unveiled its orange-flavoured Bourbon-based liqueur](#) in June 2021.

The 37.5% ABV expression combines orange liqueur and Kentucky straight Bourbon, which is said to deliver flavours of sweet orange, vanilla and char.

The bottling is available at Asda stores in the UK and online, alongside Jim Beam's other flavours in the range: Peach, Apple and Honey.

Sarah Isaac, head of UK brand marketing at Beam Suntory, said: "After the successful launch of Jim Beam Peach in 2021, we are looking forward to the orange flavour, to encourage new occasions and recruit new consumers to taste the spirit.

"We are thrilled to be partnering exclusively with Asda to launch the orange-flavoured liqueur, as the perfect partner for consumers to enjoy our brand at-home, in delicious cocktails throughout the summer." The orange-flavoured Bourbon liqueur will be available exclusively to Asda for the next two months for an RRP of £18 (US\$21.61). It will be rolled out to other retailers in due course.

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## Midleton NFT becomes fastest BlockBar sale

06 MARCH 2023 By Melita Kiely

Irish Distillers' Midleton Very Rare The Pinnacle Vintage was the fastest sale to date on BlockBar, and the most valuable whiskey at US\$130,000.



Midleton Very Rare The Pinnacle sold for US\$130,000

The whiskey was sold via non-fungible token (NFT) platform BlockBar on 28 February. It was snapped up in two seconds after going live at 10am EST on 28 February.

The single bottle release is the 'rarest bottle of Midleton Very Rare ever produced'.

A portion of liquid from each of the 40 annual Midleton Very Rare expressions was included in the NFT release, plus a sample of single pot still whiskey distilled in 1984 under then master distiller Barry Crockett. Kevin O'Gorman, master distiller, said: "Crafted from a marriage of rare and storied expressions produced over the past 40 years, and a treasured cask sample of single pot still whiskey distilled under Barry Crockett, Midleton Very Rare The Pinnacle Vintage is an Irish whiskey that can never again be replicated.

"Often referred to as the pinnacle of Irish whiskey, Midleton Very Rare is hugely popular among international collectors, and it is fitting that this luxury brand would represent the first Irish whiskey sale benefitting from the security of BlockBar."

The whiskey is presented in a cut-glass decanter. The physical bottle is stored in BlockBar's facility in Singapore comes with a digital certificate of authentication and can be traced back to the Midleton Distillery in Ireland. The owner can redeem, sell or gift the physical bottle at any time.

At 40% ABV, tasting notes include aromas of peaches and melon, with old worn leather and antique furniture. The palate is said to offer aged tannins, vanilla, honey-drizzled figs, and pot-still spices. The finish is 'complex' with a 'fruit-led crescendo'.

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## Waterford unveils €45m global growth plans

06 MARCH 2023 By Nicola Carruthers

Ireland's Waterford Distillery has secured a €45 million (US\$47.8m) funding package from HSBC UK to expand internationally.



Ireland's Waterford Distillery was founded in 2015 by Mark Reynier. The funding will assist Waterford's future growth by supporting the company's expansion into a premium UK supermarket and its export strategy through new international sales.

Available in 32 countries, Irish single malt maker Waterford is targeting the US as a key market.

The Irish producer received €45m financing through a Cross Border Asset Based Lending (ABL) Facility, leveraged against the company's maturing casks of whiskey.

The funds will enable the company to lay down more whiskey to mature. Based in a converted Guinness brewery, Waterford Distillery was founded in 2015 by [Mark Reynier](#). He is the former CEO of Bruichladdich Distillery on Scottish island Islay and the founder of Grenada's Renegade Rum Distillery.

The bank said it has a 'long-term relationship' with Waterford's management team, which includes Reynier, as Bruichladdich previously banked with HSBC until it was sold to Rémy Cointreau.

Grant Bett, relationship director at HSBC UK said: "Waterford are a fantastic example of an innovative whiskey distiller using local providence and sustainable practices to bring their award-winning brand to the market."

Waterford Distillery works with local farms to create single-farm-origin single malt whiskeys. The distillery also produced the [first Irish whiskey to be certified organic](#) by the Organic Trust as part of the company's sustainability strategy.

Reynier added: "Waterford is [a] natural single malt whiskey, barley-forward and [with] terroir-driven flavours. Now, together with this HSBC UK facility and the outstanding stocks of maturing whiskey, we can bring Waterford to a wider global market."

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## Keanu Reeves reveals his favourite cocktail

06 MARCH 2023 By Melita Kiely

Actor Keanu Reeves described his favourite cocktail during a Reddit 'ask me anything' (AMA) thread over the weekend.



Matrix star Keanu Reeves is a Japanese whisky fan Reeves, who has starred in films including the *Matrix* and the *John Wick* franchise, was asked during the AMA: "What's your favourite cocktail?"

He replied: "I was recently in Tokyo working, and was taken to a bar owned by a master cocktail maker named Ueno-san called High Five and he made some kind of sublime concoction with a smoky mezcal and green tea and some mysterious sweet liqueur, chilled. Oh my god."

The cocktail sounds like one of the House Specials, called Japanese Garden, which is a blend of J's whisky, Midori, and green tea liqueur. It sounds like the bartender swapped the whisky for mezcal to give the smoky twist Reeves raved about.

Further into the AMA discussion, Reeves also revealed he was a fan of Japanese whisky: "I like me some motorcycles, typewriters, Japanese whisky, playing in the band, learning, reading, and some fine red wine."

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## WhistlePig creates 21-year-old whiskey

03 MARCH 2023 By Alice Brooker

Vermont-based distillery WhistlePig has launched a 21-year-old whiskey, called The Béhölden.



The 750ml bottling retails for US\$799.99, and only 18 barrels were produced. Eighteen barrels were produced of the limited edition whiskey, which retails for US\$799.99 per 750ml bottle.

It was aged for 21 years in American oak ex-Bourbon barrels, and given a four-week-long finish in WhistlePig rye barrels.

Clocking in at 46% ABV, the liquid was produced from 100% malted barley, and is said to deliver maple spice, smoky and dried fruit notes.

The brand recently unveiled a [limited edition porcine decanter](#) containing its 10-year-old Piggybank Rye, designed to be sipped 'from the rear'.

The bottling featured on [SB's top 10 spirits launches in December 2022](#).

Last year, WhistlePig also shook up its team: in September, the producer appointed [Sarah Long as its new chief marketing officer](#), and Duffey Sida as its chief sales officer. In October, [ex-Brown-Forman employee Matt Uden](#) was named as its UK brand ambassador.

WhistlePig is also a partner of alcohol e-commerce platform Speakeasy, which recently [raised US\\$6.8 million worth of investment](#) to pursue its next phase of growth. The funds were raised during the company's third seed round. Following two funding rounds in 2020 and 2021, the platform has raised a total of US\$9.8m to date.

In more whiskey-related news, Waterford Distillery recently launched [Cuvée: Argot](#), a single malt Irish whiskey created with barley harvested from individual farms to highlight the liquid's terroir.

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## Moët Hennessy's Ardbeg Fon Fhòid NFT – Product Launch

The latest Ardbeg expression takes its name from 'under the turf'

[James Beeson](#)



- Category – Spirits, whisky, Scotch, single malt, 45.5% abv
- Available – From this month
- Location – Worldwide, available as an NFT edition via BlockBar.com
- Price – Approximately US\$3,000

Moët Hennessy has become the latest spirits brand owner to jump on the Non-Fungible Token (NFT) bandwagon, announcing the release of a limited edition from its Ardbeg single malt Scotch whisky brand.

Ardbeg Fon Fhòid will be available exclusively on high-end wine and spirits NFT trading site BlockBar.com from today (19 April). Limited to 456 units, the expression will be stored at BlockBar's facility in Singapore until redeemed by its owners. The whisky has an SRP of 1.00 Ethereum (around US\$3,000).

The release is groundbreaking for Moët Hennessy in more ways than one, having been aged in second-fill Bourbon casks that were buried under a peat bog near the Islay distillery for around two years. The whisky's name translates from Scottish Gaelic for 'under the turf'.

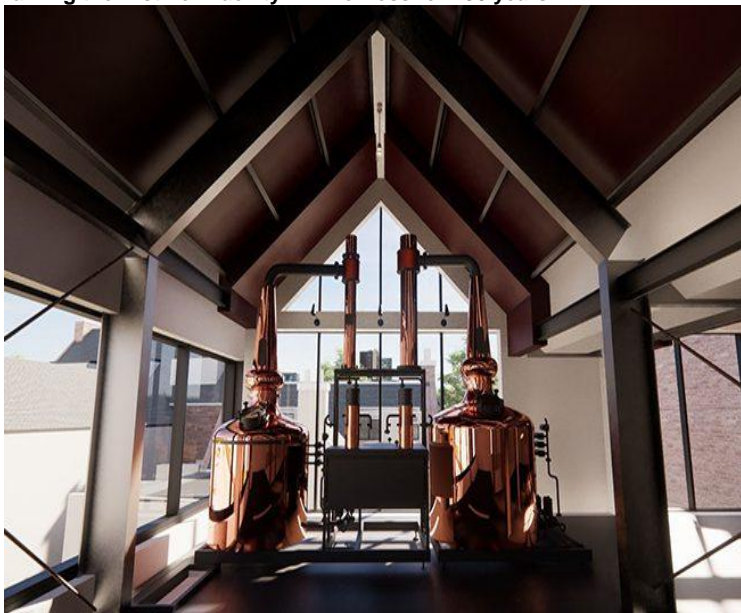
"Our whisky makers are always pushing the boundaries of experimentation," said the CEO of Moët Hennessy's The Glenmorangie Co division, Thomas Moradpour. "This is a chance to own one of their most intriguing creations to date, a true piece of Ardbeg history."

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## First Inverness distillery in 130 years opens

02 MARCH 2023 By Nicola Carruthers

The £7.5 million (US\$8.9m) Uile-bheist distillery has officially opened, marking the first new facility in Inverness for 130 years.



Uile-bheist will produce 200 to 300 casks of Highland single malt per year. Plans for the new whisky distillery and brewery on River Ness were [first revealed in June 2022](#).

The facility is powered by a low-carbon sustainability centre on site.

Further phases of the site will see the creation of a distilling 'campus', with increased capacity, a bonded warehouse with shopping, and enhanced tap room, tasting and visitor spaces.

Water and energy for Uile-bheist's whisky production comes from the River Ness through a 'pioneering' district heating system which uses shallow water wells to fire heat pumps. The site is also partly powered by a rooftop solar installation.

Inverness, which was once Scotland's malting hub, was home to the Glen Mhor, Glen Albyn and Millburn distilleries, with rare bottles still fetching high prices.

However, the distilleries were closed in 1980s when global production outstripped 'petering demand'.

Owner Jon Erasmus said: "It's great to bring whisky distilling and brewing back to the city but we also wanted a high level of design specification throughout, from the stills to the dramming area, to the tap room.

"If people have travelled from New York or Tokyo, or if they've seen a lot of other distilleries, we want them to come here and think: I really like what they've done, here. Everything is photogenic."

**Whisky production**

Uile-bheist will produce 200 to 300 casks of Highland single malt per year, rising to 500-600 in phase three. Around 350,000 litres of craft beer will be produced annually.

The production of the low-carbon whisky and beer comes through a dual technology developed by Germany's Kaspar Schulz, the oldest brewery equipment supplier in the world.

Master brewer Bruce Smith added: "We are using an efficient set-up which effectively 'shares' the equipment up to a point in the initial process, with some subtle differences in recipe and process. Thereafter the processes for the craft beer and the whisky obviously differ significantly.

"With our whisky, we are looking to forge our own path. We are not going to bind ourselves to traditions of the 1800s. We want to be a little experimental. Basically, we will release the first whisky only when we are proud of it and feel it truly represents the brand."

The distillery expects to have 100 tour visits per day during the peak season. Erasmus hopes to attract some of the near 300,000 annual visitors to Inverness to the distillery.

A limited 'Discovery' tour programme began on 1 March, with hourly tours being offered from 1 April.

The distillery [revealed its cask programme](#) last summer, offering 100 casks of its whisky for sale.

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## Ardgowan spends £100m on Sherry casks

02 MARCH 2023 By Nicola Carruthers

Scottish producer Ardgowan has signed a £100 million (US\$112m) deal for a decades-long supply of Sherry casks and hired The Macallan's ex-master of wood.



L-R: Roland Grain, director of investments; CEO Martin McAdam; Stuart MacPherson, master of wood

Ardgowan, which will soon begin construction of its [low-carbon distillery in Inverclyde](#), has partnered with Bodegas Miguel Martín, one of Spain's oldest Sherry cask producers.

The move marks what is thought to be the first unique cask design in the Scotch whisky sector in more than a century.

Ardgowan Distillery has commissioned Bodegas Miguel Martín to construct sustainably sourced European oak casks, at a cost of 30 to 40 times more than standard whisky casks.

Roland Grain, principal shareholder at Ardgowan and director of investments, said: "The first batch of Ardgowan Infinity casks have already been manufactured and are now seasoning for at least two years in Bodegas' dunnage warehouse in Sanlúcar de Barrameda.

"While many distilleries tend to just finish their spirits in Sherry casks, our whisky will be matured for its whole life in these first-fill infinity casks. We have already spent more money on our casks than many others are investing into building a distillery."

**Macallan's MacPherson joins Ardgowan**

The distillery has also hired Stuart MacPherson from Edrington as its new master of wood. He brings 43 years of experience in managerial roles to Ardgowan, including more than a decade at The Macallan.

Ardgowan previously appointed [Edrington's Max McFarlane](#) as its whisky maker.

Martin McAdam, CEO of Ardgowan Distillery, added: "With up to 80% of whisky aromas and flavours deriving from casks, it's imperative to have a master of wood as experienced as Stuart to perfect our maturation process.

"The cask supply contract is an enormous commitment from Ardgowan and demonstrates our dedication to quality and our desire to create a fantastic whisky.

"The casks are specifically designed for long-maturation and will be seasoned with organic Sherry for 27 months – far longer than the industry standard of 12-18 months."

Ardgowan's CEO said the company had delayed the introduction of its single malt to "make sure we're getting the most out of these special casks".

Ardgowan is aiming to start production in 2024. It has secured a total funding package of £24m (US\$27m) for the project to date.

The distillery has [partnered with Heriot-Watt University](#) and engineers Briggs of Burton to develop technology to capture all of the CO2 in its fermentation process and transform it into green biomethane. Ardgowan said the technique has never been used in a Scotch whisky distillery before.

The new facility is expected to create 47 jobs.

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## Writers' Tears debuts 2023 Cask Strength

02 MARCH 2023 By Alice Brooker

Irish whiskey brand Writers' Tears has released 8,700 bottles of its 2023 Vintage Cask Strength bottling.



The 13th edition Cask Strength whiskey clocks in at 54.8% ABV

This is the 13th edition of the Cask Strength whiskey, produced by [Amber Beverage Group-owned Walsh Whiskey](#).

Bernard Walsh, Writers' Tears creator and co-founder of Walsh Whiskey, said: "What's rare is wonderful and triple-distilled cask strength whiskey is just that.

"Rarer still, unique in fact, is a premium blend of aged single pot still, beautifully balanced by aged single malt.

"We take great pride in commending this full-bodied, flavoursome release to whiskey drinkers the world over."

The 54.8%-ABV liquid is a blend of triple-distilled, aged single pot still and single malt whiskey, and is non-chill filtered and aged in American oak Bourbon barrels.

Each bottle is individually numbered and carries the signature of Writers' Tears creator – Bernard Walsh.

On the nose, sweet aromas of crème caramel and wild honey are presented, while the palate contains flavours of salted caramel-dipped almonds, sweet floral notes, roasted hazelnuts.

The finish delivers toasted oak and ginger spice.

The whiskey is available across select markets worldwide, with 1,800 bottles distributed in the US, and 6,900 allocated to markets including Canada, Ireland, France, the UK, South Africa and Asia.

The brand unveiled [a limited edition bottle for its Copper Pot expression](#) to commemorate the centenary of James Joyce's novel *Ulysses* in May last year.

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## Tobermory launches 25-year-old whisky

02 MARCH 2023 By Melita Kiely

Mull-based distillery Tobermory has added a 25-year-old single malt Scotch whisky to its Hebridean Series.



A total of 5,298 bottles of Hebridean Series: Tobermory 25 have been made

The 25-year-old follows the distillery's 23- and [24-year-old bottlings](#). It was first aged in oloroso Sherry casks before being finished in González Byass casks.

Tasting notes include blackcurrant jam, peaches and lemon peel, leading to spice, poached pears and nutmeg.

Bottled at 48.1% ABV, only 5,298 bottles of Hebridean Series: Tobermory 25 have been made. It is available now exclusively from Berry Bros & Rudd for £345 (US\$415) per bottle, and will also be sold on [tobermorydistillery.com](#) from 8 March.

Brendan McCarron, master distiller at Tobermory Distillery, said: "Our hand-crafted Hebridean Series really champions the little island we call home, drawing inspiration on its unique history and heritage to shape our expressions.

"The 25-year-old is a real homage to Mull's crofting history and draws parallels on the skill and ingenuity that goes into working with the land around us."



Wildlife filmmaker Gordon Buchanan

To celebrate the launch, Tobermory has teamed up with award-winning wildlife filmmaker Gordon Buchanan, who will be working with the distillery as an island ambassador to preserve and promote the Isle of Mull.

Buchanan grew up on Mull and has travelled the world filming and photographing animals and their habitats.

He will work with the distillery team and the local community organisations on Mull to promote sustainability and raise awareness of the island's ecosystem.

Buchanan added: "Mull is where I grew up and spent many happy years as a boy. Its amazing wildlife and ecosystem is what inspired me to get into photography and filmmaking when I was a teen, and for that, I'll always be grateful.

"Tobermory Distillery is a key part of my family's history so I'm honoured to be joining the team as island ambassador."

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## Glenmorangie debuts Amontillado Finish

01 MARCH 2023 By Nicola Carruthers

Highland single malt brand Glenmorangie has released a 'nutty and spicy' 12-year-old whisky finished in Amontillado Sherry casks.



Glenmorangie's 12-year-old Amontillado Finish whisky Glenmorangie Amontillado Finish (46% ABV) is the fourth bottling in the brand's Barrel Select Release series of small batch single malts. It is only available to buy in Australia and the UK.

The distillery's director of whisky creation, Dr Bill Lumsden, is a long-time fan of Amontillado and sourced a handful of the Sherry casks to give a 'complex twist' to Glenmorangie's fruity style. The casks are said to be difficult to obtain.

"I have always loved the nuttier, spicier tastes of Amontillado – my favourite style of Sherry," Lumsden said. "It's such a delight to bring its casks' Sherried influences to our whisky's signature delicate style for this special release."

Lumsden filled the casks with a 'soft, mellow whisky' that had spent eight years in American white oak Bourbon barrels. He then transferred the liquid into Amontillado casks for four years.

The resulting liquid offers a nose of rose, carnation, jasmine, fragrant candle wax and cashew nuts.

The palate brings hints of clove and ginger that are balanced with the brand's signature citrus flavours of orange sherbet, lemon balsam and eucalyptus oil, along with undertones of walnut oil and leather.

Lumsden added his own tasting notes: "Aromas of dried fruit and cashews are balanced with peaches, while tastes of clove and ginger contrast wonderfully with orange and lemon."

Glenmorangie Amontillado Finish is available exclusively to buy from The Whisky Club in Australia, at the Glenmorangie visitor centre in Tain, Scotland, and online from the brand's website. It has an RRP of £75 (US\$90).

In September last year, Glenmorangie [bottled its first whisky](#) made from barley kilned with woodland botanicals.

It was followed by the launch of the second instalment in the whisky brand's ['it's kind of delicious and wonderful' campaign](#) in November.

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## The Whiskey Salvaged From This 170-Year-Old Shipwreck In Lake Michigan Could Be Worth Millions

By Amber Breese | Edited By Maggie Donahue  
Published February 21, 2023

In 2020, a team of shipwreck divers explored the *Westmoreland*, a 19th-century ship that sank in Lake Michigan in 1854 — and found whiskey and gold coins worth millions of dollars among the wreckage.



Cal Kothrade/Pen NewsArtist rendition of the *Westmoreland* shipwreck in Platte Bay, Michigan.

In the winter of 1854, a passenger ship carrying 280 barrels of whiskey and a stash of gold sank in Lake Michigan. For decades, the ship — as well as its treasure — lay hidden on the bottom of the lake, nearly 200 feet deep. Now, a team of divers has located the wreck and plans to recover the ship's cargo, which may be worth over \$17 million dollars.

On that cold December day in 1854, the *Westmoreland* passenger ship carried 34 passengers through the Manitou Passage, an infamous area of Lake Michigan known for its rough waves and strong currents, and got caught in a storm.

According to [MyNorth.com](#), ice-cold waves measuring 10 to 20 feet slammed against the ship as it traversed through the passage, and soon the passengers of the *Westmoreland* were ankle-deep in frigid water.

The *Westmoreland* lost its battle with the storm and sunk to the bottom of Platte Bay, taking an unlucky 17 passengers with her.

In the days following the wreck, newspapers published stories that spoke of the *Westmoreland*'s trove of gold coins and barrels of whiskey. The *Westmoreland* had reportedly been en route to a nearby Army fort, and it carried a stash of gold coins that would pay the soldiers' wages. These stories became urban legends that inspired many hopeful treasure hunters to look for the shipwreck over the years, but until 2010, no one had seen it for themselves.

More than a century after the ship sank, a local historian and recreational diver named Ross Richardson became obsessed with finding it. In July 2010, after several years of research using maps and historical accounts to estimate the ship's final resting place, Richardson loaded into his boat equipped with sonar technology and traversed miles across Lake Michigan in search of the wreck.



Lenawee District LibraryRoss Richardson, founder of the *Westmoreland* and author of *The Search for the Westmoreland*. He planned to search three different square-mile grids of the bay that had seemed promising based on his research. And as he scanned the third grid, a ship appeared on his screen — a massive ship measuring about 200 feet long.

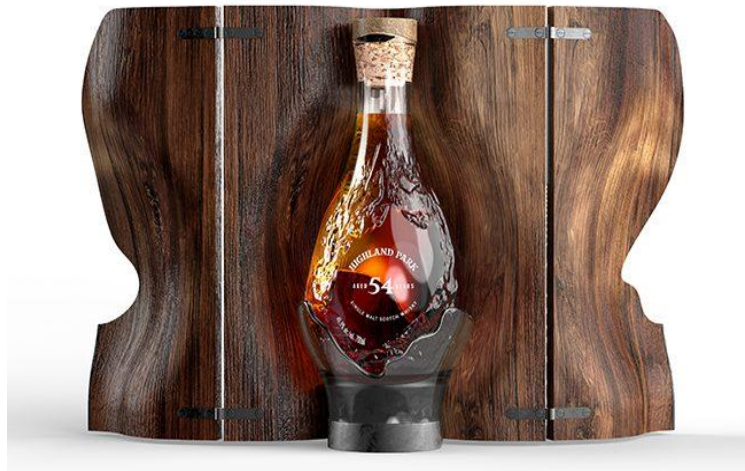
Richardson knew immediately that he had found the wreck of the *Westmoreland*. "I knew right away," he said, recounting the discovery to MyNorth. "I went, Oh crap." In his book, *The Search for the Westmoreland*, Richardson described the frenzy of thoughts going through his mind when he finally found the shipwreck he had spent so long obsessing over. "I stopped the boat, shut off the engine, and did some heavy-duty praying and soul searching," he wrote. "I jumped into the water to cool off, with my internal dialogue kicking into high gear. Is this it?" But initially, there was little Richardson could legally do in regard to exploring the shipwreck or salvaging its cargo. Michigan law prevents amateur divers from salvaging shipwrecks without authorization. And according to the [U.S. National Park Service](#), the Federal Abandoned Shipwreck Law of 1987 "affirms the authority of state governments to claim and manage abandoned shipwrecks on state submerged lands." Richardson also tried reporting his finding to educational institutions but received disheartening replies. Disappointed with the lack of interest in the wreck, Richardson eventually hosted his own press conferences and alerted the media to his discovery. This increased coverage attracted the attention of several universities interested in mapping the *Westmoreland*, and nearly 10 years after Richardson found the wreck, he was finally able to explore it alongside a team of researchers.



Chris Roxburgh/Pen News Ross Richardson's crew explores the wreck of the *Westmoreland*. On June 24, 2020, Richardson and his team dived down to explore the *Westmoreland* and look for her famed treasure. The crew identified several barrels of whiskey and gold coins, but were unable to extract them due to Michigan state law. But that didn't discourage Richardson. "We are in the beginning stages of discussing a salvage operation to recover the whiskey casks and possibly other artifacts," he told [Daily Mail](#) earlier this month. No official date has yet been set for the recovery, but Richardson is excited to begin operations, as he believes the wreck contains historically significant artifacts. "The *Westmoreland* is an underwater museum, filled with perfectly-preserved relics from the 1850s, and preserving them for public display would be a worthy cause," Richardson said. In regard to the gold coins, Richardson told [Daily Mail](#) that they "would be worth about a million dollars if we melted them down and sold them." "The true value is the numismatic value of these coins, which could realistically be more than \$20 million today," he added. The whiskey, meanwhile, is exceptionally rare, and regional distilleries have already expressed interest in purchasing it to use for testing and sale. While it's not yet clear how much whiskey has survived, any that remains intact would have aged 170 years. On top of that, according to [The Mirror](#) the genetic makeup of corn in 1854 was different from today's, meaning the whiskey would also have a different taste. Despite the legal entanglements of the operation and the rough conditions of the ship's resting place, Richardson is hopeful that his crew will be able to extract the whiskey and the artifacts from the wreck after receiving proper permits.

When asked if he would ever see a conclusion to the *Westmoreland* expedition, Richardson told [Daily Mail](#), "Eventually, yes. But, we are a long way, maybe decades, from making that happen." "Only time will tell if the *Westmoreland* will share her secrets with us," Richardson said.

Hello Roberto, This year marks the 225th anniversary of Highland Park and we're making history once again with the launch of our oldest and rarest whisky to date – Highland Park 54 Year Old.



The 54-year-old Highland Park whisky was created to celebrate the distillery's 225th birthday. Only 225 bottles will be released, one to mark each year of production at the Distillery, and this exceptional whisky has been expertly created by our Master Whisky Maker, Gordon Motion.

Highland Park 54 Year Old is presented in a bespoke embossed bottle and a beautiful presentation case crafted from the finest Scottish oak; it also comes with an invitation for each buyer to attend a once-in-a-lifetime experience here in Orkney.

## TASTING NOTES

INTENSELY SWEET, RICH AND COMPLEX  
46.9% – NON-CHILL FILTERED



### NOSE

Exotic lychee and camphor; vintage oak and delicate peat



### COLOUR

Cask-driven natural colour  
Deep autumnal russet



### PALATE

Warm spices; crushed cumin, coriander seeds, summer rose and jasmine with a hint of kiwi fruit and pistachio



### FINISH

Sweet and spicy at the end, woody notes give way to a lingering whisper of sweet fenugreek and heathery peat smoke

This exquisite whisky has a UK RRP of £39,000.00 which includes UK VAT and Duty. The total price will vary from location to location, according to local taxes and insured shipping costs. To register your interest in purchasing Highland Park 54 Year Old, please follow the link above, which will remain open until Friday 03 March at 12 noon GMT.

## Highland Park debuts 54YO for £39,000

23 FEBRUARY 2023 By Nicola Carruthers

Orkney-based Highland Park has launched its oldest Scotch whisky to date, a 54-year-old single malt priced at £39,000 (US\$47,000).

Limited to 225 bottles, the whisky has been released ahead of the distillery's 225th anniversary this year.

The liquid was originally laid down in 1968. Four refill butts and six refill hogsheads were combined in February 2008 and poured into first-fill European Sherry butts, where the liquid was left to rest for its final 14 years.

Gordon Motion, Highland Park master whisky maker, said: "This exceptionally rare 54-year-old single malt Scotch whisky has been nurtured through careful maturation and harmonisation.

"Representing a quarter of Highland Park's life, we felt it was a fitting way to mark our 225th anniversary; born and crafted in the heart of Orkney."

The whisky is described as 'sweet, rich and complex' with notes of lychee and camphor, vintage oak and delicate peat on the nose.

The palate brings warm spices, crushed cumin, coriander seeds, rose and jasmine with a hint of kiwi fruit and pistachio, followed by a finish of sweet fenugreek and heathery peat smoke.

Bottled at 46.9% ABV, the whisky will be available in the UK from Berry Bros & Rudd and The Whisky Shop from 23 February 2023.

Michael Rudak, senior designer at Stoelzle Flaconnage, created the bottle, which features a conical 'push' at the base in tribute to the mash tuns at the distillery.

The single malt comes in a presentation box made from Scottish oak, alongside an invite to attend a 'once-in-a-lifetime' experience in Orkney. The box has been designed to replicate the cliffs of Yesnaby on the Scottish island.

Founded in Kirkwall, Orkney, in 1798, Highland Park is among the 10 oldest working distilleries in Scotland.

In August last year, Highland Park added a [third bottling to its Cask Strength series](#) – the smokiest single malt in the range to date.

Highland Park owner Edrington saw its [revenue soar by 45%](#) for the year ending 31 March 2022.



ILLUSTRATION BY STEPHEN COLLINS ILLUSTRATION BY STEPHEN COLLINS

The number of samples that are approached each day vary largely based on individual roles, responsibilities, and size of the organization. Sandy Hyslop, Chivas Brothers director of blending and inventory who oversees Aberlour and Buchanan's, says, "I nose over 1,500 samples per week, but taste about one." Fukuyo leads a team that noses and samples around 30,000 samples each year. For Joe Beatrice, founder of Barrell Craft Spirits in Kentucky, between ten and forty per day. Billy Walker of Glenallachie does 250 to 300 per week and Chokalingam alone limits it to about 10 per day. In spite of this wide range, each reveals the commitment necessary in this line of work, as the numbing effects of ethanol have to be mitigated in order to judge each glass fairly.

Overall, the median proof in the glass for evaluation hovers between a surprisingly low 20% ABV up to 30%, with 40% as an outlier. However, Richard Paterson, master blender for Whyte and Mackay (makers of The Dalmore and Jura), takes a wider approach, "I always prefer to nose the sample straight, then add water depending on the age of the sample. If it is between 30 to 64 years old, then I try to avoid adding water. That just kills it!"

As for the best time of day to execute these activities, one thing is certain: Please don't call them in the morning, because in the words of Walker, "[Then] the palate is clean and crisp and the connection between the sensory nerves and the brain are at their height." Compass Box whisky maker James Saxon admits that, while he's a morning person, "It's more a question of temperature in the room and ensuring there's a suitable gap between meals." His boss and Compass Box founder John Glaser extends that thinking, stating, "While the palate is fresher in the morning, I feel that tasting a whisky in the real-life environment of being at home and enjoying a whisky before or after a meal is critical to fully understanding the whisky."

While the lab is important from a technical perspective, "A more casual assessment, from a proper drinking glass, in the real environment of your home, provides a critically important and different type of analysis." Hiram Walker master distiller Don Livermore hit the button on this angle, saying, "Production mandates early morning evaluation. But sensory perspective, from a consumer's view, is sometimes late in the day, or in the evening in a La-Z-Boy watching the hockey game. Some late-night tastings have had me changing recipes in the middle of the third period!"

Spit or Swallow? Along with nosing during evaluation comes tasting, and ultimately the question leads to, "Do you swallow what you're tasting?" Most enthusiastic was Paterson's colleague Gregg Glass, master blender at Whyte and Mackay. "Yes! We make whiskies to enjoy...we believe in full experiential enjoyment of our whiskies." Paterson elaborates the nuances of the entire experience: "You must swallow the spirit to digest the full character. The aftertaste allows you to tease out those many hidden gems. At the end of the day the consumer is not buying a bottle to nose it—it's all about the taste." Fukuyo agrees, as "Some aromas and flavors require the entire palate in order to be found." Four Roses master distiller Brent Elliott takes a different approach, with one condition: "Rarely [does he swallow]. But for final blend evaluations of certain products, it is important to evaluate the sample entirely, from aroma to finish." That methodology is echoed by Joe Beatrice. "We smell more than we taste and have trained our palates to be able to decipher flavor profiles and nuance with the smallest tastes possible," he says.

## Tasting Tips From Blenders and Distillers

February 8, 2023 — [Robin Robinson](#)

At this moment, in distilleries and blending labs around the world, a critical communication is underway. A blender or distiller is having a silent conversation with a glass that contains whisky. It could be the latest iteration of a blend in the course of developing a new product, or in the maintenance of a legacy brand. Either way, the process requires passion, methodology, and clinical precision.

We've asked some of the world's top blenders and distillers to give us an extraordinary peek into their labs and workspaces to help us understand their work and their creative process—from sensory overload to how they deal with the more prosaic activities of driving a car or doing the same thing day after day; of taking their "work" home with them and what it all means to you.

While these artisans are much like you and me, they have to deal with everyday issues in a slightly different manner. The issue of sensory impact and overload was considered by the team at Michter's, where master of maturation Andrea Wilson and head distiller Dan McKee oversee a team of 25 professionals. "Things like illness, lack of sleep, and medication can have an impact, but even if you chose pesto as a dinner item, it may disqualify you from the daily tasting," says Wilson. There's also the problem of having too much of a good thing. Ashok Chokalingam, head of distilling and international operations at Amrut Distillery in Bangalore, India, notes that after a day of sampling, "There are times when you feel nasty, with loads of tannins sitting on your tongue, and on those days dinner can be awkward." When it came to the question of driving a car after a long day's work, everyone made a point of the safety protocols in place and balancing the different effects of nosing versus tasting. But Shinji Fukuyo, chief blender for Suntory, nailed the best response regarding his 5-day work week in a very witty style: "I enjoy driving and cooking on weekends, not on weekdays."

*"Sensory perspective, from a consumer's view, is sometimes late in the day, or in the evening in a La-Z-Boy watching the hockey game. Some late-night tastings have had me changing recipes in the middle of the third period!" —DON LIVERMORE,HIRAM WALKER*



ILLUSTRATION BY STEPHEN COLLINS ILLUSTRATION BY STEPHEN COLLINS

#### Types of Glassware

An area of wide agreement was on the type of glass used, with the stemmed sherry copita being the favorite, followed by the traditional Glencairn. The Michter's team prefers "wide lip glassware," which will deliver a different experience than the convergent (narrow lip) shape of the copita. Like Glaser, both Livermore and Glass say they experiment with a wide range of other glassware when in development mode, to mimic different consumer experiences. The lab setting, one in which there is a controlled environment that lessens the opportunity for stray smells to enter, is the overall preferred setting. But as with Glaser and Livermore's home-like extensions, both Paterson and Glass allude to a number of unusual spaces where a sampling or nosing has occurred: in the back of a car on the way to a meeting, a hotel room, even during a honeymoon on the other side of the world. That's the kind of dedication we're looking for! But what are they looking for in a whisky? Is it a flaw, or is it that sublime combination of aroma, flavor, and mouthfeel that stops these aroma trekkers in their tracks? The comments had a resoundingly upbeat rhythm: "beauty," "a full dynamic experience," "sweet spot," "deliciousness." "The whole experience," says Joe Beatrice, "the color, the mouthfeel, complexity, balance, and depth." Fukuyo describes it this way, "It's like having Google Maps for flavor—you can zoom all the way in for the details, then zoom out to get a sense of the landscape." Hyslop recommends using "your own words, your own life experiences" to relate to the whisky. Livermore keeps in mind the intended use—is this to be a cocktail ingredient or sipped neat? "While identifying flaws is important," Elliott says, "I typically focus on the positive, defining attributes and try to bring them together to create desired flavors or to select the best barrels." Paterson sees it as "the excitement of the story we can create [for the drinker] through the aromas and tastes."

And what about us mere mortals? Are there tips on how we can mimic the pros in order to get the most out of the glass? Their most common answer is to take your time and experiment, especially with water. "Taste it neat first before adjusting with water or ice," says Wilson. Hyslop reminds us, "It's personal, so don't let someone else tell you how to drink it." "Don't be intimidated by descriptive language for spirits," advises Elliott, "Descriptors are only there for communication." Fukuyo-san agrees. "Consumers can enjoy whisky without any technique," he says. Walker and Chokalingam both advise keeping the palate fresh and not compromised by other flavors. Livermore reminds us to "refer to childhood memories" and to not discount "sessionability," meaning that special connection between friends that makes everything taste better. "Taste whisky any way you like with those you love," says Glass. And as far as maximizing the experience of drinking, he advises we follow "The rule of three: What is the sweet element, what is the fruit element, and what is the base/dark/earthy/spice element?" From a practical view, Hyslop advises, "Don't throw away the old bottle. Keep it around and open a new bottle to compare the aroma notes."

In the 21st century, our eyes and ears typically lead us through our daily reality. But our sense of taste and smell are our most primal, evoking our deepest memories; a link to our evolutionary ancestors who relied on them for survival in a hostile environment. In the world of whisky, these artisans act as field guides through the most remote parts of our brains, where every aroma and flavor are hashmarks on the trunks of trees along the path they'd like us to take. There is indeed a marvelous discovery in each glass if you follow them.

## Top 10 whisky distilleries in Scotland ranked using social media data and reviews

Whisky experts have carried out research to reveal the top 10 whisky distilleries across Scotland, according to factors such as customer reviews and popularity on social media.



Lagavulin Distillery has been named as one of the top five in Scotland (Image: David Lefranc/Kipa/Sygma via Getty Images)

New research has revealed the "best" whisky distilleries in Scotland using customer reviews and social media data.

Scotland's whisky industry is world-famous, and attracts tourists from around the globe. With so many [distilleries](#) located in the country, it can be hard to see all of them in a single trip.

To help visitors decide where to head, whisky experts at [The Cask Connoisseur](#) have put together an index ranking of the top distilleries in Scotland. The research has revealed the 10 "best" distilleries in the country.

Each distillery was given a score out of 140 for each of the following criteria: Google rating, number of Google reviews, [TripAdvisor](#) rating, number of TripAdvisor reviews, Instagram hashtags, and TikTok views. An overall rating out of 840 was then assigned.

Coming in at number one is Laphroaig Distillery in Port Ellen on the [Island of Islay](#). Located at Loch Laphroaig on the south coast of the island, the distillery has earned acclaim far and wide—including from King Charles III.

The Cask Connoisseur adds: "Renowned for its rich and unmistakable taste in its whisky, Laphroaig Distillery still uses its traditional methods to produce one of the most distinctive single malts."



Laphroaig Distillery took the top spot on the list (Image: David Lefranc/Kipa/Sygma via Getty Images)

"With the highest score of 736.5 out of a possible 840, this distillery tops the list. They were also one of the most popular on Instagram and TikTok, so it's a distillery that many like to visit and photograph."

Following behind in second place is Glenkinchie Distillery in Tranent, approximately 15 miles out of Edinburgh. Known as one of the Four Corners of Scotland distilleries of Johnnie Walker, it distills the Edinburgh Malt that is enjoyed around the world.

Commenting on the distillery, The Cask Connoisseur said: "Coming in second place, with a score of 710 out of a possible 840, is the Glenkinchie Distillery.

"With a 4.9 Google rating, this is clearly a favourite among many whisky drinkers, potentially due to its closeness to Scotland's capital city, Edinburgh. They also have five stars on TripAdvisor resulting in a score of 126.5 as well as 132 for the total number of reviews."



Glenkinchie Distillery is only a short drive out of Edinburgh (Image: Mike Wilkinson/Bloomberg via Getty Images)

In third place is Oban Distillery in the west coast port of Oban, with an overall score of 702.5 out of 840. Known as being among both the oldest and smallest distilleries in Scotland, according to The Cask Connoisseur it has the most reviews on TripAdvisor and scored a full 140. Rounding out the top five are Lagavulin Distillery on the Isle of Islay and Balvenie Distillery in Moray, with overall scored of 690 and 689.5 respectively. Other distilleries to appear in the top 10 include Kilchoman Distillery and Bowmore Distillery—both on Islay—and Lindores Abbey Distillery in Fife.

### The top 10 whisky distilleries in Scotland

- |                                |             |
|--------------------------------|-------------|
| 1. Laphroaig Distillery -      | 736.5 / 840 |
| 2. Glenkinchie Distillery -    | 710 / 840   |
| 3. Oban Distillery -           | 702.5 / 840 |
| 4. Lagavulin Distillery -      | 690 / 840   |
| 5. Balvenie Distillery -       | 689.5 / 840 |
| 6. Kilchoman Distillery -      | 687.5 / 840 |
| 7. Bowmore Distillery -        | 679.5 / 840 |
| 8. Lindores Abbey Distillery - | 679.5 / 840 |
| 9. Glengoyne Distillery -      | 678.5 / 840 |
| 10. Glenturret Distillery -    | 666.5 / 840 |

### Michter's: The story behind America's most admired whiskey

[ADAM O'CONNELL - FEBRUARY 16, 2023 11:00 AM](#)

Michter's has been making its mark for a while and we thought it was about time to peer behind the curtain at a brand that has risen to considerable heights.

A poll called The World's Most Admired Whiskies, run by Drinks International, recently placed [American whiskey](#) brand Michter's, placing second overall (behind [Springbank](#)) and first for whiskeys from the States. An academy of bar owners, buyers, educators, writers, and other specialists in drink form this assessment, based on the quality and consistency of the range, the price-to-quality ratio, and the strength of branding and marketing.

It's an indication of the regard Michter's is held in the whiskey industry and demonstrates a remarkable rise. Bigger, older brands with greater financial muscle and marketing reach didn't place as high. It's also not a surprise. The year before it placed 4th and demand is so high that

expansion has been rapid and limited editions sell out almost immediately. Take a look at our own site. We get Michter's. Then it's gone. There's little doubt Michter's is making a mark. But is it really America's most admired whiskey and, if so, what's the secret? We tried the core range and spoke to master of maturation Andrea Wilson to find out.



Michter's whiskey has a big reputation. Let's find out why  
Tasting Michter's whiskey

I tried three samples of whiskey from Michter's core range: [Michter's US\\*1 Bourbon](#), [Michter's US\\*1 Sour Mash Whiskey](#), and [Michter's Straight US\\*1 Rye](#).

First, the bourbon. There isn't a fixed mash bill for this as the distillery will adapt for flavour, but I understand it's high on rye. Whatever Michter's is doing, it's working. It's a classic American bourbon, with a warm toastiness that keeps the sweetness from being saccharine, lots of big chewy vanilla, as well as red cola cubes, dark chocolate, caramel, apricot, orange peel, and a hint of black tea astringency. It's got enough heft to work in a lot of cocktails. A very promising start.

Onto the Sour Mash, which refers to a process common in the fermentation stage of making bourbon (which we'll come to later). The mash bill of this one has an even split of rye and corn (around 40/40) then a bunch of malted barley, so you can't call it bourbon, or single malt. Hence Sour Mash. Despite the name, it's sweet with crème brûlée, coffee cake, apples, and is also generously spiced. It's very pleasant, it's intriguing, and should make a good Whisky Sour. But it didn't grab me like the rye.

The star of the trio for my money. Every one of Michter's Straight US\*1 Rye is single barrel. Some ryes can frazzle with all that chewy spiciness, but this one is remarkably measured, it washes you in waves of rye. The texture is oily and the flavours are varied. There's floral notes, ripe fruit, liquorice, pepper capsicum heat, red apple skins, peppermint, and vanilla custard. Should be sublime in Manhattan and is one of the better ryes I've had.



Michter's makes whiskey in a way booze nerds like us can get geeky about  
The Michter's story

The whiskey measures up. Now I want to know how they do it. First, some history cliff notes (there's more info [here](#)). Michter's is one of the oldest trademarks in American whiskey, with the first distillery founded in Schaefferstown, Pennsylvania in 1753 by John Shenk who made rye. The

Michter's of today is a brand revival, when the Magliocco family-owned Chatham Imports bought the trademark for \$245 in the 1990s. Joseph J. Magliocco, the youngest of three brothers, enacted a three-step process to make American whiskey at a time when the industry was in a slump, beginning by moving operations to Kentucky from Pennsylvania on advice from his mentor Dick Newman of Old Taylor, Old Crow, Old Grand-Dad, and Wild Turkey fame.

Without the initial financial resources for a distillery, the second phase entailed acquiring barrels from Kentucky-based whiskey makers. There was already a style in mind for Michter's, so it had specifications in place that required the sourced stock to match. Some have criticised Michter's in the past for always presenting as a distillery even when it was buying whiskey in, but certainly as far as I can tell now the brand is very open about its process and how it built the company. It also could have just kept bottling sourced stock as it was so popular, but since 2015, the vast majority of Michter's you'll see is distillery made, with the odd limited-edition expression or blending component the exception.

Michter's is now in stage three, distilling to the specifications it once sourced across several distilleries. There's Shively Distillery and Fort Nelson Distillery (housed in a late 18th-century Louisville property), as well as a farm in Springfield, Kentucky growing 205 acres of estate-grown grains, some of which are already in use, and warehouses are being added here as part of an expansion that will see it become the main campus.

Close to 100 employees work across the three, including Wilson and master distiller Dan McKee, recommended by master distiller emerita Pam Heilmann after she retired (having become the first female to take the role at a Kentucky Distillers Association distillery since Prohibition in 2016), and crucially is not an ambassador, but a true whiskey maker who is at the distillery every day working.

#### Making Michter's

All whiskey begins with grain and Wilson outlines that there's a tight focus on quality control from the moment it arrives at Michter's, which only uses non-GMO grain that has been given the highest grade from the Department of Agriculture. Wilson describes Michter's as being "nothing without our family farmers", who provide corn from Kentucky and Indiana, rye from Minnesota, and barley from the Dakotas and Montana. Cage mills are employed to mill grains, a more passive system with two opposing wheels turning against each other at high speed, so when the grain falls into the hopper, it causes the grain to toss around and shear against itself. It's an expensive method, but the benefits are less maintenance, no friction burn from metal which affects grain quality, and lots of control over speed. Consistency and quality are the goal, cost be damned. That's a company motto. Those words are literally on the website.

Grain is brought into the cooker where no exogenous or chemical enzymes are used with a portion of the previous batch utilised via the sour mash process. Ten fermenters work 24/7 to meet demand before distillation takes place in Vendome Copper and Brass Works stills. This includes a column still with nineteen trays and a custom copper grid system at the top to influence the spirit with copper as much as possible. There's also 250-gallon pot still doubler system with a good amount of reflux, while Fort Nelson Distillery has a pot still system from 1976, a 550-gallon beer still, and a 110-gallon spirits still originally from Michter's Pennsylvania Distillery that adds a different dimension to the distilling program. The aim is to create a fruity, floral, grainy white dog that already demonstrates a lot of pronounced flavours due to how clean it is.

Maturation takes place in warehouses that are just four floors high with fourteen-inch concrete walls and an insulation layer that allows tracking and modification of temperature and humidity, which leads Wilson to believe that Michter's can age its bourbon longer than most. The whiskey is bottled to taste and there are 25 people who sample it for quality control, leading to the ten-year products often having spirits that are well over age, while the core expressions get a long five to seven years in bourbon terms.



Every barrel is naturally air-dried, seasoned, and then toasted  
Six philosophies

While this is a thorough process, Wilson explains to me that after distillation, there's a core process made up of six philosophies that really separates Michter's. Some distilleries will do a selection of the below, or even none at all, but she can't think of another that uses all of these techniques.

First, everything that Michter's bottles are single barrel or small batch. Now, there's no legal definition for the latter and it's all relative. To Jack Daniel's, 1000 barrels could be child's play. At Michter's, a tank creates 20 full barrels. That's *really* small batch. Think about how hard it is to keep consistency and quality with that low volume. There's nowhere to hide or any margin of error. One bad barrel is a hefty cost, but in a batch this size if it was used as a component it would be too noticeable. At this scale, precision is everything.

The second philosophy concerns the natural seasoning and air drying of all wood for at least 18 months, even up to five years. When you cut down an American white oak tree, over 60% of its weight is water. You need to extract that water so the wood can better interact with the whiskey. A kiln will dry it, but not the same as air drying and seasoning. By cutting the wood into stave lengths and sitting them in a stack precisely organised for air movement in an ageing yard, the wood is drying in the elements. It's constantly chemically and biologically changing, growing fungi that release enzymes that metabolise different wood compounds and give way to beautiful aromatics. Bitter, astringent, tannic characteristics are being removed too.

Toasting before charring is philosophy number three. The law only dictates you char new American oak for bourbon. But toasting, an art imported from the wine industry, is a big flavour creator too. By making a little white oak fire to put the barrel over, you create radiant heat, one that's heating the interior of the barrel. Different temperatures for different amounts of time will allow you to break down different compounds in the wood that you can then extract into your whiskey. Really high temperatures could get you mocha and chocolate and oaky and smoky compounds. Whereas lower temperatures mean more fruit and spice. It can take hours and you can only do half a barrel at one time. Charring, at its longest period, won't take more than a minute and a half. Toasting is a long, committed, and not very cost-effective process. It's also risky because there's no good spending all that time if you remove all detectable effects when you char the barrel.



Chill-filtration like you've never seen  
A blend of old and new

Number four is the use of a lower barrel entry: 51.5% ABV. You're allowed up to 62.5% ABV in bourbon, but doing it the Michter's way means that there's a split of about 75% whiskey to 25% water in a barrel, which you might think dilutes it, but actually, this method utilises water's properties as a powerful hydrolyser. "It becomes part of the barrel chemistry while ageing, in a way it can't at bottling," Wilson explains. It enables concentrated sugars in the toasted and charred wood to dissolve more into the distillate. This kind of ABV entry was historically regarded as the gold standard in Kentucky, but filling low costs more as you have to fill more barrels. It does mean adding less water at bottling though. The US\*1 Bourbon, for example, needs over 50% less water at bottling than it would if it was aged at a higher proof.

Philosophy number five is heat cycling. Kentucky has hot humid summers and cold dry winters. Seasonal changes give you about six cycles a year, defined as the moment when the whiskey is moving into the capillaries of the wood or it's moving back to the centre of the cask. During winter, the cask is more dormant so to increase interaction, Michter's will heat the warehouses and then allow them to naturally cool down. As they are warmed, the vapour pressure in the barrel gets tight because it's a volatile substance, pushing the whiskey into the capillaries of the wood where the caramelized red lines are, and as the whiskey cools down it slowly makes its way back to the centre of the cask. Wilson says this simple motion can have the effect of increasing the maturing quality by about six months, so a whiskey at six years old will present more like a nine-year-old whiskey. Again, it's extremely costly because heat cycling significantly increases Angel's share, but the richness it brings to the whisky is the reward. The final stage is arguably the most interesting. If you ask most whiskey fans, they'll tell you they don't like chill filtration. Look at the reaction to our [latest social post](#). Michter's, however, has its own customised chill filtration process. There's no typical carbon filtration or one-size-fits-all approach common at many distilleries. In this filtration system, multiple plates can be removed and added, filtering to select for flavour, with micron filters selecting which fats go into the whiskey. You simply adjust based on what you think is best suited to each individual whiskey. I'd love to see the pre-filtered whiskey to see what they're selecting to filter. This is clearly not a commercial, cynical approach to chill filtration an, once again, it's cost be damned. I also don't know anybody else who does this.



For goodness sake, try the rye

The most admired American whiskey?

The truth is, awards and accolades are nice, but not the bread and butter for a good distillery. A story, no matter how old the trademark, will only get you so far. The whiskey has to stand up. So does the cost, and the core range has great bang for buck, for my money. But what really makes Michter's stand out is the focus on each stage of production. It's phenomenal. The detail, the innovation, and the commitment to making great spirit, cost and cynicism be damned, delights my inner booze nerd. There's rye everywhere now and I can't help but think that the best way to honour the legacy of Shenk is to be a major player in the rye revival, which this brand is. Overall, Michter's has managed a smooth transition from sourced to in-house, taken a big name and added more weight to it, all by creating whiskey I'd be glad to see on any back bar. That's certainly admirable.

## Lagavulin Distillers Edition (2022)

17 February 2023 Ruben [Lagavulin](#)

After my [Distillers Edition 1995-2000 verticale](#), it has been a while since I tried new versions from [Lagavulin](#).

I'm wondering whether the Lagavulin Distillers Edition is moving away from its yearly release scheme. You see, the label used to have a mention like lgv 4/510 but since 2022 a new label was introduced and there's no indication of the batch any more. Even the vintage (and confirmed age) have disappeared. That means it no longer qualifies as the 'extra matured' Lagavulin 16 Year Old.



Lagavulin Distillers Edition (43%, OB 2022, PX seasoned American oak finish)

**Nose:** I love how the sherry seems to amplify the smoke. Not that it's the most smoky whisky around, but it gives it a more sooty character. Lacquered meat on the barbecue, hints of toffee and a herbal syrup. Dark bramble. Later it becomes more tart and it seems to thin out. A more vinous aroma comes out, as well as some iodine and olive brine.

**Mouth:** fairly accessible and light, still a little vinous, but it does show a nice smokiness too. Lapsang tea, earthy liquorice, hints of dark chocolate. Then some grassy notes appear (slightly less impressive) with leather and roasted coffee. Also dried seaweed and a lightly acrid, medicinal and peppery note.

**Finish:** medium long, with more of the medicinal ashes and sweet malty notes. Hints of baked apples and autumn leaves, with a fine bitter edge. Quite a nice dram, I still consider myself a fan of this Distillers Edition. However the combination of a low strength, little information and a high price make it harder to recommend. Available from [The Whisky Exchange](#) or [Whiskysite.nl](#) for instance.

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## Loch Lomond launches blended malt brand

16 FEBRUARY 2023 By *Georgie Collins*

Scotch producer Loch Lomond has launched Noble Rebel, a new blended malt whisky brand created to 'push boundaries in the pursuit of flavour creation'.



Noble Rebel is the new blended malt whisky brand from Loch Lomond. Each Noble Rebel expression is distilled, matured and blended under the eye of master blender Michael Henry at Loch Lomond Distillery in the Highlands.

Henry commented: "Noble Rebel is an exciting new addition to the growing Loch Lomond Group portfolio. At the heart of each expression is our shared passion for blending finely curated malts into a product of beauty.

"Bringing new ideas to old ways and deeply-rooted traditions, our drams are modern masterpieces that welcome newcomers with open arms, and delight old friends alike."

The distillery uses a combination of traditional swan-neck stills and its signature high and low-cut straight-neck pot stills.

The straight-neck stills, which are said to be unique to the distillery, provide Henry with greater control over the distillation process, allowing him to 'manipulate' the flavour profile of each whisky.

Available in three expressions – Orchard Outburst, Smoke Symphony and Hazelnut Harmony – each no-age-statement blended malt whisky is non-chill filtered, natural in colour and bottled at 46% ABV.

The Orchard Outburst bottling balances crisp, ripe orchard fruits with 'surprising' flavours of 'crashing salty ocean waves'. The whisky, which has been matured in ex-Bourbon casks, also offers hints of zingy lemon and lime.

The malt contains whisky distilled with [Chardonnay wine yeast](#), which helps to intensify fruit and citrus flavours in the finished blend.

Finished in Rioja wine casks, the Smoke Symphony expression weaves notes of peat and smoke with hits of chilli and subtle berry tartness.

Completing the trio of expressions, Hazelnut Harmony mingles nuts with a hint of sweet honeycomb, alongside subtle pear undertones and hints of warm oak.

Finished in toasted American oak casks, the blend brings sweet flavours of honey, vanilla and hazelnut to the whisky.

'Rebellious nature'

The flavours of Noble Rebel are brought to life through a series of illustrations that detail the stories, layers and tasting notes of each expression.

Each illustration is complemented by Noble Rebel's embellished bottle, designed to replicate the heavy, intricate base of an old fashioned rocks glass in tribute to the characterful flavours found within.

The embossing of the words 'noble' and 'rebel' on opposite sides of the bottle lip are placed to demonstrate the 'two faces' of the brand.

In addition, it also visually showcases the 'nobility' of single malts combined with Noble Rebel's 'rebellious nature' and ethos of pushing the boundaries of creativity in whisky blending.

All three Noble Rebel expressions are sealed with an emblem containing a droplet to represent the distillation process, a barrel to symbolise the maturation process, and a nosing glass in tribute to Loch Lomond Group's blending prowess.

Each edition of Noble Rebel blended malt whisky is available to buy from the Noble Rebel website for RRP £40 (US\$48) per 700ml bottle.

Noble Rebel will also be available from 1 March at The Whisky Exchange.

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## Glenrothes releases 42YO whisky

15 FEBRUARY 2023 By *Alice Brooker*

Edrington-owned Scotch brand The Glenrothes has debuted The 42 whisky, with only 1,134 bottles available for £6,750 each (US\$8,151).



The limited edition single cask whisky has been aged for more than four decades, using a combination of hand-selected casks from The Glenrothes Estate.

The liquid was selected by master whisky maker Laura Rampling. She said: "This 42-year-old whisky epitomises the character of The Glenrothes distillery.

"These four casks have taken our spirit on a journey of maturation over more than four decades, refining the original delicate and fruity character of our new make spirit without overpowering it.

"Part-science, part-alchemy and a little bit of magic, the result is a beautifully elegant whisky that truly allows the bright and vibrant character of The Glenrothes to sing."

The 43% ABV whisky presents aromas of sun-ripened apricots, sugared almonds, orange peel and coriander seed on the nose, and creamy vanilla, honeycomb and fragrant orange oil on the palate, with a lingering finish. Brand director Kerr Arthur said: "The Glenrothes 42 captures a true moment in time that celebrates generations of excellence, honours patience and evokes the vitality of Rothes."

Inspired by the colour and character of The Glenrothes distillery's home in the Highlands, the 700ml bottling is available from 15 March in the UK, from Fortnum & Mason, Harrods and The Whisky Shop.

In 2019, the brand unveiled the [second bottling from its Exclusive Single Cask Series](#) in travel retail.

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## Port Charlotte unveils new vintage

15 FEBRUARY 2023 By *Georgie Collins*

Bruichladdich Distillery has launched Port Charlotte Islay Barley 2014, the latest vintage in its island provenance series.



Local farmers contributed to the production of Port Charlotte Islay Barley 2014



The single malt whisky was conceived, distilled, matured and bottled on Islay using barley exclusively grown on the island from eight separate farms.

“Our Port Charlotte Islay Barley expressions encapsulate everything an Islay whisky can and should be, and the latest 2014 vintage is no different,” said head distiller Adam Hannett.

“However, growing on Islay is no mean feat. Our location on Scotland’s rugged west coast and unpredictable weather, coupled with grazing wild geese and deer, means a successful harvest is never a given. But it’s a risk worth taking.

“As well as adding complexity to the character of this single malt, using Islay-grown barley goes beyond just the pursuit of flavour. This is a whisky that evokes a true sense of place, helps support Islay’s agricultural economy, and celebrates our island community.”

Each of the farmers that contributed to the production of the whisky is located a maximum of 15 miles from the distillery.

Each local farmer undertook the risk of growing in challenging conditions to deliver the barley used for the 2014 vintage, resulting in a Port Charlotte single malt with total traceability and provenance.

Bruichladdich Distillery works with a total of 20 farming partners on Islay, with more than 50% of the distillery’s barley grown on the remote Hebridean island.

These farming partnerships help to develop new soil-improving practices and encourage crop diversification, in addition to supporting the integral agricultural community.

Port Charlotte Islay Barley 2014 offers a ‘quiet complexity’, and showcases ‘the delicate balance of fruit and smoke’ that the single malt is renowned for.

Bottled at 50% ABV and peated to 40 PPM, the maturation profile consists of 84% in first-fill Bourbon casks, 8% in second-fill virgin oak, and 8% in second-fill Bordeaux wine casks.

The whisky boasts malty digestive biscuits and peat embers on the nose, followed by sweet vanilla and notes of honey, toffee and crème brûlée.

On the palate a citrus tang can be detected, counterbalanced with gentle peat smoke, before moving into a medley of apricot, peach and ripe melon. The finish is said to be balanced with a lingering hint of Port Charlotte’s signature barbecue smoke.

Port Charlotte Islay Barley 2014 is priced at RRP £75 (US\$90.64) and available to purchase via [bruichladdich.com](http://bruichladdich.com) or at selected specialist whisky retailers.

Last year, [Bruichladdich removed the tinned packaging from its core single malt brands.](#)



## GLENMORANGIE PALO CORTADO

FINISHED IN THE RAREST SHERRY CASKS

Aged 12 YO (first matured in Bourbon casks then finished 4 years in Palo Cortado Sherry Casks)

This deeply sweet and nutty small-batch release is the first Glenmorangie ever to be finished in rare Palo Cortado sherry casks. Aged for 12 years, it brings a new elegance to the Highland Distillery’s delicate style.

The single malt spent its first eight years mellowing in American white oak bourbon casks. Then, delighted by that whisky’s smooth, soft character, Dr Bill was inspired to finish a select batch in Palo Cortado casks, never before used at Glenmorangie.

Palo Cortado is the rarest variety of sherry, created purely by chance, when the protective ‘flor’ yeast does not form on sherry intended to become Amontillado.

Enchanted by Palo Cortado’s sweet and nutty flavours, Dr Bill sourced a handful of its casks, which are incredibly hard to come by. He filled them with the whisky, imagining the unparalleled depth and complexity they might bring Glenmorangie. Finished in these deliciously wonderful casks, Dr Bill’s creation developed all the rich elegance he had dreamed of.

Uniquely complex and nutty, it layers dark plum depths with milk-chocolate richness, Brazil nuts and sweet spice.

Glenmorangie Palo Cortado Finish: A 12 year old single malt from the Barrel Select range

The special [sherry casks](#) gave the [whisky](#) a complex spicy sweetness



With the [Palo Cortado Finish](#), the Glenmorangie [Distillery](#) presents for the first time a whisky that was matured in Palo Cortado Sherry casks. It spent four of a total of 12 years of [maturation](#) in the [casks](#) in which this special and rare type of sherry was previously stored. The limited edition, which was released in the Barrel Select series, was [bottled](#) at 46 % [ABV](#).

The third edition of the Barrel Select series In the [Barrel](#) Select series, the Glenmorangie Highland Distillery presents special cask maturations that reflects Dr. Bill Lumsden's (Director for Whisky Creation) love for experimentation. The Glenmorangie Palo Cortado [Finish](#) is the third [single malt](#) in the series following the Glenmorangie Malaga Cask Finish and the Glenmorangie Cognac Cask Finish.

The Palo Cortado Sherry is a variation of the Amontillado, but the protective "flor" [yeast](#) does not remain on the sherry surface during its maturation, as Moet Hennessy informs in a press release about the new product. In these casks, which were kissed by the sweet sherry, Dr. Lumsden filled the single malt after eight years of pre-maturation in [ex-bourbon casks](#). It continued to mature there for four more years and was infused with aromas of prunes, milk chocolate, nuts and spices to be a very complex whisky with sweet spicyness. It was bottled at 46.0% ABV. Producer's tasting notes for the Glenmorangie Palo Cortado Finish Colour: Burnt Amber

Nose: Rich, elegant and rounded. Toffee, fudge and vanilla sweetness entwine with mossy notes and mulled wine hints. Then come scents of honeyed ginger and milk-chocolate truffle dusted with cinnamon. A splash of [water](#) reveals notes of orange sherbet, carnations and Brazil nuts.

Taste: An oily yet peppery texture leads to a burst of rich, sweet flavours. Treacle toffee and milk chocolate are threaded with notes of clove, ginger, cinnamon and nutmeg. Meanwhile, fruity undertones of raisins, dark plums and bitter orange find delectable balance with baking ryebread and salted nuts.

Finish: Long and nutty, brimming with spice, leather and a touch of aniseed.

Images: Moet Hennessy



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## Scotch experience plans £3m upgrade

14 FEBRUARY 2023 By Nicola Carruthers

Edinburgh-based The Scotch Whisky Experience has begun a £3 million (US\$3.6m) upgrade of its visitor attraction.



The Scotch Whisky Experience has been educating visitors about the category since 1988

Located at the top of Edinburgh's Royal Mile, The Scotch Whisky Experience is working on enhancing its experience to reflect the 'premium nature of Scotch whisky'.

The new tour experience will include technology not yet seen at a visitor experience in the UK.

Susan Morrison, chief executive of the experience, said: "We'll be creating a theatrical and magical experience to tell the story of Scotch whisky production, blended with technologies which we believe have never before been used in a visitor experience.

"Our team have been nurturing this vision since well before the pandemic, and excitement is building. We can't tell you more yet, but we promise that what we have in store will be breathtaking and truly unique."

The Scotch Whisky Experience first opened to the public in 1988, after 19 individual Scotch whisky companies jointly invested in showcasing the industry to international visitors.

The tourist attraction welcomes more than 8.5m visitors from around the globe. The site also includes the Amber Restaurant and Whisky Bar, which can accommodate corporate events and private dinners.

Work commenced in early January and is due to be completed by summer 2023. Any disruptive work will be undertaken outside opening hours and will not affect tour experiences, the restaurant or private events.

According to data from the Scotch Whisky Association (SWA), the Scotch sector represents £5.5 billion (US\$6.7bn) in gross value added (GVA) to the economy with 11,000 people directly employed in the country.

In 2021, Scotch accounted for 22% of all UK food and drink exports.

In 2018, Diageo announced a £185m (US\$255m) investment in whisky tourism, which included an extensive upgrade of its visitor centres, as well as [a new 71,500-square-foot Johnnie Walker experience in Edinburgh](#).

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## GlenAllachie launches Lum Reek Batch 2

14 FEBRUARY 2023 By Alice Brooker

The GlenAllachie Distillery has created a second batch of its Lum Reek 10-year-old cask strength blended malt.



The 10-year-old clocks in at 55.8% ABV

The second instalment of the blended malt combines single malt whiskies from Speyside and Islay.

GlenAllachie master blender Billy Walker said: "There's something wondrous about bottling a whisky at cask strength. Perhaps it's that it provides an opportunity to taste it as if you were sampling straight from a cask in the warehouse; the experience is incredibly special."

Launched by MacNair's Boutique House of Spirits, a brand created by Walker, the whisky gets its name from the old Scottish toast to a long and healthy life, 'lang may yer lum reek', translating to 'long may your chimney smoke'.

Walker continued: "Lum Reek is a blend I hold close to my heart. "It presents the chance to introduce Speyside and Islay single malts to our GlenAllachie spirit, balancing the honey-sweet house style of our whisky with Islay peat smoke and Speyside spiciness. The outcome is undoubtedly delicious."

Once blended, the liquid was filled to a mix of Sherry, red wine and virgin oak casks for an additional ageing period.

MacNair's Lum Reek 10 Year Old Cask Strength Batch 2 delivers notes of gentle smoke and sweet spice.

Clocking in at 55.8% ABV, the non-chill-filtered expression retails for RRP £62.99 (US\$76.92). It is available to buy from global specialist retailers.

Last month, the brand introduced its [2012 Vintage Cuvée Wine Cask Finish](#), a combination of Scotch whiskies aged in casks sourced from four European fine wineries.

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## Macallan debuts James Bond experience

13 FEBRUARY 2023 By Alice Brooker

The Macallan has launched an interactive experience at Harrods to mark the release of a whisky range created to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the James Bond film franchise.



for@inkware.co.uk  
Crafted without compromise. Please savour The Macallan responsibly.  
James Bond films © 1962-2021 Eon Productions. All rights reserved.

The

experience will be hosted at Harrods, London, from 19 February In October last year, the single malt brand revealed [The Macallan James Bond 60th Anniversary Release](#), a collection of six limited edition bottles to mark six decades of the Bond franchise.

To mark its release, the brand will host a James Bond-themed interactive experience for four weeks from Sunday 19 February at luxury department store Harrods in Knightsbridge, London.

"The Macallan has become one of James Bond's favoured whiskies, a reflection of his appreciation of the finer things in life," said Neil Skinner, director of marketing at Edrington UK, owner of The Macallan.

"Both are the modern innovators willing to push boundaries and linked by their Scottish heritage. We're delighted to partner with Harrods – another global icon – for the first of what we hope will be many such initiatives.

"Innovation and craftsmanship is at the heart of what we do, and we are thrilled to be showcasing these qualities in such a fitting and distinguished setting."

The new whisky was crafted by Macallan's master whisky maker, Kristeen Campbell, who aimed to 'capture the character of Bond'.

Each design is dedicated to a decade of the film franchise, and features illustrations from the film's archives.

The collection is presented in a case designed by British luggage brand Globe-Trotter, exclusively for Harrods.

Interactive experience

Meanwhile, the interactive experience features a timeline composed of illustrations and artwork showcasing the development of the Bond films, including a display of Little Nellie, the compact autogyro flown by Sean Connery in *You Only Live Twice*.

The final stage of the experience takes the form of Moneypenny's office, and features memorabilia such as a gold bar from *Goldfinger*, signed by Connery.

Alex Unitt, partnerships director at Harrods, said: "We are delighted to be partnering with The Macallan on this special project, which marks the coming together of four iconic British brands.

"The Macallan, James Bond, Globe-Trotter and Harrods are all synonymous with luxury and discerning taste, something which resonates hugely with our Harrods customer in the UK and beyond.

"Harrods is proud to bring the rare and exclusive to our audience in every corner of our business and this is no exception. The level of craftsmanship and dedication to quality is remarkable at The Macallan distillery, and these are values that we hold very dear at Harrods."

Auction of rare 1988 cask

The Macallan will also be auctioning a rare cask valued at more than US\$3 million through Metacask.

The 35-year-old butt will come with commissioned artwork by Italian artist Rubenfro, real name Ruben Frosali, along with the audio-visual NFT of the original digital art.

Only 495 bottles of cask #4178 remain, and the whisky can be bottled now, or remain in the cask to hit the 50-year mark.

Boasting notes of dried fruits and nuts with a cereal base, the liquid delivers a long and warming finish, and clocks in at 51.2% ABV. In October 2021, Metacask auctioned a 1991 Macallan cask for US\$2,327,563.

“Metacask auctioned a 1991 cask ‘The Angel’s Share’ in 2021, now just over a year later, we’re back with another much-anticipated auction,” said Nim Siriwardana, co-founder and chief technology officer of Metacask. The auction will run from 12 to 19 February on Metacask’s marketplace. Earlier this month, The Macallan debuted its [first bartender advocacy programme](#) in the UK, called Masters of their Craft.

## 12 Best Single Malt Scotches Under \$150



CHRISTOPHER OSBURN, 3 MAR 2023 | GUIDE

While there are obvious bargains to be found in the [bourbon](#), [rye](#), [Irish whiskey](#), and even [Australian whisky](#) worlds, it sometimes feels like you need to spend an uncomfortable amount of money to purchase a great bottle of single-malt [Scotch whisky](#). This is only partially true. While it’s obvious that you can spend a month’s salary (and way more) for a long-aged, nuanced bottle that you’ll treasure until the very last sip, there are myriad younger, complex single malt [whiskies](#) just waiting to be discovered. We’re talking bottles in the ten to even sixteen-year range. Surprised?

If you pay closer attention to the [single malt Scotch world](#), you wouldn’t be surprised to hear this. When we talk about these reasonably long-aged, well-priced bottles, we’re talking about great single-malt Scotch whiskies under \$150. That’s right, you can grab a bottle you’ll be proud to display on your home bar or bar cart for much less than you probably spend on a single item of [clothing](#) in your wardrobe.

The best part? These surprisingly value-priced expressions aren’t from no-name less-than-desirable brands that you and your friends have never heard of. These well-priced, high-quality single malt Scotch whiskies come from big names like [Bruichladdich](#), [Ardbeg](#), [The Balvenie](#), and others. Keep scrolling to see ten of our favourite single malt Scotch whiskies that can be yours for less than \$150.

How Man of Many Chose the Best Single Malt Scotch Under \$150

To arrive at this list of products, the [Man of Many](#) team went through hours and rigorous testing, implementation and analysis before culling it down to the very best. Over the last 12 months, we’ve worked on curated products that push boundaries and pioneer new fronts, particularly across the [drinks](#) category. Sure, we love getting the latest piece of kit in our hands, but being able to point out the benefits and shortfalls objectively is at the heart of what we do.

In addition to tasting every Scotch on this list, we also turned to the wider public for their overall ratings. Our list takes into account three major perspectives to determine the overall rating. In addition to our own opinions, we take into account reviews via alcohol retailer [Dan Murphys](#) and the Australian drinks forums such as Master of Malt and The Whisky Wash. Each Scotch identified in the list was measured on:

- Flavour profile
- Value for [money](#)
- Appearance

Similarly, while the one defining characteristic is that each drop is under \$150, prices can fluctuate from time to time. For the most part, the single malt whiskies on this list are under \$100, however, some may rise to \$160 maximum, so be wary of the price.

Best Single Malt Scotch Under \$150

- Best Overall: [Highland Park Viking Honour 12 Year](#)
- Best Premium: [The Balvenie Caribbean Cask 14 Year](#)
- Best Value for Money: [The Macallan 12-Year Double Oak](#)



Highland Park Viking Honour 12 Year | Image: Dan Murphys

1. Highland Park Viking Honour 12 Year

Brand: Highland Park

Release: Viking Honour 12 Year

Size: 700mL

[Alcohol](#) Volume: 40%

Age: 12-Year-Old

Region: The Isles

Closure: Cork stopper

Price: AUD\$99.99

With a name like Viking Honour, you better bet this popular expression is big, bold, and highly complex. Distilled at the Highland Park Distillery in Kirkwall, Orkney, this whisky is matured for at least twelve years in a combination of European and American sherry-seasoned oak barrels. The result is a well-balanced whisky with notes of candied orange peels, dried cherries, wintry spices, clover honey, and robust, peaty smoked. You don’t need to be a Viking to appreciate this well-made dram.

Coming in at bang on AUD\$99.99 at Dan Murphys, this release just [slides](#) in under the \$100 mark, which is good value when you consider its rich heritage. [The Viking Honour 12 Year](#) managed to nab a Gold Medal at the 2017 San Francisco World Spirits Competition, proving that it has some serious flavour despite its affordability. We can attest that this aged Scotch has an impressive finish and smooth mouthfeel, and while it’s not quite as flavoursome as [the recently promoted 15-year-old](#), it does have value on its side.



Springbank 10-Year | Image: Dan Murphys

2. Springbank 10-Year

Brand: Springbank  
Release: 10-Year  
Size: 700mL  
Alcohol Volume: 46%  
Age: 10-Year-Old  
Region: Campbeltown  
Closure: Cork stopper  
Price: From AUD\$80

If you've never tried Springbank's single malt whiskies, you're really missing out. Distilled since 1828, its flagship Springbank 10-Year (like all its whiskies) is subtly peated and distilled over two times. This 10-year-old whisky is matured for more than a decade in a combination of ex-[bourbon](#) and sherry casks. It's known for its mix of spices and sweetness with flavours of caramel, dried cherries, sweet sherry, spicy cinnamon, and wintry spices.

Be wary, while Springbank is a delicious drop enjoyed by many, it can often be rather difficult to source. As such, the price tends to fluctuate quite dramatically. At the time of writing, you could score a bottle for as little as AUD\$80, but on certain other online retailers, the price swelled to as much as AUD\$170. Best to keep that in mind.

[Buy it here \(Master of Malt\)](#) [Buy it here \(Springbank\)](#) [Buy it here \(Nicks\)](#)



Port Charlotte 10 Heavily Peated | Image: Dan Murphys  
3. Port Charlotte 10 Heavily Peated

Brand: [Bruichladdich](#)  
Release: 10-Year  
Size: 700mL  
Alcohol Volume: 50%  
Region: Islay  
Closure: Cork stopper  
Price: AUD\$110

We understand that peat-smoked single malt whisky isn't for everyone, but those who love it would rather not drink anything else. A great example of a value peat monster of a whisky is Port Charlotte 10 Heavily Peated. Made with a mash bill of 100 per cent Scottish barley, this Islay-produced whisky is matured in a combination of first-fill American oak barrels, second-fill American oak barrels, [French](#) oak barrels. It carries flavours of heather, honey, candied orange peels, vanilla beans, salted caramel, and campfire smoke.

Best of all, the Port Charlotte 10 Heavily Peated comes from the legendary team at Bruichladdich, best known for producing The Classic Laddie. The unique distillery produces some of the best single malt drops in Scotland, and in our eyes, this heavily peated release is certainly one of them. Be wary, however, this one slightly overshoots the \$100 mark, with general pricing at around AUD\$110. That said, if you find a release on special, you'll be well under that three-digit figure.

[Buy it here \(Dan Murphys\)](#) [Buy it here \(Bruichladdich\)](#) [Buy it here \(Nicks\)](#)



The Balvenie Caribbean Cask 14 Year | Image: Dan Murphys  
4. The Balvenie Caribbean Cask 14 Year

Brand: The Balvenie  
Release: Caribbean Cask 14 Year  
Size: 700mL  
Alcohol Volume: 43%  
Age: 14-Year-Old  
Region: Speyside  
Closure: Cork stopper  
Price: From AUD\$140

If you were to take a poll of bartenders and whisky drinkers, asking them to tell you their favourite value single malt, you'd notice a lot of people mentioning [The Balvenie](#) Caribbean Cask 14. The name is a reference to the fact that this expression is aged first in traditional oak barrels before finishing in casks that formerly held Caribbean [rum](#). It's known for its flavours of rum raisins, oak wood, buttery caramel, and vanilla beans. It's warming, sweet, and highly decadent.

We've long been fans of The Balvenie, with the Speyside icon serving up some of our favourite single malt Scotch whiskies over the past few years. While there are a number of [great limited-run releases](#) that help to carry in the [esteemed legacy of the distillery](#), the Carribbean Cask is arguably its best-loved export.

[Buy it here \(Dan Murphys\)](#) [Buy it here \(The Balvenie\)](#) [Buy it here \(Nicks\)](#)



Glenmorangie Nectar D'or | Image: Dan Murphys  
5. Glenmorangie Nectar D'or

Brand: Glenmorangie  
Release: Nectar D'or  
Size: 700mL  
Alcohol Volume: 46%  
Region: Highland  
Closure: Cork stopper  
Price: From AUD\$120

If you were only going to look to one distillery for multiple value expressions, you'd have a hard time finding a better option than [Glenmorangie](#). You really can't go wrong with its gateway Glenmorangie 10, but if you really want to step it up, you'll grab a bottle of Glenmorangie Nectar D'or. This indulgent after-dinner dram was matured in both American oak ex-bourbon barrels as well as casks that formerly held Sauternes sweet white [wine](#). It's sweet, rich, and filled with notes of orange peels, sticky toffee pudding, almond cookies, dried fruits, and rich oak. Finish a heavy meal with this sipper or drink it to wind down after an eventful evening.

We recently caught up with Dr Bill Lumsden, the man behind the revered label to discuss the delicious whisky-making process ([not for the first time](#)) and he explained that whisky "isn't just a drink on its own, it's part of an overall lifestyle".

I've taken inspiration from the late, great Nino Cerruti of the eponymous haute couture house 'Cerruti' who talked about his [fashion](#) as not being a clothing brand, but much more a holistic overarching lifestyle. People who appreciate fine single-malt scotch whisky also appreciate fashion, travel, [cigars](#), watches, cars and luxury pursuits. They all go together hand in hand."

[You can check out our full interview with Dr Bill Lumsden, the director of Distilling, Whisky Creation and Whisky Stocks for both Glenmorangie and Ardbeg here.](#)

[Buy it here \(Dan Murphys\)](#) [Buy it here \(The Glenmorangie\)](#) [Buy it here \(First Choice Liquor\)](#)



Oban Little Bay | Image: Dan Murphys

6. Oban Little Bay

Brand: Oban

Release: Little Bay

Size: 700mL

Alcohol Volume: 46%

Region: Oban

Closure: Cork stopper

Price: From AUD\$115

One of the smallest distilleries in Scotland, Oban is known for its masterful, highly-awarded expressions. If you're not afraid of a no age statement whisky, we suggest opting for its popular Oban Little Bay. The name is actually sort of redundant as Oban actually translates to "little bay". It's matured in a combination of refill American oak hogsheads, European sherry casks, and refill casks. This results in a bold, complex sipper with notes of salted caramel, [chocolate](#), dried cherries, orange peels, and cinnamon sugar. If you've ever wanted to try any expressions from this popular distillery, start with this one first.

[Buy it here \(Dan Murphys\)](#) [Buy it here \(Oban\)](#) [Buy it here \(Master of Malt\)](#)



The Macallan 12-Year Double Oak | Image: Dan Murphys

7. The Macallan 12-Year Double Oak

Brand: The Macallan

Release: 12-Year Double Oak

Size: 700mL

Alcohol Volume: 46%

Age: 12-Year-Old

Region: Speyside

Closure: Cork stopper

Price: From AUD\$120

There are few Scotch whisky producers more well-known than [The Macallan](#). It's a brand that makes a ton of [ridiculously expensive](#) (not to mention [enormous](#)) expressions, but also has a few surprisingly well-priced, high-quality bottles. The Macallan 12-Year Double Oak falls into the latter category. Aged in both American and European sherry oak for at least twelve years (hence the name), it's popular not only for its price but for its rich, sweet flavour profile featuring candied orange peels, butterscotch, vanilla beans, sherry sweetness, and light spices. Sip it neat or on the rocks for a warming mix of sweetness and spice that you'll crave again and again.

While it might be on the cheaper side for a bottle of Macallan, the 12-Year Double Oak shares its [stablemates' pedigree for success](#). Back in 2017, the single malt Scotch score a Double [Gold](#) Medal at the San Francisco World Spirits Competition, making it one of the world's best-value whisky expressions.

[Buy it here \(Dan Murphys\)](#) [Buy it here \(The Macallan\)](#) [Buy it here \(Master of Malt\)](#)



Aberlour 12-Year Double Cask | Image: Dan Murphys

8. Aberlour 12-Year Double Cask

Brand: Aberlour

Release: 12-Year Double Cask

Size: 700mL

Alcohol Volume: 46%

Age: 12-Year-Old

Region: Speyside

Closure: Cork stopper

Price: From AUD\$109

This popular single malt Scotch whisky gets its name because it's matured for a minimum of twelve years in a combination of traditional oak barrels as well as sherry casks. The result is a sweet, rich, well-balanced whisky with a nose of dried fruits and candied apples. The palate is loaded with sweet sherry, dried cherries, chocolate, toffee, and wintry spices. It's a great sweet, spicy expression you'll want to make a permanent addition to your home bar cart. Wait until an unseasonably cool evening to crack this one open. It's sweet and spicy and is sure to warm you from the inside out. [Buy it here \(Dan Murphys\)](#) [Buy it here \(Aberlour\)](#) [Buy it here \(Nicks\)](#)



[Ardbeg](#) Uigeadail | Image: Dan Mruphy's

9. Ardbeg Uigeadail

Brand: Ardbeg

Release: Uigeadail

ABV: 54.2%

Closure: Cork

Whisky Style: Single Malt

Price: AUD\$100

You might have trouble spelling its name (and that's okay), but you definitely won't have any difficulty drinking Ardbeg Uigeadail. This cask strength, no age statement single malt is made by vatting Ardbeg that was matured in ex-bourbon casks as well as Ardbeg that was aged in sherry butts. It's smoky, robust, sweet, and filled with flavours of dried fruits, honey, sherry sweetness, caramel, vanilla, and bold peat smoke. This smoky dram deserves a few drops of water to open it up. Sip it slowly and enjoy all the nuanced, smoky, warming flavours.

[Buy it here \(Ardbeg\)](#) [Buy it here \(Dan Murphy's\)](#) [Buy it here \(Master of Malt\)](#)



Lagavulin 16-Year-Old | Image: Dan Murphy's

10. Lagavulin 16-Year

Brand: Lagavulin

Release: 16-Year-Old

ABV: 46%

Age: 16-Year-Old

Region: Islay

Closure: Cork

Whisky Style: Single Malt

Price: AUD\$120

Most single malt Scotch producers like to have a ten-year-old or even twelve-year-old gateway flagship expression in their lineup, but [Lagavulin](#) (like the rest of the peat-smoke engulfed distilleries of Islay) does everything big and bold. This is especially true with its flagship

whisky, its 16-year-old expression. One of the most popular peat-smoked single malt whiskies ever made, this staple of Lagavulin's lineup has been bringing drinkers to the smokier side of whisky since its inception in the 1990s. It's well-known for its mix of salted caramel, dried fruits, vanilla, sticky toffee, and bold, robust peat smoke. If you only purchase one peat-smoked single malt whisky, make it this one. You definitely won't be disappointed.

[Buy it here \(Lagavulin\)](#) [Buy it here \(Dan Murphy's\)](#) [Buy it here \(Master of Malt\)](#)



The GlenDronach 12-Year-Old | Image: Dan Murphys

11. The GlenDronach 12 Year Old

Brand: The GlenDronach

Release: 12-Year-Old

ABV: 43%

Age: 12-Year-Old

Region: Highland

Closure: Cork

Whisky Style: Single Malt

Price: AUD\$100

As one of the most awarded single malt Scotch whiskies in existence, no list would be complete without [The GlenDronach](#)'s budget-friendly favourite 12-Year-Old. Taking out a Double Gold Medal at the San Francisco World Spirits Competition 2019, along with a string of Golds at the World Whisky [Awards](#) and – International Wine & Spirit Competition, this single malt is seriously well-reviewed. It arrives after being matured for at least 12 years in a combination of the finest Spanish Pedro Ximenez and Oloroso sherry casks. Non-chill filtered and bottled at 43%, The GlenDronach 12-Year-Old delivers all the sweet creamy flavours [we've come to expect from the heritage icon](#).

[Buy it here \(GlenDronach\)](#) [Buy it here \(Dan Murphy's\)](#) [Buy it here \(Master of Malt\)](#)



Benriach The Twelve | Image: Dan Murphy's

12. Benriach The Twelve

Brand: Benriach

Release: The Twelve

ABV: 46%

Age: 12-Year-Old

Region: Speyside

Closure: Cork

Whisky Style: Single Malt

Price: AUD\$98

[It's no secret we love Benriach](#), but it's not just because we're fans of the finer things. The Speyside distillery is revered for its smooth and ultra-palatable releases, but you may be surprised to find out just how affordable the Scotch whisky label is. While you can regularly find the Original 10 for about \$80 in bottle shops, our top pick is the Benriach 12-Year-Old. Matured in a sherry-rich profile with a little bit of bourbon and port cask influence thrown in, the Scottish single malt is laden with baked fruit, maple honey sweetness and lingering oak spice. In this instance, we've opted for the non-peated release, however, you can also find [the Benriach Smoky 12](#) for a similarly affordable price point.

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## The 12 Best Scotch Whiskies Under \$200



PHOTO: BOWMORE

Published by [Ethan Brehm](#) and [Mike Waldron](#)

Feb 23, 2023

As far as spirits are concerned, Scotch whisky is one such liquor that has always set itself apart from the fray. Drinkers either love or hate it, with very little middle ground, simply because a good Scotch isn't here for [mass appeal](#). As drinkers, we're a loyal bunch, either finding our preferred region and sticking to it or keeping a decanter of our favorite vintage on the bar cart. Call us proud, stubborn, or elitist — we don't care. Because deep down we know what's in our glass far outweighs what's getting consumed by those with less-refined taste buds.

And just like the various tiers of booze available out there, Scotch hosts vintages and price points suited for specific occasions. There are [the inexpensive, casual pours](#) for simple enjoyment, the more pronounced pours for drinking with close friends, celebration-worthy single malts to toast the lives of others, and the private stash reserved for yearly indulgence. Here, we're entertaining the celebratory tier of Scotch out there: the sub-\$200 price point. And while there's plenty to choose from in the world of whisky, we figured we could narrow things down a bit. So go ahead, take a scroll, and pick up some bottles of the best Scotch whiskies under \$200. Because life is worth celebrating.

### TOMATIN SINGLE MALT 18 YEAR

Despite many of its whiskies being used for blends, either in-house or elsewhere, Tomatin's 18 Year is one of the most popular Scotch whiskies for a reason — and at a fair price. Right in the middle of its core range, this Highland single malt was [aged in ex-bourbon](#) and ex-sherry casks for nearly two decades before being bottled at 46% ABV. On brand for the distillery, the highly-decorated expression boasts a dynamic palate filled with honey, dark chocolate, and apple to go along with the prominent oak and spice profile.

[PURCHASE: \\$100](#)

Style: Single Malt

ABV: 46%

Tasting Notes: Honey, oak, dark chocolate, apple, spice

### GLEN GARIOCH 15 YEAR SHERRY CASK

For nearly 200 years, Glen Garioch whisky was exclusively used in [blended batches](#) for the likes of Vat 69 and Drambuie. All that changed in the early '70s with the release of the brand's very first single malt. 50 years later and the Highland staple is one of Scotland's best-kept secrets.

This 15-year-old expression from one of the nation's oldest distilleries spends its time in ex-Oloroso sherry casks during the aging process. Bottled at a searing 53.7%, the result is a surprisingly smoky whisky with vanilla, honey, and floral notes in the mix.

[PURCHASE: \\$103](#)

Style: Single Malt

ABV: 53.7%

Tasting Notes: Vanilla, honey, floral

### THE GLENLIVET 18 YEAR

The Glenlivet really doesn't have any whiskies that aren't worth a mention in any guide. Famously the first licensed distillery in Scotland, [the Speyside favorite](#) has a history of doing things the right way, with almost 200 years of provenance and uniquely shaped stills that offer a pleasant end product. At a potent 86 proof, this 18 Year is right in the middle of the distillery's illustrious range, and just 6 years older than its flagship "budget" expression. Flavors of honey and caramel apple carry it through to the chocolate and floral notes on the back end.

[PURCHASE: \\$130](#)

Style: Single Malt

ABV: 46%

Tasting Notes: Honey, caramel apple, chocolate, floral

### OLD PULTENEY 18 YEAR

Formerly the herring capital of Europe, Pulteneytown once had so many sailors residing in town that the government decided to enact a prohibition on the sale of alcohol for over two decades before ending in 1951. Distilled at the most northern mainland distillery in Scotland, Old Pulteney's 18 Year truly benefits from the crisp coastal climate. [Aged in ex-bourbon](#) and Spanish oak barrels, the Highland single malt offers a beautiful profile of chocolate, vanilla, honey, and apple, with floral notes that will leave you craving that next sip before you even set your glass down.

[PURCHASE: \\$130](#)

Style: Single Malt

ABV: 46%

Tasting Notes: Chocolate, vanilla, honey, floral, apple

### CRAIGELLACHIE 17 YEAR

Next-door neighbors to the Macallan, Craigellachie has been perfecting its craft since 1891. This Speyside staple has had a sort of cult following for years, but its single malt expressions were quite difficult to track down since they rarely got releases. However, in recent years things have changed for the better and now even the [most casual Scotch drinker](#) is able to experience the brand's unbelievable range. This 17 Year expression is the distillery's flagship, with a profile that comes from several directions, giving you meaty, fruity, and smoky notes all at once, and even dashes of vanilla and honey here and there.

[PURCHASE: \\$145](#)

Style: Single Malt

ABV: 46%

Tasting Notes: Meat, fruit, smoke, vanilla, honey

### BOWMORE 18

This award-winning [single malt](#) from the oldest distillery in the Islay region was aged nearly two decades before it was capped. Bowmore is an icon for its whisky-making history and continued success nearly 250 years later. The brand's flagship 18 Year is another that should be picked up no matter what your bankroll is looking like. Less smoky than a traditional Islay single malt, the expression features a nice, balanced profile with decadent layers of fruit like mango and peach to go along with chocolate notes and a well-managed peatiness.

[PURCHASE: \\$151](#)

Style: Single Malt

ABV: 43%

Tasting Notes: Mango, smoke, chocolate, peach

### THE MACALLAN 15 YEAR DOUBLE CASK

Next year will mark the Macallan's 200th anniversary. In that time, the Speyside staple has managed to make the most coveted whiskies in history. While several of its historic bottles have gone for [upwards of \\$1 million](#), the distillery has some accessible options as well, while still getting a taste of why those rarities are so sought after. Exemplary of the brand's trademark profiles, this 15 Year Double Cask is modestly aged in a combination of sherry casks from the United States and Spain. In the glass, this whisky features a combination of fruity notes from cranberry to orange peel to apricot, while butterscotch, vanilla, and cinnamon round out the flavor.



[PURCHASE: \\$160](#)

Style: Single Malt

ABV: 43%

Tasting Notes: Cranberry, orange peel, apricot, butterscotch, vanilla, cinnamon

### OBAN 18 YEAR

The Western Highland district of the Highlands region is notable for its proximity to the Islay region, and whiskies from this area are said to possess some of the latter's smokiness while still sharing in the balanced sweetness of the mainland. Emblematic of that nuance, Oban's 18 Year is the oldest in the distillery's current age statement whiskies. It's a single malt expression that walks that fruit-smoke tightrope perfectly, with some added wood spice, giving way to a long finish with dark chocolate and salted caramel notes.

[PURCHASE: \\$160](#)

Style: Single Malt

ABV: 43%

Tasting Notes: Fruit, smoke, spice, dark chocolate, salted caramel

### GLENFARCLAS 25

Unprecedented considering the price tag, the 25 Year from Glenfarclas is the oldest age statement on this list by far. And while it's still accessible in flavor, it's truly for those who enjoy sherried whisky, aged entirely in former Oloroso sherry casks. On the nose is a bit of menthol, chocolate, and sherry followed by a mildly spicy yet smooth tasting experience, being bottled at 43% ABV. Then come additional allusions to hazelnut and dried fruit making their way into the mix. A [golden child](#) of the Speyside region, the 25-year-old single malt finishes strong as well, with a bit of smoke, cocoa, and oak to bring things home.

[PURCHASE: \\$170](#)

Style: Single Malt

ABV: 43%

Tasting Notes: Sherry, hazelnut, dried fruit, smoke, cocoa, oak

### LAGAVULIN 12 YEAR 2022 SPECIAL RELEASE

Each year the [King of Islay](#) comes out with an annual Special Release expression. And each year it nearly overshadows everything else that debuts around it from other distilleries. While a tad bit younger than the distillery's flagship 16-year-old single malt, Lagavulin's 12-year-old whisky, which bears a phoenix on the bottle's label, is even smokier. Bottled at cask strength at nearly 115 proof, it combines the brand's smokiest reserve casks with some virgin oak liquid and — voila! — you have a whisky that's super savory, with a lemony sweetness and resilient char smoke.

[PURCHASE: \\$172](#)

Style: Single Malt

ABV: 57.3%

Tasting Notes: Smoke, lemon, fruit

### HIGHLAND PARK 18 YEAR

Highland Park's flagship 18 Year single malt — also called Viking Pride — is among the [most revered whiskies](#) in the nation, regardless of price. The Orkney Islands distillery is among the farthest north, so you're getting a colder-climate coastal profile. Ripe floral notes and honeyed fruits hit the nose upon introduction, while fruit preserves mixed with wintery spices like cinnamon and allspice wrap themselves around the palate during that first sip. And with a long-lasting and sugared finish, this Highland Park isn't something you'll let out of your sight that easily.

[PURCHASE: \\$180](#)

Style: Single Malt

ABV: 43%

Tasting Notes: Smoke, baking spice, caramel, citrus, floral

### JOHNNIE WALKER BLUE LABEL

The king of blended Scotch, [Johnnie Walker's Blue Label](#) holds no age statement, yet sheer reputation and acclaim allow it to be worthy of nearly two C-notes — a lofty price for blended whisky of any other name. In the 19th century, long before you could get nearly any bottle of whisky with the click of a button, Johnnie Walker sourced and aggregated the best spirits available at the time. Better than even some top-tier single malts, this premium Blue Label debuted in the '90s in order to recreate the brand's legendary early batches that made them so famous.

[PURCHASE: \\$185](#)

Style: Blended

ABV: 40%

Tasting Notes: Smoke, honey, chocolate, ginger, orange blossom

## Top 10 Scotch whisky export markets by value

13 FEBRUARY 2023 By *Melita Kiely*

Last week, the Scotch Whisky Association (SWA) confirmed record shipments of whisky from Scotland in 2022 — but which are the category's biggest export markets?



Scroll down to discover the world's biggest Scotch export markets defined by value

Global Scotch whisky exports topped £6 billion (US\$7.3bn) for the first time in 2022.

In value terms, Scotch exports were worth £6.2bn (US\$7.5bn), an increase of 37% on the previous year.

Volume-wise, the number of 700ml bottles exported rose by 27% to 1.67bn in 2022.

[Mark Kent, chief executive of the SWA](#), said: "Passing £6bn in export value for the first time is a milestone, and testament to the work of our member companies and the tens of thousands of employees across Scotland and the UK supply chain who make Scotch whisky a global success story of which we are rightly proud."

Below, we count down the top 10 biggest export markets for Scotch whisky by value.

#### 10. Spain



Spain was the 10th biggest export market for Scotch whisky last year, marking a 46% increase to £173 million (US\$208.7m) compared with £118m (US\$142.4m) in 2021.

## 9. Japan



Scotch whisky fans in Japan gave the category a 32% boost, as export sales jumped to £175m (US\$211.1m), up from £133m (US\$160.5m) in 2021.

## 8. Germany



Double-digit growth in 2022 nabbed Germany the eighth spot on the list, as Scotch whisky exports climbed by 36% in value terms to reach £202m (US\$243.7m), an improvement on the £148m (US\$178.6m) delivered in 2021.

## 7. Panama



Consumers in Panama showed a clear penchant for Scotch whisky, with value exports placing the Central American country in seventh position. Exports rose by triple digits last year – 165% – to hit £203m (US\$244.8m), compared with £77m (US\$92.8m) in 2021.

## 6. China



Chinese consumers have long been known for their interest in Scotch whisky, and helped China place sixth in the value ranking. The value of exports to China grew by 18% last year to reach £233m, (US\$281.1m) up from £198m (US\$238.9m) in 2021.

## 5. India



Exports by value to India almost doubled in 2022, rising by 93%. In 2021, Scotch exports by value were worth £146m (US\$176.2m), but jumped to £282m (US\$340.2m) in 2022. [If the UK-India fair trade deal is confirmed](#), this number could be set to soar further.

## 4. Taiwan



With a 39% rise in exports by value, Taiwan is the fourth most valuable export market for Scotch. Exports were worth £315m (US\$380.1m) in 2022, an increase from £226m (US\$272.7m) in 2021.

### 3. Singapore



With a 50% increase in value exports last year, Singapore took third position with Scotch exports topping £316m (US\$381.3m), compared with £212m (US\$255.8m) in 2021.

### 2. France



Second place was secured by France, with value exports of Scotch whisky up by more than a quarter (26%) in 2022. The category's exports were worth £488m (US\$588.8m) last year, up from £387m (US\$466.9m) in 2021.

### 1. US



Taking pole position for the most valuable export market for Scotch in 2022 is the US, following a 33% rise in export value last year. The nation's [imports](#) of Scotch whisky were worth £1.053bn (US\$1.27bn) in 2022, up from £790m (US\$953.1m) in 2021.

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## Top 10 Scotch whisky export markets by volume

15 FEBRUARY 2023 By Melita Kiely

The last time France was not the number-one Scotch whisky export market by volume was 2000. But which country took the top position in 2022?



Scotland's whisky exports had a strong year in 2022

Last year, [Scotch whisky exports passed the £6 billion \(US\\$7.3bn\)](#) mark for the first time following 37% value growth. Global exports of Scotland's native spirit were worth £6.2bn (US\$7.5bn) in 2022.

Volume-wise, the number of 700ml bottles exported from Scotland rose by 21% to 1.67bn in total.

Regionally, Asia Pacific overtook the EU as the sector's biggest regional market, boosted by double-digit growth in Taiwan, Singapore, India and China.

Steadfast Scotch markets such as France, Germany and Spain continued their post-pandemic recovery, reporting ['strong' growth](#) last year, according to the Scotch Whisky Association (SWA).

However, France has been removed from the position of number-one export market by volume. But which country took the top spot for the first time since 2000?

Scroll down to discover the top 10 Scotch whisky export markets by volume.

### 10. South Africa



Shipments of Scotch whisky to South Africa rose by 15% in 2022 to reach 39 million bottles, up from 34m in 2021.

**9. Mexico**



A slight increase of 2% saw Scotch whisky exports to Mexico climb to 48m bottles last year, securing the country ninth place. To the nearest round number, the volume was also recorded at 48m bottles in 2021.

**8. Poland**



A high single-digit increase of 9% bagged Poland eighth place in the ranking of top Scotch export markets by volume. The country received 49m bottles in 2022, up from 45m the year prior.

**7. Spain**



Spain was the market that held the number-one spot in 2000, the last year

France was not in pole position. In 2022, exports to Spain jumped by 39% to 67m bottles, an increase from 48m in 2021.

**6. Germany**



Exports to Germany rose by 48% last year, as Scotch fans enjoyed 67m bottles. This was an improvement on the 46m bottles shipped in 2021.

**5. Japan**



In 2022, Scotch whisky exports to Japan rose by a third (33%), hitting 75m bottles – almost 20m more than the 56m exported in 2021.

**4. Brazil**



Double-digit growth (14%) placed Brazil fourth in the top-10 ranking, with 93m bottles of Scotch exported there last year. This was a rise from the 82m bottles in 2021.

### 3. US



As we reach the top three global markets for Scotch exports by volume, third place goes to the US. Exports grew by 9% to 137m bottles last year, up from 126m in 2021.

### 2. France



The TFWA World Exhibition & Conference will return to Cannes, France, from 25-28 October 2021

Sitting in second position for the first time in more than two decades, France still delivered double-digit growth last year. Scotch exports by volume rose by 17% to reach 205m bottles, up from 176m in 2021.

### 1. India



A solid 60% growth spurt in Scotch whisky exports saw India topple

France from the top spot. The world's biggest export market for Scotch by volume in 2022 imported 219m bottles, significantly higher than the 136m bottles in 2021.

These are the [top 10 markets by value](#).

## 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>, 2021 will be expected to pay for the cost of the dinner and scotch (\$100). It is the responsibility of the member who cancels their (or their guest's) reservation to find a replacement. If I am asked to find a substitute and one is found, then the member will be asked to pay for 50% of their dinner cost.
- Anyone who fails to attend the Monday September 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 "KSMS2023RDF", to whatever your security question is. Receiving payment in advance will allow everyone the opportunity to socialize before the dinner as well as reduce the accounting work required after.
- For e-transfers, Members are responsible for collecting from their guests, and then forwarding one payment in total by e-transfer.

## Assigned / Reserved Seating

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

## Perfume / Cologne and Whisky

- Our enjoyment of fine whisky at KSMS starts with a nosing - for many a definitive and delicate moment in their relationship with a new dram. The power of aroma is unquestionable. From defining life experiences to the recall of special memories, the sense of smell is as individual as a fingerprint and has the ability to evoke some of the most precious, rewarding and distinctive moments. Unfortunately strong perfumes can mask and distort other aromas and smells and interfere with the ability to register and recognize subtler fragrances.  
- To be fair to all we ask all our members to please refrain from wearing scented products and perfumes to our KSMS evenings.

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**Just a note because we care.**

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

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**Membership and Dinner prices for 2022-2023**

<b>Membership Fee:</b>	<b>\$50 (singles)</b>
	<b>\$75 (couples)</b>
<b>One Time Initiation Fee:</b>	<b>\$15</b>
<b>Standard Dinner Fee:</b>	<b>\$100 (member)</b>
	<b>\$110 (guest)</b>

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**Kingston Single Malt Society**

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