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Spring
2022

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THE MAGAZINE OF

**THE
WHISKY
SHOP**

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THE MYSTERY
OF WHISKY

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OF DUFFTOWN
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& WONDER
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ESTD



1823

The crystal ball question

As a new year dawns, The Whisky Shop's Ian Bankier reflects on how the whisky industry plans its own future.



➔ It's hard to believe that we are munching our way through the 22nd year of the new century – or should I say not quite so new century? Time is an extraordinary concept and a profound leveller. No one can beat it. No one can out smart it. We can look back – and in the case of the recently launched James Webb Telescope, way back. But we can't look forward with any precision.

"Ah, the crystal ball question," says Mike Kydd to our interviewer in this issue of Whiskeria, when asked about the challenges of predicting future customer demand for whisky. Mike works for Diageo and has the colossal task of managing the biggest inventory of maturing Scotch whisky in the world. I describe his task as colossal, because Mike and his team have to make a stab at what the sales of Johnnie Walker and all other Diageo Scotch brands will be in 2034 (12 Year Old) and then 2040 (18 Year Old) and then 2043 (21 Year Old) and most likely 2047 for 25 Year Old. Does the mind not boggle at the thought of this? He says he reverts to complex economic modelling. I'll bet he does! Although he does have one important, but crude, standard – that is never to be short. If you have too much whisky you can turn off the taps of distillation and make a broad

correction. It's not ideal and it's not what you planned for, but it gets you there. But if you have too little you didn't make enough of it, then you just don't have it.

As I see it, "too little" describes where we are at in the very high value sector of whisky sales today. There is rapacious demand for old makes coming from the Asian markets in particular and it cannot be met by what is available. Simply, one had to have predicted and invested for this boom in the latter half of the last century. Being a pilgrim from that era, I can tell you that there was zero appetite to invest for a whisky boom in 2022. The Scotch industry spent all its energy fretting that it had too much whisky. But being realistic, even if foreseen, who would have done it?

And there you have a rationale for the extraordinary prices that single bottles of old and highly sought-after whiskies sell for in the market today. And you may ask me, where does it all go from here and where does it all end? And I will answer, "Ah, the crystal ball question!"

Slàinte!

Ian P Bankier
THE WHISKY SHOP
 Executive Chairman



Time is an extraordinary concept and a profound leveller.

Competition



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A bottle of Bushmills 1991 Madeira Cask.

This spring you could be in with a chance of winning a bottle of Bushmills 1991 Madeira Cask, wholly exclusive to The Whisky Shop. Distilled at the world's oldest licensed whiskey distillery in the north-east coast of Northern Ireland in County Antrim, this is the second annual release of The Causeway Collection.

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Mixing It Up ➔ 54



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Whiskeria^W

UNLOCKING
 THE MYSTERY
 OF WHISKY

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Contributors

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Charles MacLean

Whiskeria's resident whisky guru, Charlie has been researching and writing books on the water of life since 1981. Charlie's bestsellers include award-winning *World Whisky and Scotch Whisky: A Liquid History* and his extensive knowledge on the subject led to him becoming the script advisor for Ken Loach's 2012 film *The Angels' Share*. In fact, Charlie's whisky expertise was so hot that he landed himself a part in the film – a feat he claims to be his biggest career highlight to date! Each edition we ask Charlie to try what's new on the shelves of The Whisky Shop, and we're sure you'll agree that his sensational tasting notes never disappoint.

New Releases

11

Brian Wilson

Formerly an MP, Brian held several posts during his political career, including Minister of Trade. Brian now lives on the Isle of Lewis where he pursues various business interests, notably in the energy sector. As chairman of Harris Tweed Hebrides, Brian is credited with leading the regeneration of the Harris Tweed industry. Brian's first love is writing, and in his spare time he continues to write books and opinion pieces for national newspapers – as well as delving into the fascinating history of whisky for each edition of *Whiskeria*.

A Time in History

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Gavin D Smith

One of the world's most prolific and respected whisky writers, Gavin is regularly published in the top magazines within the whisky scene. He's written and co-authored more than 20 books on the subject, including *A-Z of Whisky*, *The Secret Still*, and *Goodness Nose*. Gavin has the envy-inducing task of scoping out the whisky industry's new and best-loved distilleries for *Whiskeria* readers, visiting a new distillery each edition. With his exquisite palate and whisky credentials, Gavin is undeniably the whisky lover for the job!

Distillery Visit

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JOHNNIE WALKER
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New Releases: Spring 2022



Reviewed by
Charles MacLean

Glen Scotia / The Lakes /
Linkwood / Kyrö / Lochlea /
White Peak / BenRiach /
Slane / Tamdhu / Laphroaig



New Releases

Glen Scotia Seasonal Release 12 Year Old

70cl	54.7% VOL
12 Year Old	£74.99
Campbeltown Single Malt	

Deep gold with amber lights. Not as aggressive as the 8 Year Old, with mellow maritime top-notes backed by a faintly ashy scent. A creamy texture and a surprisingly sweet taste, with fruity notes mid-palate, light salt and a lingering spicy finish, especially at full strength.

It is interesting to compare these two expressions of Glen Scotia, both bottled at natural strength and colour, without chill filtration.

The Seasonal Release has been assembled from a number of unpeated distillations (the youngest from 2009), matured in a mix of first-fill American oak ex-bourbon barrels and hogsheads for eleven years. The whisky was then re-racked into oloroso-seasoned hogsheads and heavily charred American oak barrels and finished for twelve months. I should mention that Glen Scotia have partnered with the Balmoral Hotel (Edinburgh's best!) to devise a food pairing 'experience' with this expression.

The Glen Scotia 8 Year Old has been matured in a first-fill ex-bourbon ASB [American Standard Barrel, also made from American white oak, capacity 200 litres]. Both the age and the cask-type might be described as 'traditional': Eight years was the most common bottling age in the 1960s and 70s - although ASBs only began to be used by the Scotch whisky industry after

Glen Scotia Ruby Port #551 8 Year Old

The Whisky Shop
Trentham Exclusive

70cl	59.4% VOL
8 Year Old	£63.00
Campbeltown Single Malt	

9CT gold in colour, moderate beading. At this high strength the nose has considerable prickle. The overall aroma is maritime - salt breeze, salt crystals, sand dunes - backed by an elusive scent of natural turpentine. The taste is sweet then salty with a spicy finish. A dash of water tames it and is recommended.

1946, usually re-made into hogsheads [250 litres capacity]. The whisky's flavour is pure Glen Scotia.

As readers will know, Campbeltown was once the 'Whisky Capital of the World': between 1823 - when the Excise Act made it desirable for illicit distillers to take out licenses - and 1835, 28 distilleries were commissioned. By 1930 only three distilleries remained - Glen Scotia (then named simply 'Scotia'), Springbank and Riechlachan, and the last closed in 1934.

Having passed through several ownerships, Glen Scotia was mothballed in 1994, then operated for only a couple of months a year, until it was bought by Loch Lomond Distillers Ltd. in 1999 before passing to the current owners, the Loch Lomond Group in 2014. They have invested heavily in restoring and upgrading and Glen Scotia won a clutch of prizes in the 2022 World Whisky Awards.

"A creamy texture and a surprisingly sweet taste, with fruity notes mid-palate, light salt and a lingering spicy finish, especially at full strength."





“The overall aroma is maritime - salt breeze, salt crystals, sand dunes - backed by an elusive scent of natural turpentine.”

New Releases

The Lakes Forbidden Fruit

The Whisky Shop
Exclusive

70cl 46.6% VOL

NAS £100

English Single Malt

A bright amber hue and a mellow, rounded nose-feel. The aroma is subtle and understated, faintly exotic, with baked apple and peach top-notes supported by bosky, bramble-thicket, scents becoming mineralic with water. Opens elegantly on the palate - sweet, then lightly drying, with Turkish Delight in the medium-length, lightly spicy finish.

“Baked apple and peach top-notes supported by bosky, bramble-thicket.”



Forbidden Fruit is part of The Lakes Distillery's limited release, the Whiskymaker's Editions series. The Whiskymaker is Dhavall Gandhi - a remarkable man and a good friend for whom I have the highest respect.

Sure, he is a scientist, but he's also an intensely creative artist: his motto, adopted by the distillery itself, is 'The nature of our art is whisky. The inspiration for our art is Nature.' More than this, he is a philosopher - even a mystic (he meditates every morning) - and a poet (he is highly articulate: I urge you to visit The Lakes Distillery's website, which, as well as being beautifully filmed, is the most intelligent, honest and informative of any whisky distillery website I have come across).

Dhavall stresses the holistic nature of whisky making. While he is acutely aware of the influences upon the flavour of the finished product by every stage of process and maturation, he starts from the end - from the flavour he wants to create for each of his whiskies - and works back from there. He has overall responsibility for every stage of process - raw materials, mashing, fermentation, distillation, maturation (predominantly sherry-seasoned European and American oak casks) - and selects the casks for his limited edition vatting's to achieve his goals.

Each of his Whiskymaker's Editions is an expression of his creative freedom - a freedom rarely encouraged by larger, better-known, distilleries. He describes it as *"the product of a playground where instinct, experience and inspiration roam free."*

Waxing lyrical, he describes Forbidden Fruit as: *"The product of creative rebellion. Tempting but dangerous, a pairing laced with intrigue and compelling rewards. The combination of rustic character with exotic fruit unlocks a pioneering adventure into the unknown."*

How can you resist!

The Lakes Distillery was founded in 2011 in the World Heritage English Lakes district of Cumbria - beloved of romantic poets like Wordsworth and Coleridge and a fit cradle for a talent like that of Dhavall Gandhi.

Linkwood 2008

The Whisky Shop
Exclusive

70cl 56.8% VOL

13 Year Old £105

Speyside Single Malt

Amber in hue, the colour of a humbug; good beading. The top-notes are natural varnish and fudge, backed by baked pear and a tart note of fresh orange, on a balsa wood base. Smooth and sweet then tart with a spicy finish and a trace of white chocolate in the aftertaste.

“The top-notes are natural varnish and fudge, backed by baked pear and a tart note of fresh orange, on a balsa wood base.”



Independent bottler Murray McDavid was founded in 1996 by Mark Reynier, Simon Coughlin, and Gordon Wright, who would go on to build Bruichladdich Distillery in 2000. With typical cheekiness, the company's motto is Clachan na Choin - 'The Dog's Bollocks'! In 2013 Murray McDavid was bought by Aceo, a blender and broker based at the old Coleburn Distillery on Speyside, to warehouse its substantial stocks of whisky.

This 13 Year Old Linkwood has been matured in an American oak refill hogshead, finished in a first-fill oloroso sherry butt and bottled exclusively for The Whisky Shop. Linkwood has long been considered a classic Speyside malt - sweet, elegant, stylish - and ranked 'Top Class' by blenders.

The distillery was built by Peter Brown of Linkwood in 1821, who was factor of the Seafield Estates in Moray and Banffshire and one of the foremost agricultural improvers in the northern counties. His brother was General Sir George Brown, who commanded the Light Division during the Crimean War.

In 1933 the distillery was bought by the Distillers Company Limited (now Diageo), who appointed one Roderick Mackenzie as manager. In common with some others - not least Sir Alexander Walker of Johnnie Walker - Mackenzie believed that the flavour of the spirit might be influenced by external factors in the environment of the still-house, and when the plant was replaced in 1962

he insisted that the new stills should not only be exact replicas of the previous stills, but should incorporate their every patch and dent.

The story illustrates just how little was understood about the influences upon flavour in the production of whisky. Even in the 1980s it was believed that a key factor was the nature of the process water; production manuals of that time say very little, if anything, about the influence of wood during maturation.

New Releases

Kyrö

Kyrö's Choice

W Club Exclusive

50cl 56.5% VOL

21 Year Old £75

Finnish Malted Rye

Bright amber - the colour of fresh conkers. Clear rye identity on the nose - flour paste, then wholemeal loaf and Ryvita biscuit, with a pinch of allspice and nutmeg. A clean mouthfeel and a savoury taste overall, herbal (oregano?), with a lengthy pepper and spice finish. Unusual, natural and easy drinking.

"...flour paste, then wholemeal loaf and Ryvita biscuit, with a pinch of allspice and nutmeg."



Rye grows abundantly in the poor soils of Finland, and since the grains have to struggle against the harsh northern climate they are concentrated in flavour. It is therefore surprising that it has been largely ignored by Finnish distillers. This thought occurred to a group of friends, led by Miika Salmi Lipiäinen, while they were, predictably, enjoying drams of rye in a sauna - the sauna was invented in Finland. They decided to found a whisky and gin distillery using exclusively Finnish malted rye.

The distillery's hilarious, self-effacing website [kyrodistillery.com] tells the story -

see especially their surreal YouTube film.

In search of a home for the distillery, the founders first visited a family farm in Isokyrö, but although charming, it didn't quite live up to their ambitious plans. Then, on their way to a planning session ["read: dinner and drinks"], they noticed an old empty dairy. While it was being converted into a distillery, they produced their first batch of spirit at a small craft distillery hundreds of miles away. "They were kind enough to let us use their still for our first batch, provided that we transport the wash there ourselves."

The end result was a clear liquid that

smelled and tasted like moonshine. It was impossible to say whether it would make good rye whisky. To get feedback, they smuggled a sample into The Whisky Show in London, "pouring drams in the gents toilet for tasting and going from stand to stand. The new make gained praise."

Kyrö Distillery went into production in 2014. While the early batches of malted rye whisky were maturing, the founders turned to gin... the following year the gin won a major international award, and their stock sold out in two days.

Lochlea First Release

70cl 46% VOL

NAS £54

Lowland Single Malt

A mellow nose-feel with top notes of raspberry jam and muesli, supported by a faint, dusty floral note (mimosa?). A pleasant, creamy texture, with cereal notes and a short finish. An easy-drinking, fresh aperitif.

“A mellow nose-feel with top notes of raspberry jam and muesli, supported by a faint, dusty floral note (mimosa?)”



It is no coincidence that Lochlea Distillery in South Ayrshire launched the release of its first single malt in time for Burns Night: 245 years ago Robert Burns' family home was at Lochlea Farm, near Tarbolton.

His father, William Burnes [sic], took the tenancy of the 130-acre farm at Whitsun 1777 and the family remained there until his death in 1784. He did not approve of young Robert joining a country dance school in 1779, aged twenty, nor of his founding the Tarbolton Bachelors' Club a year later. History does not record how he felt about Robert joining the local Masonic lodge in 1781, but he certainly did not approve of

his son's friendship with Richard Brown, a retired sea captain who encouraged Robert to become a poet and introduced him to "a freer manner of thinking and living than he had been used to, whose society prepared him for overleaping the bounds of rigid virtue, which had hitherto restrained him", according to his brother, Gilbert.

The owner of Lochlea Farm is Neil McGeoch. In 2014, he sold his herd of beef cattle and lodged a planning application to build a distillery on the farm; this was granted next year and the first spirit flowed from the stills in August 2018. I am told the spirit was matured in first-fill ex-bourbon

casks and finished in PX sherry casks.

John Campbell, Production Director and Master Blender, who was for many years Manager of Laphroaig Distillery, writes: "Our first single malt release isn't quite what you expect from a typical Lowland malt... on the nose it is bursting with fresh orchard fruit and zesty orange, with vanilla fudge and a lovely cereal note in the background. The palette is rich and sweet with burnt caramel and hazelnuts with a medium mouth coating to finish while still holding on to that fruit".

New Releases

White Peak Wire Works First Release

70cl 50.3% VOL

NAS £65

English Single Malt

Bright amber; moderate beading. A mellow nosefeel, lightly dry, and a rounded aroma, savoury overall, but with a suggestion of bruised apple and just a hint of peat. A smooth texture and a sweet taste, with light acidity, drying elegantly to a medium-length warming finish, and a thread of peat in the aftertaste.

“A mellow nosefeel, lightly dry, and a rounded aroma, savoury overall, but with a suggestion of bruised apple and just a hint of peat.”



February saw the release of the first whisky from the White Peak Distillery in Derbyshire, which proudly describes itself as a ‘craft distiller’ which has been making gin and rum prior to this release. I can do no better than quote their website, which to my mind sums up the noble ambitions of many new entrants to the whisky business:

“In 2016 we set out to build the first full-scale craft whisky distillery in The Peak District region. In February of that year, we found our home at the former Johnson & Nephew Wire Works in Ambergate. The regeneration of the Wire Works, with a long history of innovation & making, is part of the re-birth of a site once at the heart of the community for over 120 years. Everything we’ve done in the realisation of the Distillery and the spirits we make honours the DNA of

this location, it’s heritage and its people.

We spent almost 2 years on the renovation and salvage of our Edwardian era home, including the installation of our unique distillery. In April 2018 we fired up our bespoke copper stills for the first time and shortly after filled our first barrels with our Derbyshire single malt spirit. These ex-bourbon barrels from Heaven Hills Distillery (Texas) reached their first ‘whisky’ birthday in early May 2021, an exciting time for the Distillery and which also marked the month we filled our 1,000th cask. Our core spirit is a lightly-peated single malt, smooth and fruity designed to be accessible to a wide audience, with the light peat adding background flavour complexity”.

How do you define a ‘craft distillery’? There is no legal definition, although

they proliferate in the U.S.A., where the American Craft Distillers Association loosely describes them as a small distillery (under 750,000 gallons per annum) that “values the importance of transparency in distilling” – ingredients, location, process, aging and bottling location.

White Peak Distillery ticks all the boxes – and its First Release is first rate!

BenRiach The Thirty

70cl 48.5% VOL

Thirty Year Old £66

Highland Single Malt

Deep amber in hue (polished conker), a dense and complex nose combines dry rose petals, maraschino cherries, redcurrant jelly and tablet toffee, surrounded by delicately fragrant smoke - the last comes through strongly in the long finish, after a clean, sweet-then-tart taste.

“...dry rose petals, maraschino cherries, redcurrant jelly and tablet toffee, surrounded by delicately fragrant smoke...”



Benriach Distillery was commissioned by John Duff in 1897, designed by the leading distillery architect of the day, Charles Doig of Elgin. Duff had built Glenlossie Distillery a quarter of a mile away in 1876 and Longmorn Distillery nearby in 1893, connected to Benriach by a railway line.

He had emigrated to South Africa in 1888, opened a distillery in Transvaal (which failed), then moved on to the USA where he founded yet another unsuccessful distillery. Alas, his bad luck dogged him. A year after Benriach was commissioned (1898) he was again in financial difficulties owing to the collapse of the major blending house, Pattisons of Leith, and sold the distillery to his partners at Longmorn, who mothballed it, except for its maltings.

It remained closed until 1965, by which time it was owned by The Glenlivet Distillers Ltd. The latter was acquired by Seagram of Canada in 1977 and Seagram's whisky interests passed to Chivas Brothers in 2001. They closed Benriach again, then sold it in 2004 to a small consortium led by Billy Walker, an extremely able and experienced distiller, who went on to acquire Glendronach and Glenglassaugh Distilleries, then sold all three to the American distiller, Brown-Forman, owner of Jack Daniel's, for £285 million, then bought Glenallachie Distillery a month later in July 2017.

Both Benriach and Glendronach won high reputations under Billy Walker's direction, blessed by, in his words, "the great inventory we acquired from Chivas."

Uniquely for a Speyside distillery, Benriach began to produce a limited amount of lightly peated malt each year - "Just a few shovels an hour onto the kiln fire to create a very lightly peated malt," according to former manager Alan McConnochie. This continued annually until 1999 when the maltings were closed, and resumed in 2013 when the maltings re-opened.

The huge range of cask types, combined with some long-aged peaty whisky, has allowed Master Blender, Dr. Rachel Barrie, to combine ex-sherry casks, bourbon barrels, port pipes, and virgin oak casks in creating create this complex 30 year old expression, which is both voluptuously sweet and wreathed in fragrant smoke.

New Releases

Slane Music Edition

70cl 45% VOL

NAS ETBC

Irish Whiskey

Slightly nose-drying, the first impression combines mineral oil, ginger and white pepper with malt and dried fruits (led by sultanas and figs). A smooth texture and a sweet overall taste, with powdered ginger and kitchen spice in the medium-length, warming finish. Ginger and pepper linger in the aftertaste.

“Ginger and pepper linger in the aftertaste.”



Slane Castle in Co. Meath, seat of the Marquess of Conyngham, was built in 1785 on land first purchased by the family in 1703. The family introduced the Slane brand of whiskey some years ago, made at Cooley Distillery, then installed a distillery at the castle in partnership with Brown Forman (owner of Jack Daniel's) between 2015 and 2018.

Since 1981 legendary rock concerts have been held in a natural amphitheatre in the castle's grounds, with an 80,000 person capacity. The brain child of Lord Henry Mount Charles, eldest son of the 7th Marquess, in its 40 years of operation it has headlined some of world's leading bands, including The Rolling Stones, U2

(who recorded their 1984 album *The Unforgettable Fire* in the castle), Madonna, Queen, David Bowie, Bob Dylan, Bruce Springsteen, Neil Young, R.E.M., Thin Lizzy, Metallica, Oasis, Robbie Williams, Bon Jovi, and Bryan Adams.

Alex Conyngham, Lord Mount Charles, writes:

“Having grown up with the Slane concerts in my back garden, I’ve come to realise the power of a live music experience, something that this extraordinary time [i.e. Covid] has denied us. When my Dad threw the first concert in 1981, Ireland was a difficult place due to ‘The Troubles’, and yet he recognised that live music could bring people together from all over the country,

north and south and since then has hosted many remarkable artists, but it has always been the spirit of the fans that make it special. To mark 40 years of Slane Concerts, we wanted to create an Irish Whiskey where we turned up the volume a little more – more Virgin Oak and a touch higher ABV.”

Tamdhù The Old Malt Cask 14 Year Old

70cl 50% VOL

14 Year Old £105

Highland Single Malt

Full gold with amber lights; moderate beading, viscous. Immediate liquid caramel top note, poured over vanilla ice-cream - a deliciously simple aroma. A creamy texture and a sweet taste, with a hint of tobacco mid-palate and some milk chocolate in the aftertaste. Water raises fruit loaf in the taste.

“ Immediate liquid caramel top note, poured over vanilla ice-cream.”



The Old Malt Cask range was introduced by Douglas Laing & Company in 1999 to feature some of the more exceptional malts from the company's huge inventory. When the brothers Stuart and Fred Laing parted company in 2013, the brand followed Stuart and his two sons to Hunter Laing Ltd., and they are responsible for selecting this cask of Tamdhù. As with other releases under the Old Malt Cask label, it is bottled at 50% VOL, without chill filtration or colour adjustment.

The moving force behind the building of Tamdhù Distillery was William Grant, a director of Highland Distilleries and agent for the Caledonian Bank in Elgin. The foundation year was 1896 and the site he chose was in Knockando Parish, close

to Knockando Distillery, which was founded the same year. It was well supplied with pure water from springs beneath the distillery but soon after it went into production the spirit was found not to have the 'body' expected of other 'Glenlivet-style' makes. The manager blamed the spring water and experimented with drawing water from the nearby Knockando Burn which, he reported, made for a "thicker and better spirit." Some of the partners in the venture disagreed.

More important, the site was adjacent to the Speyside railway, from which a spur to the distillery was constructed and later a station named Dalbeallie; between 1976 and 2009 the waiting room was used as the distillery's visitor centre.

It was designed by Charles Doig of Elgin, the leading distillery architect of the day. When Alfred Barnard visited two years later he wrote that it was one of the "most modern of distilleries. Perhaps the best designed and most efficient of its era, great care and ingenuity having been displayed in planning." High praise indeed!

Highland Distilleries became part of the Edrington Group in the 1960s and sold Tamdhù to Ian Macleod & Company in 2011.

New Releases

Laphroaig First Editions 16 Year Old 2004

70cl 57.1% VOL

16 Year Old £299

Islay Single Malt

A fine example of the make, not as 'uncompromising' as the 10 Year Old - a smouldering bonfire rather than a roaring coal fire, with antiseptic notes tucked in behind and the salt sea not far away. A creamy texture and a sweet taste to start, with some salt and a vegetal (turnip) note in mid-palate, before a powerfully smoky finish.

"...a smouldering bonfire rather than a roaring coal fire, with antiseptic notes tucked in behind and the salt sea not far away."



This bottling is from Hunter Laing's First Editions series. The company's website describes the series as follows: *"The First Editions range of single barrel expressions is always released at natural cask strength, and of course without colouring or chill-filtration. As the name may suggest, each cask is carefully selected to evoke the qualities of a rare literary volume - those of character and collectability."*

Laphroaig is a Marmite malt: you either love it or hate it - there is no middle ground. One of the brand's slogans is or was: *"We don't make friends easily, but when we do, they're for life."* Most people love its uncompromisingly smoky-medicinal character, it's elemental pungency, and

this is best displayed by the 10 Year Old, first introduced 75 years ago.

The man who put Laphroaig on the map as a single malt was Ian Hunter, a scion of the founding family, who had joined his mother and aunt in 1908 to manage the family business. In the early 1920s he bought the distillery outright from the laird, Captain Ramsay of Kildalton, expanded it substantially between 1924 and 1928 to double capacity, faithfully copying the original still shapes.

He also undertook the first of many visits to the United States, exploiting a loophole in the Prohibition law to sell Laphroaig as medicine, on the evidence of its 'iodine-like nose', and registering

'Laphroaig' as a trade-mark in 1934, the year after Prohibition was repealed.

Poor health did not allow Ian Hunter to sign up for active service in World War II, indeed in 1944 he relinquished management of the distillery to his secretary, Bessie Williamson. On his death ten years later, she inherited Laphroaig, becoming the first woman in the 20th century to both manage and own a whisky distillery.

THE WHISKY SHOP AUCTIONS

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Whisky business



1 Scotch targeted by criminals

Between December and January the Aberlour Distillery was targeted by thieves, with a number of rare bottles stolen. This comes amidst a slew of crimes in the spirit industry: £66,000 of whisky and gin was stolen from a compound in Glasgow's East End in January; in December £200,000 of Glenfiddich 12 Year Old was stolen from Clydesmill Estate, Carmyle; and this latest theft has unfortunately been classed as a "high value" loss also. However, a potential lead has emerged – some of the bottles that were stolen are from a batch yet to be sold. Police Scotland are now eager to hear from anyone in the local whisky market or beyond who may have been approached with suspicious offers of Aberlour bottles.

2 U.K. & India's whisky trade talks

In January the UK and India announced talks for a bold new deal that would put UK businesses, and the spirits industry especially, at the forefront of India's imports from Europe. One of the UK's aims is to slash India's duty fees on whisky imports, which can be as high as 150%. The deal has the quoted potential to grow scotch whisky exports to India by one billion pounds over five years.

On the deal, Prime Minister Boris Johnson said: *"The UK has world-class businesses and expertise we can rightly be proud of, from Scotch whisky distillers to financial services and cutting-edge renewable technology. We are seizing the opportunities offered in growing economies of the Indo-Pacific to cement our place on the global stage and deliver jobs and growth at home."*

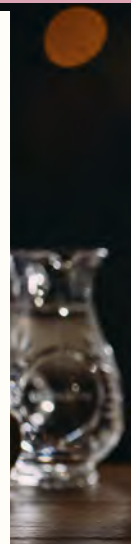
Though domestic distillers will continue to lobby to limit scotch imports, and trade liberalisation is notoriously complex, this highly promising news only attests to whisky's ability to continue making pals (also called *dōsta* - in Hindi) across the world.



3 Climate changing whisky?

A report commissioned by Glengoyne Whisky to researchers from University College London (UCL) found that impending heat and drought stress caused by the climate crisis could impact the water, barley, and yeast needed to make whisky. The report suggests that Scotland will face more droughts over a longer period of time by the 2080s, leading to a greatly reduced supply of fresh water in some areas. The report draws on evidence from drought conditions during the summer of 2018 when five Islay distilleries and two in Perthshire were forced to halt production due to the hot weather conditions. The report also mentioned that the flavour of Scottish whisky could change much earlier, as warmer air and water temperatures could lead to a change in how the cooling process of traditional distilleries work, creating challenges for conserving the character of the liquid.

"There's an assumption that Scotland is wet, rainy place with a constant water supply," Carole Roberts, lead author and climate change researcher at UCL, said. *"Climate change is changing when and where it rains, and this will create shortages and change the character of the water, affecting our favourite drams, so planning is essential to protect our whisky."*





4

Cotswolds Whisky Distillery

The Cotswolds Distillery has unveiled plans to construct a dedicated whisky distillery, allowing the firm to dramatically increase production. This will see the distillery become the largest producer of English whisky in the UK. Upon completion, The Cotswolds Distillery will make 500,000 litres of pure alcohol every year. According to founder Dan Szor this latest development will allow the Stourton-based brand to “*remain at the forefront of the fast-growing English whisky movement for years to come.*”



5

Buried treasures sitting still

Thousands of illicit whisky stills once used by local people lie undiscovered across Scotland, according to The National Trust For Scotland (NTS), who are now appealing to the public to report any knowledge of the mysterious structures. Derek Alexander, head of archaeology for The National Trust for Scotland, says only 130 illicit whisky stills have been reported on Scotland’s archaeological database, and it is “*absolutely the case*” that thousands more lie hidden around the country. “*Not all of the stills would have been out on a moorland somewhere or in a hut out on its own,*” Mr Alexander says. “*Some of them would have been in barns and byres...beside water, quite close to peat sources for the fuel.*” If you come across a potential site on your next jaunt through a Scottish moor, check to see if your discovery is unique through Canmore, the online catalogue of archaeological sites run by Historic Environment Scotland.

Never behind the times: Six reasons why The Whisky Shop Auctions is as popular as ever



The whisky you have been waiting for is finally released. But before you get the chance to drop into a store or even get online, every bottle has been sold. But that is not the end of a bottle's story, it is usually just the beginning. Nobody could ever say to have seen it all when it comes to whisky, but our resident Auctions Manager Christoffer Hallstrom must come very close. In his own words, **"there are more than just one or two reasons why people buy bottles at Auctions."** Here, Christoffer suggests six reasons why you should use Auctions to buy your spirits.

1. Bottles you won't find in-store

Our stores can only stock so many bottles. And some bottles are not even sold online, never mind in-store. They may be distributed through an exclusive giveaway, sold at one particular event, or are being distributed via ballot. At Auctions, hard-to-locate expressions like this are listed every day. Bimber's Spirit of the Underground Single Casks were released via an online ballot, making it impossible to purchase directly. However, once the ballot was completed, Auctions came in to save the day. This 'Victoria Station' edition hailed from a single cask that yielded only 271 bottles, so without Auctions Bimber fans may have found it particularly difficult to snap up this one.





2. Completing a set

As any whisky collector also knows, completing a set can take a bit of work. But because a single bottle will not be worth as much by itself as when it is part of a set, if you play your cards right at auction you can walk away with the whisky you need for a steal of a price. Bottles of the splendid Macallan The Harmony Collection may be scarce in stores, but at TWS Auctions you have the luxury to cherry-pick from this range as you please.

3. Finding particularly old bottles

On top of decadently aged malts and blends, you can also find affordable opportunities to taste fan-favourite whiskies from a certain era that collectors have stored. This Johnnie Walker Red Label went under the hammer in 2021 at a very reasonable £55, despite being carefully stored for over 50 years. On top of the visual appeal, you can taste the whisky of a particular era exactly as it was then. If you can find time-travelling experiences elsewhere at such affordability, do let us know.



Auctions

Knowledge Bar



6 magic steps to buying a bottle from Auctions

1

Create an Account for just £5 or for free as member of the W Club.

2

Start Bidding! Enter your maximum bid and the system will automatically bid for you. We'll let you know if you've been outbid and if further action is needed.

3

Win! (...or lose). We will email you with instructions for payment and delivery, or you will be quickly informed if you have been outbid or the reserve has not been met.

4

You can choose to have your bottle delivered to your chosen address, one of our shops or have free collection from our Auction House.

5

Pay for your items. A 10% buyer's commission is applied to the hammer price - UK and EU residents must pay VAT on commission and delivery, but not on hammer price.

6

Enjoy your dram of choice!

SOLD OUT

4. Missing a new release

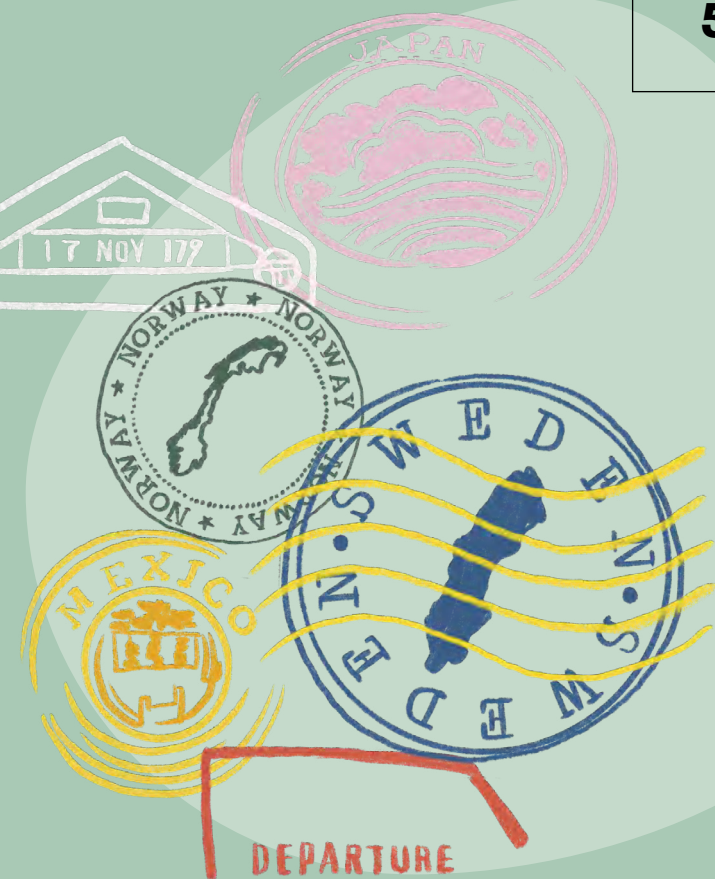
Occasionally a whisky may take your eye but all the bottles have been snapped up before you make up your mind. But there is no need to fret, as new releases often find a second wind at auctions. Popular expressions usually show their popularity under the hammer, so it can also be a useful way to gauge how a new release has been received by the whisky community. You might want to browse our current new releases for more reasons than you may think. Given the unprecedented nature of the entire industry's drop in production, the casks of whisky produced over the last two years are forecast to be highly sought-after and valuable over the next few decades. At this time, everyone from customers to master blenders are undoubtedly involved in an important period of whisky history.

5. Exclusive releases from abroad

There is only so much luggage space one can fill up with whisky (one whisky-lover familiar to our team recently squeezed in seven bottles in his hold luggage, which we think might be an informal record). But you cannot stay on holiday forever, and often in returning home you can find it hard to snap up a far-away distillery's latest offerings and releases. Luckily enough, Auctions is browsed upon from countries all across the world, and we regularly receive spirits that only a privileged few may be aware of. This marvellous Chichibu was released exclusively in Norway and Sweden (so Auctions can officially save you a flight as well as money.)

6. Reliving a whisky memory

The sensations of smell and taste have a curiously strong relationship with memory. A particular aroma can transport you to a specific time in your life; a holiday abroad, a mother's baking, or of family gathered round the table for Christmas. Whisky can unlock memories you had forgotten about and relive those which you cherish: a trip to your favourite distillery perhaps, or a bottle purchased to remember an event. If you are as nostalgic as we are, these bottles are at high-risk of being frequently imbibed from. But through our skilled auctioneers, you may be able to find this exact liquid so you can re-live this again. It is our opinion that as much as memories are there to be made, they are also there to be remembered.



A dram on the Danube



Brian Wilson travels down the Danube to Budapest and takes us inside one of Europe's most popular Whisky trade shows.

FEATURE ILLUSTRATION: KATIE SMITH

Knowledge Bar Budapest



Budapest was the result of the merger of three cities, not two. Most know about Buda and Pest, but it was not until these were united with the town of Óbuda that Budapest was officially unified in 1873.

Budapest has the only metro system in the world that is a UNESCO Site.

Budapest has more thermal water springs than any other capital city in the world. On top of monikers such as 'Paris of the East', or the 'Pearl of the Danube', it is fondly known also as the 'City of Spas'.

➔ I had other reasons to be in Budapest recently – football, since you ask – and took a couple of days extra to chill in one of the great European capitals, complete with a wee cruise on the Danube. This proved to be a good call as it allowed me to stumble upon the fact that the Budapest Whisky Show was taking place that weekend.

The clincher was that the Budapest Highlanders Pipe Band was to perform, so a visit to the suitably grand surroundings of the Corinthia Hotel seemed essential. Whisky and the pipes in Budapest on a Saturday afternoon? How could one resist?

Entry proved less straightforward than might have been expected and the name of *Whiskeria* had to be invoked. This was because the show was a complete sell-out with 3000 tickets sold in advance. The sheer scale of the event and the degree of interest it attracted in a city which would not normally spring to mind as a whisky stronghold surprised me and pointed to an important truth.

Shows like this across Europe play an important part not only in the marketing of whisky but also in educating the vast audience it attracts. Many of the people who queued for entry in Budapest were not there to do business, at least in the short term, but to expand their knowledge and discover brands and techniques that were new to them. They wanted to talk whisky as well as consume it.

David Kovacs, business development director of the organisers, WhiskyNet, told me: *"The reason we started this show in 2010 was mainly to improve the drinking culture in this country. There was a demand from people with*

spending power to be educated in what they were drinking and to be introduced to premium brands by those who could talk knowledgeably about them – how it is made, how it is aged, what makes it different.

This is what WhiskyNet does. We focus 90 per cent on premium brands. Hungary is a small market but the same applies to other countries in the region. Some of them have their own shows and it is also easy to travel into Budapest. These shows introduce consumers to small brands as well as the global giants and gives them the chance to show their products on an equal footing."

That is a key point about the importance of these shows for the growing number of small, independent distilleries. Few have the resources to be directly represented, particularly in the more niche international markets. However, companies like WhiskyNet – who both run the show and also represent a wide range of brands in Hungary – can give them both the initial platform and also a relationship as agents that maintains their presence.

There were 73 exhibition stands in the Corinthia Hotel, ranging from the very large like Johnnie Walker down to the less venerable, but each in its own way very interesting and enterprising, new kids on the block looking for export outlets. In every industry, the relationship between manufacturers and in-country agents is crucial. The good ones work hard to promote the brand. The bad ones do next to nothing and are soon ditched. Everyone seemed to agree that WhiskyNet is a good one.

One of the newer Scottish brands at the



A Time in History



Scenes from WhiskyNet 2021, Budapest. The next edition of the event is scheduled for November 2022

show was Ardnamurchan, based at Acharacle in the west Highlands and owned by the independent Scottish bottlers Adelphi. The distillery has been working since 2014 and produced its own first single malt last September. Budapest was its first international outing.

“That’s the first time I’ve had an Ardnamurchan face to face with anyone in Europe,” said Connall MacKenzie, the sales director. *“We’ve all seen shows at various levels but this one was up there as one of the best. Hungary is a very well-educated market for Scotch malt whisky. The masterclasses filled the rooms and people really wanted to learn more and understand our brand.”*

Over the past Covid-stricken year, Connall reckons he has done almost 100 tastings by Zoom. *“It works pretty well if everyone is drinking the same liquid, but there is nothing like personal contact and that is why these shows are so important. They really do take brands like our own into markets it would otherwise be difficult to reach, and they give us consumer feedback, which is so important.”*

The Budapest event also served as a reminder that whisky is a truly international business at the producer, as well as consumer, end. Just as in Scotland, there is currently a new wave of Irish whiskey distilleries. This fact had been cottoned onto by WhiskyNet

and Ireland was ‘guest of honour’ at this year’s event, in recognition of the flow of new brands that are about to come on stream – each one of them looking for markets large and small.

Michael Morris, the marketing director of Hinch Distillery in County Down said: *“Irish whiskey is the largest growth category in the world. The year before Covid, I signed up to build the international business. We are on a big push to set up a distributor network and WhiskyNet in Hungary fits into that. They invited us to be at their show in Budapest and the feedback was tremendous.”*

Shows like this one, he says, *“are probably the most important channel to drive new business in European markets.”* Michael reckons that in a normal year, they will attend around 15 international shows as well as ones in the UK and Ireland. *“They give us an opportunity to be on a level playing field with the big boys and to show customers that there is something else beyond the brands they know.”*

To complete the Celtic trinity, Penderyn from Wales were on a similar mission to inform and build brand awareness. The company which has been making Welsh whisky and other drinks at a site within The Brecon Beacons National Park since 2004 has just opened a second distillery to the north in Llandudno and is planning a third

in Swansea. They export to 45 countries.

Simon Roffe, their marketing director, said: *“Events like Budapest are important to us. You get the chance to talk to people and it doesn’t require massive investment to have a presence.”* It cost them around €3000 to be there – the kind of overhead smaller brands can take a chance on.

These are the big differences, says Simon, between this kind of event and the giant trade shows, like one in Dusseldorf which attracts more than 50,000 people, in a much more business-driven setting. And there are also different measures of success. In addition to greeting customers old and new, Penderyn sold out all the stock they had taken with them to Budapest on the first day, leaving none for the second. They won’t make that mistake again!

It would be remiss not to mention that Hungary has a whisky of its own. It is called Gemenc, after the region in which it is located, in the south of the country close to the River Danube. It’s a farm-based operation and the man behind it, Lajos Szöke, has a very simple explanation of why he created his distillery. *“All my neighbours were making palinka (Hungarian fruit brandy), so I thought I’d do something different.”* What better reason?

JOHNNIE WALKER
Blue Label

如虎添翼

Illustrated by Shan Jiang



JOHNNIE WALKER

THE GIFT OF PRECIOUS DEPTH

Diageo's seer of spirits

We go behind-the-scenes with Diageo Scotland's Bulk Spirits Commercial Director, Mike Kydd, to discover the secrets of cask management and to explore how your favourite spirits are made.

Knowledge Bar Diageo



Diageo, the largest producer of scotch whisky, produces in more than 140 sites around the world, operating in 180 countries.

Diageo's name is composed of the Latin word *diēs*, meaning 'day', and the Greek root *geo-*, meaning 'world', and references the company's slogan: "Celebrating Life, Every Day, Everywhere."

In 2016, Diageo was ranked 11th out of 4,255 companies worldwide for diversity and inclusiveness in the Thomson Reuters Diversity and Inclusion (D&I) Index.

In January, the company announced a £73m Guinness Microbrewery and Culture Hub in Old Brewer's Yard, London. The location of the hub has been known as a site for brewing beer since 1722. The new 50,000-square-foot venue will create up to 150 jobs for the capital and provide a community space within the Covent Garden area.

➔ Mike, tell us, what does your role as Diageo Scotland's Bulk Spirits Commercial Director entail?

I lead a Spirit Supply planning team based at our Technical Centre in Menstrie, Clackmannanshire. We have functional responsibility for the end-to-end management of Diageo's maturing Scotch and Rum spirit supply chains.

This includes managing our inventory in line with projections for future demand, cask selection, preparing blends for bottling and all aspects of the logistics behind that.

It's a bit like operating an air traffic control tower, co-ordinating, guiding and directing operational activities across our Scotch distillation and maturation warehouses on spirit requirements. We also work closely with our brand teams to agree long-term plans and to ensure supply and demand are working in close harmony.

What is your career background, how long have you been in the industry?

I was recruited by United Distillers 29 years ago into the role of Financial Controller at the old Dewars bottling plant at Inveralmond, Perth, after training and qualifying as a Chartered Accountant.

I have been fortunate in my career since to have enjoyed a wide range of fulfilling roles and experiences all with the same employer – initially United Distillers and then its successor Diageo.

I was given responsibility for Diageo's Scotch commercial bulk trading and





I get to enjoy a unique window seat on all aspects of Scotch's spirit supply network.

Mike Kydd at Johnnie Walker Princes Street, the centrepiece of Diageo's £185m investment in scotch whisky tourism in Scotland.

Industry Insider



inventory management operation back in 2005. Sixteen years later it remains an absolute privilege to still serve in that post as I get to enjoy a unique window seat on all aspects of Scotch's spirit supply network.

What trends/changes in the industry have you noticed in this time?

I have witnessed significant changes over the past three decades. The increasing 'Internationalisation' of the industry has been a major feature. Although Scotch has always been a global trade, the scale of investment that has come in has been incredible. At a time when Scotch is facing unprecedented levels of competition from other whiskies and from other spirit categories, it has been hugely positive to see Scotch remaining so strong at the forefront of global spirits.

On the Scotch supply side, I would have to highlight a continuous improvement drive towards greater efficiency and productivity, and a greater appreciation for the environmental impact and sustainability of our supply chains. We can never take our success in Scotch for granted and the continuous improvement evolution of our supply processes is vital if we are to maintain our spot on the shelf in market.

The pace and scale of product innovation and creativity has been another amazing development. There has been an explosion of choice and variety in the new product development space. The shelves of the staff shop look unrecognisable these days compared to the offerings on display when I first came through the doors.

How many casks do you manage, and what does an average day look like to you?

Diageo have the largest Scotch whisky sales in the world and that means we have more casks of Scotch maturing in Scotland than any other company. We currently have more than 10 million casks of maturing spirit in Scotland. Naturally, most lie maturing for a number of years, but we will typically be adding and removing more than a million casks to our inventory every year as new spirit is laid down and mature stock is disgorged for blending and bottling.

My daily pattern starts with a check-in Zoom meeting with my management group and then rotates into planning meetings with our colleagues across distillation, maturation, and bottling. The day is never 9 to 5, I have customers in the Far East and America that might merit video links early morning or into evening depending on time zones. There is always a crowd of emails wanting attention too and progress made on those by the end of a day always helps make the evening dram of Johnnie Walker Black Label taste all the more satisfying in the armchair!

Tell us about the challenges involved when projecting customer demand years in advance.

Ah, the 'crystal ball' question! If you have one, can I borrow it please?

The single biggest challenge in managing stocks against demand is the volatility caused by inherent forecast inaccuracy and the consequences it causes once actual demand becomes a reality. Inventory managers will

tell you it's always better to be 'looking at' casks in the warehouse than 'looking for' casks. If forecasts are subsequently found to be at risk of 'over-cook' then it's certainly a less painful journey of adjustment than when they are found to be 'under-called.'

We revert to complex economic modelling of markets, long term GDP predictions and historical Scotch performance trends to land a best view of category growth over the outlook period. It's a never-ending process of review and adjustment.

How does your management of blends compare to that of single malts?

We have 29 single malt distilleries, but we are primarily a blended Scotch business. That allows us to manage our inventory flexibly because we have several options to play with, either utilising single malt for a particular brand, or finding a home for it in one of our many blended Scotch whisky brands.

We have a simple formulaic expectation: great new make spirit quality from our distilleries, plus great wood in maturation, equals great Scotch whisky for single malts and for blending.

Will you share your secrets about how to create a perfect Johnnie Walker blend?

I'd love to, but I'd have to shoot you afterwards! The recipes are kept under lock and key and known to only a handful of custodians. But the one secret I will happily share is that the key is quality and consistency.



The one secret I will happily share is that the key is quality and consistency.

The secrets of how these amazing brands get made have been passed down through the centuries. We are fortunate to have a wonderful brand archive that has the original blending books from the 19th century. We stay true to these today and it is the role of our whisky specialists to ensure the brands sold today stay true to the history and legacy of those that originally created them.

I imagine that sometimes there are casks that simply don't work, how rare is that? And have you found any way to prevent it?

Wood and spirit are entirely natural products and there is an element of alchemy in the maturation process that can't be 100% controlled, but by using good quality wood and by having such a strong understanding of what goes on in maturation, we have hugely reduced the chances of a cask not producing the whisky type we expect when it is disgorged.

We have strong processes for monitoring our stocks and that means we can identify any issues that might arise.

What are the greatest challenges involved with your job?

Working with the uncertainties and inaccuracies of long lead time forecasting of supply and demand is probably the biggest challenge. There isn't much that keeps me awake at night, but the responsibility of making sure we have the right inventory to meet demand for 12 Year Old Johnnie Walker Black Label from consumers in China, India, USA and other regions of the globe in 2034 is

quite something.

While most workforces are typically incentivised by short term performance targets and financial delivery, I am very aware that judgement day on the relative success of my time in role will only come after I've retired. Legacy has a long arm.

Tell me about the most rewarding elements of it.

Diageo's purpose is 'celebrating life every day, everywhere.' Nothing gives me greater satisfaction as an employee than seeing the pleasure and enjoyment friends, family or members of the public get when enjoying one of our Scotch whiskies.

Cut me open and you'll find Johnnie Walker printed on my soul, so you can imagine the joy I felt when visiting the new Johnnie Walker Princes Street visitor experience in Edinburgh for the first time recently. Sitting in the 1820 Bar up on the rooftop enjoying those spectacular panoramic views of the city from the terrace with a Johnnie and Ginger highball, I had to pause briefly and quietly reflect on all those memorable moments the brand and the business have given me over my career. That moment was more than enough reward for me that day.

Are you a fan of drinking whisky yourself? What is your favourite dram?

I think there is a Scotch out there for everyone. My home dram default is Johnnie Walker Black Label – I prefer the orchestra of a blend to the soloist of a single malt.

Do you think your profession changes how you drink whisky, or would you say it deepens your appreciation for it?

I remain very much the accountant who is privileged to be custodian of the keys to one of the most incredible cellars of maturing Scotch stock in the industry. My time spent in this role has undoubtedly deepened my awareness, knowledge and insight on all things associated with Scotch spirit supply chains.

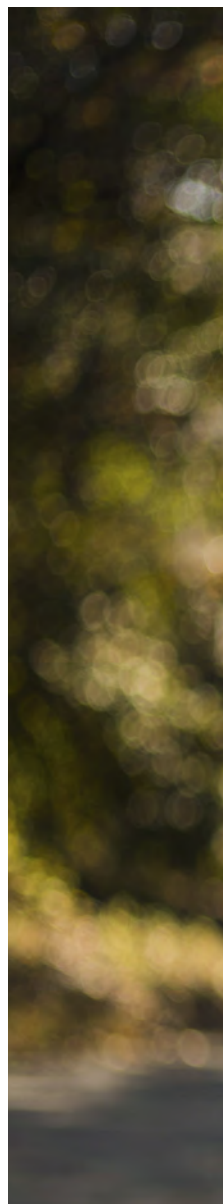
Our generation owes a huge debt of gratitude to those that have gone before us in building such an iconic global spirit centred in Scotland that is protected by Act of Parliament and gives employment and prosperity to so many across the nation.

Sláinte to that.

The mountain forest distillery



Situated at the foot of the Southern Japan Alps, in the middle of a forest, Gavin D Smith takes a look at the unique and versatile Hakushu Distillery.



Knowledge Bar

Hakushu



Hakushu (Hak-uh-SCHU) Distillery is located in the Torihara area of Hokuto City, Yamanashi Prefecture, some 100 miles from the country's capital of Tokyo.





Distillery Visit

Knowledge Bar

Suntory



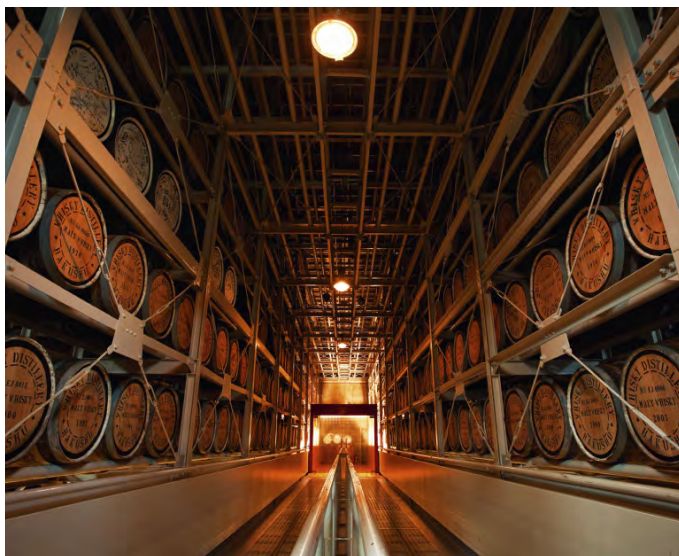
The founder of Suntory was Shinjiro Torii (1879-1962), who left school at 13 and began an apprenticeship with a pharmaceutical wholesaler in Osaka. There he became familiar with western liquors and highly skilled as a blender. In 1899 he set up his own business, going on to develop the best-selling Akadama Port Wine, which was launched in 1907. Soon, Torii was planning to create a Japanese whisky designed specifically to suit the delicate Japanese palate. In 1923, he established the country's first dedicated whisky distillery at Yamazaki, near Kyoto, and in 1937 his company launched Suntory Whisky, which satisfied his ambition to produce the first truly Japanese whisky.

Today, Suntory Group is one of the world's leading consumer products companies, with annual sales of £15.4 billion and more than 40,000 employees globally. Within the sphere of whisky, Japanese brands such as Yamazaki and Hakushu single malts, Hibiki blended whisky and Chita single grain whisky sit alongside Jim Beam, Maker's Mark, Knob Creek, and a range of other Bourbons, plus Canadian Club and Kilbeggan Irish whiskey. In Scotland, Suntory is responsible for Laphroaig, Bowmore, Glen Garioch, Auchentoshan, and Ardmore single malts, plus Teacher's blended Scotch whisky.

Top: Hakushu Distillery

Bottom: The region of Chubu occupies the central region of Japan's main island of Honshu. The region is split by the Japanese Alps, the two sides known as the front and back of Japan.





Hakushu give the option of touring the distillery with or without a tour guide. They say this is to allow people to explore the distillery at the pace that suits them.

Above: Hakushu Distillery Warehouse.

Top Right: Hakushu's stills.

Right: A hand-picked cask.



➤ Hakushu (Hak-uh-SCHU) Distillery is owned by the Suntory Group and is located in the Torihara area of Hokuto City, Yamanashi Prefecture, some 100 miles from the country's capital of Tokyo.

The notion of a city location is, however, rather misleading, as the distillery is actually set within a 1,000 square yards site, and is surrounded by dense forest in a very particular micro-climate. Indeed, some 83 per cent of the plot has been declared a nature reserve and wild bird sanctuary, in accordance with Suntory's philosophy of 'In harmony with People and Nature.'

Suntory describes Hakushu as *"Unique in the world. A distillery located in the forest,"* and adds that *"Nestled in the vast forest and coexisting with nature at the foot of the Southern Japan Alps, the Hakushu distillery continues to create a wide variety of unique whiskies. It is also known as Mountain Forest Distillery..."*

Hakushu is also notable for its elevation, being situated some 2,300 feet above sea level, almost twice the elevation of most Scottish distilleries, and is one of the highest distilleries in the world. By

contrast, Yamazaki Distillery sits approximately 82 feet above sea level. As a result, the average annual temperature at Hakushu is 5°C lower than that at Yamazaki, leading to slower maturation of spirit in the cool, moist climate.

IN THE WATER

Hakushu was established in 1973 to augment Suntory's original Yamazaki Distillery (see Whiskeria Spring 2021 issue), which dates from 1923 and its creation came at a time when sales of Japanese blended whiskies – notably Suntory Old Blend – were booming, hence the need for additional distilling capacity.

Keizo Saji, the second Master Blender, and son of company founder Shinjiro Torii, set out to find a suitable location in which to build the new plant, and one of the most important factors he took into account was finding the optimum water source. Suntory explains that *"Keizo Saji, inherited his father's quest to push the boundaries of what a Japanese whisky could be. He had searched all over Japan for high quality water that could become*

delicately aromatic to produce whisky that people would love. After searching with tenacity to the headstreams of rivers and deep into rugged mountains, he found Hakushu."

After his country-wide search, Keizo came across one of the most famous water areas in Japan 'Hakushu' and in 1973, exactly half a century after the birth of the first Japanese malt whisky distillery [Yamazaki], Suntory established its second malt whisky distillery.

"Making a long journey through the mountains in the Southern Alps, the clear underground water in Hakushu is soft, sharp in taste and contains the right amount of minerals. Whisky mashed using this water has a pleasant and gentle flavour, quite different from the deep, florid taste of Yamazaki."

The chosen site was close to the Kamanashi River, near Mt. Kaikomagatake, and the name Hakushu means 'white sandbar' in Japanese, referring to such geological features in the nearby Ojira and Jingu rivers.

Distillery Visit



Hakushu East... marked a clear shift away from quantity to give an emphasis on quality and ‘Tsukuriwake’ – diversity of spirit.



VERSATILE STILLS

Hakushu was originally equipped with six pairs of stills, but in 1977, capacity was doubled with the installation of another six pairs in a new building. With 24 stills, four mash tuns and 44 washbacks, Hakushu was the world's biggest distillery at the time.

In 1981 Suntory built Hakushu 3, also known as Hakushu East, and phased out the existing two distilling hubs. Those earlier buildings boasted large stills, all the same shape and size, while Hakushu East was fitted with stills of varying shapes, sizes, lyne arm orientations, heating methods and condenser types. This development marked a clear shift away from quantity to give an emphasis on quality and 'Tsukuriwake' – diversity of spirit.

A small grain distillery was added to the Hakushu complex in 2010, and four years later, another new pair of stills was installed, leaving the distillery with eight pairs of pot stills, paralleling Yamazaki, and with an annual capacity of 4mlpa.

When it comes to actually making spirit, both unpeated and peated malt is imported from Scotland, and the mashing process produces a very clear wort, designed to create a crisp, fruity and estery style of whisky, while fermentation takes place in traditional wooden washbacks, which allow for interaction with the distillery's naturally occurring lactic acid bacteria and other micro-organisms.

Stills are either of the straight head or lantern head shape, with some having been fabricated in Scotland and others in Japan. Most are fitted with shell and tube condensers, but one operates with a copper 'worm' submerged in a cast-iron tub, giving the option of producing a fuller-flavoured, more 'meaty' spirit type.

Hakushu's spirit stills are steam-heated, while wash stills are direct-fired with gas. Direct-firing produces much higher temperatures than steam-heating – reaching around 1,200°C – which allows for the development of more intense flavours through a series of complex chemical reactions.

TSUKURIWAKE

The distillation permutations within Hakushu allow for the creation of differing spirit characters, from light to full-bodied, and these are then blended together in varying combinations to produce Hakushu single malt expressions.

As James Bowker, Suntory UK Ambassador, explains, *"We call it 'Tsukuriwake' (diverse whisky making) in Japanese. The character of Hakushu is refreshingly herbal and gently smoky. Hakushu malt whiskies have a cleaner character than Yamazaki whiskies and are also used for blending."*

The contribution of Hakushu malt whiskies differ based on the specific whisky in question. The clean, verdant flavour of Hakushu whiskies can increase affinity with grain whiskies, and those with smoky characteristics can also work to increase the complexity or improve the aroma of the brand."

When it comes to filling Hakushu spirit into casks, Bowker explains that *"We mainly age our Hakushu whiskies in ex-bourbon hogsheads and barrels, though some will be aged in Spanish oak sherry and Mizunara oak casks. Most of the Hakushu whiskies are matured in warehouses on site, but some are aged at Suntory's Ohmi Aging Cellar, located about 40 miles from the Yamazaki distillery."*

MALT AND RYE

The first Hakushu single malt was introduced in 1994, but it tended to be overshadowed by its well-established Yamazaki sibling. Gradually that changed, however, with Hakushu becoming more popular, as Japanese single malts became increasingly desirable in global markets.

However, the price of success throughout the Japanese distilling industry was a serious shortage of mature stock, and age statements were removed from some expressions, with new NAS bottlings appearing. Hakushu introduced the NAS Distillers' Reserve, and in June 2018 the popular 12 Year Old variant was temporarily withdrawn. Now, however, it is available once again in limited quantities, with a very fine 25 Year Old making up the core Hakushu trio.

In addition to the regularly available Hakushu expressions, there have been a number of limited editions and heavily-peated bottlings, plus single grain 'Rye Type' releases, including a four-year-old, bottled at 57% VOL. As James Bowker explains, *"As part of our efforts to diversify whisky making, Hakushu distillery introduced a continuous still in 2010. This continuous still is extremely small in size compared to other distilleries and allows us to use a wide variety of raw materials, and we are working on expanding new flavour variations of our grain base."*

The 'Hakushu Distillery Rye Type' uses rye as an ingredient in place of the usual corn and malt and is distilled at a lower alcohol content than regular grain whisky in order to preserve its characteristics. The whisky is then matured in new bourbon barrels that have been heavily charred on the inside, giving it a floral and herbal aroma derived from rye and a spicy aftertaste."

THE HAKUSHU EXPERIENCE

For anyone fortunate enough to get the opportunity to visit Hakushu distillery, two options are available. The first allows visitors access to the twin-pagoda style Whisky Museum, with its collection of historic bottlings, documents, and video presentations, plus the In the Barrel distillery shop, Hakushu bar, White Terrace restaurant and external areas of the site, but without viewing of the production process and a guided tour of the distillery.

A fee is payable for the second option, described by Suntory as follows: *"Guided by our staff, you can enjoy the sound, temperature and smell of the distillery, watch the malt whisky production process in action, and observe the dedication of the craftsmen. After that, we will take you to the guestroom where you can taste The Hakushu single malt whisky and the component whiskies (not for sale). This tour lets you fully experience Hakushu distillery as well as The Hakushu single malt whisky."*

If a trip to the distillery itself is not feasible, then the next best thing is to settle down with a dram or two of Hakushu and delight in what Japanese whisky specialists Dekanta call *"A wonderfully balanced malt of the highest quality."*

Singh for your supper

An interview with Tony Singh, MBE

PHOTOGRAPHY: CHRISTINA KERNOHAN

STYLIST: IAN TOD

LOCATION: PORTOBELLO, EDINBURGH



Chef, restaurateur, and TV personality Tony Singh MBE is known for his witty remarks and addictive personality. We sit down with him to discuss his life and career within the Scottish food industry.

We join Tony inside his beautiful Edinburgh home, also the location of his popular Supper Club, to talk all things food and flavour.

➔ **Tony let us start by asking how you got into the industry, what made you want to become a chef?**

Food. My family are all great cooks. When I was younger if you helped in the kitchen, you got extra helpings. So very quickly I picked up on this perk and I always loved helping out.

What was the first thing you remember cooking?

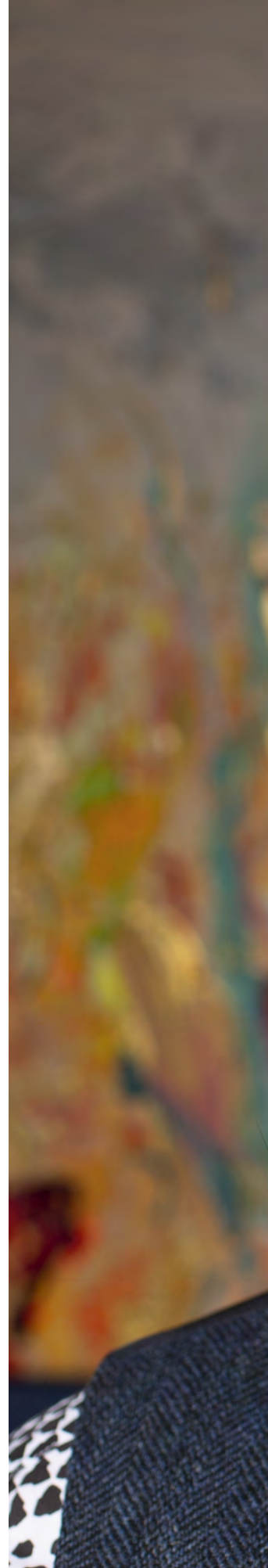
Well, the first thing I remember doing was helping my gran, in her kitchen. I would help with the lentils and the rice, and I would pick through the spices, to get rid of all the stones and the debris, as it wouldn't come ready-packaged. Working with my family was the first thing I remember, which was great.

You were brought up in Leith, in Edinburgh?

Yes, I was born in Leith, went to the local primary, to Leith Academy, and then to Telford College. So, I stayed local.

You are known for creating innovative flavours in your food, what would you say are the main influences on your food?

Oh, definitely Scotland's larder, which is the best produce in the world, and my Sikh heritage. The use of spices – being brought up around good food and seeing how spices were the easiest and quickest way to add drama and colour to food – is fantastic, and the rest of the world have opened up to them recently, which is great.





If you live without spice in your food, it is like living in black and white. I think it is like drinking vodka and gin all the time, why would you when you've got whisky?

Interview



Scotland's larder... is the best produce in the world.



Tony working with herbs and spices as he prepares dishes in his home kitchen.

If you could only have one more dish before you died, what would it be?

What would be your death row meal?

That is great that you asked, the whole thing with death row meals is in a fanciful world where you know you're going to die and you could have anything you wanted, it is not what you would have to eat, it is who you would share it with. And I would share a dram with my grandad, I never met him.

So, it is about the company?

Yes, totally. You could have a great meal or a cheese sandwich, and it is elevated with the company that you have.

And that ties into your Supper Club which brings together great company within an intimate environment.

I know the hospitality trade is a business, but so often you are in, you're out - you're a number. The essence of hospitality is to be looked after.

Tell us about a typical night at the Supper Club?

So, you book online, it is only 12 people so it could be any combination of guests. It is usually a wide mix of people who will come in, get a couple of aperitifs, always a champagne cocktail, and always a whisky cocktail - because you are in Scotland.

A lot of people have had bad experiences with whisky, so they are not looking to have more and are looking for something else; well, I don't give them much choice, they are having whisky. I always go for a take on a Whisky Mac or a Highball or something like that, or an Old Fashioned or a Sour but I'll make it a little bit sweeter or a little bit fruitier just to get them over the fear of having whisky. It is usually a blend or if I use a single malt, I will do something a bit lighter. I would never start with anything too strong; you need to work up to it throughout the night.

You can do a lot with whisky, with food, and with spices, but it comes back to what you want to get across when you prepare a meal. At the end of the day, you can go to the best restaurant, have the best mouthfuls of food but if you leave and still want to eat something else, that means they've failed. So how many courses you have, how you structure portion sizes, how you structure the intake of alcohol is important. When we know we are having guests who do not drink in advance we can tailor a non-alcoholic pairing for them to suit the meal.

Once the guests have had their cocktail,

they sit down for eight courses with wine pairings and it's a great night. They pick their own music, which is great fun, so every Supper Club has its own soundtrack. From September to the end of 2021, we have created one big playlist which everyone has added to and so far, there are over 170 songs. The music is great. The only rules are that you must listen to the songs people have added that night, but if you ever come back and it is not there, then it was a rubbish song!

What do you like about inviting people into your home?

I like how it is completely different every time, and the good thing about it is getting to chat to them. Once it stops becoming fun, I will need to find something else to do.

You have also opened a street food venture in Edinburgh in August 2021. Tell us about it.

Yes, Radge Chaat. It is located in a converted shipping container in Tollcross, and we are looking at doing collaborations down in London.

Do you think Radge Chaat is opening your cooking to a new audience?

Yes, I hope so, because most people think I only do high-end cooking, but I do everything!

I have always done street food and pop-ups which has been a great passion of mine - it allows me to go back to my roots and share my food with anyone and everyone. It's great fun and Radge Chaat brings lip-smacking Indian street food right to the heart of Edinburgh.

In my humble opinion, if you live without spice in your food, it is like living in black and white. I think it is like drinking vodka and gin all the time, why would you when you've got whisky? People should embrace and try new things. Whether it be my food, or the Japanese fried chicken made by Kaptain Karage, or the fusion food made by Exile Cooks next door to me, if it brings anybody out to try different food and flavours, it can only be a good thing!

Do you remember what your first ever dram was? What got you into whisky?

It is not what got me into whisky, it is what got me out of whisky! When I was 18, I was up in Aberdeen and we were out drinking with oil workers, things got a little out of hand and I ended up being hospitalised. From then my body had a physical reaction to even just the smell of whisky.

The way we used to drink whisky in the house, was very different. My dad and the 'old-timers' all had whisky and thought a 'European' two-finger measure was far too small. They wanted double that, and if they

didn't get a dram that size they would have sent it back. That was the only way they drank it; they would never mix it.

That is one of the reasons I never liked whisky. I just drank it, I never tasted it. I was a Malibu and Lilt guy. But when I began going abroad as a chef and everyone was like "*oh Scotsman... you should drink whisky*," I got back into it, and I respected what a fantastic dram it was.

Let's me ask you about your TV appearances, you seem to feel very comfortable in front of the camera.

The live stuff is much better to me because it is unscripted. Because I am dyslexic, I find scripts difficult to memorise, and it is not in my own voice. I enjoy anything where I can chat and feel comfortable with people, and I just forget the camera is there.

When you are on Saturday Kitchen it looks so natural, just like you are round at someone's actual kitchen, just like here.

Well, that is the thing, you just crack on and you smash it, it is brilliant.

I caught you on the Amazon show Men in Kilts: A Roadtrip with Sam and Graham, alongside Outlander stars Sam Heughan and Graham McTavish, how was that?

Yes, that was a fantastic opportunity, and I was very fortunate to still be able to do it during lockdown! Since they had enough of a budget to operate while keeping everyone safe - sending my family away while the set was up at our house, quarantining in different hotels and testing everyone involved for two weeks - it was a tremendous effort and the show turned out brilliantly.

Sam and Graham were both great laughs and up for trying anything. It made the entire experience, and I even got to taste Sam's Sassenach whisky - outstanding!

Knowledge Bar
Tasting with Tony



We selected three whiskies for Tony to sample - here's his thoughts:

—
Johnnie Walker Blue Label
40% VOL | Blend

—
What do you like about Johnnie Walker?

That's lovely, it is very smooth, and very rounded. I like my whiskies to have a bit of spice and a sweet finish with caramel notes, so the chocolates I have here [milk, dark, and milk with hazelnut] are similar.

—
Are you more of a blend man or single malt?

I'm a whisky man! I like a whisky cocktail, but normally it is just the blends. And just for cost, I think Johnnie Walker Black Label, for money in a glass, is great.

—
Bunnahabhain Stiùreaidair
46.3% VOL | Islay

For me, it's so creamy and smooth. It has a great, long finish with a wee bit of brininess coming through. It's very juicy - not heavy at all and very easy to drink.

You could pair that with something quite easily. Something with mushrooms perhaps. You could have the sweetness of seafood with it as well, like shellfish.

—
Glen Moray 2008
Warehouse 1 Manzanilla Finish
54.6% VOL | Speyside

Oh, that is amazing. That is much milder than I thought after nosing it. But it is very smooth and very dry, but lovely. You get that sherry finish on it. That is lovely [especially with the dark chocolate], it is really toasty, and it has got a little bit of saltiness. It is making my mouth water. Oh aye, that is very nice.



I like my whiskies to have a bit of spice and a sweet finish with caramel notes.



Tony deliberating over drams, and pairing chocolates, in his lounge in Portobello, Edinburgh.

Interview

Knowledge Bar

Tony Singh

**1971**

Rajinder Tony Singh Kusbia MBE was born 15 May 1971 in Leith, Edinburgh.

1987

After surprising himself by winning a prize for Home Economics at school, Tony trained classically as a chef at Telford College in Edinburgh.

1990

Singh began working in fine dining restaurants, beginning at the prestigious **Balmoral Hotel**.

2000

After acclaimed positions at **Skibo Castle**, **Gravetye Manor**, **The Royal Scotsman**, and the **Royal Yacht Britannia**, Tony appeared on TV's '**Chef of The Year**', which he won.

2001

At the age of 30, Tony opened **Oloroso**, in Edinburgh. The rooftop restaurant would go on to win a slew of fine dining awards over the next ten years of its operation.

2005

Tony opens **Roti**, in Edinburgh's business district, which he runs for four years.

2009

Singh opens **Tony's Table**. The restaurant receives a **Michelin Bib Gourmand** a year later.

2013

Publishes '**The Incredible Spice Men**' with fellow chef Cyrus Todiwala, with the aim of "waking Britain up to the versatility of spice." He also stars in his own cookery show on BBC Two with the same title.

2014

Singh releases his second book '**Tasty**', focussing on the concept of creating everyday comfort food. Tony also wins the Scottish Chefs Award for '**Scottish Chef of the Year**', '**Glenfiddich Scottish Food Award 2014**', and '**GG2 World Food Award 2014**'.

2017

Tony was made a **Member of the Order of the British Empire (MBE)** by the Queen for his services to the food and drink industry, as well as for his charity work.

2021

Singh launches **Radge Chaat** in Tollcross, Edinburgh, that runs alongside Tony's exclusive **Supper Club**.

Present

Tony is a consultant chef for the restaurants Tasty in Glasgow, and Tony Singh at the Apex, in Edinburgh's bustling Grassmarket. He lives with his wife Bechan, and four children. A firm favourite on British television, Tony regularly stars on a host of panel shows.

You have had a varied and exciting career so far, what would you say are your proudest moments?

Apart from having my kids, getting married and all that stuff. I would say having Oloroso, my first restaurant, open.

Being awarded my MBE at Buckingham Palace by Her Majesty The Queen was also pretty awesome. I was invited to a lunch with The Queen, The Duke of Edinburgh, and people from her household. There were only eight guests in total and it was brilliant, a good laugh.

How was the food?

The food was very good, and I got to see the kitchens; chefs always get taken to the kitchens wherever they visit.

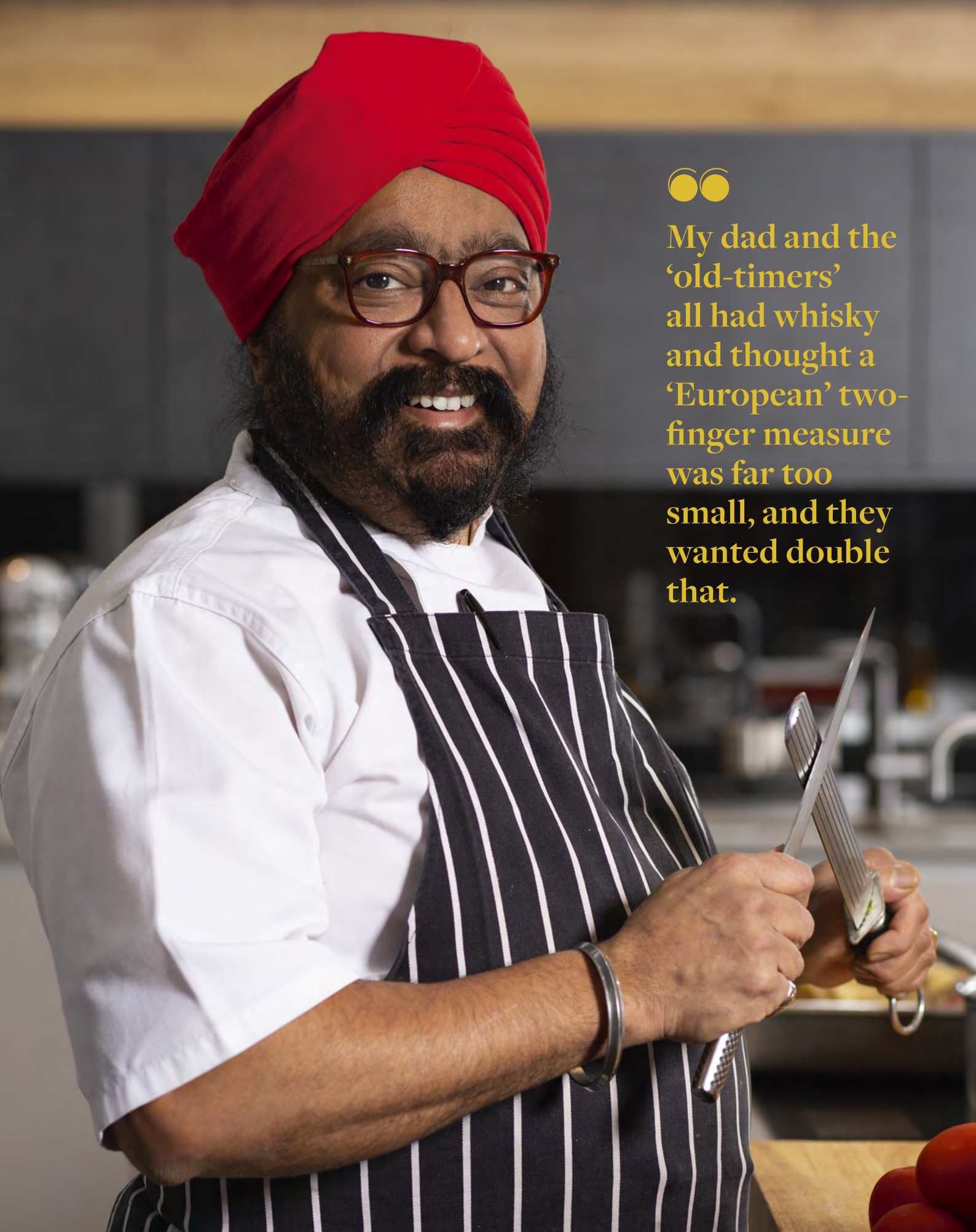
What are your plans for 2022?

Well, I love television, so I would like to do more TV work. I was trying to do stuff with Cyrus [Todiwala, a fellow chef whom Tony has worked with previously, including on BBC Two's The Incredible Spice Men: Todiwala and Singh], I might do some Supper Clubs down in London and collaborate with him, so we will see. It is brilliant, all good fun!

To find out more about Tony's Supper Club, visit tonysingh.co.uk and keep updated with his latest projects @mctsingh on Instagram.



A portrait of Tony hangs next to his extensive whisky collection, and his MBE medal.



My dad and the 'old-timers' all had whisky and thought a 'European' two-finger measure was far too small, and they wanted double that.

Notes of flavour



Pursuing perfection since 1608, Bushmills is the pioneering Irish single malt whiskey. Inspired by their heritage as the world's oldest licensed whiskey distillery, every bottle of Bushmills is inspired by generations of craftsmanship and tradition. To celebrate St. Patrick's Day, Lauren McMullan, Brand Ambassador for the UK and Ireland, shares a line-up of classic cocktails with a Bushmills twist as well as two exceptional neat serves.

PHOTOGRAPHY: CHRISTINA KERNOHAN





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**SINGLE MALT
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IRISH WHISKEY**

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BEFORE FINISHING IN Port Pipes, THIS Rare
Single Malt Whiskey IS DEEP AMBER IN COLOUR
WITH FLAVOURS OF DARK FRUIT, NUTS AND SPICE.

MATURED In The Finest
MASTER DISTILLER: COLUIM EGAN
40% vol.
70cl/700ml e



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WORLD'S OLDEST LICENSED
WHISKEY DISTILLERY

AGED **10** YEARS
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**SINGLE MALT
IRISH WHISKEY**

THIS APPROACHABLE AND ELEGANT WHISKEY
IS AGED IN Bourbon and Sherry Casks,
CREATING RICH FLAVOURS OF HONEY AND VANILLA
WITH BUSHMILLS' SIGNATURE SMOOTHNESS.



Black Fashioned

BOTTLE

Bushmills Black Bush

70cl | 40% VOL | £38

Christmas Cake | Almonds |

Citrus Sweetness

Black Bush has a uniquely high proportion (80%) of malt whiskey.

It is aged in ex-oloroso sherry casks, imparting rich dried fruit notes and a beautiful sherry sweetness. A real fan favourite.

INGREDIENTS

Black Bush	50ml
Demerara Sugar Syrup	10ml
Orange Bitters	3-4 dashes

GLASS

Rocks

GARNISH

Orange Rind

METHOD

1. Add all ingredients to a mixing glass and fill with ice
2. Stir ingredients thoroughly
3. Strain into rocks glass over large ice cube and garnish

COMMENTS

An iconic whiskey in a truly classic cocktail. The robust nature of Black Bush holds its own in this serve, setting a new standard for the Old Fashioned. This cocktail is a must for any whiskey drinker.

Mixing It Up

Blackberry Sour

BOTTLE

Bushmills Black Bush

70cl | 40% VOL | £38

Dried Fruits | Nuts |

Sherry Sweetness

An easy drinker sipped neat, this staple from Bushmills is known by mixologists for how well it makes pals in mixed drinks, and especially fruity cocktails such as this. Expect hints of vanilla, salted caramel, and nutty shortbread from the whiskey to sing.

INGREDIENTS

Black Bush	50ml
Lemon	25ml
Sugar Syrup	15ml
Muddled Blackberries	4
Torn Sage Leavea	4
Egg White	1

GLASS

Coupe

GARNISH

Blackberries, Sage Leaves,
Powdered Sugar

METHOD

1. Pour all ingredients into a shaker (with no ice) and dry shake
2. Add ice and wet shake
3. Strain into coupe glass and garnish

COMMENTS

A cocktail as delicious as it looks - this is a fruity twist on a classic whiskey sour. The blackberries in this serve enhance the deep and rich fruitiness of the whiskey. This is one you will return to again and again, perfect for all seasons.





Bushmills Bushvardier

BOTTLE

Bushmills 10 Year Old Single Malt

70cl | 40% VOL | £41

Toasted Oak | Linseed Oil |

Milk Chocolate

The most approachable of the Bushmills single malt family, this whiskey is made from 100% Irish malted barley, triple distilled, and aged in the finest ex-bourbon casks to create a delicate and mellow whiskey. A very easy sipper, our single malts also have a brand new look and bottle - the same fantastic liquid, just a well-deserved refresh.

INGREDIENTS

Bushmills 10 Year Old 45ml

Vermouth 25ml

Campari 20ml

Black Tea Syrup 20ml

GLASS

Nick & Nora

GARNISH

Lemon Peel

METHOD

1. Add all ingredients to a mixing glass with ice and stir
2. Strain into glass straight up
3. Express the lemon peel and drop into glass

COMMENTS

A Bushmills take on a Boulevardier, this is one for the spirit-led cocktail lovers. The delicacy and honey notes of the 10 Year Old balances the bitterness of the Campari, great for a cold winter night to warm the cockles of your heart.

Mixing It Up

Bushmills Causeway Collection 1991 Madeira Cask Finish

70cl | 50.2% VOL | £695

Black Coffee | Dark Chocolate | Orange Peel

The Causeway Collection is inspired by the Giant's Causeway and the beautiful home of The Old Bushmills Distillery on the north coast of Ireland. A series of unique and incredibly rare cask finished single malt whiskeys which are not be missed. This particular expression is exclusive to The Whisky Shop, with only 738 bottles available.



GLASS

Glencairn

COMMENTS

Bottled at Cask Strength, this spectacular whisky has been aged for a number of years in former bourbon and sherry casks, before a further maturation of 15 years in Madeira wine casks. It is best enjoyed neat or with a few drops of water to allow the aromas and flavours of the whiskey to tell a story of an incredible period of maturation.

Bushmills 16 Year Old Single Malt

70cl | 40% VOL | £78

Nutty | Allspice | Currant Jam

The whiskey lover's whiskey, The Bushmills 16 Year Old is big, bold, and luxurious with a ruby red colour to match. It is aged for a minimum of 16 years in bourbon and sherry casks. With a finishing of at least 9 months in port wine pipes, delivering an incredible depth of flavour ranging from red fruits to nuttiness and dark chocolate, this is the hero of our core single malt family.



GLASS

Glencairn

COMMENTS

You can expect a harmony of tropical fruits flavours, with acute hits of sweet toffee, almonds, and orchard fruits. This one is a fan favourite at The Whisky Shop, and performs well in a highball.





Irish Orchard

BOTTLE

Bushmills 10 Year Old Single Malt

70cl | 40% VOL | £41

Juicy Apple | Zesty Citrus | Honey

The most approachable of the Bushmills single malt family, this whiskey is made from 100% Irish malted barley, triple distilled, and aged in the finest ex-bourbon casks to create a delicate and mellow whiskey. A very easy sipper, our single malts also have a brand new look and bottle - the same fantastic liquid, just a well-deserved refresh.

INGREDIENTS

- Bushmills 10 Year Old 50ml
- Dry Cider 75ml
- Soda 30ml
- Pressed Apple Juice 25ml

GLASS

Highball

GARNISH

Apple Fan

METHOD

1. Add all ingredients to a shaker (except the soda)
2. Gently stir all ingredients together
3. Strain into a highball glass over ice
4. Top with soda and garnish

COMMENTS

A match made in heaven, this cocktail compliments the delicacy of the whiskey and enhances the beautiful apple notes. Simple to create but it delivers on flavour, this is one you'll want to impress your friends with at the next cocktail party.

INSPIRED ON THE SHORES OF LOCH FYNE



CREATED WITH
SCOTTISH COASTAL BOTANICALS

ISSUE

Spring 2022

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INTERESTING



Spring Fling!

Look forward to the brighter months of the year with this selection of exciting products from The Whisky Shop

IN THIS ISSUE

St. Patrick's
Day

Mother's
Day

Spring
Gins

Japanese
Whisky

Spirit of
Speyside

THE WHISKY SHOP

St. Patrick's Day

Celebrate Ireland's national day with this fine selection of Irish whiskies

① The Sexton

70cl | 40% VOL | £36

Dried fruits / Nuts / Honeycomb

- The current bestselling Irish single malt whisky in the USA
- Aged in former oloroso sherry casks, distilled in copper pot stills for exceptional smoothness
- Made from 100% Irish unpeated malted barley

② Bushmills 1991 Madeira Cask The Whisky Shop Exclusive

70cl | 50.2% VOL | £695

Sweet fruit / Coffee / Chocolate

- Don't miss out on this fruity, sweet, sensationally aged dram, exclusive to The Whisky Shop
- 13 years maturing in oloroso sherry butts and bourbon barrels, then 15 years in Madeira casks
- Only 738 bottles produced, this deserves to be sipped slowly from your favourite glass



③ Writers' Tears Copper Pot

70cl | 40% VOL | £36

Green apple / Vanilla / Caramel

- A light, sweet blend of pot still and malt whiskies
- Sourced from an unnamed Cork distillery
- A recreation of a whiskey championed by 19th century Irish literary greats

④ Bushmills 16 Year Old

70cl | 40% VOL | £85

Fruity / Nutty / Allspice

- Matured for 16 years in former oloroso sherry and bourbon seasoned casks
- Before a final flourish, with a finishing period of nine months in port pipes
- Decadently rich and fruity, with a wonderful dark chocolate finish

⑤ Bushmills Black Bush Gift Box

70cl | 40% VOL | £38

Salted caramel / Vanilla / Grape

- The return of a TWS fan favourite
- Classic Bushmills Black Bush blend with bespoke gift box
- Matured in former oloroso sherry and bourbon casks, with a high proportion of malt whiskey

⑥ Teeling Small Batch Gold Gift Tin with 2 glasses

70cl | 46% VOL | £46.95

Apple crumble / Citrus / Caramel

- A rich and spicy blend of malt and grain whiskies
- Matured in Dublin in a combination of ex-bourbon barrels and ex-rum casks
- Accompanied by two Teeling glasses and presented in a dazzling gold gift tin

③



④



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THE WHISKY SHOP

Mother's Day

Treat Mum to a dazzling selection of gorgeous gifts

① Nc'Nean Organic Single Malt

70cl | 46% VOL | £51

Tropical fruit / Citrus / Peppery ginger

- A whisky that is always friendly with first-time tasters, and superstar mums too for that matter!
- Matured in mixture of red wine casks and American whiskey barrels
- Expect gentle, smooth, and fruity sweetness in this organically produced dram

② 1826 Smoky French Martini Handcrafted Cocktails

50cl | 20% VOL | £26

Smoky salinity / Raspberry / Blackberry

- The perfect French Martini, with a smoky twist
- Made with premium ingredients, one being Laphroaig's peated whisky
- The top-shelf martini glass is a must for this one!



③ Starward Single Barrel Red Wine Barrique

70cl | 55.4% VOL | £93

Tart berries / Vanilla toffee / Red wine tannins

- Another first-rate offering from the Melbourne-based distillers
- A single cask whisky matured in fresh American oak red wine barriques in a tropical environment
- Rich and tasty, with a fair punch of flavour, experience a classic Australian whisky

④ Macallan 12 Year Old Sherry Oak

70cl | 40% VOL | £76

Sultanas / Marmalade / Vanilla

- Part of Macallan's beloved Sherry Oak range
- A 12-year-long maturation in oloroso sherry seasoned casks from Jerez, packs in flavour
- Rich, beautifully complex and usually, a riotous success with sherry tipplers

⑦ Dalmore 12 Year Old Sherry

70cl | 38% VOL | £62

Dark chocolate / Crushed almonds / Panna cotta

- A dark, nutty, rich single malt. Part of The Dalmore's esteemed Principal Collection
- Packed with quintessential sherry notes, representative of The Dalmore's long association with sherry
- Matured for ten years in American bourbon casks, finished in sherry barrels from Andalusia

⑤ Johnnie Walker 18 Year Old Glass Gift Set

70cl + 2x 5cl | 40% VOL | £82

Caramel toffee / Tropical fruits / Dark chocolate

- A limited edition run of a magnificently blended Johnnie Walker whisky
- Made using up to 18 separate malt and grain whiskies, all aged for at least 18 years
- Arrives with two branded tumblers in a stylish presentation box, made for sharing!

⑥ Mermaid Pink Gin Glass Gift Set

70cl | 38% VOL | £62

Strawberry / Lemon zest / Black pepper

- Infused with locally picked Isle of Wight strawberries
- Uses the distillery's signature and award-winning Mermaid Gin as a base
- Citrus, strawberry, and intricate spices dance on the palate, the Gin Glass being the cherry on top

⑧ Bonzer Heritage Strainer Set Gold

£81

- A stylish strainer set with made with functionality in mind
- Produced from Bonzer, a company who have developed first-class barware since the 1930s
- Features a Fine Strainer, Sprung Julep, Detached Julep, and Hawthorn Classic Strainer



THE WHISKY SHOP

Spring Gins

Step into Spring with these bright, fresh, and effervescent gins

① Silent Pool Rose Gift Set

70cl | 43% VOL | £72

Rose / Pear / Lemon

- Uses the award-winning Silent Pool Gin as its jumping off point
- A refreshing twist, where notes of rose, pear, bergamot, cardamom, and more sing
- Luxury gift box arriving with a pair of Copa branded glasses, great for the sun coming out

② Ginius Gin Gift Set

6x3cl | Various % VOL | £30

- Six tasty gins to let you craft the perfect cocktail or G&T
- Including: Ben Lomond, Caorunn, Caorunn Scottish Raspberry, Roku, Isle of Raasay, and The Loch Fyne Botanical Gin, for the budding gin-genius in your life!

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③ The Loch Fyne Botanical Gin

50cl | 42% VOL | £27

Classy / Balanced / Distinctive

- A delightful hand-crafted botanical gin
- Classy, balanced, with a swathe of Scottish maritime botanicals
- A year-long fan favourite at TWS, Spring is the season where this comes to life

④ Malfy Rosa Sicilian Pink Grapefruit Gin

70cl | 41% VOL | £30

Rhubarb / Pink grapefruit / Zesty

- A zesty and citrusy gin from the Mocaleri Torino Distillati Distillery
- Sicilian pink grapefruit and Italian rhubarb infuse the gin for at least 36 hours
- Sourced with fresh ingredients from the Mediterranean, taste the Italian coast

⑤ Mermaid Gin

70cl | 42% VOL | £43

Citrus / Pepper / Spicy

- Small batch London Dry Gin with characterful lemon and peppery notes
- Powerful hit of revitalising and invigorating sea air
- Smooth and pleasing gin from the Isle of Wight Distillery, one for the mysterious

⑥ Roku Gin with Floral Bag

70cl | 43% VOL | £36

Lemon / Pepper / Coriander

- A sumptuous gift from the House of Suntory
- Delicately balanced gin arriving in a splendid floral bag
- Made from six Japanese botanicals alongside eight traditional gin botanicals



⑦ Dingle Four Seasons Gin Gift Pack

4x20cl | Various % VOL | £45

Honey / Vanilla / Malted biscuit

- A unique gift pack with a flavour for each season, never mind Spring!
- Using local botanicals from the Dingle peninsula in Kerry, Ireland
- All expressions are free from chill filtration, and made without compromise



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THE WHISKY SHOP

Japanese Whisky

This cherry blossom season indulge in our selection of fabulous Japanese whiskies

① Yamazaki 12 Year Old

70cl | 43% VOL | £140

Ginger / Cinnamon / Coconut

- Suntory's flagship single malt whisky known and loved the world over
- Great appeal to newcomers and experienced Japanese whisky fans
- Elegant and smooth, with soft fruit and the Mizunara oak shining through

② Yamazaki Distiller's Reserve

70cl | 43% VOL | £77

Nectarine / Peach / Vanilla

- A mild, fresh, and fruity single malt
- A mixture of Mizunara oak and a touch of sherry cask character merge in harmony
- Complex, deep, an excellent malt from a top distillery



③ Ichiro's Malt & Grain White Label

70cl | 46.5% VOL | £72 Apple / Orange / Cinnamon

- A cosmopolitan blended malt, hailing from America, Ireland, Canada, and more
- Free of chill filtration and artificial colouring
- Rich, sweet, and full of mystery

④ Hakushu Distiller's Reserve

70cl | 43% VOL | £74 Citrus / Fudge / Christmas pudding

- A blended whisky with no age statement and plenty of character
- Using a sensational blend of heavily and lightly-peated malts
- Smoky, herbaceous, and moreish Japanese malt

⑤ Hibiki Japanese Harmony

70cl | 43% VOL | £79 Oak / Floral / Chilli pepper

- One that wins plaudits wherever it is tasted
- Hand selected by the award-winning Shinji Fukuyo
- One of the best examples of Suntory's crystal-clear focus on flavour harmony

⑥ Taketsuru

70cl | 43% VOL | £85 Dried fruit / Cocoa / Sherry

- A signature expression, made in honour of Nikka's founder Masataka Taketsuru
- A 'pure' blended malt, made from hand selected malt whiskies
- An exquisite balance between elegant softness and challenging complexity



THE WHISKY SHOP

Spirit of Speyside

Celebrate the
2022 Spirit of
Speyside Festival
(27 April — 2 May)

① Benriach 12 Year Old #4830 The Whisky Shop Exclusive

70cl | 59.9% VOL | £102

Dried fruit / Cherry / Dark chocolate

- This Cask Edition Benriach single malt is exclusive to The Whisky Shop
- The peated whisky was distilled in 2009 and spent a 12-year-long maturation in a port pipe cask
- Personally overseen by Master Blender Rachel Barrie, this is a dark and delightful dram

② Mortlach 16 Year Old Distiller's Dram

70cl | 43.4% VOL | £83

Rich fruit / Dark chocolate / Exotic spices

- A true and proper Speyside sherry bomb!
- A single malt matured in a mix of refill and first-fill American and European oak sherry casks
- Aged for 16 years, well balanced and first-rate in taste

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③ Benromach 10 Year Old

70cl | 43% VOL | £43

Sherry / Chocolate / Peat smoke

- A Benromach balancing act
- Spent nine years in bourbon and sherry barrels, before a further marriage in sherry barrels
- A light whisky with medium body, a fantastic entry point to smoky Speysiders

④ Glenfiddich Project XX

70cl | 47% VOL | £52

Apple blossom / Candy floss / Toasted almonds

- A rich and spicy dram, the second release in Glenfiddich's Experimental Series
- Made with input from 20 distillery ambassadors, overseen by Malt Master, Brian Kinsman
- A mixture of sherry casks, bourbon casks, and more

⑤ GlenDronach 1993 26 Year Old #8635

70cl | 54.9% VOL | £395

Maraschino cherry / Dark chocolate / Maple syrup

- A one-off, decadent GlenDronach distilled in 1993
- Aged for 26 years in a Pedro Ximénez puncheon
- Packs in a symphony of stewed apple, sharp pepper, and delightful sticky chocolate

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THE WHISKY SHOP

Customer Favourites

Light / Floral

① **anCnoc 12 Year Old**

70cl | 40% VOL | £39

Banana / Butterscotch / Custard

Produced at Knockdhu Distillery in the Highlands and matured in a combination of second-fill American oak, ex-bourbon and ex-sherry casks, this is an award-winning expression that should sit proudly on your spirits shelf.



"My first venture into single malt whisky many years ago. Creamy vanilla with a hint of honey sweetness - this dram is extremely moreish!"

Lee, The Whisky Shop Trentham

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② **Balblair 12 Year Old**

70cl | 46% VOL | £52

Sultanas / Honey / Apple

Matured in American oak, ex-bourbon and double-fired American oak casks, this 12-year-old whisky has an elegant complexity and warmth - the defining expression of Balblair Distillery.

③ **Balblair 15 Year Old**

70cl | 46% VOL | £82

Apple / Dates / Caramel

An older sibling to Balblair 12 Year Old, this whisky perfectly balances unique distillery character with smoothness of age, thanks to a flavour profile of tropical fruits and a texture of melted chocolate. Gorgeous.

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**④ Glen Moray
18 Year Old**

70cl | 47.2% VOL | £81 Heather / Honey / Fudge

A Speyside single malt from the Cairngorms, this expression is aged in the finest American oak barrels, specially selected to emphasise the whisky's smooth character. It is a whisky that is celebrated for its long and mellow finish.

**⑤ Fettercairn
12 Year Old**

70cl | 40% VOL | £48 Nectarine / Ginger / Pear

Hailing from the village of the same name, this whisky is a masterclass in fruity Highland flavour - perfectly embodying Fettercairn's exotic fruit-driven character. It has been matured in American oak ex-bourbon for its full 12 years in cask. Simply delicious.

**⑥ Loch Lomond
14 Year Old**

70cl | 46% VOL | £57 Green apple / Grapefruit / Vanilla

Matured in American oak and finished in lightly toasted French oak from the Limousin region for up to 12 months, Loch Lomond 14 Year Old delivers the unmistakable fruit character found in the distillery's single malt.

**⑦ Bunnahabhain
12 Year Old**

70cl | 46.3% VOL | £47 Dried fruit / Honey / Chestnut

Bunnahabhain's whiskies are quite distinct from other single malts of the Islay region, in that the majority are produced with unpeated malted barley. Toast the versatility of Islay with this superb 12-year-old expression that showcases Bunnahabhain's 'fruit and nut' signature style.

**⑧ Auchroisk
10 Year Old**

70cl | 43% VOL | £57 Orange zest / Cut grass / Roasted nuts

A special whisky due to being the only official bottling of Auchroisk Distillery. This 10-year-old expression is part of Diageo's Flora & Fauna series - an ode to superb single malts from lesser-known distilleries which normally provide liquid for blends.



THE WHISKY SHOP

Customer Favourites

Rich / Sweet

① Blair Athol 12 Year Old

70cl | 43% VOL | £51

Walnut / Cinnamon / Fruitcake

Established in 1798, Blair Athol is one of Scotland's oldest working distilleries and is famed for producing the signature malt for Bell's blend. A delicious dram, this is one of only a few official bottlings ever released from the distillery.



"Skip dessert and head straight to this! Enjoy rich sherry, raisins and Christmas cake on the nose before wood spice, pepper and even more sherry on the palate."

→ Chris, The Whisky Shop Norwich

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② The BenRiach The Twelve

70cl | 46% VOL | £49

Honey / Maraschino cherries / Cocoa

Part of the refreshed core line-up from Benriach, this new recipe brings intensified notes of baked fruits and a rich smoothness, thanks to time spent in a combination of sherry casks, bourbon barrels and Port pipes under the expert care of Master Blender Rachel Barrie.

③ The Glenrothes 12 Year Old

70cl | 40% VOL | £46

Vanilla / Cinnamon / Orange zest

Part of the Soleo Collection from The Glenrothes Distillery in Speyside, this 12-year-old single malt is described as the hero of the range and is matured entirely in sherry-seasoned oak casks. Bottled at 40% VOL, this is both an easy drinking and delicious dram.



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④ Old Pulteney 15 Year Old

70cl | 46% VOL | £77

Honey / Salted caramel / Fruitcake

An incredibly balanced single malt that has spent time in American oak ex-bourbon casks and finished in Spanish oak. Spice and sweetness combine with the refreshing coastal notes expected from this seaside distillery to create a delicious dram.

⑤ The Dalmore 12 Year Old

70cl | 40% VOL | £59

Cocoa / Marmalade / Milk chocolate

This single malt is a Highland triumph: full-bodied, thick and sweet. A popular dram, known for its long and spicy finish, and a beautifully rich expression for its 12 years of age.

⑥ Benrinnes 15 Year Old

70cl | 43% VOL | £54

Toffee apple / Sherry / Malted biscuit

This 15-year-old Speyside single malt is partially triple distilled at Benrinnes Distillery, resulting in a sultry expression that packs in plenty of body and character. It is another bottling from Diageo's Flora & Fauna series, highlighting the versatility of distilleries producing liquid for blends.

⑦ The Dalmore 15 Year Old

70cl | 40% VOL | £83

Terry's Chocolate Orange / Fruitcake / Sherry

An older sibling to The Dalmore 12 Year Old, this expression has been matured for 15 years in a trio of ex-sherry casks, as well as ex-bourbon barrels. It offers all of the sweetness and spice expected of The Dalmore.

⑧ Loch Lomond 18 Year Old

70cl | 46% VOL | £81

Apple / Honey / Tobacco

Matured in the finest oak barrels chosen by former Master Cooper Tommy Wallace, time has allowed this 18-year-old Highland malt to take on the sweeter character of the wood, while a subtle hint of peat and smoke ensures a balanced finish.

⑨ Arran 10 Year Old

70cl | 46% VOL | £44

Apple / Cinnamon / Digestive biscuits

An award-winning whisky that captures the fresh and unique style of this island distillery. A worthy addition to your whisky cabinet, this expression offers a fantastic introduction to the flavours from Arran.



THE WHISKY SHOP

Customer Favourites

Rich / Sweet

① Highland Park 18 Year Old Viking Pride

70cl | 43% VOL | £115

Fruit salad / Cinnamon / Allspice

Named 'Best Spirit in the World' in the Spirit Journal on two separate occasions, this 18-year-old offers the perfect balance of harmony, complexity and refinement. A consistently excellent malt from Orkney's Highland Park Distillery.



"The whisky that can do everything! A unique harmony of coffee, honey, dark chocolate and mellow smoke... it's really hard to find a whisky that gets every flavour point so exact. It's no wonder this bottle has theawards and reputation that it fully deserves."

→ Phil, The Whisky Shop Manchester

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② Mortlach 12 Year Old The Wee Witchie

70cl | 43.4% VOL | £52

Toffee / Marmalade / Raisins

Known as 'the Beast of Dufftown', Mortlach's spirit is distilled 2.81 times in a complicated process referred to simply as 'The Way'. Named after a tiny still that distils a portion of Mortlach's whisky, this 12-year-old is a perfect example of the distillery's intense character.

③ Oban Distillers Edition

70cl | 43% VOL | £82

Milk chocolate / Sea salt / Christmas cake

A distillery renowned for its innovation, each expression of Oban Distillers Edition undergoes double maturation in casks that have previously held a fortified wine. This edition has been finished in a Montilla Fino cask - a rare type of finish and a complete treat!

④ Glenfiddich Project XX

70cl | 47% VOL | £52

Cinnamon / Almond / Pear drops

The result of one of the most ambitious malt experiments undertaken by Glenfiddich, bringing together 20 whisky experts from around the world and combining each of their selected Glenfiddich casks. The result is something spectacular.

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⑤ **Glen Moray 15 Year Old**

70cl | 40% VOL | £56 **Dark chocolate / Sherry / Fudge**

Unquestionably Speyside in character, this expression showcases a carefully matured, complex and well-rounded whisky, aged in a combination of sherry and American oak casks, and influenced by Elgin's unique climate.

⑥ **Mortlach 16 Year Old Distiller's Dram**

70cl | 43.4% VOL | £83 **Gingerbread / Orange peel / Sultanas**

An older sibling to Mortlach 12 Year Old, this dram offers plenty of sweet and sticky Christmas spice thanks to maturation in sherry casks. A combination of first-fill and refill sherry casks gives this 16-year-old a wider range of sherry flavour, from dried fruits to juicy berries.

⑦ **Glen Scotia Victoriana**

70cl | 54.2% VOL | £75 **Crème brûlée / Cocoa / Caramel**

Inspired by the whiskies produced at Glen Scotia Distillery in the Victorian times, this expression has been relaunched at a slightly higher strength and bottled straight from cask to better reflect how historic expressions of this era would have tasted. Delicious!

⑧ **Benromach 10 Year Old**

70cl | 43% VOL | £43 **Green apple / Toffee / Black cherry**

Produced at the family-owned distillery in Forres and aged for a decade in first-fill bourbon and sherry casks, Benromach's 10-year-old is a dram that is unmistakably Speyside in flavour. It is the proud winner of multiple gold awards.

⑨ **The GlenDronach 12 Year Old**

70cl | 43% VOL | £52 **Marmalade / Sherry / Raisins**

An award-winning expression from the distillery famous for its richly sherried offering - this 12-year-old is a firm favourite amongst our customers. Matured in both Pedro Ximénez and Oloroso sherry casks, this expression offers an indulgent portfolio of flavours.

⑩ **The GlenDronach 18 Year Old Allardice**

70cl | 46% VOL | £120 **Stewed fruit / Walnut / Cherry**

An ode to James Allardice who founded the distillery and produced the very first drops of "guid Glenronach," this expression has been matured in the finest oloroso sherry casks. Rich and dark, it offers remarkable depth of flavour.

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THE WHISKY SHOP

Customer Favourites

Smoky

① Balvenie The Week of Peat 14 Year Old

70cl | 48.3% VOL | £75

Peat smoke / Butterscotch / Honey

The second release in The Balvenie Stories series, this expression was created by Distillery Manager Ian Millar who was inspired by a trip to Islay. For one week each year, Balvenie distil peated malt, introducing fragrant notes of smoke to the distillery's classic Speyside character.



"One of my favourite peated whiskies! This dram shows off all the strengths of Balvenie; fruity, sweet and fresh, but with a real kick of peat. It's surprising how the tropical fruits, bananas and vanilla combine perfectly with notes of black pepper, smoke and spice."

→ Imogen, The Whisky Shop Paris

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② **Ailsa Bay 1.2**

70cl | 48.9% VOL | £62

Vanilla / Shortbread / Campfire ember

Ailsa Bay 1.2 has undergone the distillery's signature micro-maturation process - rapid maturation in ex-bourbon casks before ageing in virgin American oak casks for several years - achieving a single malt that's even sweeter and smokier than its predecessor. Beautiful.

③ **Jura 18 Year Old**

70cl | 44% VOL | £77

Dark chocolate / Coffee / Blackcurrant jam

Matured for 18 years in American white oak ex-bourbon barrels and enriched by Premier Grand Cru Classé red wine barriques, this expertly crafted single malt is a unique island whisky that has truly come of age.

④ **Talisker Port Ruighe**

70cl | 45.8% VOL | £57

Cocoa / Plum / Spicy pepper

Rich and fruity, Talisker have taken their Isle of Skye malt and finished it in ruby port casks to achieve this delicious dram. 'Port Ruighe' (pronounced 'Portree') is the Gaelic spelling of the once bustling trading port on Skye.

⑤ **Caol Ila Distillers Edition**

70cl | 43% VOL | £71

Malted biscuit / Peat smoke / Cinnamon

A sweeter expression from the Islay distillery due to time spent in Moscatel casks at the end of its maturation process. The result is a delicious layer of sweetness and dried fruits on top of classic Caol Ila peat smoke.



THE WHISKY SHOP

Customer Favourites International

① Green Spot

70cl | 40% VOL | £47

Vanilla / Papaya / Chocolate

Produced at Midleton Distillery in Ireland and comprised of pot still whiskeys aged between seven and ten years old, this whiskey was once only available to buy at one grocery store in Dublin. It is now a whiskey held to high acclaim across the world - and rightly so!



"If you're looking for a delightful introduction to Irish whiskey, grab a glass of this! Light yet rich on the nose, with honey, apples and sherry. A sweet, malty creaminess emerges on the palate, joined by pears and apricots, with notes of cinnamon and mint in the finish. An Irish classic."

→ Tom, The Whisky Shop Bath

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② Bushmills 16 Year Old

70cl | 40% VOL | £92

Almond / Currant jam / Dark chocolate

Triple distilled at Northern Ireland's Bushmills Distillery, this 16-year-old Irish single malt has been matured in oloroso sherry casks and bourbon-seasoned casks for just over 15 years, before being finished in Port pipes for nine months to impart sweet, jammy flavours.

③ Maker's 46

70cl | 47% VOL | £46

Nutmeg / Mulled wine / Caramel

Filled into a barrel partly made of seared French oak staves, this stunning Kentucky bourbon packs plenty of spice and is named after the final recipe chosen by its creators - recipe number 46.

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**④ Writers' Tears
Copper Pot**

70cl | 40% VOL | £36 Apple / Ginger / Dark chocolate

A delectable recreation of a fabled whiskey favoured in 19th century Ireland by literary greats such as Joyce, Beckett and Bernard Shaw. A marriage of one cask, two grains and three distillations, the original soon became known as the 'Champagne of Irish Whiskey'. Today's recreation follows the same production process before being aged in American oak bourbon casks.

**⑤ Bulleit Bourbon
10 Year Old**

70cl | 45.6% VOL | £47 Apricot / Vanilla / Cinnamon

A top-notch Kentucky bourbon that has spent a decade in oak. With a mash bill of 68% corn, 28% rye and 4% malted barley, this is the go-to bourbon for a rich balance of creaminess and spice.

**⑥ Redbreast
12 Year Old**

70cl | 40% VOL | £52 Ginger / Marzipan / Dried fruit

This 12-year-old expression is an Irish single pot still whiskey full of aroma and flavour, praised by critics worldwide. Matured in ex-bourbon barrels and oloroso sherry casks, you can thank the latter for giving this whiskey its signature Christmas cake flavour.

⑦ Roe & Co

70cl | 45% VOL | £36 Pear drops / Allspice / Vanilla

Developed by Diageo Master Blender Caroline Martin, this is a whiskey that can be enjoyed neat or hold its own in a cocktail. A tasty blend of malt and grain from various distilleries across Ireland, this expression has been matured predominantly in first-fill bourbon casks.

**⑧ Hibiki
Japanese Harmony**

70cl | 43% VOL | £79 Vanilla / Sandalwood / Black pepper

A blended whisky from House of Suntory that brings to life the harmony of Japanese nature and craftsmanship. Grain whisky from Chita combines with malt whisky from Yamazaki and Hakushu to create a delicate and well-balanced expression that is both subtle and complex.



THE WHISKY SHOP

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EDINBURGH
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0131 225 4666

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SERVE THE LOCH FYNE CHOCOLATE & ORANGE LIQUEUR IN A TALL GLASS OVER ICE,
TOPPED UP WITH EQUAL PARTS FULL FAT MILK AND SODA WATER,
ACCOMPANIED BY A SQUARE OF DARK CHOCOLATE.

Expert Tasting: GlenDronach 50 Year Old



Whiskeria's Charlie Maclean delights in his tasting of the inaugural GlenDronach 50 Year Old, taking us to the taverns of Edinburgh along the way.

➤ The GlenDronach 50 Year Old is the distillery's first ever release at this milestone age. It was distilled in 1971 and matured onsite in Spanish oak ex-Oloroso sherry and Pedro Ximenez casks, selected and vatted together by Master Blender, Dr. Rachel Barrie.

Bottle No. 1 of this amazing malt achieved £40,000 at the 'One of One' charity auction organised by the Worshipful Company of Distillers in December. The successful bidder (plus a guest) were also entitled to a private 'behind the scenes' distillery tour and tasting with Dr. Barrie; including dinner in the former managers' residence, Glen House (built in 1771) overlooking the distillery, 4-star accommodation nearby, and travel to and from the distillery via Aberdeen airport.

Rachel Barrie describes her creation as: *"Rich and seductive with mellow layers of alluring complexity. On the nose, ripe dark cherry and plum are the prelude to a harmony of rolling stone fruit, gentian and a plume of smouldering tobacco, lifted by lilting notes of orange, bramble and cranberry."*

The palate brings an exquisite overture of flavour, with dense undertones of dark chocolate, tobacco and cocoa. A perfect counter comes in a crescendo of elegant plum and luxurious black cherry, enrobed in a swathe of velvet espresso."

My own tasting note is below, but it is

based on only a teaspoon of this rare spirit! Many now consider GlenDronach to be the benchmark 'sherry-matured' malt. The policy of filling into casks seasoned with Pedro Ximenez and Oloroso sherry was begun by the distillery's former owner and master blender, Billy Walker, who also inherited a substantial stock of long aged sherried whisky with which to build the brand.

He bought Glenronach in 2008, changed the brand name to GlenDronach, and sold the distillery to the American Brown-Forman Corporation in April 2016, along with its sister distilleries, BenRiach and Glenglassaugh.

The distillery was founded in 1826 by a group of farmers led by James Allardice, who has been described as an *"inventor, pioneer and entrepreneur; exuberant and extroverted."* The story goes that, soon after he commenced production, he travelled to Edinburgh with a small cask of his whisky with a view to taking cask orders from the city's taverns and spirits merchants. Alas, nobody was interested. Returning to his lodging in the Canongate one evening he fell in with a couple of 'ladies of the night' and, over a few drams of *"guid Glendronach,"* explained his predicament.

Impressed by the whisky and by his generosity, the ladies spread the word to their colleagues, who were not slow to join the merry tasting. Next day all the taverns on

the High Street were ringing with demands for GlenDronach from this motley crew... and as Allardice recorded in his memoirs, *"orders were swiftly forthcoming."*

Another charming story about Mr Allardice, who was a tenant of the Duke of Gordon, recalls a dinner at Gordon Castle, at which he was over-effusive in his praise of the Duchess of Gordon's piano playing. Reprimanded the following day, he replied: *"Well, Your Grace, it was just the trash o' Glenlivet you gave me after dinner [Glenlivet was also part of the Duke's estate]. If it had been my own guid Glendronach, I would not have been ony the war."*



GlenDronach 50 Year Old 1971

70cl	43.8% VOL
50 Year Old	£40,000
Speyside Single Malt	

Very deep amber with magenta lights; polished rosewood. A profound and highly aromatic nose - 100% dark chocolate, cherry liqueur, moist Christmas cake, Friar's Balsam (traditional cold remedy), a hint of cordite. Sweet and slightly salty, with a long finish and dark chocolate in the aftertaste.



Smooth TASTE

MADE FOR *sharing*

HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY



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