

WHISKY STORIES

AND A LITTLE BIT MORE

2019
A TALE OF WHISKY
SECOND EDITION

'Experiences for people who collect memories, not stuff.'

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A discretionary 12.5% service charge will be added to your bill.
All spirits are served as 50ml measures, 25ml measures are available upon request. Mixers not included. All prices are inclusive of 20% VAT.

INTRODUCTION



THE HYDE

INTRODUCTION

Behind an innocuous black wooden door in a Victorian terrace of London townhouses you will find an oasis of quintessentially British luxury and hospitality at The Roseate House London. Its inner sanctum is The Hyde Bar.

Whisky list at the Hyde Bar is an ensemble cast of rare Whisky's, products from off the beaten track interspersed with some premium and somewhat famous names. Rare bottlings of pre prohibition American Whiskey have been tracked and obtained from both the personal collections of private sellers as well as exclusive auctions across the Globe. Each and every bottle of spirit represented in our extensive list has been hand-picked to showcase something truly unique by either the complexity of its production or the individual stories behind each one.

Grande Dames of the spirit world such as Macallan M Decanter, Balvenie 40 years old and the only bottle of Dalmore Constellation 1973 in London sit alongside some of the very last of their kind. An old bottle of historic bourbon brand Old Mock, distilled and bottled at the world famous No.17 distillery in Louisville, Kentucky back in 1916, it was released in 1933, and happens to be a true piece of bourbon history available only at The Hyde.

Other auction finds such as Old Overholt 6 Years Old 1942, Schenley Reserve 1940 and Casebridge 52 years old are amongst our fine selection of rare bottles.

CHAPTER 1



WHAT IS WHISKEY

WHAT IS WHISKEY?

Whisky or whiskey is a type of distilled alcoholic beverage made from fermented grain mash. Various grains which may be malted are used for different varieties, including barley, corn maize, rye, and wheat. Whisky is typically aged in wooden casks, generally made of charred white oak.

Whisky is a strictly regulated spirit worldwide with many classes and types. The typical unifying characteristics of the different classes and types are the fermentation of grains, distillation, and aging in wooden barrels.

In history, it is possible that distillation was practised by the Babylonians in Mesopotamia in the 2nd millennium BC, with perfumes and aromatics being distilled, but this is subject to uncertain and disputed interpretations of evidence. The earliest certain chemical distillations were by Greeks in Alexandria in the 1st century AD but these were not distillations of alcohol. The medieval Arabs adopted the distillation technique of the Alexandrian Greeks, and written records in Arabic begin in the 9th century, but again these were not distillations of alcohol. Distilling technology passed from the medieval Arabs to the medieval Latins, with the earliest records in Latin in the early 12th century. The earliest records of the distillation of alcohol are in Italy in the 13th century, where alcohol was distilled from wine. An early description of the technique was given by Ramon Llull (1232 – 1315). Its use spread through medieval monasteries, largely for medicinal purposes, such as the treatment of colic and smallpox.

The art of distillation spread to Ireland and Scotland no later than the 15th century, as did the common European practice of distilling “aqua vitae” or spirit alcohol primarily for medicinal purposes. The practice of medicinal distillation eventually passed from a monastic setting to the secular via professional medical practitioners of the time, The Guild of Barber Surgeons. The earliest Irish mention of whisky comes from the seventeenth-century Annals of Clonmacnoise, which attributes the death of a chieftain in 1405 to “taking a surfeit of aqua vitae” at Christmas. In Scotland, the first evidence of whisky production comes from an entry in the Exchequer Rolls for 1494 where malt is sent “To Friar John Cor, by order of the king, to make aquavitae”, enough to make about 500 bottles.

James IV of Scotland (r. 1488–1513) reportedly had a great liking for Scotch whisky, and in 1506 the town of Dundee purchased a large amount of whisky from the Guild of Barber Surgeons, which held the monopoly on production at the time. Between 1536 and 1541, King Henry VIII of England dissolved the monasteries, sending their monks out into the general public.

Whisky production moved out of a monastic setting and into personal homes and farms as newly independent monks needed to find a way to earn money for themselves.

The distillation process was still in its infancy; whisky itself was not allowed to age, and as a result tasted very raw and brutal compared to today's versions. Renaissance-era whisky was also very potent and not diluted. Over time whisky evolved into a much smoother drink. With a license to distil Irish whiskey from 1608, the Old Bushmills Distillery in Northern Ireland is the oldest licensed whiskey distillery in the world.

In 1707, the Acts of Union merged England and Scotland, and thereafter taxes on it rose dramatically. A man pours some whisky into a flask in this 1869 oil painting by Scottish artist Erskine Nicol.

After the English Malt Tax of 1725, most of Scotland's distillation was either shut down or forced underground. Scotch whisky was hidden under altars, in coffins, and in any available space to avoid the governmental excisemen or revenueurs. Scottish distillers, operating out of homemade stills, took to distilling whisky at night when the darkness hid the smoke from the stills. For this reason, the drink became known as moonshine. At one point, it was estimated that over half of Scotland's whisky output was illegal.

CHAPTER 2



SPEYSIDE

SPEYSIDE

Speysides are famous for their elegance and complexity. They have little peaty character (although some have a whiff of smoke) and can be highly perfumed: scents of carnations, roses and violets.

GLENTAUCHERS 8 YEARS OLD, CARN MOR 2010 46% £13.50

Single cask, picked by Càrn Mòr for the “Strictly Limited Edition”, 890 bottles for a single Sherry Puncheon. A mild and gentle introduction to solely aged sherry Speyside whiskies.

GLENROTHES 7 YEARS, CARN MOR 2011 46% £14

905 bottles from a single Sherry Puncheon, classic Glenrothes, sherried, elegant and spicy at the same time, the chaps from Carn Mor did not pick a bad one. This cask is definitely one of the best example of what the distillery is capable of. Here the oak is more evident but perhaps more elegant.

STRATHMILL 2002 G&M CONNOISSEURS CHOICE

(Btl. 2016) 46% £14

Really unknown and underrated distillery, shows its best in gentle and mild aging casks, releasing a lot of buttery and creamy notes, hint of spice at the back, this release from Gordon&MacPhail is one of the best out there, bottled in 2016.

GLEN SPEY 2007 G&M CONNOISSEURS CHOICE

(Btl. 2017) 46% £12.50

Rumour has it that the distillery has been fully converted to gin production, we are not too sure about it but let's drink it till it's still out there. 1st Fill Bourbon casks, G&M CC, what else?

INCHGOWER 2005 G&M CONNOISSEURS CHOICE

(Btl 2016) 46% £13

Refill Sherry Butts and Refill Sherry Hogsheads for this batch, bottled by Gordon and Macphail, the Sherry influence is not too intrusive, it is well merged with the Distillery profile. Dried fruits, sultana, some stewed green apple in the back, incredibly balanced despite the age.

BENROMACH 15 YEARS OLD 43% £16

In 1998 Gordon & MacPhail decided to resurrect what is now a days the smallest producing distillery in Speyside, peating their malt around 8 to 12 ppm. This expression is an very elegant but robust whisky aged in selected bourbon and sherry casks, enclosed in a hint of smoke. Classy and at the same time unusual speysider.

IMPERIAL 22 YEARS OLD, THE SINGLE MALT OF SCOTLAND 1992 43.3%

£25

Closed (1998) and demolished in 2013, Imperial will be sadly missed, but not in our collection. This is from cask 5410, 202 bottles from a single bourbon cask, wonderful stuff, very gentle and floral.

SPEYSIDE

GLEN ELGIN 12 YEARS OLD 43%

£12

Official bottling of the homonymous distillery, marvellous every day whisky, nothing to envy to the other 12 years old out there in the market.

STRATHISLA 1965, G&M RARE VINTAGE COLLECTION 2014 43%

£120

Bottled in 2012, this 47 years old whisky, first fill sherry, is a pleasure for the palate, recommended as after dinner or with a cigar.

STRATHISLA 1949, G&M RARE VINTAGE COLLECTION 2006 40%

£385

Bottle in 2006, make it up to 57 years old of ageing, not many whisky can afford so many years and taste great, this dram represent the word "OLD".

GLEN GRANT 1966, G&M DISTILLERY LABEL 2012 40%

£95

Matured in first fill Sherry Butt and Refill American Hogshead this is the freshest of the expression of the old Glen Grants from G&M, bottled in 2012. A honey bomb, baked apple, vanilla notes and green fruits, influence of peat too.

LINKWOOD 1972, THE RARE MALT SELECTION 58.4%

£59

Aged for 23 years at cask strength with no filtration this is a full body yet fragrant whisky.

CRAIGELLACHIE 9 YEARS OLD SIGNATORY VINTAGE 2008 43%

£11

With the nickname of the "bad boy" of speyside, due to the muscular and sulphuric taste, Craigellachie is the only C (800096+800098).

GLENTURRET 23 YEARS OLD 1990 ARTFUL DODGERS 50.7%

£26

Octave casks (50 Litres) are very useful to shortly finish and refine flavours to a whisky which is mature in time, but maybe not in taste, here the use of PX octave as finish is quite understandable, as the sherry profile is well integrated in a very short amount of time. Yeld is very low, 48 bottles produced. One of the best Sherry bombs in our collection.

GLENFARCLAS 10 YEARS OLD 40%

£11

The youngest of the single malt released by Glenfarclas, needs time to open and appreciate, notes of baked pastries, ovaltine (malty) and some chocolaty notes on the back, such a complex whisky compared to many others of the same "age".

SPEYSIDE

GLENFARCLAS 15 YEARS OLD TWE 58.6%

£18

Do you like Glenfarclas 15 years old? We do and even more at The Whisky Exchange, therefore after proclaim it Scotch whisky of the year (2015) they asked to Glenfarclas distillery to release a special edition to celebrate. Brave enough to try it neat?

GLENLIVET 11 YEARS OLD 2007 SIGNATORY 64.3%

£19

No, that's not a typo error, the ABV of this whisky is almost close as new make spirit (68-70% generally). Selected by Signatory for The Whisky Show 2018, cask N 900131 , 11 Years spent in a 1st fill Sherry European Oak Hogshead. Just for Sherry lover, really intense whisky.

GLENLIVET G&M DISTILLERY LABEL 1961, 43%

£122

Not many whisky can age for so long (distilled in 1961, bottled in 2015) and keep an outstanding integrity as Glenlivet, delicate and full flavoured.

LONGMORN 15 YEARS OLD 2002 SIGNATORY 57.2%

£18.50

Another distillery owned by Pernod (Chivas), elegant all time speysider, usually drowned in Sherry cask aging, Signatory decided to merge 2 bourbon barrels, distillery profile comes forward.450 Bottles only.

GLENBURGIE 22 YEARS OLD 1995 SIGNATORY 60%

£23

Tight cask gives you a tight whisky, 60% after 22 years, Angels haven't been greedy at all with this firey Glenburgie. Single Hogshead #6518. 218 bottles. Granola and marmellade over rye bread.

BENRINNES 15 YEARS OLD, FLORA AND FAUNA 43%

£16

A classic release from Diageo, part of the Flora and Fauna range. These bottlings tend to offer single malt not seen before. These is a meaty whisky, full of body and sherry spices distilled almost 3 times, not to remove body but to actually add more sulphur notes to it.

TORMORE 20 YEARS OLD 1996 G&M 57.4%

£21

Bottled exclusively for The Whisky Exchange, form a refill bourbon cask (#5655), Full proof, very expressive, custard and fresh orange, Christmas spices and creamy finish.

MORTLACH 9 YEARS OLD, SIGNATORY CASK STRENGTH EDITION 59.5%

£16.50

Distilled 2.81 times, yes you got it, 2.81 times. The magic behind Mortlach new make is something beyond understanding but we are happy like this as soon as the distillery will not change its flavour profile which is.....well..... heavy, rich, that's best suitable for long ageing and on sherry . This expression is a super alive and powerful, on cask strength.

SPEYSIDE

MORTLACH 8 YEARS OLD, HEPBURN'S CHOICE 2010 46% £13.50

Another young Mortlach in our collection but this time from the indie bottler Hepburn Choice. Despite the age this whisky as a lot to say, is a very pale refill sherry hogshead whisky but the character of the distillery is untouched, Sweet, spicy and expressive. One of 387 bottles released.

DAILUAIN 10 YEARS OLD, HEPBURN'S CHOICE 2007 46% £13

Pronounced da-liu-eeen, not much seen on the shelves due to the large use in blends, it shines on sherry casks aging. This is from a Sherry Butt, very light, fresh, buttery. One of 789 bottles.

CRABBIE 30 YEARS OLD 48.6% £61

By an undisclosed speyside distillery, really uncommon to experience such a dram, kept secretly for over 30 years in a sherry butt this is set to be one off, You don't come across every day on peated Mac.....probably I said to much, astonishing dram and really rare. 330 bottles produced.

STRATHISLA 12 YEARS OLD 40% £11

The quiet malt in the Chivas Brothers stable, a fruity, sherried dram that doesn't get the attention that it deserves. A favourite of blenders and single-malt connoisseurs alike.

SPEYSIDE

Macallan was founded in 1824 by Alexander Reid and is one of the largest and most famous distilleries in Scotland. The distillery has 21 stills and while this is a large amount, each one is small, fat and stands at less than 4 metres tall. Macallan also use two types of yeast during fermentation, compared to just one type at most other distilleries. This is done in order to maximise the amount of sugar that gets turned into alcohol and can give a slight extra creaminess to the final spirit. The final difference is in the maturation. The whisky goes into European oak casks that have previously been made to exact specifications and filled with Sherry by the Gonzalez Byass Bodega in Jerez, Spain. Our collection is trying to represent the old style and tradition of Macallan and the specific flavour of the Sherry finish.

MACALLAN 18 YEARS OLD, SHERRY CASK, 2016

RELEASE 43%

£45

Now discontinued due to the small amount produced, the sherry finish here is more evident, still a very balanced whisky.

MACALLAN RARE CASK 43%

£31

A non age state Macallan, born from a blend of 16 different Sherry casks, most of them are first fill. The Macallan style is well represented, the mouth feel is oily, with strong sherry influences but does not overpower the distillery character; it will not be available for long..

MACALLAN OSCURO, 1824 COLLECTION 46.5%

£162

This is a combination of fine selected first fill Sherry cask whiskies distilled between 1987 and 1997, a sherry bomb in flavour and character.

MACALLAN REFLEXION, DECANTER SERIES 43%

£170

A combination of first fill American and Spanish Sherry Hogshead, citrusy and spicy, with notes of sultana.

MACALLAN M 'DECANTER', 1824 COLLECTION 44%

£540

The Sherry lovers dream's dram, released as representation of the old style and tradition of Macallan, no words can describe the complexity of this whisky.

SPEYSIDE

Balvenie opened in 1892 by William Grant, who wanted to build a new distillery in order to help his other distillery at Glenfiddich. The distillery's success was almost instantaneous, following on from Glenfiddich's impressive start. Most of the whisky produced at Balvenie was put towards Grant & Sons range of blended whiskies, especially Grant's which has been one of the UK's and the world's top selling blends for many years. Regular single malt releases only really became common in the early 1970s and the reputation of its sweet, creamy, rich whisky grew rapidly. This popularity led Grant & Sons to build another distillery next door and Kininvie started production in 1990. Kininvie was built solely to take the weight off Balvenie and Glenfiddich and everything produced there goes towards the Grant's blended range. Balvenie and Glenfiddich now concentrate on meeting demand for their single malts, with only a small percentage now going to Grant's new blend called Monkey Shoulder. Balvenie remains under the ownership of the Grant family, making William Grant & Sons one of the longest single family ownerships in the world.

BALVENIE 12 YEARS OLD DOUBLE WOOD 40% £11

First aged in refill bourbon cask then finished in a first filled sherry, lots of toffee and vanilla notes from the youngest dram of the distillery.

BALVENIE 14 YEARS OLD DOUBLE WOOD 40% £14

First aged in refill bourbon cask then finished in a first filled sherry, lots of toffee and vanilla notes from the youngest dram of the distillery.

BALVENIE 17 YEARS OLD DOUBLE WOOD 43% £17.50

Older expression of the double wood, amazing balance between bourbon and sherry.

BALVENIE 21 YEARS OLD PORTWOOD 40% £25

The extra maturation in old Port pipes gives to this whisky an extra fruity and smoky notes, perfect as after dinner, un-chill filtered.

BALVENIE 30 YEARS OLD 47.3% £99

A perfect combination of American and European oak, this is a smooth but also very complex dram from Balvenie, honey in a bottle.

BALVENIE 40 YEARS OLD 48.5 % £490

The oldest and most complex blend of Bourbon and Sherry cask that Balvenie has to offer, outstanding !

GLENFIDDICH 18 YEARS OLD 40% £17

Mature for at least 18 years in a combination of ex Bourbon and Oloroso Sherry casks, expect a well balance, never boring malty and gentle whisky. We consider it a fine introduction to Glenfiddich, therefore is our entry level.

SPEYSIDE

GLENFIDDICH 21 YEARS OLD 40%

£23

As previously stated Glenfiddich tends to be a gentle single malt with a lot of character to it. That's why suits long aging (2 decades) but it can be "lost" and overwhelmed by the time and the cask flavour impact, after almost 20 years of aging the whiskies are vatted in Rum barrels to rest and refine, complementing the already smooth and tropical elegance of this dram.

GLENFIDDICH 26 YEARS OLD EXCELLENCE 46%

£53

Soft and delicate on the nose, with a beautiful floral character. The flavour is vibrant, with a balance of dry tannin and soft brown vanilla sweetness. Deep and complex, with hints of spice and liquorice.

GLENFIDDICH 40 YEARS OLD / RELEASE 15 / BOT.2018 / 47.8%

£300

The 15th release of Glenfiddich's series of incredible 40-year-old whiskies, bottled in 2018. Vatted from a selection of excellent casks as well as the saved remnants of previous year's vattings. Incredibly complex with notes of fruit cake, dates, raisins and stewed apples.

CHAPTER 3



LOWLAND

LOWLAND

Lowland typically have a dry finish, which makes them excellent aperitifs. The dryness comes from the malt itself, not from peat (Lowlands tend to use unpeated malt). Their aromatic intensity is low, and tends to be grassy or herbal, with grainy and floral notes.

BLADNOCH 1993 CONNOISSEURS CHOICE 46% £23

Gordon & Macphail are presenting the southernmost Scotland distillery with an incredible complex but light dram. One of our favourites. Aged for 23 years in Hogshead

LITTLEMILL 1985 RARE & OLD 46% £80

Legend has it that this was the first distillery to produce whisky (1772), unfortunately closed in the mid 90'. Unique in style and character, a must for Whisky Connoisseurs.

GIRVAN PATENT No.4 APPS 42% £14

A tribute to their fourth still (Apparatus number 4) where the new make goes under vacuum distillation, coming out light but full of the flavours of the grain, as the boiling point of the alcohol is lower, protecting the grain not to be damaged during distillation. Light lowland single grain.

CARSEBRIDGE 52 YEARS OLD, TBWC 40.5% £68

Single grain whisky on a limited run of 280 bottles, assuming it's from a refill sherry Hogshead, the distillery closed in 1983, leaving a small amount of whisky left...

STRATHCLYDE 30 YEARS OLD, TBWC 53.1% £51

Another single grain, on a limited run of 228 bottles. Tropical fruits, banana, honey and banana leaves, very close to rum!

NORTH BRITISH 25 YEARS OLD 1991 A.D.RATTRAY 58.5% £19

Independent bottling of North British single grain, from a re-charred Sherry Butt #262058. 533 bottles produced. Toasted oak, sherry sweetness and grain mildness.

AILSA BAY 48.9% £16.50

The nose has wood smoke and heather with sweet vanilla oak and candied orange peel. The palate is a perfect balance of peat and vanilla sweetness, with fruit and toffee emerging. The finish has sweet oak balanced with drying peat.

CHAPTER 4



HIGHLAND

HIGHLAND

Highlands malts tend to be light bodied, delicate whiskies with complex aromas and a dry(ish) finish that is sometimes spicy, and sometimes has a trace of salt.

THE DALMORE COLLECTION

It was founded, in 1839, by Alexander Matheson, knowing for certain what determines the character of malt whisky. It used to be thought that the water was the key. Certainly, the site of Dalmore Distillery was chosen to take advantage of the cold, clear waters of Loch Kildermorie, which local illicit distillers believed had mystical properties long before the legal distillery opened in the 1830s. The quality of the barley is essential, and that grown in the rich coastal soils of Ross-shire and the Black Isle, adjacent to the distillery, is second to none for making whisky. The very name 'Dalmore' means 'big meadow'. The only other ingredient is yeast, and here again, Dalmore is exceptional in having developed a single strain of yeast which produces an unusually rich and fruity 'beer' from which the spirit is distilled. As for a lot of fine whiskies almost all the dalmore are aged in selected, premium Sherry casks, giving a final touch to an elegant whisky.

DALMORE 12 YEARS OLD 40%

£13

The attractively perfumed nose of the 12-year-old offers sweet malt, thick cut orange marmalade, sherry and a hint of leather. It's a brilliant drink, full-bodied, with sweetening sherry in the mouth, along with spice and balancing, delicate, citrus notes.

DALMORE 15 YEARS OLD 40%

£14.25

Here our entry level Dalmore, a combination of Matusalem, Apostoles and Amoroso sherry casks for a rounded and well balanced whisky.

DALMORE CIGAR MALT 44%

£23

American oak, 30 years old oloroso and premier Cru Cabernet Sauvignon cask join forces and provide a whisky that is best followed up by a cigar, Partagas Serie D No. 4 to be exact.

DALMORE PORT WOOD 46.5%

£15.50

Beginning its life in American white oak ex-bourbon casks, this Highland single malt is then split between American white oak and aged Tawny port pipes from W & J Graham's vineyard in Portugal. These are then married back together to harmonise the flavours before bottling at a strength of 46.5% abv.

THE DALMORE KING ALEXANDER III 40%

£28

Warm vanilla notes of creamy toffee from the aged Bourbon barrels combine eloquently with the majestic whispers of ripe red fruits offered up by cabernet sauvignon barriques. Complex, characterful and craved by connoisseurs.

HIGHLAND

DALMORE 25 YEARS OLD 42%

£102

American white oak followed up by a combination of Palomino Fino sherry butt and first fill bourbon casks. These are then married together in bourbon barrels before a finishing period in Tawny Port pipes. Outstanding complexity of exotic fruit and deep aromas.

DALMORE QUINTESSENCE 45%

£115

Matured in bourbon casks and finished in five different types of Californian red wine cask: Zinfandel, Merlot, Cabernet Sauvignon, Syrah and Pinot Noir. Dark forest berries and red wine tannins.

DALMORE 35 YEARS OLD 40%

£400

Another mind blowing combination of casks from Dalmore: Matusalem sherry, Bourbon barrel and a Colheita-port pipe. Notes of coffee, banana and treacle predominates this 35 years old whisky.

DALMORE 40 YEARS OLD 42%

£720

The casks may sound obvious but with over 40 years old of maturation in American white oak, Matusalem oloroso and Amoroso sherry casks this is an outstanding dram in complexity. Something else.

DALMORE CONSTELLATION 1973 48.1%

£1,550

Aged in American Oak for 32 years, then double matured in Cabernet Sauvignon and ex-bourbon cask. Part of the constellation range that represent the spirit and the craftsmanship behind Dalmore, this is the cask number 10, 38 years old, bottled at cask strength with no additional colouring.

GLENDRONACH 12 YEARS OLD 43%

£12.50

The introduction to the core range of GlenDronach, a perfectly aged sherry whisky, the character is fuller and beefier than others, shows its best in sherry and on long term maturation.

GLENDRONACH 18 YEARS OLD 46%

£19

Previous bottling of GlenDronach, aged entirely in Oloroso, smoothness combined with an outstanding complexity.

HIGHLAND

ANCNOC 24 YEARS OLD 46%

£24

We could have stocked a younger statement from Knockdhu distillery (1894), but we just think that this 24 years old is just a stunning blend of sherry and bourbon cask. Leather, honey, candied citrus peel, for a warming everlasting finish.

FETTERCAIRN 12 YEARS OLD 40%

£14

Freshly released this year, packed with tropical fruits, oily and full of esters, this 12 years old has nothing to lose compared to older whiskies.

FETTERCAIRN 1988, SIGNATORY CASK STRENGTH EDITION 56.7%

£37

Entirely aged in Hogshead, this 27 years old whisky is an oily, full body, mouth coating experience.

GLENMORANGIE SIGNET 46%

£24

Chocolate barley (heavily roasted barley) is included in the final mash and then distilled, this particular spirit is then barrelled in Virgin American oak. Notes of coffee, vanilla and chocolate surround this delicate dram.

TOMATIN 12YEARS OLD 43%

£11.50

Aged in Bourbon & Sherry oak, Tomatin distillery has been established in 1897, with a good reputation to produce solid and tasty single malts.

OBAN 14 YEARS OLD 43%

£14.50

A coastal whisky rich of iodine, dried figs, spices and peppery notes, touch of smoke but not because of peat.

BEN NEVIS 10 YEARS OLD 46%

£12

This is a superb introduction to the distillery's style. Full-bodied with a whiff of peat, lots of tropical fruit, and hints of coffee and dark chocolate, this is a great example of western Highland whisky. Not to miss.

GLENCADAM 13 YEARS OLD "THE RE-AWAKENING" 46%

£14

The distillery felt silent in 2000, just to re-awake in 2003, all production re-vamped and stocked re-managed, gracefully I might say, this is the second batch, yielding 5994 bottles (gladly is quite high) as this is an incredibly tasty whisky. Barley sugar full of esters, fresh grass and sourdough bread grain mildness.

HIGHLAND

HIGHLAND STAR 11 YEARS OLD, NORTH STAR SPIRITS 50% £13

The name of the distillery here is unknown but if you input the coordinates that you will find on the top corners of the labels they will point on a river next to Teaninich Distillery, bottle code for this release is TE001, what else to say.....Solid whisky from a refill sherry butt, packed at 50% ABV by the caps at North Star, they definitely know what they are doing.

CROFTENGEA 2008 9 YEARS OLD 54.5% £18

Of the 7 single malts produced by Loch Lomond distillery, Croftengea is the second most peated one, This bourbon hogshead has been selected by The Whisky Exchange and bottled at full proof in 2018 with almost 10 years of aging. Expect crazy spicy pineapple enriched by a good level of fresh peat, well rounded, with a long finish, very clean and neat.

CLYNELISH 1996 SIGNATORY DECANTER 43% £21

Drawn from a single sherry cask yielding just 840 bottles, Clynelish is one of the most funky (and old) distilleries out there. The new make is waxy and rubbery, oily, full of stone fruits delice and an hint of peat. You love it or you hate it. This one is an explosion of bees wax and red currants.

OLD PULTENEY 12 YEARS OLD 40% £11.50

Entirely aged in American oak casks, also known as “The Maritime Malt”, we consider this a really good introduction to the distillery itself. It is fruity, with a mouth coating waxiness, a top note of sea salt with solvent and candy floss.

EDRADOUR SFTC 11 YEARS OLD MADEIRA 2006 59.4% £23

Since the stills and the production is really small, selection of casks in Edradour is meticulous and never average, I have never been disappointed by any of their releases. I picked an usual bottling as Madeira (Portuguese sweet wine) is quite uncommon these days as single cask. Straight From The Cask releases are exquisite whiskies. 961 bottles available.

EDRADOUR SFTC 10 YEARS OLD SHERRY 2008 57.4% £22

Forest musk, sherry Rancio bite, black walnut and a fresh redcurrant enclosed in a really high ABV, our favourite from the SFTC releases from Edradour. Every cask is different, very time is just too good.

HIGHLAND

BALLECHIN 10 YEARS OLD 46%

£13.50

Back in 2003 Edradour distillery started to experiment with heavily peated barley (around 45 ppm and above), the result was Ballechin. do you like Ardbeg, Caol Ila, bold, peaty whiskies from Islay? well this is definitely for you. Predominantly aged in Bourbon casks, it contains some ex Oloroso sherry too.

WOLFBURN AURORA 46%

£14.50

From Thurso, the Northernmost distillery in Scotland (Islands excluded) Wolfburn opened its doors in 2012, small stills and young whiskies plenty of flavour, the Aurora is aged mostly in sherry oak casks for a sherry sweetness, autumn fruits and a gentle spicy finish.

CHAPTER 5



CAMPBELTOWN

CAMPBELTOWN

Campbeltown traditionally full-flavoured and full-bodied whiskies, famous for their depth of flavour and for their slightly salty tang in the finish. They are referred to as “The Hector of the West”, the deepest voice in the choir”. The overall impression is often compared to ‘sea mist.’

SPRINGBANK 10 YEARS OLD 46% £13

With a blend of sherry and bourbon cask this whisky truly represent the Campbell Town region, spices and red tannins enclosed in a light smoke.

SPRINGBANK 12 YEARS OLD 56.3% £18

Same stuff of the 10 Years Old but the proportion of casks blended for this are different, the sherry (Oloroso, solely for this company) is in majority (70% to 30% Bourbon) aged for a couple of extra years, straight from the cask with no dilution, extra tasty!

KILKERRAN 12 YEARS OLD 46% £10.50

Glengyle distillery, one of the best and oldest distilleries in Campbeltown closed for good: until 2004, when we have seen the new make flowing again, reissued by Hedley G. Wright (Springbank). Aged in 70% bourbon casks and 30% Sherry, un-chill filtered and uncoloured, peated, but it is almost imperceptible. Old style and retro, a splendid 12 years old.

KILKERRAN 8 YEARS OLD 55.7% £15

Cask Strength Kilkerran: young, very vivid, very drinkable, even too much, considered the ABV.

GLEN SCOTIA VICTORIANA 51.5% £18

Even without an age statement this Glen Scotia is full of flavours, the selection of cask for this is superb (heavily re-charred), on the nose is sweet, full of berries flavour, strawberries all the way, but on the palate is well aged, the tannins of the oak are present but light, never boring.

GLEN SCOTIA 1992 MACPHAIL'S COLLECTION 43% £34

Bottle in 2014, 22 years old, where to start ? Oil, vanilla, toffee, smoke, grass, all the expression of Campbeltown in one bottle. Very complex.

CHAPTER 6



ISLAY

ISLAY

Islay generally opposite to the characteristics of Speyside, tending to be dry and peaty; behind the smoke however, they can have gentle mossy scents and some spice. The southern Islay distilleries produce powerfully phenolic whiskies, with aromas redolent of tar, smoke, iodine and carbolic.

LAPHROAIG 10 YEARS OLD 40% £11.50
Citrusy and salty peated whisky from Islay, a classic.

ARDBERG UIGEADAIL 54.2% £16
The smokiness of the Ardbeg refined in Sherry cask, at cask strength, a mighty meaty whisky.

CAOL ILA 8 YEARS OLD, SIGNATORY VINTAGE 2009 46% £14
A young Caol Ila, un-chill filtered and uncoloured, from 2 bourbon barrels (314666+314667). Plenty of smoke, as expected, fresh fruit and a spicy kick at the back.

CAOL ILA 12 YEARS OLD 43% £14.25
Another classic from the biggest producer of whisky in the entire island, oily, briny, a bit of tar and vanilla to complete a medium body peated whisky.

CAOL ILA 11 YEARS OLD 2006 CARN MOR 57.6% £23
Carn mor never disappoints with the Celebration of the Cask series, especially when we are looking into Caol Ila, single casks are always gems. Bourbon barrel #308737.

CAOL ILA 18 YEARS OLD 43% £24
The extra aging is bringing some interesting flavours to this Caol Ila, pineapple and sweet liquorice cover the smooth peated character of this very chewy, rounded and well aged scotch.

LAGAVULIN 16 YEARS OLD 43% £16.50
Seaweed, iodine and peat and gathered together in one bottle, a very punchy and medicinal whisky, some influence of sherry lingering in the back.

KILCHOMAN PORT CASK MATURED 50% £20
Outstanding aging in Ruby Port hogshead, full off riped fruits, red berries, fruity smoke and ashes that develop in soft tannins, so well integrated. This is the 2018 release (10'000 bottles).

KILCHOMAN 100% ISLAY 8th RELEASE 50% £20
For this batch 12000 have been released, as the name of the release is suggesting this time the barley is coming from Islay and malted and peated by the distillery itself. 20 ppm, blend of 23 bourbon casks and 7 sherry butts, this whisky delivers notes of light and intense peat, black tea and dried fruits.

ISLAY

BRUICHLADDICH ISLAY BARLEY 2010 50%

£14

Un-chill filtered, colouring-free, unpeated and with an ABV of 50%, this whisky it's set to represent the expression of the terroir of Islay and the barley from the Hebrides.

PORT CHARLOTTE 8 YEARS OLD 2009 ARTFUL

DODGERS 46.2%

£21

Classic peated styled of the old days re proposed by Bruichladdich distillery in honour of the long gone Port Charlotte distillery, 45 ppm and entry proof on barrels at new make strength (68%), I bet this was an Château d'Yquem ex Sauternes cask.

OCTOMORE 8.4 8 YEARS OLD 58.7%

£26

Produced by Bruichladdich distillery, this is the world most heavily peated whisky by ppm, in this case 170. (Arberg is around 40-45). By taste is quite a discover, especially this one, where Virgin Oak has been widely used to age this whisky, taming down the peat and rising up the fruity, sweet and floral notes of the distillery character

THE CASK OF ISLAY 46%

£10

Independent bottling of A. D. Rattray, the provenience of the whisky is undisclosed but it is certainly bourbon and Hogshead sherry casks. A good introduction to Islay whiskies

CHAPTER 7



ISLAND

ISLAND

In Island whiskies balance is a recurring theme. It is hard to categorise them, indeed the fact they are a category of their own is most probably for geographic ease rather than for discerning between styles. There is often, however, a marked salinity, particularly in whiskies from the Isle of Jura, with their oily nature.

SCAPA 14 YEARS OLD 40%

£20

Sharing the island with their neighbour Highland Park distillery, this is a lighter and unpeated whisky from Orkney, closer to a Speyside in style. This release is now discontinued.

TALISKER 30 YEARS OLD 45.8%

£70

An elegant and complex Talisker, resemble of what the island of Skye is made of, this is a dram made and perhaps aged by the sea. Salty, with a more accentuated peppery and orangey flavour enclosed in smoke.

"UNNAMED ORKNEY" 12 YEARS OLD 2005, SIGNATORY 46%

£14

Unnamed? Mmh, there are currently just 2 distilleries in the Orkney Islands: Scapa and Highland Park, it is quite rare to see indie bottlings of the first soooo..... well aged in 2 Hogsheads, there is a whiff of smoke surrounded by honey, sweet, stewed fruits and a hint of sea salt. A Classic.

HIGHLAND PARK 1989, 43%

£90

Bottled in rejuvenated American Hogshead as a refill, the cask will not impart too much on the true nature of this whisky: lightly peated with fragrance of tropical fruit.

ARRAN AMARONE CASK FINISH 50%

£13.50

Such a pleasure to see how wine casks are reused by the industry to aged and impart new flavours to Scotch whisky, in this case Arran has decided to reused cask that previously held Amarone, a red wine from north of Italy, expect notes of red fruits and forest berries, the higher ABV packs everything in a thigh, vibrant whisky.

ARRAN PORT CASK FINISH 50%

£13.50

Part of the same range of the Amarone, this Arran has been finished in Port pipes. The fortified wine influence here is more evident. Very enjoyable, less spicy compared to the Amarone.

ISLAND

ARRAN THE BOTHY 55.2%

£15

Arran is a really experimental distillery, looks like they are filling whisky in any cask they can put their hands on, in this case this whisky has been finished off in Quarter casks (45-50 Litres) so the wood impact on the maturation is faster because the surface area that is in contact with the whisky is higher. Barley sugar, green apples and a touch of menthol.

TOBERMORY 10 YEARS OLD 46.3%

£16

One of our favourite distilleries out there in Scotland. Part of the same group as Bunnahabhain and Deanston (Distell), established back in 1798, currently producing 2 types of malts, Tobermory (unpeated) and Ledaig (heavily peated).

LEDAIG 12 YEARS OLD THE FUTURE OF WHISKY 58.4%

£18

Released exclusively for the London Whisky show, The Whisky Exchange believes that this whisky will lead to a new concept: cask strength, heavily peated, from sherry casks. Come at the library and check the label, is 3D.

LEDAIG 1998 CONNOISSEURS CHOICE 46%

£20.50

From the only distillery in the Island of Mull (Tobermory) an incredible young but defined peated whisky, there is some green olives and brine, with the subtle smoke, 16 years of maturation in Refill Sherry Hogsheads.

JURA 10 YEARS OLD 40%

£11.50

The 10 year old is aged in ex-Bourbon casks for 10 years and is light and delicate with a warming honey finish.

JURA 12 YEARS OLD 40%

£13.50

A single malt from the Isle of Jura's eponymous distillery, matured in American white oak ex-bourbon barrels before being finished in aged Oloroso sherry casks to give a rich and rounded taste, with a perfect balance of smoky and sweet.

JURA SEVEN WOOD 42%

£16

This new addition to Jura's signature range is crafted with a combination of seven cask types: American white oak ex-bourbon, Vosges, Jupilles, Les Bertranges, Allier, Tronçais, and Limousin barrels.

ISLAND

JURA 21 YEARS OLD 44%

£22.50

First released for the 200th anniversary of the distillery in 2009 it is first fully matured in ex-Bourbon casks then finished in vintage 1963 Gonzales Byass bodega Sherry. Spicy, smoky with some sweet wine finish and coastal aromas.

JURA 30 YEARS OLD CAMAS AS STACA 44%

£59

“Standing stone” referring to one of eight ancient dotted stones of the island, aged in American oak and finished in the best Oloroso sherry cask from Gonzalez Byass for the last 3 years.

CHAPTER 8



HOW IS WHISKY MADE

HOW IS WHISKY MADE

The principals for the distillation of whisky have changed little over the last 200 years. Just three basic ingredients are needed - water, barley and yeast. Technology now aids production, but traditionally there are five stages to the process - malting, mashing, fermentation, distillation and maturation. Here we go through and explain each of these important stages.

Step 1 - Malting

Barley contains starch and it is this starch which needs to be converted into soluble sugars to make alcohol. For this to occur, the barley must undergo germination and this first part of the process is called 'malting'. Each distiller has their own preference about the type of barley they buy, but they need a type that produce high yields of soluble sugar. The barley is soaked for 2-3 days in warm water and then traditionally spread on the floor of a building called a malting house. It is turned regularly to maintain a constant temperature. This is also carried out on a commercial scale in large drums which rotate. When the barley has started to shoot, the germination has to be stopped by drying it in a kiln. Traditionally peat is used to power the kiln and it is at this point where the type of peat used and length of drying in the peat smoke can influence the flavour of the final spirit. The barley is now called 'malt' and this is ground down in a mill, with any husks and other debris being removed.

Step 2 - Mashing

The ground down malt, which is called 'grist', is now added to warm water to begin the extraction of the soluble sugars. The water is normally from a pure, reliable, local source - this is why most distilleries around the world are next to a river or lake. The character of this water can influence the final spirit as it can contain minerals from passing over or through granite, peat or other rock. The liquid combination of malt and water is called the 'mash'. It is put into a large vessel called a mash tun and stirred for several hours. During this process, the sugars in the malt dissolve and these are drawn off through the bottom of the mash tun. The resulting liquid is called 'wort'. This process is normally carried out three times with the water temperature being increased each time to extract the maximum amount of sugar. Only wort from the first two times is used. The third lot is put back into the next batch of new grist. Any residue, such as husks, is called 'draff'. This is collected and used in the production of farm feed.

Step 3 - Fermentation

The wort is cooled and passed into large tanks called washbacks. These are traditionally made of wood, but now a number of distilleries use stainless steel. Here the yeast is added and the fermentation begins. The yeast turns the sugars that are present into alcohol. As with the barley and water, the distiller will carefully select the strain of yeast that they use and it can also have a small effect on the final flavour of the spirit. The fermentation normally takes around 48 hours to run its natural course, although some distilleries will let it

go for longer so as to create further characteristics that they require. The liquid at this stage is called 'wash' and is low in alcohol strength (between 5-10% ABV), like beer or ale. You could make beer from the liquid at this point, but the difference with whisky is that the liquid is now distilled rather than brewed.

Step 4 - Distillation

In Scotland, the wash is traditionally distilled twice. In Ireland, it is distilled three times although there are exceptions in both countries. Here is a brief explanation of the double distillation process. The stills are made from copper, which has been found to be the best material for extracting impurities from the spirit as it is being distilled, and consist of a bowl shape at the bottom that rises up to the neck at the top. All are the same in principal, but a different shape will give a different flavour and character to the final spirit. Taller stills with longer necks will give finer, lighter spirits while shorter, fatter stills will produce a fuller, richer spirit. The stills tend to work in pairs. Firstly, the wash enters the larger wash still and is heated (this was traditionally by coal, but is now largely by gas or steam). The liquid vaporises and rises up the still until it reaches the neck, where it condenses. This liquid is called 'low wines' and is unusable as it is. The low wines are passed to the second smaller still, called the spirit still. Any residue from the wash still is collected and used to manufacture farm feed. In the spirit still, the alcohol produced is split into three. Alcohols from the beginning of the distillation (called 'foreshots') are very high in alcohol level and very pungent. Alcohols from the end (called 'feints') are weak but also pungent. It is only the alcohol from the middle or 'heart' of the distillation that is used and this is skillfully removed by a stillman and collected through the spirit safe. The foreshots and feints are then mixed with the next batch of low wines and re-distilled. The heart is the spirit that is then taken to be matured and that will become whisky. This 'heart' has an alcoholic strength of 65-70% ABV.

Step 5 - Maturation

The spirit is put into oak casks and stored. The most common types of oak casks are those that have previously been used in the American bourbon and Spanish sherry industries. The spirit must mature in casks for a minimum of three years before it is legally allowed to be called Scotch whisky. During maturation, the flavours of the spirit combine with natural compounds in the wood cask and this gives the whisky its own characteristic flavour and aroma. Wood is porous, so over time it will breathe in air from the surrounding environment in which it is stored. This will also give the whisky some unique characteristics. If the distillery storage facilities are next to the sea, on an island or in the middle of the Highlands then the air quality, temperature and humidity will be different and influence the end product. During each year of maturation about 2% of the spirit is lost through natural evaporation. This is called the 'angel's share' and explains why older whiskies are less readily available and more expensive to buy. There is simply less whisky in the cask to bottle.

One of underrated aspects of aging and interaction between wood and spirit is due to the entry proof of the new make in the cask.

Alcohol bounds with tannins and wood compounds, water with sugars. Within years of study and research distilleries and master blenders came to the established golden entry proof of 63.5% where the extraction of compounds such as Hemicellulose, Lignin and Cellulose are slowly extracted and interaction with the sugars from the oak is best achieved, translated we are looking into gentle and soft whisky, almost free of harsh bite ,dry and chalky texture. The perfect ABV for the entry proof will be 60% but many of the whisky will then drop below 40% (the minimum legal requirement to be Scotch) during maturation, therefore 63.5% is best for aging and filling stock. The downside of diluting the new make is just about those extra casks generated by the addition of water. Filling at new make strength (68-70%) requires less barrels to stock and fill, an higher ABV out of the cask translated into more whisky into the bottle once brought to 40-46%. As well higher strength means faster and stronger extraction of compounds.(Bruichladdich, Glenlivet, Tormore, Strathmill, Edradour) these distilleries have adopted the philosophy of “why would you age water?” Fair enough as the difference between the 2 practices is just about the taste. You will be the judge.

CHAPTER 9



TASTING WHISKY

TASTING WHISKY

The art of tasting whisky is much simpler than you think. You can read so many reviews and tasting notes that refer to a whisky as having the flavour of ‘sherbert, dark chocolate or burnt rubber’, that it can leave you wondering “am I tasting the same whisky?”. But how do you learn to pick up such extreme, different and expressive characteristics?

The answer is to build up experiences of tasting different things that are unrelated to whisky and taking a ‘taste snapshot’ of the characteristics of that flavour. The more that you do this, the better and more precise your whisky tasting will become. Another key is that whisky is unlike most other spirits in that the true character comes through after some time, so it is important not to drink it too quickly. It is important to remember that taste is a personal thing and that there are no right or wrong answers.

The glass

The type of glass that you use will help your cause massively. It is best to use one that has a narrow opening as this will channel and concentrate the aromas of the whisky towards your nostrils. This type of glass is called a snifter, but a similar shaped wine or brandy glass would work just as well. Some come with an additional glass plate that is placed over the top of the glass and this plate helps to trap the aromas. Glasses such as tumblers or those with a wide rim should be avoided for tasting purposes, as the aromas dissipate too quickly. These should be used for drinking the whisky on its own, with ice or when less analysis is needed.

The nose

This is the sensation and aromas that you pick up from the whisky before tasting it. Important characteristics can be found and should give an indication as to what the whisky will taste like. Pour a reasonable amount of whisky into the glass and swirl it around for a short time, so as to allow oxygen to get to the liquid and evaporation to begin. This is important as the whisky has been trapped in a cask or a bottle for all of its life until this point and needs a little time to express itself and start to show its true characteristics.

Once you have swirled allow the spirit to settle so that your first sensations will not be full of alcohol. Take a note of the colour while you are waiting during this short time - holding it against a white background is a good tip. Now put your nose to the glass and breathe in, letting the aromas circulate around your nostrils. Repeat this three or four times and think about what the aromas remind you of – are they light, fresh, heavy, rich, fruity, floral, spicy, smoky etc. You will often find that your first sniff will be full of alcohol and that you may not pick up much. However, the second, third and fourth sniffs should reveal more each time as your nostrils get used to the high strength of the spirit. From this, try to predict what the taste of the whisky will be like.

The palate

The flavour of the whisky on your palate should be the most rewarding and enjoyable part of the whole process. The most important thing is not to drink the whisky too fast (like a shot of cheap Tequila), rather to savour it in your mouth to get the maximum flavour and benefit. Different parts of your tongue and mouth respond to different flavours and stimuli, so pass the whisky over all areas of your mouth to gain maximum effect.

Upon swallowing, there will be an alcoholic burn, which is one of the main things that puts a lot of people off drinking whisky. It is important to let this pass as it is now that any whisky will reveal its true characteristics. Try to identify obvious flavours that are present and repeat, trying to identify something new each time. Remember, there are no right or wrong answers and everyone's taste buds are different so don't worry if you get a flavour that someone else doesn't or vice versa.

The finish

The finish is the after taste that comes once you have swallowed the whisky. Some people say that the complexity of the finish in whisky is what differentiates it from all other spirits. Once you get passed the alcoholic burn, then numerous flavours can reveal themselves, some of which can be extremely subtle. The list can be extensive but again try and relate the flavours and sensations to things that you have tasted in the past. Also, ask yourself whether the flavours remain for a short, medium or long time. This is called the length of finish. Should I add water or ice?

A common question and one that only you can answer. It is all down to personal taste. Always try whisky in its natural state first and then add water as this can release further flavours and complexity, especially in higher alcohol level or cask strength whiskies. Try to think of it as the same as if you tried to drink orange squash or cordial without diluting it. It is far more pleasant with water in some cases and how much water you add is up to you, dependent on your taste. Ice is different as it drops the temperature of the whisky and inhibits some of the characteristics from emerging.

CHAPTER 10



BLENDED

BLENDED

Some of the most famous whiskies and whisky brands in the world are blends. These include such heavyweights as the Johnnie Walker and Chivas Regal ranges from Scotland and the Jameson range from Ireland. Blends are traditionally used in bars and pubs for cocktails or mixing with soft drinks. This is partly because they are cheaper than single malts and partly because the subtle flavours of a single malt can be masked by a mixer.

Blended whisky

Blended whiskies are produced by mixing different types of whisky together. These whiskies can be single malts (made from 100% malted barley) and other whiskies that are made using alternative grains (most commonly wheat). These often come from more than one distillery and are of differing ages. The whiskies are blended together to create a smoother, more complex drink with each part bringing its own characteristics to the blend. Each brand has its own distinct and traditional recipe that is adhered to. Some blended whisky can contain over 50 different single malt and grain whiskies combined together.

Grain whisky are much cheaper to produce than single malts, as the raw materials are more readily available and less expensive than barley. The costs are also reduced as they are produced continuously, rather than in small batches like single malts. These grain whiskies have always been used in blends as a foundation, with the single malts being used as 'accents'. As a rule, the more grain whisky, young whisky in the final product, the cheaper the price to the consumer.

Aged blends

Blended and vatted whiskies have traditionally rarely had any age stated on the label. This is now changing with many brands adopting age statements. This can be a little confusing, especially now that you know that whiskies of differing ages will be included in the blend. When an age is shown this refers to the age of the youngest whisky present in the blend. Other whiskies included will therefore be of the same age and older.

BLENDED

There are roughly nine out of 10 bottles of Scotch sold around the world are blends – that is, a mix of grain and single malt whiskies.

GREAT KING STREET 43% £10

A gentle and floral blend from Compass Box, non-chill filtered and no colourants added.

MONKEY SHOULDER 40% £7.75

Glenfiddich, Balvenie and Kininvie in one bottle; smooth with a touch of spice.

BLUE HANGER, 9TH RELEASE 45.6% £20

Bottled by the famous wine merchants Berry Bros. & Rudd, this is a blended malt not to be missed, tropical fruit and a hint of sultana collide with a smoky and robust character.

SPICA 20 YEARS OLD 45.2% £12

Every time we put our hands on a whisky released by North Star we cannot hide our happiness, even more if it's one of their blend. Grain and malt whiskies are undisclosed.

CHAPTER 11



WHISKY OR WHISKEY

WHISKY OR WHISKEY

Whether it is whisky or whiskey has been the basis of many arguments over many years. The Scots spell it whisky and the Irish spell it whiskey, with an extra 'e'. This difference in the spelling comes from the translations of the word from the Scottish and Irish Gaelic forms. Whiskey with the extra 'e' is also used when referring to American whiskies. This 'e' was taken to the United States by the Irish immigrants in the 1700s and has been used ever since. Scotland, Ireland and America all have a rich heritage in the whisky industry. So what are the differences between the whiskies from these three nations?

The distillation process

It is here that one of the main differences occurs. Generally, Scottish and American whiskies are distilled twice and Irish whiskey is distilled three times (there are exceptions to the rule, in all cases). Distilling three times produces a lighter and smoother spirit.

The stills

The size and shape of the stills used in the distillation process are different. In Ireland and much of America, pot stills are frequently used. These are short, fat, large stills with a round base that produce softer and more rounded spirits. In Scotland, distilleries use a wide variety of shapes and size of still and this gives wider diversity of characters and flavours.

The use of peat

In Scotland it is common to use peat to dry the malted barley so that it is ready for milling and mashing. The type of peat used and the length of time the barley is drying in the peat smoke will influence the flavour in the final spirit. This gives Scottish whisky its fullness and traditional smokiness. In Ireland and America, they use wood or other fuels in this process and this makes the spirit less smoky and lighter. Again, there are exceptions. For example, in Ireland Connemara use peat and produce a very smoky range of whiskies.

The use of grains

The Scots use malted barley in most whisky that is produced, however this is not the case in Ireland. They also use malted barley, but may mix other grains in with it. Traditionally Ireland has had a poorer economy than Scotland and barley is expensive to buy. Therefore, it is cheaper to use other grain to produce whiskey. This grain whiskey lends itself to blending and historically it has been used to make cheap blends. In America, the

new settlers were forced to use different raw materials to produce their whiskey due to the different climate and soil conditions. This included mixing different grains together during the mashing process depending on what was available. Over time, these different recipes of grain mixtures have evolved so that now, American whiskey bears very little similarity to Scottish or Irish whiskies.

CHAPTER 12



USA OR CANADA

USA OR CANADA

American whiskey is distilled from a fermented mash of cereal grain. It must have the taste, aroma, and other characteristics commonly attributed to whiskey.

Some types of whiskey listed in the United States federal regulations are:

Bourbon whiskey—made from mash that consists of at least 51% corn (maize) and aged in new charred oak barrels.

Corn whiskey—made from mash that consists of at least 80% corn and is not aged, or, if aged, is aged in uncharred or used barrels.

Malt whiskey—made from mash that consists of at least 51% malted barley

Rye whiskey—made from mash that consists of at least 51% rye

Rye malt whiskey—made from mash that consists of at least 51% malted rye

Wheat whiskey—made from mash that consists of at least 51% wheat

These types of American whiskey must be distilled to no more than 80% alcohol by volume, and barrelled at no more than 125 proof. Only water may be added to the final product; the addition of colouring or flavouring is prohibited. These whiskeys must be aged in new charred-oak containers, except for corn whiskey which does not have to be aged. If it is aged, it must be in uncharred oak barrels or in used barrels. Corn whiskey is usually unaged and sold as a legal version of moonshine.

If one of these whiskey types reaches two years aging or beyond, it is additionally designated as straight, e.g., straight rye whiskey. A whiskey that fulfils all above requirements but derives from less than 51% of any one specific grain can be called simply a straight whiskey without naming a grain.

USA OR CANADA

US regulations recognize other whiskey categories, including:

Blended whiskey—a mixture that contains a blend of straight whiskeys and neutral grain spirits (NGS), and may also contain flavourings and colourings. The percentage of NGS must be disclosed on the label and may be as much as 80% on a proof gallon basis.

Light whiskey—produced in the US at more than 80% alcohol by volume and stored in used or uncharred new oak containers

Spirit whiskey—a mixture of neutral spirits and at least 5% of certain stricter categories of whiskey

Another important labelling in the marketplace is Tennessee whiskey, of which Jack Daniel's, George Dickel, Collier and McKeel, and Benjamin Prichard's are the only brands currently bottled. The main difference defining a Tennessee whiskey is its use of the Lincoln County Process, which involves filtration of the whiskey through charcoal. The rest of the distillation process is identical to bourbon whiskey. Whiskey sold as "Tennessee whiskey" is defined as bourbon under NAFTA and at least one other international trade agreement, and is similarly required to meet the legal definition of bourbon under Canadian law.

FOUR ROSES SMALL BATCH 45% £8.25

Small production of a really simple and juicy bourbon, from sipping till cocktails is an all-day drinking and mixing whiskey.

YELLOWSTONE SELECT 46.5% £13

In the 1960s Yellowstone was the largest selling bourbon in the States, finally reissued by Limestone Branch in 2015, this is an homage to a very delicate and complex bourbon.

WILLET RYE 3 YEARS OLD 53.7% £17.50

One of the best rye whiskeys out there, Willet family has been distilling for a while already (1936) stocking whiskeys that are 28 years old. Everything comes in a small batch, pure boutique whiskeys.

USA OR CANADA

RITTENHOUSE RYE 100 PROOF 50%

£10

A really popular rye whisky, the extra proof brings big notes of spices and extra flavour to a really well bottled rye

REBEL YELL STRAIGHT RYE WHISKEY 45%

£9.25

With a mashbill composed of 95% rye and 5% malt this is a small batch rye whiskey, aged 24 months. The whisky is sourced from MGP distillery in Indiana. Sweeter and slightly more rounded than Bulleit Rye, this is our choice between the two.

KNOB CREEK RYE 50%

£13

The barrels are charred at mark 4, one of the highest used in the industry, then the spirit is aged for around 9 year to give to this straight rye a bold and intense character.

EAGLE RARE 46%

£11.50

Aged between 8 to 10 years, part of the Buffalo Trace products, quite high in rye.

BERNHEIM 7 YEARS OLD 45%

£15

Aged for 7 Years, produced by Heaven Hill, this incredibly elegant Wheat whisky is something not to miss.

WESTLAND SINGLE MALT 46%

£17

Located in Seattle, Westland distillery has been constantly working since 2010, pushing out outstanding single malts. Tosted coffee beans and a deep, charred oak note dominates on the palate.

WESTLAND PEATED SINGLE MALT 46%

£17

Quite similar to the American Oak but here they used peated barley, uncommon practise in the U.S for whisky but here is a pleasant surprise, on the nose, and especially on the palate.

OLD MORK, PRE-PROHIBITION ERA 50%

£660

Distilled in 1916, bottled in 1933 in the distillery NO 17 of Louisville, “18 summers old”, “For medicinal purposes only”.

SCHENLEY RESERVE 43.4%

£102

Blended Whiskey Botl. 1940s.

USA OR CANADA

OLD OVERHOLT 6 YEARS OLD RYE 1942 50% £175

The so-called 'Medicinal' alcohol of the US navy during the WWII. Candied orange peels and furniture varnish (polished wood) gathered together in just 6 years of maturation, best American whisky in our shelves.

THOMAS H HANDY 2017 63.7% £26

Yep, we finally got our hands on the Buffalo Trace Antique Collection, all cask strength, uncut, full flavoured whiskies, This is rye, one of the most exciting and particular out there, spicy and super fruity.

GEORGE T STAGG 2017 64.6% £29

Honestly, my favourite bourbon, there is nothing comparable to this, matured between 16 to 17 years, released in small batches every year, is so perfumed and everlasting in your tongue, too smooth compared to the ABV.

WILLIAM LARUE WELLER 2017 64.1% £27

Top line of the Weller wheated Bourbons, winner of the world whisky of the year in 2013 for Jim Murray. Really close to Pappy, yet there is more value and a different production here. I leave to the tasters the final verdict.

PAPPY VAN WINKLE 10 YEARS OLD 53.5% £19.50

The entry level and youngest from all the Pappy's, it is already an intriguing bourbon, 10 years is an achievement for many bourbon producers, for them is a "Standard".

PAPPY VAN WINKLE 12 YEARS OLD 45.2% £26

For Bourbon drinkers this is perfection, the balance between ABV, aging and flavour set a wheated bourbon an high score, head to head against the 15 years old it has nothing to lose.

PAPPY VAN WINKLE 15 YEARS OLD 53.5% £32

Ok, of all of them this is the most appreciated. There is a fine line for whisky that carries flavour with an age and underdevelopment of esters. Here you will find old and fresh, young and musky, body and lightness all together. Have you not order it yet?

USA OR CANADA

PAPPY VAN WINKLE 23 YEARS OLD 47.8%

£310

A very limited and expensive product for the Van Winkle family, due to the Angels' share and the long aging process of 53 gallons distilled just 3 are left that will end up in what is Pappy Van Winkle 23. In the mash the rest is wheat, making it a 'wheated' bourbon, resulting to be a more smooth and citrusy spirit, outstanding quality, similar to a luxury Cognac.

BALCONES "1" TEXAS SINGLE MALT WHISKY 53%

£20

100% malted Golden Promise barley let it fermented at lower temperature than usual, then aged and married in bespoke, toasted casks. Full proof, full body, full flavoured, not for many.

GARRISON BROTHERS TEXAS STRAIGHT BOURBON WHISKEY 47%

£21

A 3 years old Texas Bourbon, highly-sought whiskey. Impressive.

HUDSON BABY BOURBON 46%

£13.50

Deep amber in colour, with magenta lights – the new oak casks are small, to encourage this richness. As promised, the first impression on the nose is corn-on-the-cob, liberally buttered, with traces of hard toffee, allspice and oak. An oily texture, and a clean, fresh (pine sap), sweet (but not cloying) taste, with lingering oak in the aftertaste.

CHAPTER 13



JAPANESE

JAPANESE

The model for Japanese whiskies is the single malt Scotch, although there are also examples of Japanese blended whiskies. The base is a mash of malted barley, dried in kilns fired with a little peat (although considerably less than in Scotland), and distilled using the pot still method. Before 2000, Japanese whisky was primarily for the domestic market and exports were limited. Japanese whiskies such as Suntory and Nikka won many prestigious international awards between 2007 and 2014. Japanese whisky has earned a reputation for quality.

ICHIRO'S MALT, MALT & GRAIN 46%

£18

"This is a worldwide blended whisky", as stated this Japanese whisky has as components whiskies from all around the globe, potentially Hanyu, Chichibu and other Japanese whiskies. Expect a mellow, very fine and enjoyable whisky. Part of the Ichiro's Malt, released by Chichibu distillery (run by the grandson of Hanyu) all his whiskies are something not to be missed

ICHIRO'S MALT, MIZUNARA WOOD 46%

£22

Here it comes something a little bit more interesting from Chichibu, all the whiskies in this bottle have been vatted in Mizunara (Mongolian oak) as finishing process for its maturation. A step above compared to the usual Japanese whiskies, requires times and to be savoured slowly.

ICHIRO'S MALT, WINE WOOD 46%

£22

Definitely my favourite Ichiro's malt, vatted in French oak cask, previously holding red wine. complex, perfumed, a tiny bit of spice with notes of chocolate and orange that dominates this malty whisky.

YOICHI SINGLE MALT 45%

£23

The Yoichi distillery was the first one to be funded by Taketsuru, situated in Hokkaido. He believed that was the most similar to Scotland to produce a salty and coastal whisky with a touch of smoke, very identical to some Speyside whiskies.

NIKKA TAKETSURU 21 YEARS OLD 43%

£45

A blend of pure malt whiskies coming from Miyagikyo and Yoichi distilleries, to represent their father founder. Prunes, oak, chocolate and coffee, black pepper and spices, for an everlasting finish.

JAPANESE

HIBIKI 17 YEARS OLD 43%

£28

Dried fruits that evolve in a more deep but still fresh flavour, a bit of eucalyptus, the Mizunara is a bit more evident, finished in plum humeshu sake barrels, Suntory announced that it will be discontinued.

HAKUSHU DISTILLER'S RESERVE 43%

£15.50

A NAS whisky from Hakushu, the oak here is predominant, bringing a green taste to it such as granny smith and elderflower, but it is smoky.

YAMAZAKI 12 YEARS OLD 43%

£24

Darker expression of Suntory, compared to Hakushu it is more an evening, sipping whisky, with a deeper character; spicy and elegant.

YAMAZAKI BOURBON BARREL 2013, THE CASK COLLECTION 48%

£72

Matured in first fill bourbon casks this unpeated whisky from suntory is a fresh, oily and mouth coating experience. Un-chill filtered.

YAMAZAKI PUNCHEON 2011, THE CASK COLLECTION 48%

£75

Un-chill filtered aged in Puncheon barrels (480 Liters). Due to the size of the barrel the whisky matureate more slowly, giving it time to round and refine flavours. Gentle and elegant.

YAMAZAKI PUNCHEON 2013, THE CASK COLLECTION 48%

£65

Un-chill filtered aged in Puncheon barrels (480 Liters). Due to the size of the barrel the whisky matureate more slowly, giving it time to round and refine flavours. Gentle and elegant.

YAMAZAKI MIZUNARA 2013, THE CASK COLLECTION 48%

£195

Un-chill filtered, unusual release since the Mizunara oak it is quite flavourful and accentuate and the barrel tends to leak a lot. Leather, sandalwood, soft spices and eucalyptus.

YAMAZAKI 25 YEARS OLD 43%

£295

Aged entirely in Oloroso sherry cask, this is a masterpiece from Suntory.

JAPANESE

THE CASK OF YAMAZAKI "MIZUNARA" 1979 55.5% £560

Where to start... aged in Mizunara (Mongolian oak) for 29 years, bottled at cask strength from a single barrel therefore to represent what The Cask of Yamazaki is all about, limited to 294 bottles. Hard to describe flavours of such a complex dram: starting with a deep sandalwood and leather brought by the Mizunara ending with an elegant eucalyptus and peppermint. The finish is... well, it doesn't finish. A must to try.

CHAPTER 14



INDIAN

INDIAN

India consumes almost as much whisky as the rest of the world put together. Distilled alcoholic beverages that are labelled as “whisky” in India are commonly blends based on neutral spirits that are distilled from fermented molasses with only a small portion consisting of traditional malt whisky, usually about 10 to 12 percent. Outside India, such a drink would more likely be labelled a rum. According to the Scotch Whisky Association’s 2013 annual report, “there is no compulsory definition of whisky in India, and the Indian voluntary standard does not require whisky to be distilled from cereals or to be matured. Ninety percent of the whisky consumed in India is molasses-based, although whisky wholly distilled from malt and other grains, is also manufactured and sold. Amrut, the first single malt whisky produced in India.

AMRUT FUSION 50%

£17

2 barleys, scottish and Indian, the latter being peated for a true smoky character. This dram represents two traditions married in one bottle.

AMRUT SINGLE MALT 46%

£15

100% Indian malted barley aged in oak barrels. Unpeated, earthy, with a deep but fragrant character.

AMRUT PORTONOVA 62.1%

£21

Combination of new american oak and ex-bourbon barrels, then moving it to refill port pipes and then back into ex-bourbon casks, cask strength. A really fine finished whisky and very limited from Amrut. A must for all the Port lovers.

AMRUT DOUBLE CASK 46%

£30

Scottish peated barley coming from 2 casks, Bourbon and Port Pipe, aged for no longer than 4 years and vatted to produce an incredible complex whisky, best so far from Amrut. 1050 bottles available worldwide.

AMRUT GREEDY ANGELS 50%

£38

The name may sound odd but it is justified, the angel’s share in India is about 10 to 12% and 250 liters evaporated during the 8 years of maturation, leaving 1350 bottles for this batch. Peated Scottish barley and unpeated indian barley join forces in a super complex dram. Expect unbeatable smoothness.

CHAPTER 15



REST OF THE WORLD

REST OF THE WORLD

Whisky production of any significance was until recently confined to just a handful of countries, but has now spread to just about every continent on Earth. From Tasmania to Scandinavia and from Brittany to Taiwan come whiskies of every hue and flavour, giving their own often idiosyncratic interpretation of what whisky is.

TEELING CASK FINISH 46%, IRELAND £12

A selection of small batch Whiskey from Teeling is then further aged in selected casks to give some spicy flavour and extra smoothness. Yummy. (Ask for the current vintage).

SPIRIT OF HVEN N°4 MEGREZ, SEVEN STARS MALT WHISKY 45%, SWEDEN £33

A Barley spirit produced in Sweden, slightly peated, spectacular complexity, very close to an Islay whisky.

BAKERY HILL DOUBLE WOOD 46%, AUSTRALIA £34

This single malt whisky produced in the new world is first aged in ex Bourbon cask and then finished in french oak. Un-chill filtered and colourants free.

COTSWOLDS SINGLE MALT 46%, ENGLAND £11.50

Here the first whisky release by this small boutique distillery in Cotswolds, aged in 70% bourbon and 30% wine casks.

COTSWOLDS SINGLE MALT FOUNDER'S CHOICE 60.9%, ENGLAND £17

Small batch of single malt 100% aged in STR ,re coopered and toasted American oak wine casks, the favourite of their founder, hence the name. By the ABV we can tell that this came out straight from the cask with no dilution, neither filtration. A spicy bomb. 2850 bottles available for this first batch.

METHOD AND MADNESS SINGLE GRAIN 43%, IRELAND £12.50

Here is a brand new line of whiskeys from Middleton distillery (the producers of Jameson), uplifting creativity and estro of the master and apprentice distillers, this whiskey is first aged in bourbon barrel and then finished in virgin Spanish oak, a treat for the palate, full of spices and tropical notes, gentle, firm and refined.

GREEN SPOT 40%, IRELAND £12

One of the most classic Irish whisky out there, produced by Middleton Distillery, aged in bourbon and sherry casks, triple distilled in pot stills.

REST OF THE WORLD

KAVALAN BOURBON OAK 46%, TAIWAN

£16

From the award winning distillery King Car, Kavalan is a line of Single Malts aged in different type of oak, selected casks get blended together and watered to 46% proof to establish consistency through all the batches, the best of which will be single cask picked for the Solist collection.

STARWARD 43%, AUSTRALIA

£15

Bourbon cask are generally the most used out there, because American produces an huge amount and they use it just once, but if you are in Australia, vivid land of wine production you could actually source casks from different wineries.

Here it comes a single malts aged ,almost exclusively, in Apera (a sweet wine similar to sherry) re-coopered and re-tasted barrels.

TULLAMORE DEW 40%, IRELAND

£6.75

Tullamore Dew is the original blended Irish whiskey, known the world over for its smooth and gentle complexity. For one, it is triple distilled and patiently aged in a combination of ex-bourbon and sherry casks, developing its distinctive smoothness. Secondly, being a blend of all three types of Irish whiskey, it has a gentle complexity.

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A

Angel's share

This is the name given to the alcohol that evaporates from a cask as the whisky is maturing in a warehouse. In Scotland and Ireland, this is approximately 2% of the contents of each cask each year, although this amount is higher in other countries with warmer climates.

ABV

The abbreviation for Alcohol By Volume – the term used to describe the percentage alcohol level in spirits.

B

Blended whisky

A whisky made by blending together any number of single malt whiskies and grain whiskies to create the required flavour and characteristics. These whiskies can be from different distilleries and be of different ages.

C

Campbeltown

The once bustling Scottish whisky producing region that is now home to just a couple of distilleries. It lies on a spit of land called the Campbeltown Peninsula on the western coast of Scotland.

Cask

The wooden barrel used to mature the whisky. These are traditionally made from oak. The most used types of oak are American, European or Japanese.

Cask strength

The strength of whisky as it comes from the cask. It is not diluted further before bottling and the strength can be anything between 40% and 65% ABV, depending on age. The younger a whisky is, the higher its ABV will generally be.

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Charring

The process of burning the inside of a cask. This blackens the inside of the cask, accelerating the natural compounds in the wood to come out once the cask is filled with spirit. The level of charring can be controlled so as to control the amount of flavour compounds that pass from the wood to the whisky during maturation.

Chill filtration

The process by which natural substances that make whisky go cloudy when cold or diluted with water are removed before bottling. The whisky is chilled, the natural substances coagulate and are then removed by being passed through a series of metal meshes.

Column still

A large industrial still that allows for continuous, mechanised distillation. Column stills are mostly used in the production of grain whisky and are modern and cost effective. May also be called a Coffey still, continuous still or a patent still.

Condensation

The process where the alcohol vapours turn into the liquid spirit, with the help of cooling apparatus that form part of the still.

Cooper

A highly skilled person who makes the casks for whisky maturation by perfectly locking staves of wood together to make a watertight container. This art is called coopering and it takes place in a building called a cooperage.

D

Distillation

The process of turning the mildly alcoholic wash into highly alcoholic spirit. The wash is heated in a still and the alcohol vapours evaporate and rise up the neck of the still and travel along the lyne arm, where they are condensed to form a liquid again.

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Draff

The residue from the mashing process. It consists of barley husks and other bits of the grain that are then collected, dried and compressed in to pellets and sold as animal feed.

Dram

The traditional Scottish name for a glass of whisky.

Drum malting

This modern method is used to produce malted barley in most malting facilities. The barley is put in to a large drum and soaked with water. It is then turned consistently for a number of days until the barley starts to germinate and becomes 'malt'.

F

Fermentation

The process of turning sugar in to alcohol. In whisky production, a sugary liquid called wort is put into a container called a washback and yeast is added. This triggers the start of fermentation and after a couple of days, all the sugar has turned to alcohol and is called wash. The liquid has a strength of between 5-8% ABV.

Floor malting

A traditional method of producing malted barley that is only still practiced in very few distilleries. The barley is soaked in water and then laid out on a wooden floor for about a week until germination starts to take place. This is very labour intensive as the barley has to be regularly turned by hand so as to ensure even germination.

G

Grist

Malted barley that has been ground up into a powder, so that it can be added to water to become mash and the natural sugars present will dissolve.

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H

Highlands

The Scottish whisky producing region, which covers the large geographical area roughly from just north of Glasgow and Edinburgh up to the far north coast. This region includes the sub-region of Speyside, which lies roughly between the cities of Inverness and Aberdeen.

I

Islands

The Scottish whisky region that covers all whisky produced on an island. Most of these lie off the west coast of Scotland, plus the Orkneys which lie to the north of the far northern coast. Most are well known for their peaty, smoky characters as peat was traditionally the only fuel available.

Islay

The most famous of the Scottish island for whisky production. The whiskies from Islay are famous for their peaty, smoky qualities and the island is home to eight whisky distilleries - more than any other island.

K

Kiln

The large room where malted barley is heated to stop the germination process and to remove moisture so that the barley is ready for milling. Traditionally, these were fired by peat but now most are powered by coal or oil. A number of the island distilleries still use peat to give their traditional smoky flavour characteristics.

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L

Lowlands

The Scottish whisky producing region that covers the Central Belt between the major cities of Glasgow and Edinburgh and everywhere south of that. Once a traditional powerhouse region, now just a few distilleries remain.

Lyne arm

The part of the still where the spirit vapours are transported to be condensed back in to a liquid. This arm is normally horizontal or close to horizontal, although some distilleries have odd shapes or steeper angles for the arm and this allows some liquid spirit to travel back down into the still to be redistilled.

M

Malt

Barley grains that have been through the malting process (see Malting below).

Malting

The process where the starch in barley is converted to sugar, which in turn can then be turned in to alcohol during fermentation. Malting is achieved by soaking the barley grains in warm water and then allowing them to germinate, which turns the starch present in to natural sugars. This takes place in a drum or on a malting floor. The malted barley is then dried and ground up, with the resulting substance being called grist.

Mashing

The procedure where grist is added to warm water and the natural sugars are dissolved to form a sugary solution. This takes place in a large tank called a mash tun. The solution is then called wort and is passed to a washback tank for fermentation to take place. Any grain husks and other residue are known as raff and are collected, dried and formed into animal feed.

Mash tun

A large tank or vessel that is made from cast iron, stainless steel or wood, where the mashing process takes place. The mash tun is filled with a mixture of grist and warm water and the soluble sugars in the grist dissolve to form a sugary solution. This is then passed through the perforated floor of the mash tun to go to the washback tank to under go fermentation.

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Master blender

The person working for a company or distillery that scientifically selects and then mixes whiskies of different ages or origins together to form the required final flavour profile of the whisky.

Maturation

The time taken for the whisky to gain the optimum amount of character from the wooden cask in which it is being stored. The whisky spirit draws natural oils and substances from the wood over time and the cask also pulls in air from the surrounding environment, as wood is a porous material.

Milling

The process where the dried malted barley grains are ground down in to grist.

N

Neck

The section of a still between the pot at the bottom and the lyne arm at the top. The width and height of the neck control the amount and type of alcohol vapours that are allowed to reach the top in order to be condensed back in to a liquid spirit.

P Q

Pagoda

The pyramid shaped roof that provides ventilation from the kiln where the malted barley is dried. Invented by architect Charles Doig, who drew inspiration from the similarly shaped designs used in Japanese architecture for centuries.

Peat

A layer of earth that lays below the topsoil and consists of grasses, plants, tree roots and mosses that have been compressed over thousands of years. It is a very dense substance that when dried is used as a fuel. The peat burns with a very consistent, high temperature with a thick acrid blue smoke. Used in the whisky industry to dry malted barley, with the thick smoke being absorbed in to the grains and the flavour getting carried through the rest of the whisky making process.

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Pot still

A style of still that is the most common to be used in the production of single malt whisky. They are made of copper due to its excellent conductive qualities and is formed of the pot at the base (where the alcoholic wash is heated), the neck (where the alcohol vapours rise up) and the lyne arm/ condenser (where the vapours begin returning to the liquid form).

PPM

The abbreviation of Parts Per Million – the scientific measurement for showing the amount of phenols present in a whisky, that have been absorbed from the burning of peat.

Purifier

A device connected to the lyne arm that condenses heavier alcohol vapours that are not useful in the whisky making process. It leads the liquids back down to the base, where they undergo further distillation.

Quaich

A traditional Scottish whisky drinking cup that consists of a bowl with a short vertical handle on either side. They are associated with friendship and ancient Celtic stories say that if you share a drink from a quaich with someone, then you will be friends for ever.

R

Reflux

The name given to the re-condensing of alcohol that then runs back in to the still and gets re-distilled. The amount of reflux is determined by the shape and size of the still and the angle to which the lyne arm is set.

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S

Saladin box

An old method of malting barley, named after its inventor Charles Saladin. The box is a large automated trough that has a perforated floor through which air is blown. The germination process of the barley is controlled in the Saladin box by regulating the airflow and temperature between the grains.

Shell and tube condenser

A copper tubing that surrounds the lyne arm on a still. Cold water is fed through the tubing and this process cools the alcohol vapours and condenses them in to liquid spirit. It is the most common type of condenser used in distilleries today.

Single malt

Whisky that is made of 100% malted barley and is from just one single distillery location. They generally contain slightly different ages of whisky from numerous different casks within the distillery's warehouse. These are then married together in a larger container to establish the required consistent flavour profile. The age stated on the bottle is the youngest age of any whisky included.

Speyside

The largest Scottish whisky producing region in terms of amount of distilleries. There are approximately 40 of the 90+ Scottish distilleries operating in this area. The area stretches roughly between the cities of Inverness and Aberdeen, and is named after the famous River Spey that runs through it.

Spirit safe

A brass framed box with glass walls that is attached to the spirit still. It is used to analyse the spirit when it leaves the still. By law, the operator cannot come in to contact with the spirit and as a result the spirit safe is padlocked with a Customs & Excise officer keeping the key.

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Spirit still

The second and usually smallest in a pair of stills. The 'low wines' from the wash still are re-distilled in the spirit still – this raises the alcohol level to between 64-69% ABV and clears the alcohol of unwanted impurities. Only the middle section of this distillate is collected for maturation. This section is called the cut.

U V

Vatted malt

A whisky that consists two or more single malts that are blended together. Unlike a blended whisky, vatted malts contain no grain whisky and only single malts. These can be from the same or different distilleries and be of differing ages.

W X Y Z

Warehouse

The area where whisky is stored during its maturation. There are two main types. The first is the dunnage or traditional warehouse which have earth floors and stone walls where casks are stacked no more than three high. The other is the racked warehouse which is a modern facility with temperature and humidity control and where casks are stacked on racks up to 12 high.

Washback

A large deep tub or vat in which the fermentation process takes place in a distillery. Traditionally made of wood, they are now commonly made of stainless steel.

Wash still

Stills normally operate in pairs and the wash still is the first and usually largest of the two. The fermented wash is heated and the alcohol vapours evaporate and are then cooled and reformed in to a liquid by a condenser. The resulting liquid has an alcohol level of 20-22% ABV and are called the low wines. These then move to the spirit still.

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Worm tub

An older form of apparatus used for cooling alcohol vapours back to a liquid spirit. The worm tub is connected to the lyne arm of a still and is formed of a long downward spiralling copper pipe that is submerged in a wooden tub full of cold water. The tub is usually positioned outside and was traditionally filled with rain water. Under 10 distilleries in Scotland still have this system in operation. Most others use shell and tube condensers.

Wort

A warm and sugary solution that contains the soluble sugars from the malted barley dissolved in warm water. Wort is the liquid that goes forward to the fermentation process, where the sugars are changed to alcohol.

**THIS BOOK BELONGS TO THE HYDE BAR:
IF LOST, FOUND OR STOLEN,
PLEASE RETURN**

The Hyde Bar at The Roseate House London
3 Westbourne Terrace, W2 3UL, London
T: 0207 479 6600 | E: info.rhl@roseatehotels.com | www.thehydebar.com