

Whiskeria®

Thrills and spills

Bestselling author
Stuart MacBride
reveals the secrets
of his craft



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IN THIS ISSUE

New Releases: Autumn Treats

Industry Insider: Dr. Rachel Barrie

A Time in History: Whisky Advertising

W Club: The Lakes Distillery

Auctions: Claive Vidiz Collection

Distillery Visit: Old Pulteney

Mixing It Up: Jura

Expert Tasting: Bowmore ARC-52

THE MAGAZINE OF

**THE
WHISKY
SHOP**

UNLOCKING
THE MYSTERY
OF WHISKY

ADVERTORIAL

Savouring Every Moment

To come of age is a once in a lifetime moment.
The Dalmore, led by pioneering Master Whisky Maker Gregg Glass and Master Distiller Richard Paterson OBE introduces a **21 Year Old 2022 Edition Highland Single Malt** like no other, the new pinnacle of The Dalmore Principal Collection.

SIGNATURE FINESSE

The inextricable affinity between The Dalmore and rare sherry casks reaches new heights in this symphonic signature Dalmore. Rare 30 Year Old Matusalem Oloroso sherry casks were specially selected by esteemed sherry house Gonzalez Byass, Jerez, Andalusia, celebrating a partnership between The Dalmore and this celebrated region which has flourished for over a century. The 21 Year Old is carefully balanced, using casks that have an initial maturation in American white oak ex-bourbon casks, before being finished in the deep, rich Matusalem casks. It is bottled at a higher strength of 43.8% ABV which reveals its subtle complexity.

ALCHEMY AND ARTISTRY

The Dalmore has reached new boundaries and territories in the pursuit of crafting exceptional whisky for exceptional enjoyment, gifting, and collecting. Gregg Glass, Master Whisky Maker at The Dalmore, has spent six years under the mentorship of Richard Paterson OBE immersed in understanding its exceptional DNA and Royal heritage. On this new release, Gregg reveals, *“The Dalmore 21 Year Old is a result of patience and craftsmanship which we’re tremendously proud to celebrate. We created this spirit for those looking for the finest of whiskies, whilst also creating an opportunity for those embarking on their whisky journey to try something truly inspirational and remarkable from The Dalmore.”*

THE DALMORE

Born with a noble purpose, to reimagine what it is to create an exceptional Single Malt Whisky, for 180 years The Dalmore has been a masterpiece in the making. A Single Malt Whisky like no other, overseen by an unbroken chain of visionary whisky makers whose entrepreneurial spirit and restless pursuit of the perfect whisky endures today. A result of patience and industry-leading craftsmanship, this crown jewel of The Dalmore’s collection is limited to 9,000 bottles and is only available to purchase in select locations worldwide. Presented in a navy display case worthy of a masterpiece, this new annual release is one of unrivalled complexity; a toast to the refinement that comes with age. A milestone in the history of The Dalmore, this release is an occasion to celebrate unforgettable moments.

Tasting notes

The Aroma: Generous and full as appealing aromas of dark bitter chocolate, overripe Seville oranges, Colombian coffee and vanilla come into play. A whisper of toffee apple and pecan pie dance in the background with great charm and persistence.

The Palate: Explosive, heart-warming as a cascade of alluring flavours roll over the palate; sweet liquorice stick, grippy Black Forest fruits, roasted walnuts and thick marzipan make their presence felt before another level of luxury follows on - succulent peaches in a thick syrup, ginseng, pear tarte tatin and Sanguinello blood oranges.

The Finish: Peaches, ginseng, pear tarte Tatin, and Sanguinello blood oranges, and a symphony of complexity, as the cacophony of flavours combine and reside in a feeling of wonder.

ABV: 70cl | 43.8% | £575



For what it's worth...

The Whisky Shop's Ian Bankier gives his thoughts on the recent record-breaking Ardbeg cask sale.



➔ In July, the whisky industry reacted to the news that a private collector had completed the purchase of a single cask of Ardbeg for £16m. The cask (Cask No.3) is 47 years old and will deliver 440 bottles. That would be £36,000 a bottle.

Let's recall a little bit of whisky history. Throughout the best part of the 20th century single malt Scotch whisky was laid laid down into casks for the purpose of blending. The whole raison d'être of single malt production was to service the blended scotch market. The Scotch whisky blender would start with grain whisky and supplement it by up to one-third with a variety of single malts. The grain whisky would provide smoothness and consistency, and the single malts would create the taste profile desired. And in exchange for their malt, single malt distillers would welcome the receipt of grain casks, so that they too could make a blended product of their own. The world of Scotch was all about blends – drinking and enjoying them.

Ardbeg, more so than its other Islay cousins, offered a very powerful and intriguing flavour ingredient that would have been used sparingly by the blender. By sparingly, we must be talking 'fine drizzle', as we all know the strength and intensity of the full peat smoke flavour. Ardbeg was never (almost never) bottled and sold as a single malt. People didn't understand it – most thought that it had been contaminated when they tried it. When it occasionally left Hiram Walker's bottling plant in Dumbarton, the packaging workers would say *'there goes another 1,000 customer complaints!'*

How did we go from that settled state of affairs to the point where a customer parts with £16m for a single cask? It's bonkers, surely, but we live in such times. If cryptocurrencies can and do command surreal valuations, then why not whisky? At least you can touch and taste whisky! At the end of the day, all things are worth what people are willing to pay for them. And if the

47 Year Old Ardbeg is worth £16m then so be it. There is no other way to base value: A Van Gogh is only canvas and coloured linseed oil; a Ferrari is only painted metal, leather and rubber; and the Ardbeg is only wood and solvent.

When it comes to highly rated and sought-after physical things, it's not about what they actually are, it's about what they seem. It's the buyer's perception — led by the market — that dictates the decision. And if that 'thing' represents £16m, which today it does, other things like it will find a new place in the value chain. Is this a good time to buy whisky, especially rare and collectable whisky? As I see it... yes it is.

Sláinte!

Ian P Bankier

Executive Chairman

THE WHISKY SHOP

THE MAGAZINE OF

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WHISKY
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Whiskeria[®]

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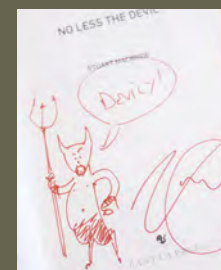
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Competition



Win! Exclusive whiskies, a luxury break, and signed Stuart MacBride novels.

For this issue we are delighted to offer two competitions instead of one, and both are free to enter. Multiple bottles of sensational whisky, signed books from a Sunday Times No.1 bestselling author, and a two night stay at Atholl Palace are just some of the brilliant prizes to be won! The details of the prizes are as follows. Be sure to enter both competitions so you don't miss out on both prizes.

COMPETITION A

- A bottle of Loch Lomond 2011 #1758, a spectacular and highly sought-after TWS exclusive.
- A signed hardback copy of Stuart MacBride's new bestselling crime novel, *No Less the Devil*.
- Two further signed hardback copies of *No Less the Devil* are available as runner up prizes

FOR YOUR CHANCE TO WIN, SIMPLY VISIT:
whiskyshop.com/whiskeria-competition

Competition A closes in mid-October.
 Competition B will run for six weeks until the 30th November.
 T&Cs apply. Winners will be contacted directly.

COMPETITION B

- A bottle of Rare Find Tranquillity 1985 Highland Single Malt, a single cask dram of world-renowned and classic Highland single malt, distilled in 1985 and bottled 35 years later for The Whisky Shop.
- A two night stay at Atholl Palace, courtesy of Country Hotel Breaks — Set in the Atholl estate in Perthshire overlooking the picturesque town of Pitlochry. Acclaimed as 'the epitome of Scottish Baronial splendour', the palace overlooks 48 acres of wooded parkland grounds, with history dating back from 1871 and situated in the heart of Highland single malt production. — This stay is for two adults in one double room and includes breakfast and dinner along with a bottle of fizz for when you arrive. Enjoy the beautiful sights by the River Tummel at a time of your choosing, the only question is who is lucky enough to enjoy the stay with you!
- A paperback copy of *No Less the Devil* by Stuart MacBride, and an advance proof copy of Stuart's next book, *The Dead of Winter*.

Contents Autumn 2022

- 9 New Releases | Seasonal Exclusives
- 22 News | Whisky Business
- 24 Whisky People | Festival Season
- 26 W Club | The Lakes Distillery
- 30 Auctions | Clave Vidiz Collection
- 32 Time in History | Whisky Advertising
- 36 Industry Insider | Dr. Rachel Barrie
- 42 Distillery Visit | Old Pulteney
- 52 Interview | Stuart MacBride
- 64 Mixing It Up | Jura: Wild and Beautiful
- 75 The Whisky Shop | Autumn Splendour
- 96 Expert Tasting | Bowmore ARC-52
- 98 The Last Word | Whisky Memories



52



34



36



64



42



50

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

9

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

32

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

42





New Releases: Autumn 2022

Reviewed by
Charles MacLean
& Phil Dwyer

anCnoc / Mortlach /
Teaninich / Jack Daniel's /
Cragganmore / Blair Athol /
Fettercairn / Balvenie /
Gold Spot

New Releases

Teaninich 2009 The Octave

The Whisky Shop
Exclusive

70cl	54.1% VOL
13 Year Old	£125
Highland Single Malt	

A burnt orange colour, with pineapple, lime juice and milk chocolate on the nose. The taste has a refreshing start full of exotic fruit juices, moving on into pecan and hazelnut, with chocolate spread and sugar cane. The finish packs in kiwi, apple, and lime with more creamy chocolate.

“The finish packs in kiwi, apple, and lime with more creamy chocolate.”



Teaninich is a distillery that many of us rarely hear or see anything about. Opened in 1817 by Captain Hugh Munro, it wasn't long before he sold it to his younger brother, John. John spent most of his time in India and as a result leased the distillery to the infamous Robert Pattison of Leith. Ownership swapped hands many times before the turn of the early twentieth century. A new distillation centre was built in 1970 consisting of six stills. Five years later, the 'dark grains' centre is built. This dark grains plant allows Teaninich to

experiment and distil grains such as rye for experimental releases, as well as general whisky curiosities.

A slow shutdown of the distillery begins in 1984, by 1985 the entire site has been mothballed. Luckily the site reopens in 1991 after the start of the first whisky boom, and in 1992 the Flora & Fauna Teaninich 10YO is released. Sadly not many releases from Teaninich have graced our shelves over the years. The distillery produces over 10,000,000 litres of whisky per year, most of this being a focus point for Johnnie

Walker, and other blended whiskies too. However, this allows independent bottlers such as Duncan Taylor to let this spirit shine through their Octave range.

The secondary maturation of this distillate in a seventy-litre sherry Octave has shown off a much more exotic side to what Teaninich can be, certainly when compared with the standard 10YO release in the Flora & Fauna series.
(CM)

Fettercairn 24 Year Old Loch Fyne Finest

70cl	53.6% VOL
24 Year Old	£185
Highland Single Malt	

Autumn sunlight - American oak maturation; excellent beading. A mellow nose-feel, lightly oily; the aroma is dry and savoury overall, but with suggestions of sweet fondant. A creamy texture and a sweet then savoury taste, with some spice in the finish and light vanilla toffee in the aftertaste.



Fettercairn Distillery stands close to the village of the same name in the Howe o' the Mearns, among the most fertile districts in Scotland. It was established in 1824 by the local laird, Sir Alexander Ramsay of Fasque, who sold his estate to Sir John Gladstone five years later. Sir John was the father of Prime Minister William Ewart Gladstone who, through his Spirits Act of 1860, which, among other provisions permitted the mixing of malt and grain whiskies before duty had to be paid and thus initiated a surge in blended Scotch.

It is a very traditional site, with a copper-covered, cast iron rake-and-plough mash tun and a unique arrangement on the two spirit stills which allows cold water to cascade down the sides of their necks in order to increase reflux and thus make for a lighter spirit character.

'The Imperial Gazetteer of Scotland' (1854) recounts a grim legend - repeated almost verbatim by Alfred Barnard in the entry for Fettercairn in his 'Whisky Distilleries of the United Kingdom' (1887) - about the murder of King Kenneth III in 1005. About a mile to the west of the distillery, there once stood a castle in which lived the Lady Fenella, daughter of the Earl

of Angus, whose son had been executed on the orders of the king. Seeking revenge, she invited Kenneth to visit and inspect an "infernal machine" in the form of a brass statue holding a golden apple. She invited the king to take the apple as a gift and "amused with the idea," he did so, upon which the statue released a shower of arrows. He was shortly after found by his attendants, "who having brak the dure, fund him bullerand [weltering] in his blude." Barnard concludes: "So much for a woman's vengeance."

Further research suggests that in fact Kenneth III was killed at the Battle of Monzievaird, close to Glenturret Distillery. (CM)

"Autumn sunlight - American oak maturation; excellent beading."

New Releases

Jack Daniel's Bonded Tennessee Whiskey

70cl 50% VOL

NAS £45

American Whiskey

The colour of golden syrup, the aroma is subtle - candy-floss top-notes (toasted sugar) supported by oak shavings, traces of orange peel, very light vanilla. The texture is creamy and the taste starts sweet, dries elegantly to cooling, herbal finish. A drop of water introduces spice to the finish.

These whiskeys are much more sophisticated and less obvious than the standard JD No.7; they are 'Sippin' whiskeys', worthy of consideration straight as well as over ice. Give them time to open up.

First, let me elucidate the labels. 'Straight whiskey' is defined in United States law as being distilled from a cereal grain mash and aged in new charred oak barrels for at least two years (three years if it is exported), no colouring may be added. 'Tennessee whiskey' is a species of straight Bourbon (made from at least 51% corn/maize) filtered through at least ten feet of sugar maple charcoal. 'Bonded whiskey' must be aged for at least four years, and bottled before duty is paid. 'Triple mash' relates to the 'sour mash' process pioneered by Jack Daniel's in the 19th century involving the addition of part of the previous day's mash to start the fermentation in each new batch. 'Blended straight whiskey' is a mix of more than one mature straight whiskeys. '100 degrees U.S. Proof' equals 50% ABV.

Here are some interesting 'pub quiz' facts about Jack Daniel (1846-1911). From the age of seven was raised by one Dan Call, a farmer-distiller, storekeeper and minister in Franklin County, Tennessee, and learned the craft of distilling from Call's

Jack Daniel's Triple Mash Blended Straight Whiskeys

70cl 50% VOL

NAS £45

American Whiskey

Deep amber, a subtle aroma which takes time to reveal caramel drizzled over vanilla ice cream, with a suggestion of toasted oak (especially with a drop of water). A creamy mouth-feel and a taste which starts lightly sweet then dries to a spicy, warming, finish. I was reminded of rye whiskey. More oaky at reduced strength and less spicy.

master distiller, a slave named Nearest Green. Making and selling 'firewater' did not please Call's congregation, so he sold his still to young Jack (aged 14).

Jack and Mr. Green made a decent business selling good whiskey during the Civil War (1861-65) and were the first distillery in America to register their distillery on the conclusion of the conflict. The location of their distillery was (and is) in Lincoln County, Tennessee, on a site where a previous distiller had invented the practice of maple charcoal filtration to 'soothe' the raw spirit prior to aging, known as the 'Lincoln County Process'.

Jack Daniel stood no more than 5ft.5ins. tall and weighed about 120lbs. He was known as 'Little Jack', but as a biographer notes: *"However, he never went unnoticed, since even when performing manual labor, he dressed very well in knee-length frock coat, a colorful vest, a string tie and a wide-brimmed planter's hat. Sporting a goatee, he was every inch the Southern gentleman."* (CM)

"The colour of golden syrup, the aroma is subtle - candy-floss top-notes..."



"Deep amber, a subtle aroma which takes time to reveal caramel drizzled over vanilla ice cream..."

anCnoc 2006

The Whisky Shop
Exclusive

70cl	57.6% VOL
16 Year Old	£145 (W Club £130)
Highland Single Malt	

Highly polished rosewood in colour, with crimson lights. The nose-feel is dry and prickly, but in time it opens to reveal cherry liqueur chocolate with traces of caramel and almonds, on a hessian base. The taste is sweet and vinous to start, then tannic and peppery, with a lengthy finish.

“The nose-feel is dry and prickly, but in time it opens to reveal cherry liqueur chocolate with traces of caramel and almonds...”



The distillery is Knockdhu, the product an-Cnoc, in terms of a gentleman's agreement made between Inver House Distillers (owners of Knockdhu) and Diageo (owners of Knockando Distillery) to avoid confusing customers. AnCnoc translates from Gaelic as 'the knoll'; knockdhu as 'dark knoll', and indeed the distillery stands in the shadow of just such an eminence, Knock Hill.

It was established by the Distillers Company Limited (DCL) in 1894 — the first malt whisky distillery to be commissioned by them; prior to this they had confined their interests to grain whisky production. The site chosen, five miles north-east of Keith in Aberdeenshire, was surrounded by 'good

barley country', with an excellent water source from springs on Knock Hill and 'an inexhaustible supply of excellent peats'. Furthermore, The Great North of Scotland Railway line between Aberdeen and Elgin ran adjacent to the site.

The distillery was licensed to John Haig and Sons, and the bulk of its whisky went into Haig's blends until it was sold to Inver House in 1988, having been closed for five years. The new owner released the first official bottling of Knockando in 1990, replaced by the first anCnoc three years later.

Writing in 1987, Michael Jackson remarked (in his *World Guide to Whisky*): "Although there have been occasional

merchants' bottlings, the Knockdhu whisky has never been easy to find as a single malt, and that is a matter for regret. It is a characterful whisky with a dry, fruity, almost pear-like aroma; a very full expressive palate, with a smooth, sweet fruitiness and a long warming finish".

He classified it as a Speyside — hence the 'pear-like' aroma — although it has always been labelled as a Highland or East Highland malt. This single cask bottling, exclusive to The Whisky Shop, is a first-rate example of the make, and the cask has done a splendid job in adding depth and complexity. (PD)

New Releases

Balvenie 27 Year Old Distant Shores

70cl 48% VOL

27 Year Old £1120

Speyside Single Malt

Blond in colour, with a mild and mellow nose-feel, the top-notes are of spun honey and muscovado sugar supported by a melange of soft fruits. A creamy, mouth-filling texture and a sweet taste with a pinch of salt, drying towards the long finish, with considerable spice and lingering warmth.

"...the top-notes are of spun honey and muscovado sugar supported by a melange of soft fruits."



The 'Distant Shores' referred to in the name of this whisky are those of Trinidad, for this is a rare rum-finished expression of the distinguished malt.

The rum came from Caroni Distillery, which was established in 1923 – some say 1918, and one source suggests 1899 – on the site of the old Caroni Sugar factory, owned by Tate & Lyle between 1936 and 1970, when they sold a 51% stake to the Trinidadian Government, who nationalised it in 1975. Much of its distinctive heavy-style, high strength rum went to the Royal Navy.

Despite being self-sufficient in molasses, the newly established Caroni Ltd. (1975) continued to lose money for the next 25 years. In 2001, the Government sold a 49% holding in Rum Distillers Limited

(Caroni's Rum Division) to Angostura, but a dispute over the value of the distillery's warehoused stock scuppered the deal, and Caroni was terminally closed in 2003 and demolished.

Its distinctive product is now among the most collected of all rums, according to the rumauctioneer.com website.

David Stewart M.B.E., Balvenie's Honorary Malt Master, was introduced to Caroni by his old friend, John Barret, Managing Director of Bristol Spirits, who had managed to acquire stocks of the rare spirit when the distillery closed. He explained: "As a distillery, they simply produced stunning, stunning rum. Most of it was originally used with stocks from other Caribbean islands to blend. But after the

distillery closed, the stock remained. Soon after that is when I acquired what I did and transferred it back to the UK."

David Stewart adds: "Rum has been a key part of The Balvenie's whisky-making for almost twenty years. We've experimented with casks from Cuba, Jamaica, Venezuela and Guyana, but this Caroni cask finish is really unusual. This rum, its qualities, the wood... I haven't ever experienced a rum finish quite like this one."

(CM)

Mortlach 19 Year Old Connoisseurs Choice 2002

70cl 56% VOL
19 Year Old £195 (W Club £175)
Speyside Single Malt

Gold in colour, with smells of honey, green apples with a very 'Clynelish'-like waxiness to it. More honey and apples arrive on the palate, but quickly becoming a big, chewy, classic Mortlach. Surprisingly soft on the palate despite the ABV. The finish is slightly salty with more waxy qualities. Some water turns the saltiness into a more cured meat flavour.

Being in Dufftown — the whisky capital of the world — Mortlach might not be the biggest producer in its region. But it is instrumental in both the history of single malt whiskies, and is important within blended whisky sales. The history of the distillery is colourful to say the least, from whisky production, to being shut down, being used as a church and even a brewery at time.

Mortlach was swapped and traded up until 1853 when George Cowie became a part owner, becoming the sole owner in 1867 and increasing the stills from 3 to 6 in 1897. Johnnie Walker and Sons then became owners in 1923, refurbishing the distillery in the early 1960's and ceasing the floor maltings in 1968. The mid to late nineties saw the release of the Mortlach Rare Malt Releases from 1972 and 1978, considered as some of the best to ever be bottled by the distillery. If you ever fancy a challenge in distillation, then do check out Mortlach's distillation methods... it is quite a diagram to see.

(PD)



"More honey and apples arrive on the palate, but quickly becoming a big, chewy, classic Mortlach."

New Releases

Blair Athol 31 Year Old Author's Series

70cl 45.6% VOL

31 Year Old £525

Highland Single Malt

The colour of chardonnay, aromas of lemon zest, pear drops and vanilla custard arise on the nose. The taste is driven by fruit juice with a very gentle arrival, moving into peach and creamy barley. Hugely textured and very oily. The finish is one of barley sugar, dried lemon peel with brioche and champagne.

One of the most visited distilleries in Diageo's portfolio, Blair Athol has around 80,000 visitors per year. Being in Pitlochry, it is on one of the most central areas to venture into whisky tourism, as well as touring the wonderful country of Scotland itself. Producing just under 3,000,000 litres a year, most of this being used for Bell's whisky, as well as Johnnie Walker, Blair Athol does produce a variety of spirit styles, including two different fermentation times. One of 46 hours, and the other of 104 hours. Founded in 1798, one of the few distilleries to still predate the 1800's, it is founded as the Aldour distillery, being renamed Blair Athol in 1825. The site is mothballed in 1932 before being purchased by Arthur Bell & Sons in 1933.

Production restarts in 1949 and the distillery jumps from strength to strength after. The visitor's centre is built in 1987 and in the early 1990's the Blair Athol 12YO is launched as part of the Flora & Fauna series, cementing the distillery in the hearts and minds of all whisky loving folks.

(PD)



"The colour of chardonnay, aromas of lemon zest, pear drops and vanilla custard arise on the nose."

Cragganmore 25 Year Old Author's Series

70cl	57.2% VOL
25 Year Old	£450
Speyside Single Malt	

Shoe polish, sherry-soaked raisins, patina leather, cocoa nibs, and espresso all come together on the nose, with the dram possessing a golden brown hue. The taste is bold and spicy to start with. Dark chocolate, cherries, old wood and heavily roasted coffee linger around your palate for an incredibly long time. The finish is drying and lengthy, with brown sugar, banana, and dates. The finish just does not stop.

“Dark chocolate, cherries, old wood and heavily roasted coffee linger around your palate.”



Cragganmore has an extremely interesting history that many of us aren't aware of. Despite being one of the original classic malt releases, Cragganmore keeps an extremely low profile in the whisky world. Founded by John Smith, the founder of Glenfarclas, in 1869, the distillery stayed in the family up until 1923. Prior to this, the distillery closed in 1917 but then reopened in 1918 by Mary Jane Smith who installed electric lighting. It was then sold in 1923 to Cragganmore-Glenlivet Distillery Co where ownership is shared between Mackie & Co

and Sir George Macpherson. Fast forward to 1927 when White Horse Distilleries is bought by DCL and have now obtained 50% of the Cragganmore distillery. DCL becomes the sole owner before the end of the 1960's and increases the still capacity from 2 to 4.

Moving into the late 1980's we see the formation of the Classic Malts range, a selection of whiskies designed to bring back whisky's popularity, and to break down the difference styles between regions. Cragganmore 12YO becomes

'the classic Speyside' whisky. Just before the Millennium hits, we see the launch of Cragganmore Distiller's Edition, a double maturation with port casks - still a best seller to this day. Some older releases of 16YO, 21YO and 25YO's have been released in the last two decades, but Cragganmore surpassed themselves with the release of a 48YO in 2020, some of the final distillate produced using their old coal fired stills. (PD)

New Releases

Gold Spot 9 Year Old 135th Anniversary Edition

70cl 51.4% VOL

9 Year Old £140

Irish Pot Still Whiskey

The colour of apple juice, smells of papaya, ginger, liquorice, malty biscuits, and apricot all culminate on the nose. The taste contains notes of powdered sugar, green apples, camomile, and black tea. The finish is long and mellow, with ginger, cardamom, and warming barrel spice. Very calming elements to this whisky.

The new Midleton Distillery was officially opened in July 1975. The Old Midleton Distillery, still located in Cork and found just down the road from the new facility, has had an incredible past. Starting its life as a woolen mill, then a military barracks and finally a distillery in 1825, running in operation until its closure in 1975.

The biggest distillery in the Republic of Ireland, home to the world famous Jameson's blended whisky, along with a host of other very reputable brands, have their 135th anniversary ode to Mitchell & Son's as a whisky broker. The distillery firstly is a behemoth, hosting 10 pot stills, 6 column stills and 48 washbacks! This place is undeniable in its output, equalling about 64,000,000 litres per year.

Gold Spot is the first 'new' release in the spot range as it doesn't draw on specifications from older bottles that have gone away and then come back like Red Spot and Blue Spot. Building on a foundation of ex-bourbon and sherry casks, much like the the other releases, Gold Spot has now brought in the use of ex-bordeaux wine casks and ex-port pipes to make this release really stand out in the range.

(PD)



"The colour of apple juice, smells of papaya ginger, liquorice, malty biscuits and apricots."

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Private client service	✓	✗



House of Hazelwood



Charles MacLean takes us through the line-up of House of Hazelwood, an exciting new presence in the whisky industry, and one that is here to stay. Hazelwood House near Dufftown is owned by the Gordon family and has played a significant role in the lives of several generations of this whisky-making dynasty. Now the Gordon family has unlocked their own archive of unusual and long-aged casks from all over Scotland, to be bottled under the House of Hazelwood name.

Every whisky within the launch collection has been drawn from the Gordon family's private collection and selected by virtue of their historical importance and rarity as well as their exceptional flavour profiles. House of Hazelwood plans to reveal further treasures from the private collection each year.

The current release of eight expressions is grouped under two series, with every release bottled in its natural state — at cask strength, non-chill filtered and natural colour.

The Charles Gordon Collection comprises old and extremely rare bottlings and carries the name of one of Hazelwood House's best known former residents. Charles was a remarkable man, a larger-than-life character and the driving force behind the creation of the Girvan grain whisky distillery. The collection includes:

The First Drop 1964 the first spirit to be made at Girvan Distillery; only 71 bottles filled, at 58 years old.

The Cask Trials 1968 this is a single grain from Girvan, matured as an experiment in a first-fill European oak sherry butt and still lively (49%ABV) after 54 years.

Blended at Birth 1965 the blending of new-make malt and grain spirits prior to maturation was, I think, pioneered by Hiram Walker & Company in the early 1960s. For some reason the practice is now banned.

The Long Marriage 1966 unknown malts and grains blended at six years old then matured for 50 years in a European oak ex-Oloroso sherry butt and 'held back' to see how it developed.

The Legacy Collection is equally historical and 'experimental', but slightly younger (46-33 years old!) and not single cask bottlings.

Sunshine of Speyside 39YO is a blended malt with a vibrant, fruit-forward profile composed entirely of malt whisky from the Speyside region.

Spirit of Scotland 46YO — in 1994 the Scotch Whisky Association invited the industry to submit blended Scotch whiskies for a competition to celebrate the 500th anniversary of the first written reference to distilling in Scotland. Grants 18YO didn't win, but this rare example of their entry continued its marrying for a further 28 years!

The Lost Estate 43YO — this is a blend of two deceased grain distilleries produced in the 1970s. The name was inspired by Alain Fournier's 1913 novel of the same name [Le Grand Meaulnes] which "*embodies the romantic ideal, the search for the unobtainable*".

The Tops 33YO — is a blended malt of malts rated Top Class, sherry matured from the late 1980s when Grants began to work with an unspecified bodega.

A remarkable collection of whiskies.



Tasting notes



House of Hazelwood The Cask Trials 1968

54YO single cask grain whisky | 49% ABV | £3800

Unusually for a grain whisky, this has been matured in an Oloroso sherry butt, which has given it a deep ruby tint. Nose-drying overall, the rich top notes are of dried fruits macerated in Armagnac, with pencil shavings at base. A creamy texture, the taste is a compelling balance of sweet (from the maize) and dry (from Spanish oak), with a cool mentholic aftertaste.



House of Hazelwood Sunshine on Speyside

39YO blended malt whisky | 42% ABV | £950

Pale straw in colour — winter sunshine. The first impression on the nose is of white grape must, lightly vinous, backed by roasted pineapple and bruised apple, with light cereal notes (brown rice) at base. A smooth texture and a sweet taste to start, immediately becoming crisply acidic, with a shortish finish.

House of Hazelwood The Tops

33YO blended malt whisky | 51% ABV | £1450

Deep umber, polished rosewood; excellent beading. A richly complex aroma, with maraschino cherries, crystallised rose petals and coffee beans (freshly ground), with some chocolate powder at base. A mouth-filling, full bodied texture and a sweet taste, drying in a long lightly mentholic and warming finish.

Whisky business

1 The stamp of approval

The Scotch Whisky Association has successfully registered 'Scotch Whisky' as a certification trademark in the United States. The recognition of the term becoming a trademark strengthens the legal protection for Scotch, which will make enforcement against counterfeit products being sold or passed off as Scotch whisky easier. SWA Chief Executive Mark Kent called the move "a milestone for Scotland's national drink in our largest global market." A recent Australian-UK trade deal has also been struck but failed to secure the same protection for Scotch whisky. However, the Department of International Trade are wanting to underline that protections are in place, and suffice for the time being.



2 Michelin-starred supper with The Macallan

Glasgow's Michelin-starred restaurant, Cail Bruich, has partnered with The Macallan, offering diners a unique after-dinner experience. The collaboration brings whisky and tea pairings with sweet treats from Scotland's leading chef, Lorna McNee, Head Chef of Cail Bruich. Offered at the end of the meal, the serve experience will be a decadent and luxurious take on Scotland's traditional 'tea and cake supper'. Marco Di Ciacca, Marketing Manager at The Macallan said: "We look forward to seeing The Macallan and Cail Bruich unite through this unique yet quintessentially Scottish dining experience. As two brands that champion shared values of excellence, fine hospitality, and craftsmanship, we are thrilled to continue to build on our existing relationship with one of Scotland's finest establishments in the F&B sector, creating an incredible experience for the consumer."



3 The future of scotch

Global demand for Scotch has continued to grow, and investment is pouring into distilleries and visitor centres across the UK. Chivas Brothers announced £88m into its Aberlour and Miltonduff distilleries, with the company set to upgrade to sustainable distillation. Diageo are also transforming Singleton of Glen Ord visitor centre, which has just been completed. This arrives as part of the company's £185 million investment in Scottish visitor attractions. Already completed are Glenkinchie, Clynelish, and Cardhu, as well as the state-of-the-art Johnnie Walker visitor experience in Edinburgh. Next on the list for the company is Talisker Distillery, and Caol Ila later this summer.





4 Preserving the story of whisky

A new collection reflecting the nation's thriving whisky industry has been unveiled by National Museums Scotland. The exhibit contains whiskies, packaging, and other materials from the start of the millennium. According to the museum, the whisky industry has undergone a period of reinvention in recent years. Laura Scobie, doctoral researcher at National Museums Scotland, said the items do not only tell the story of the industry, but "reveal a picture of Scotland in the early 21st century that will now be preserved for generations to come". This is not the only new whisky exhibition in Scotland, Scotch Whisky Investments intends to showcase the Unseen Valentino Zagatti Collection in a new museum planned as part of a major development in Fife, featuring more than 3,000 bottles and 300 brands.



5 Whisky distilling returns to capital of the Highlands

Inverness is set to welcome its first new whisky distillery for nearly 40 years, after the opening of a £6 million distilling and brewing site was announced. Nestled on the banks of the River Ness, Uilebheist is a new low carbon distillery and brewery. The team behind the project say their ethos is inspired by thousands of years of Scottish folklore and aims to "connect Scotland's ancient past with the present". Owner Jon Erasmus said: "Creating both beer and whisky simultaneously will allow us to offer an immediate product and whilst we wait for the whisky to reach maturity, there will be an opportunity to own one of a limited number of casks of the Uilebheist Single Malt Whisky distilled in the first year of production, through our cask programme."

6 The future of flavour-pairing

Diageo, the second largest distiller in the world, has purchased Vivanda, a flavour-matching service. The technology maps a consumer's preferences across a wide variety of tastes and aromas. After collection, the technology is able to recommend brands against the consumers preferences, helping to promote drink exploration and offer a clear path to other flavours. The technology, called FlavourPoint, is used in the Journey of Flavour experience at Johnnie Walker Princes Street in Edinburgh - which, as a few lucky members from The Whisky Shop recently found out, is as brilliant as it sounds.



7 Irish whiskey's renaissance

After decades of small-scale production, Irish whiskey global sales have surged. From just four operational distilleries in 2010, there are now 42 distilleries that are in operation. Global sales of Scotch still dominate the whisky landscape: Scotch sells 1.3bn bottles yearly, compared to 190m bottles of Irish whiskey. As many will be aware, Irish whiskey became nearly wiped out during the 20th century, with only two distilleries by the 1980s. Many attribute the resurgence to new offerings, younger drinkers, and a greater interest in Irish whiskey in the US.

Whisky people

As in-person whisky festivals reappeared across the UK for the first time in two years, we asked a few industry experts to give us the scoop on what's been happening.

ILLUSTRATION: KATIE SMITH



Fèis Ìle 2022
 > Rachel MacNeill
 Islay Whisky Academy

After hosting a virtual Fèis for the last two years, it was amazing to physically feel the atmosphere of people in a room for a tasting. Atmosphere is tangible, it makes you high and enthusiastic – there is nothing better than the buzz in a good tasting. It was great to hug friends — old and new — and to share our drams without having to send them out by post!

Ìle is a different kind of whisky festival – people don't just come here to drink whisky. People come to catch up with friends, to enjoy walking along our beaches, to listen to music, to hang out with cigars and drams in campsites. We have a saying '*Come for the Whisky — Return for the Island*'. Most people who come to Fèis Ìle fall in love with the place. It's a different experience coming here than it is to attending any other festival - it must be the magic of Islay!



We're witnessing a real resurgence of interest in our region's whiskies.



Whiskey Live Dublin 2022
 > Laurie Dwyer
 Whisky Chats

It's been an exciting time to be in and around Irish whiskey in recent years, as the category has experienced hitherto unprecedented growth. And as we head into the tenth decade since the number of distilleries on the island started to grow almost exponentially; the category's rude health was reflected in this year's Whiskey Live Dublin (WLD).

WLD is a standout event in the Irish whiskey calendar, and this year celebrated life at a home in the Royal Dublin Society, having outgrown its previous home in Dublin Castle. This move is explicitly reflective of the aforementioned rise in output, and there must have easily been 40% more exhibitors there this year compared to 2019 (that being the last time the event was held, due to matters that'll be obvious to the reader).

The significance of the event to the domestic industry is further evidenced by the attendance of some legends of Irish whiskey; with Billy Leighton, Kevin O'Gorman and John Teeling just a few of the big names in attendance. In addition, a personal highlight, were the 'unicorn' whiskeys lucky guests had the opportunity to try through the various masterclasses.



Campbeltown Malts Festival 2022
 > Nick Bradley, Brand Manager
 Glen Scotia and Littlemill

For Glen Scotia, this year was all about celebration. It was a celebration of being able to welcome people back through our doors again after a two year pause to the festivities. But also, importantly, it was a chance to celebrate an incredible twelve months for the distillery, with our Glen Scotia 25 Year Old winning Best in Class at the World Spirits Competition and then shortly after being named Scottish Distillery of the Year at the Scottish Whisky Awards.

This year's festival bottling was a 9-year-old unpeated single cask matured in first fill bourbon barrels. I am a big fan of Glen Scotia with a simple ex-bourbon only maturation — a 'beautiful simplicity' as Iain would say. This year's was a belter, a real taste of the distillery's signature style.

We have returning guests who travel in from as far as the US and various parts of Asia every year. It's touching to see, and I love the sense of familiarity between everyone. Plus, with new neighbouring distilleries on the horizon it is truly an exciting time to visit. We're witnessing a real resurgence of interest in our region's whiskies, so I cannot wait to see what next year brings, and rest assured we have some big plans coming for next year's festival...



There must have easily been 40% more exhibitors there this year compared to 2019.



The pace of nature



From July, W Club members can take advantage of a unique discount on tours at The Lakes Distillery. This inspired W Club manager Luke Crowley Holland to embark on a fact-finding mission.



W Club Offer The Lakes Distillery



From July until 31st December 2022, Members of The W Club will receive **20% off on The Lakes Distillery's Regular Tour** and Chocolate Pairing Tour. Usually £35, W Club members will be able to nab tickets to the tastings for £28.

Find out how to receive this discount, and check out our other partner offers by logging into our W Club Members Hub, or join the W Club by visiting www.whiskyshop.com/my-club/join



➔ Twenty miles north — as the crow flies — of Bassenthwaite Lake in Cumbria is the famous Solway Firth, which separates the home of the Lake District from the Scottish county of Dumfries. This is also the demarcation of where production of Scotch ends and the burgeoning world of English whisky begins.

Earlier this year the English Whisky Guild (EWG) was founded to support and promote this rapidly growing category, with the EWG predicting a 189% growth in production of English whisky from 2019 to 2023. And sitting next to the aforementioned beautiful Bassenthwaite Lake (the only official lake in the Lake District), is one of the standard-bearers for English whisky: The Lakes Distillery.

The vision shown by founder Paul Currie when he embarked on the project over ten years ago received the ultimate validation in March this year when The Lakes Distillery's The Whiskymaker's Reserve No.4 was awarded the prestigious title of World's Best Single Malt at the World Whisky Awards in London. The final piece of evidence, if one was needed, that this distillery — based in a retrofitted Victorian farm — is delivering the full package.

It is estimated that almost 16 million people visit the Lake District every year,

and one glance at the gorgeous scenery on route to the distillery will tell you why. You could imagine selecting the location of the distillery must have been a no-brainer. The site is stunning, with striking stonework — exemplified by the quatrefoil symbol found around the buildings, uncovered in the original masonry during the restoration — and sitting among the lush green foliage that typifies this part of the country.

It's not just the location and distillery aesthetics that might attract visitors to this new distillery. The tour experience is first-rate. We were delighted to be led by the top class tour guide Phil.

It is well paced, informative and refreshingly transparent; and the on-site bistro and gift shop give you all you need to fill your time (and bags) before or after. And that's without having a gawk at the alpacas, or taking the short stroll down to the River Derwent that feeds the distillery's production — which ever so serendipitously translates as 'river of oaks'.

But establishing the distillery at this location was not all plain sailing. It turns out that building a distillery in a National Park comes with logistical and financial challenges. The original founders had to keep the distillery almost entirely within the existing Victorian structures to keep from falling



*From top: Bassenthwaite Lake; The Lakes Distillery;
Lake District National Park*



It is estimated that almost 16 million people visit the Lake District every year, and one glance at the gorgeous scenery on route to the distillery will tell you why.

W Club



foul of laws around planning and building in the district, in addition to other restrictions which are in place to maintain the natural beauty and uniqueness of the area, which became inscribed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2017.

As well as attracting a steady flow of visitors, many new distilleries seek to garner interest while their own distillate matures by producing spirits that require little or no time in the wood. The Lakes did this when they released The Lakes Gin — which at the time was the only gin produced in Cumbria — and The Lakes Vodka. In addition to this, in October 2013, they also launched the world's first 'British blended whisky', produced using third party stock from 'across the British Isles'.

However, while iterations of these three products can still be acquired, the company now boasts whisky of its own, and has done for nearly five years. It was clear on-site that morale was high. From the massively positive reception of some of the distillery's recent releases, you can see why. And the production process of The Lakes single malt whisky is both brilliantly unique and familiar all at the same time.

Using barley malted in Yorkshire and water from the Derwent, the wash is fermented for over 90 hours before being double distilled on the wash and pot stills — charmingly named Susan and Rachel respectively — and captured off the latter at around 70% before being transported off site for casking.

The next stage is one of the most unique aspects to the distillery's production. Toni Morrison said you should "write the book you want to read". At The Lakes, they endeavour to 'make the whisky they want to drink'. And while vital parts of the process may start at the source of the river Derwent, the folk at The Lakes will tell you that when you're making a whisky that will one day claim the title of 'World's Best Single Malt', you need a world class cask management system.

This starts with their 'Whiskymaker', Dhavall Gandhi. He works with a trusted partner in Seville to create bespoke whisky casks from different types of oak seasoned with various types of sherry; from oloroso, Pedro Ximenez, fino and more. Unlike the vast majority of the other UK whisky producers — who use ex-American whiskey barrels to cradle its new make — as much as 90% of The Lakes distillate will go into these specially sourced sherry casks. The careful selection of these casks is the first step in the distillery's unique system of 'active involvement during maturation.'

For it is from here that the whiskymaker uses a concept known as *élevage*, inspired by the cognac and sherry industry, and a complex



system of progressive blending, inspired by the perfume industry. The former involves closely tracking the maturation of the whisky using thousands of datapoints collected through constant sampling. At the same time the whiskymaker will identify the desired flavour profile of a potential future release and uses this as framework which select casks are blended and re-casked over its lifetime in order to achieve the desired results. This is a unique departure from the arrangement in the vast majority of distilleries, including some that are quite hands on in their sampling as cask management. And while it may seem like a brain scratcher to get your head around this system, the best way to judge it is to try it for yourself.

Part of the company's ethos reads: "Challenging convention doesn't mean rejecting whisky's heritage, but respecting it." And if you ever follow the W Club, and make use of our limited-time offer and visit to the distillery yourself, you'll notice that what they are doing in Cumbria is both a considerable departure from what you'd expect from whisky, while at the same time being intimately familiar.

And if any of the above has piqued your interest, and you want to find out more, then luckily for you W Club members can make use of a 20% discount on tours at the distillery.

You can find out more about this offer and join

us on a journey to 'Unlock the Mystery' of whisky by visiting:

whiskychop.com/my-club/join

and signing up to the W Club today.

Or if you're already a member, then check out our 'Partner Offers' on The W Club 'Members Hub'.



In safe hands



Angela Dineen, Operations Director at Diageo's Clave Vidiz Collection, walks us through one of the most impressive collections of Scotch in the world.



The best things about the collection are the sheer variety of brands it contains, and the personal connections visitors have with the bottles.

How did a collection as big as the Clave Vidiz come to be?

Clave Vidiz lives in Sao Paulo, Brazil. During his climb to the top of his business in the 60s and 70s he frequently came into contact with the very prestigious and well-regarded Scotch whisky. It became know that when colleagues travelled to Brazil on business, they would always be invited to join Clave for a dram at the end of the day. His reputation for loving Scotch became strong and a Scottish colleague brought him six bottles of single malt, introducing him to the "really good stuff". It was given with the explicit instruction to open them and share them only with his very best friends. Clave was so overwhelmed and appreciative that he never did open these six bottles and they formed the foundation of the 3,384 strong collection of bottles that we house today.

I imagine you could teach our readers one or two things about storage. What are the main things you take into consideration when storing your whiskies?

We keep a close eye on the temperature and humidity in the vault to ensure we protect the collection; a couple of the bottles are over 120 years old so you can imagine how fragile some of the labels are. The glass units are not hermetically sealed so we do have to dust the bottles regularly. This is done with museum grade gloves, clean cloths, and no product. For storing at home, we would suggest that you keep the bottles out of direct sunlight and store them upright.

Are there any types of whisky that were not collected?

The collection features single malt Scotch whiskies from each of the regions; Lowlands, Highlands, Speyside, Islay and Campbeltown, blended malts, blends, single grains, and Scotch whisky liqueurs. A high percentage of the collection is blended Scotch whisky; which is reflective of the industry given that almost 90% of all Scotch sold globally is also blended. There are many bottles which don't feature but as a collection it is a wonderful liquid history collected over the course of almost 40 years depending on what was available to Clave during these four decades. The oldest bottles date as far back as 1896.

Are these bottles ever opened?

None of the bottles in the collection have ever been opened. Clave also had an extensive whisky collection in his private bar at home which he did sample so sometimes he bought two bottles, one for the collection and one for his bar. There is evaporation from some of the bottles but that's just the angels taking their share as the seals in some of the old bottles aren't quite perfect.

How do the tastings work?

Here at The Scotch Whisky Experience all visitors sample a dram of their choice in the beautiful amber glow of the collection. These vary on a daily basis allowing visitors to choose from the regions, or a first-rate blended Scotch whisky. On our Gold Tour guests sample one of each of the five regions. For some of our visitors this will be their first taste of Scotch whisky and



we could think of no better backdrop for what we hope will be a truly memorable moment for them.

Is there one whisky that constitutes the crown jewel in this collection?

There are so many wonderful bottles within the collection but the two oldest are standouts — a Buchanan’s dating back to 1896 and a Dewar’s from 1901. The best things about the collection are the sheer variety of brands it contains, and the personal connections visitors have with the bottles – from quirky ceramics, to limited editions, to standard bottles that you can recognise as favourites from your parents and grandparents’ drinks cabinets.

What do you like about the whisky industry today?

The same thing I loved when I first started working in the world of whisky 25 years ago — the people and their passion. The stories behind the brands and the innovative and diverse ways you can enjoy our national drink. It’s a real privilege to spend my days helping the world fall in love with Scotch whisky.

What advice would you give to a beginner looking to start their own Clave Vidiz collection?

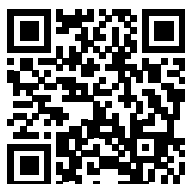
Invest in some strong shelves! I love that

anyone has the passion to commit to collecting anything, especially Clave and the collection he amassed over 37 years. It’s such a great legacy and it’s amazing to see how people react when they first see it – it’s such a ‘wow!’ I love Scotch whisky and think it’s best enjoyed with friends, there are so many wonderful memories to be made over a dram or two. Maybe the advice would be to invest in two bottles at a time, like Clave did with his favourites. One for your collection and one to open and enjoy.

The whisky you would personally like to try the most?

Within the collection I’m fascinated by the oldest bottles and intrigued to see what they taste like, but I think personally I’d like to try one of the bottles of the older Benrinnes which my granda would have had a hand in making.

To build your own collection of weird and wonderful bottles, visit TWSA today:



Clave Vidiz Collection, Scotch Whisky Experience



Standing out from the crowd



Brian Wilson takes a look at the changing attitudes in whisky advertising, and how the modern whisky brand markets itself.

Knowledge Bar New demographics



A recent study of the world's leading whisky brands found posts on Instagram featuring men outstripped women by 228% in 2020.

Fred Minnick, author of *Whiskey Women*, estimates 15% of whiskey drinkers were women in the 1990s. Now, in 2021, almost 40% of women are whiskey drinkers.

Diageo is included in the 2022 Bloomberg Gender-Equality Index (GEI) which recognises companies committed to transparency in gender reporting and advancing women's equality.

➔ It used to be so straightforward. Since the late 19th century, the whisky industry knew how to market itself: come up with great slogans; employ the most creative agencies and artists; and, of course, invest heavily in advertising.

"Don't be Vague, Ask for Haig". "You can take a White Horse anywhere". "Bell's Afore Ye Go". "Dewar's - It Never Varies". "Johnnie Walker... still going strong", to name but a few. The best measure of effective advertising is how long the brand names and slogans stay in impressionable minds. Whisky's image makers certainly passed that test.

As any Scottish barman knows, the whisky drinker has always liked to display a degree of knowledge through loyalty to a particular brand. In his *History of Scotch Whisky Advertising*, John Hughes wrote: *"From the earliest days of advertising, whisky brand owners have sought to assure customers that their brands have a consistent quality. It is a recurring theme, sometimes in a small strap line or as the main subject of an advertisement"*.

The objective today is the same. As new generations and demographics are drawn into a fiercely competitive market, the aim of any campaign is to attract loyalty — preferably lifelong — to a particular label on the gantry, rather than just to whisky in general. The aim may be the same, but the tools are much more varied.

While mainstream media advertising still dominates for the big budget behemoths, the industry is also embracing social media. Young people, famously, do not read newspapers or, to a lesser extent, magazines.

They do however flit endlessly through images offered by Instagram or video clips on Twitter. They follow 'influencers' by the million.

These channels offer opportunities to emerging brands which could never compete in 'spend' with the big boys. They have also highlighted the weaknesses - some would say complacency - of whisky's historic marketing. The target was always overwhelmingly male and white. Looking through John Hughes' generously illustrated book, it is almost impossible to find a female image, far less a person of colour, over the course of a century.

Brands were marketed via Harry Lauder-meets-*Monarch of the Glen* images of Scotland; by noble portrayals of working men; by identification with sports like golf, cricket, even polo. Sometimes, for publications aimed at the upper end of the market, there were more sophisticated role models wearing cravats. But never women or ethnic minorities — except perhaps the occasional waiter.

That approach carried over into Scotch whisky's traditional export markets - male advertising for a male clientele. Eventually, awareness dawned that this ignored huge sectors of the global population and it would require different approaches to break down perceptions — as well as respond to growing criticism of lack of diversity.

Mal Spence, who has worked on both sides of the bar, including as a stint as global brand ambassador for Black Bottle, says: *"Whisky has come late to diversity and inclusion and over the last five to ten years it has really been called out on its advertising. This has been driven on social media by influential figures like Georgie*



DON'T BE VAGUE



Haig

NO FINER WHISKY GOES INTO ANY BOTTLE

A Time in History



brands and beautifully packaged new entries from the big players, the growth of the market could really be female driven”.

That trend has been at its strongest in Asia where women have played a huge part in the whisky boom. For affluent women in countries like China, Taiwan and Vietnam, whisky brand awareness is a mark of discernment. Advertising has had to follow that gender neutral market. The old Asian stereotype of hard-drinking men-only whisky bars is increasingly outdated.

Race is another area in which there is a belated awakening to a marketing opportunity as well as basic respect for equality. Last year, Diageo launched a ten-year initiative in the US called Pronghorn. Its aim, according to Debra Crew, Diageo North America’s president, is “to effectively diversify a whole industry”.

It was tacit recognition that there is more to diversity than a consumer headcount, as Pronghorn’s co-founder Dia Simms made clear: “It’s important that the Black community is represented on both sides of the bar, from brand creation to boardrooms and everywhere in between”.

Back home in Scotland, the industry has taken the same message on board in respect of women. Mal Spence says: “I would say now that the majority of people working in the industry are female, at all levels. I’ve never seen anything flip on its head so quickly and that has been driven by pressure through blogs and social media”.

Mal now presides at the Kelvingrove Café in Glasgow. He says that most customers who ask for a specific brand still name the ones they see in every airport duty free they pass through. However, he nominates the Leith-based brand Woven as a good example of how the new marketing routes can generate curiosity.

“A lot of people are scared to dip their toes in whisky because they think it’s too complicated. What Woven have really nailed through social media is to make it about the taste and experience, not about years and regions. So, if a customer sees it behind the bar, there’s curiosity and they are prepared to give it a go”.

There is room in the market for producers both large and small. For every brand, the challenge is to make itself stand out from the crowd and create its own devoted following. Social media is helping to ensure that a thousand flowers can bloom while teaching that diversity is not just a duty but an essential commercial imperative.

education which was the established role of the brand ambassador”.

Ervin Trykowski is a respected name in that modern world, currently as Global Ambassador for Singleton. He says: “Depending on where you are in the world, the way whisky is marketed changes a lot. I was in Colombia recently and whole restaurants were emblazoned with one particular single malt or another. This isn’t something you would see in Scotland.”

“Whisky has always adapted in the ways it has been marketed so it should come as no surprise that we are seeing more and more social media content showing Scotch in new and interesting lights.” Brand ambassadors are now expected to entertain as well as inform – and the audiences are most definitely gender neutral.

MT Rainey, a Dumbarton-born legend in the advertising world, worked on early campaigns to widen the whisky demographic internationally. She says much of the drive for change closer to home came from global markets, like North America and Asia, where the idea of any product being a white, male preserve was an invitation for a challenge from empowered women and minorities.

“In the US, many niche or quirky products benefited from the protest vote against convention and stereotype. Whisky, bourbon, and tequila in particular grew rapidly in the 90s with ethnic minorities. For the big brands who needed volume, the trick of marketing across gender and demographics was always difficult, though Johnnie Walker managed it really well with the Keep Walking campaign which was about attitude and spirit, rather than age and stage.

“Whisky was always a spirited choice that appealed to independent minded women. Now I think with the explosion of single malt



Whisky has come late to diversity and inclusion and over the last five to ten years it has really been called out on its advertising.

Bell (now Global Malts Ambassador for Bacardi) and Becky Paskin (who founded Our Whisky Foundation to campaign for diversity in the industry)”.

Social media influencers and brand ambassadors may come from very different cultures compared to traditional advertising but the aim is still the same – to differentiate between brands and ideally create an environment in which customers are unlikely to ask for anything as generic as ‘whisky’.

Mal says the Covid lockdown forced a rethink about the role of brand ambassadors. “For two years, they were grounded so the companies had to find something to do with them. They discovered different talents that worked on Instagram – more about fun and less about

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Crafted without compromise
from American and European
oak sherry seasoned casks.

THE MACALLAN DOUBLE CASK RANGE



Steve McCurry
Photography by Steve McCurry

The **MACALLAN**
MAKE THE CALL

In her element

We are delighted to welcome Dr. Rachel Barrie back to Whiskeria as she reaches a new career milestone. After trailblazing a path through the whisky industry for thirty years, we reflect with her on her inspiring career, and her inspiring career, and what lies ahead.

➔ **On your 30th anniversary as a Master Blender, can I ask how it all started?**

When I was a child, I wanted to be a ballerina or a concert pianist! But growing up in rural Aberdeenshire and being surrounded by so many distilleries certainly had an influence, as did my father. He was a big single malt fan, who shared a deep appreciation of the ‘water of life’. What started as an interest became a hobby; I loved visiting distilleries and tasting different malts, and this eventually became my job.

With an Honours degree in Chemistry, and unsure what to do next, I stumbled across a job on the last day it was advertised at the University of Edinburgh careers service, for a Research Scientist at the Scotch Whisky Research Institute (SWRI). Luckily, I got the job! This proved to be a defining moment for my future career, combining analytics with my passion for Scotch whisky. My focus was on oak maturation and distillery flavour development. During my time there, and moving on to work in production thereafter, I began to think about the role of Master Blender. Starting in my early twenties, I knew it would take time to acquire the knowledge, skills, and experience to develop fully into this role.

For those unfamiliar, can you give a rundown of the distilleries that you oversee production at for Brown Forman?

I am the Master Blender for The GlenDronach, Benriach, and Glenglassaugh distilleries in Speyside and the east Highlands of Scotland. Working with these three distilleries in the north-east has been the perfect homecoming for me, and having worked with distilleries from the four corners of Scotland, I’ve now returned to my ‘roots’, where I was born and brought up.

Growing up I learned to surf at Sandend Bay which Glenglassaugh distillery overlooks, I went gliding in the Speyside sky looking over Benriach, and The GlenDronach holds a particularly special connection for me. The GlenDronach is my dad’s favourite malt and we love to share a dram together and enjoy that connection.

Within the geography of the north-east of Scotland, the distilleries are highly distinctive, with the flavour exploration of Benriach in the heart of Speyside, the sherry cask mastery of The GlenDronach in the Valley of Fergie, and the coastal influence at Glenglassaugh, in Sandend Bay. Each distillery paints a different picture, with unique influences of location, landscape, and distillery process.





Looking at the history of the industry, it has been lacking in diversity, however that is changing — from distilling and blending to marketing and leadership roles, there are many talented women leading the way. We have the most diverse and complex spirit in the world, and it's important that the people of the industry reflect it.



Industry Insider



Knowledge Bar

Rachel's Masterful Creations



The GlenDronach Aged 50 Years

This was definitely a standout moment. It was the oldest whisky the distillery has ever released. It was an honour to see Bottle No.1 being auctioned as part of the inaugural Distillers' One of One Auction, raising £40,000 with total auction proceeds of £3.1m going to support disadvantaged young people in Scotland.

Benriach New Portfolio

My vision with Benriach's new range was to create whiskies with endless flavour possibilities; the distillery has a very creative heritage and blending with Benriach is like an artist's dream - I have so many cask types and styles of spirit to choose from and experiment with.

Glenglassaugh 50 Year Old

This is an example of very exciting times ahead. We recently launched this expression, with just 264 bottles available worldwide, which is truly the jewel in the crown of this glorious coastal malt. I'm very excited about the future of the distillery and feel proud to be playing a key role in reviving it and bringing its potential to the global whisky community.



From the ben to the glen to the expanse of the rolling sea, may your life be enriched by the journey of single malt Scotch whisky...



*Clockwise from top:
Benriach Distillery;
GlenDronach Distillery;
Sandend Bay*

To you, what does it mean to be a Master Blender?

A Master Blender is first and foremost a custodian of the legacy, traditions, and quality of the whiskies, working endlessly to perfect quality, ensure consistency and nurture spirit character through filling and selection of the finest oak casks. I am making decisions the Master Blender and future generations after me will depend upon. Working with the distillery and warehousing teams, we are all guardians of the whiskies for the time we work with them. For me, as Master Blender, this involves getting to know every detail from barley to spirit to the filling of each cask, monitoring quality over the years, and deciding when the time is right for casks to be combined and bottled.

Developing a new whisky or expression always generates more questions than answers during the creative process until everything starts to come together. It's a highly iterative process - a complex puzzle where there are no rights or wrongs, only many twists and turns leading to the best

way forward. It's a continuous process of refinement, perfection and exploration.

How many casks do you think you have tasted over the course of your career?

I do a lot of nosing and a little tasting, with a spittoon. Currently I will nose and taste up to 100 samples per day. Over the past 30 years, I've nosed more than 150,000 cask samples (and counting!).

Do you think being a woman in whisky has helped change people's perceptions?

It's a great time for women to be working in whisky, as I'm sure our Assistant Blender, Kirsten Ainslie, will agree. There are more and more women entering and thriving within the industry as time goes on which is fantastic to see.

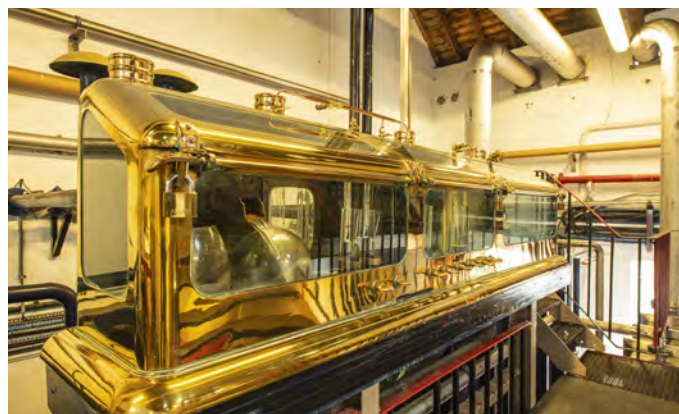
Looking at the history of the industry, it has been lacking in diversity however that is changing - from distilling and blending to marketing and leadership roles, there are many talented women leading the way. We have the most diverse and complex spirit in

the world, and it's important that the people of the industry reflect it. That's why I'm so pleased to be developing the next generation of talent with Kirsten, she's learning so quickly and also bringing fresh perspectives which is a joy to develop.

Are there any common misconceptions about what you do?

I'm not sure if it's a misconception, but I know one thing some are surprised at is the balance of both art and science in the role of a Master Blender. There's a real creativity to the work that we do, like a conductor or artist bringing together the different elements of the composition. But there's a lot of science to the role as well; with technical analysis, management of inventory, quality control etc. I love that balance, and it really reflects who I am as a chemist and artist. But I'm sure some would be surprised at how much time I spend in spreadsheets and in the lab!

Industry Insider



Top: Traditional floor malting at Benriach Distillery; Bottom images: Benriach Distillery

Are there any changes in how you approached your work 30 years ago than the way you do today? How has your role developed and changed?

When I started, I was pretty much fresh out of university, full of ambition and curiosity, and wanted to learn everything at lightning speed! The past 30 years has been a bit like painting a moving picture on a rollercoaster of aromas, tastes and learning experiences, that keeps getting richer, brighter, and clearer. My approach 30 years ago was built on a solid analytical base of the science and technology of distillery production, maturation, flavour, and sensory

science. Today my approach to whisky-making is more strategic, creative, holistic, and richly integrated, but there again, so am I after 30 years! Advances in communication, analytics and collaborative ways of working has led to greater inclusion and sharing of ideas and information, enabling more people to see both the big picture and the detail. Today this helps the Master Blender in particular to join everything up in whisky creation, from the distillery to the warehouse, quality, delivery, and the drinker, across all geographies in the world. It just keeps getting richer and better, and I wish I had another 30 years to work!

Is there anything special you do to keep your senses and palate sharpened?

90% of the appreciation of flavour comes from the aromatics, discerned on the nose. Once the nose is trained, it is the most important asset for a blender. The nose never gets tired of sniffing, and as there is no physiological impact, it is the most reliable measure of quality, with tremendous sensitivity and its strong connection with memory. The human nose has a tiny analytical sensor (the olfactory epithelium), with the ability to detect tens of thousands of aromas, with odour recognition and descriptions developed through experience

and training. I'm careful to avoid spicy foods or anything with strong flavours or aromas close to when I'm nosing or tasting, but other than that the whiskies themselves are what keep my senses always sharpened!

As a master blender, is there any process of the production you don't oversee?

Honestly, I'm involved in every aspect! But I do work very closely with a number of talented people across our production operations, who each are the absolute experts in their fields. I'm in constant contact with Laura Tolmie, our Distillery Manager, and Ewan George, our Warehouse Manager. Their work and expertise are vital to ensure the consistent quality of each distillery's spirit, and the exceptional wood management and nurturing of each and every cask resting in our warehouses. Then at the other end I work closely with the whole team at our Newbridge facility to align our bottling timings, oversee the marrying of casks, ensure rigorous quality checks and much more.

Do you have any signature processes, styles, or finishes that you like to champion?

For me, it's more about the signature characteristics of each distillery and bringing out the very best in them. The whisky really does the talking, and it's up to me to listen and bring it all together. Creating layers of flavour and intricate complexity is what I always focus on, so I suppose my signature might be in weaving different cask styles together in unique ways to create multi-faceted flavour experiences. Benriach gives me so much creative freedom to do this with our eclectic collection of casks, whilst with The GlenDronach the duality of Pedro Ximénez and Oloroso casks allows me to explore the 'light and the dark' with so much complexity in character. Glenglassaugh's lush, tropical style is so unique and I've really enjoyed discovering how different cask styles interact with its coastal spirit.

Even after receiving such acclaim throughout the whisky industry, do you ever get nervous anticipation when you're working with a new cask type?

There's very little I haven't worked with over the years. But a key part of my role is exploring and expanding my experiences and trying new things, so I wouldn't say I get nervous as such. The interaction of spirit with different cask types is unique to each distillery, and every individual cask is also unique, so I'm constantly discovering new things and it's a continuous learning journey. I have little experiments always on the go, and

the joy is in discovering something I hadn't yet considered - that can be really exciting.

What are the key ingredients for a successful distillery? Any tips for the new distilleries?

Passion for what you do is so important. There's a lot of technical skills needed of course but being really passionate about whisky and honing the craft really sets the most successful distilleries apart. I think for any distillery, really understanding your unique DNA is important and sets you up for the future - the first thing I did with The GlenDronach, Benriach and Glenglassaugh was really take the time to explore the inventory and refine the signature character of each. And I would say take all advantages you can to meet others in the industry and be open to learn and trying new things. Scotch whisky is such a wonderfully diverse category with some incredibly inspiring people, the community is amazing.

What are the biggest current trends in the whisky scene that you see today?

It's been wonderful to see a real drive for flavour and character, with the quality of casks increasingly being recognised for their contribution to each whisky. I think the growth of Non-Age-Statement whiskies is noteworthy - NAS was once considered a cheaper 'entry-level' to a distillery, but that perception is changing and it's an opportunity for myself and others to explore different flavour styles. At the core of each of our distilleries we have a strong Age Statement line-up, but expressions like Benriach Malting Season or The GlenDronach Port Wood really allow me to flex my blending skills and create exceptional malts at younger ages.

If you could go back and give yourself some advice about being a Blender, what would it be?

You can never sample enough casks of whisky! Every cask tells a different story and there is always more to learn. My advice would be to stay curious, keep exploring, discovering, and most importantly enjoying the richness of the journey - the best is yet to come!

Was there any advice given to you over the years you intentionally ignored?

Interesting question. As a Master Blender, you are always faced with having to balance day-to-day whisky creation and supply, with the longer-term strategic aspects of operational whisky planning and management, and the more 'public facing' marketing and advocacy side of the job. The role has a great influence on both operations and marketing, and Master Blenders can often feel pulled in different directions, passionate about perfection, never resting in the quest to create the ultimate whisky, whilst also being eager to share whisky stories, develop rich sensory experiences and connect with whisky drinkers. Getting the perfect balance in life (as well as in each and every whisky) is very important to me, so if anyone tries to push me too much in one direction, to the detriment of another, I will very likely push back... although I would never ignore entirely!

What is your ideal experience to enjoy a dram?

Whisky is such an evocative experience and deserves to be slowly sipped and savoured. I always nose first (much like a fine wine) before sipping neat, and then I add a few drops of water to see how it changes and to find the best balance. I like the setting to reflect the style, and sometimes I pair my whisky with different food or snacks to complement the flavour profile. Benriach The Original Ten is delicious with a warm slice of apple tarte tatin and vanilla ice cream on an early summer's evening. The GlenDronach Aged 12 Years is my favourite winter-time dram with really good quality dark chocolate or some dried fruits and nuts. The smoky sea salt notes in Glenglassaugh go beautifully well with smoked salmon from Portsoy Harbour - delicious.

Do you have a toast you would like to share with our readers?

From the ben to the glen to the expanse of the rolling sea, may your life be enriched by the journey of single malt Scotch whisky... Rachel Barrie, 2022!

Smooth

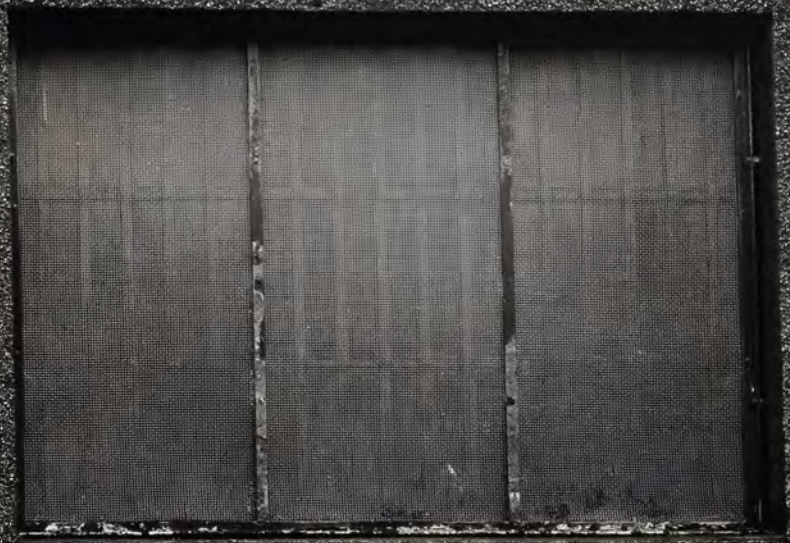
Sailing



Gavin Smith journeys to Old Pulteney Distillery, one of the most northerly distilleries on the Scottish mainland, where the extreme location and unique stills have resulted in a single malt like no other.

Distillery Visit





Wick is a breezy place,
which gives the spirit its
coastal character during
maturation...

Distillery Visit

Knowledge Bar Old Pulteney



Pulteney is one of only a few whisky distilleries in Scotland named after the town in which it is located, **Pulteneytown** which is now part of **Wick**.

The name **Pulteney** was bestowed on the recommendation of Thomas Telford (the 'Father of Civil Engineering'), who designed 'Pulteneytown', a model village, and the port of Wick.

In 1922, under the influence of an American evangelist, the Wick town council voted to make the town a 'dry' one with **no sales of alcohol permitted**. The ban remained in force for 25 years, twice the length of the infamous US Prohibition.

The world's shortest street, Ebenezer Place measuring 2.06 metres, is located in Wick. The distillery is one of the most northerly on the Scottish mainland.

Pulteney Distillery has the only pot still in Scotland which doesn't have a swan neck.



Old Pulteney Distillery

➔ *"One of the meanest of man's towns, and situated certainly on the baldest of God's bays."* Not exactly what you want to read about your destination on Tripadvisor, but it was how author Robert Louis Stevenson described Wick in his essay *The Education of an Engineer* (1888).

The author of *Treasure Island* and *Kidnapped* had spent time in the Caithness port as his father, Thomas, scion of a remarkable dynasty of marine engineers and lighthouse builders, had been responsible for constructing a breakwater at Wick in 1863.

However, the structure was no match for the local weather and was twice destroyed by storms. The ill-fated breakwater was intended to make the harbour safer for fishing vessels; it was thanks to the fishing industry that Wick developed during the early 19th century.

Between 1807 and 1813 a new harbour and associated settlement was created by engineer Thomas Telford, being named Pulteneytown after Sir William Pulteney, 2nd Earl of Bath, a governor of the British Fisheries Society, which bankrolled the venture.

As herring fishing boomed, Wick grew to become the busiest fishing port in Europe, with more than 1,000 boats filling the harbour during the herring fishing season. It was during the herring 'boom' that one James Henderson established Pulteney distillery in Huddart Street, with many members of the early workforce doubling as herring fishermen.

According to journalist and distillery chronicler Alfred Barnard writing during the

mid-1880s, *"Mr. Henderson was the proprietor of a small Distillery further inland [at Stemster, near Halkirk] for a period of nearly thirty years, but on finding the demand for his 'make' increasing, he determined to start a Distillery nearer the sea coast, which in those days was the only mode of transit to the south."*

DISTILLERY DEVELOPMENTS

Pulteney remained in Henderson family ownership until 1920, when it was purchased by Dundee whisky blender James Watson & Co Ltd. That firm was, in turn, acquired five years later by the mighty Distillers Company Ltd, which ended production at Pulteney in 1930. The distillery's plight was not helped by its location in what was by this time a 'dry' town. Prohibition had been enacted in Wick during May 1922 and lasted until May 1947 – a dozen years longer than the much higher profile version in the USA!

Unlike many of those distilleries that fell silent during the years between the two world wars, Pulteney was ultimately revived, being purchased by Banff-based lawyer Robert 'Bertie' Cumming, with spirit flowing once more during 1951.

Before too long, the Canadian distilling giant Hiram Walker came calling on Cumming, as it was keen to expand its Scotch whisky interests, and the distillery changed hands in 1955 with a major rebuilding programme being undertaken during 1958/59.

1961 saw Pulteney acquired by Allied Breweries Ltd, which operated it until the distillery and single malt brand was sold to Inver House Distillers Ltd in 1995. Inver

House is now owned by international Beverage Holdings Limited (InterBev) - part of Asia's leading drinks business, the Thai Beverage Public Company Limited (ThaiBev). As such, its Scottish stablemates are Balblair, Balmenach, Knockdhu and Speyburn.

PULTENEY TODAY

In 1997, a 12-year-old official bottling of 'Old Pulteney' as the single malt is always known, was released, with Inver House making clever and effective use of Wick's fishing heritage to market it as 'The Genuine Maritime Malt,' a strapline given even greater relevance by the malt's subtle coastal character.

Senior Brand Manager Vicki Fletcher declares that *"Everything we do connects back to the sea, right through production and maturation to packaging and flavour of the whisky. Pulteney is totally honest and authentic."*

Distillery manager Malcolm Waring notes that *"We support the RNLI and local initiatives, including the care of the Isabella Fortuna, a 'Fifie' fishing boat dating from 1890 and in the care of The Wick Society. We are a cog in the wheel of the town. Engagement with the Wick community is very important."*

In an era when distillery managers tend to come and go with a degree of rapidity, Waring has become a cherished fixture at Pulteney distillery. He was born in north-east England but arrived in Wick as a young boy, starting his working life as an apprentice boat builder before moving to Pulteney. *"I began on the shop floor at the distillery,"* he recalls, *"and progressed to assistant manager. I then moved to The Knock [Knockdhu] in Aberdeenshire as manager in 2000, and came back to run Pulteney in 2006. "Quite unusually, each Inver House distillery has a manager and assistant manager on site. The company doesn't move managers about a lot, unlike big firms, which means you get to know the quirks of the distillery and its warehouses very well and know how to get the best out of everything."*

PULTENEY IN ACTION

When it comes to the distillery and its operation, a biomass plant delivers 98 per cent of the distillery's steam requirements, as well as heating 200 local houses, Caithness General Hospital, and a retirement home.

Waring notes that *"We have a semi-lauter stainless steel mash tun, with each mash being 5.1 tonnes, and we do 14 mashes per week. Six new stainless steel washbacks were installed five years ago to replace the five old Corten steel ones. That gives us scope to expand if we wish. Also, we work a five day week, carrying out short and long fermentations, and so we have been able to increase fermentation times from 55 hours and 110/111 hours to 62/63 hours and 115 hours respectively. The longer fermentations*



The company doesn't move managers about a lot, unlike big firms, which means you get to know the quirks of the distillery.

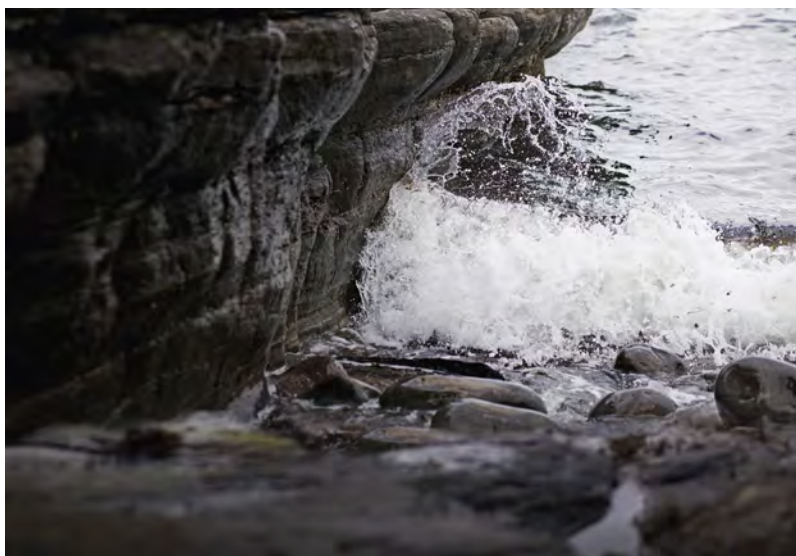


“

We are a cog
in the wheel
of the town.



Distillery Visit



give greater fruitiness to the spirit.”

In terms of distillation, Pulteney’s stillhouse is truly a sight to see, housing a particularly idiosyncratic pair of stills. Malcolm Waring explains that *“The stills are big and squat, with lots of copper contact, but then you have worm tubs rather than shell and tube condensers, which adds heaviness and ‘beefiness’ to the spirit. The wash still is the beating heart of the distillery. It really defines spirit character. It’s got a flat top, a lye pipe on the side, and a huge boil ball. It also inspired the design of the Pulteney single malt bottle.”*

There are various theories as to why the wash still has such a peculiar chopped-off, flat-topped appearance. One is that many years ago the still was acquired second-hand from a Campbeltown distillery and had to be shortened to fit into the low Pulteney stillhouse. Presumably, spirit made in the still was of high quality and an attractive character, hence the design being faithfully copied down the years.

“There’s lots of complexity in the spirit,” says Malcolm Waring. *“It’s robust yet delicate, very aromatic and characterful, with a coastal brininess, especially with bourbon cask maturation. We don’t push things too hard. We have a seven and a half hours mash and quite slow distillation, with four and a half hours in the wash still and seven hours in the spirit still.”*

There is no computerisation of the distilling process, which relies entirely on the vigilance and experience of the operatives. Waring says that *“We have two production staff working per shift, with a total of seven. Usually, they alternate between three weeks mashing and three weeks distilling, along with a week in the warehouse. I went to school with lots of the staff. Wick is a tight-knit place.”* Pulteney is clearly a pleasant place to work, as the newest recruit is Raymond Bissett, a stillman has been there for 17-and-a-half-years!

AGEING THE SPIRIT

Having made the spirit, the all-important process of maturation takes place, with all liquid destined for single malt bottling being aged on site. With a degree of understatement, Malcolm Waring declares that *“Wick is a breezy place, which gives the spirit its coastal character during maturation.”* 90 per cent of spirit is filled into a mix of first-fill and refill American oak casks, with the remainder going into ex-sherry wood.

Pulteney boasts three dunnage and two racked warehouses, and warehouse number six – distillery warehouse numbering rarely makes sense to the uninitiated! – has what Waring describes as *“A micro-flora, an earthiness to it. It used to house the malt floors and kiln, and the wall where the kiln was situated has never dried out. Because of its special characteristics, we age whisky that is going to be*



After herring, the sea is giving Wick a second shot at a degree of prosperity.



bottled as 18 and 25-year-old there for a time.”

THE SINGLE MALTS

2018 saw a major overhaul of the Old Pulteney portfolio, with the existing 12 Years Old and 25 Years Old being joined by 15 Years Old and 18 Years Old variants. Additionally, an NAS (no age statement) bottling of peaty spirit by the name of Huddart was added to the line-up.

Huddart is matured initially in second-fill American oak bourbon casks then finished in bourbon casks that had previously held heavily peated whisky, while the 15 and 18-year-olds are aged in second-fill American oak bourbon casks, followed by a period of further maturation in first-fill Spanish oak Oloroso butts.

In order to enhance the consumer's experience of these whiskies, a free 'Augmented Reality' app was introduced last year. According to a distillery spokesperson, *“You simply download and open the app, then point the camera on to a flat surface to unlock a full AR experience for each of the expressions in Old Pulteney's whisky collection. You are then transported to a coastal scene through an interactive animation, uncovering the tasting notes, aromas, and food pairings of each of the distillery's single malts.”*

Better still, of course, is a real visit to

the distillery, and Malcolm Waring notes that *“On a tour you get up close and personal with the production guys. It's a rabbit warren of a distillery!”* The standard tour ends with a tasting of Old Pulteney 12-year-old, but it is possible to request a flight of whiskies, a tutored tasting, or a bespoke tour and tasting.

Since the introduction of the 'North Coast 500' (www.northcoast500.com) driving route in 2015, the distillery has attracted greater numbers of visitors, so pre-booking is recommended. Members of the public are rewarded for making the journey to Wick with excellent bottle your own options — usually one bourbon-cask-matured and one sherry-cask-matured cask strength expression.

AN OPTIMISTIC FUTURE

After many years when Wick seemed in a state of slow decline, with larger fishing boats relocating to the major Caithness port of Scrabster on the north coast and an overall lack of investment, the situation is taking a positive turn, principally thanks to the power of wind. After herring, the sea is giving Wick a second shot at a degree of prosperity.

Beatrice Offshore Windfarm is operated by SSE Renewables and is Scotland's largest offshore wind farm, capable of providing enough wind powered electricity for up to

450,000 homes. Malcolm Waring explains that *“Wick was one of three possible sites for its shore base, and it won. All the turbines are controlled from the operations centre they created at Wick Harbour. It's rejuvenated the harbour – they've spent money there, and part of the conditions of the initiative were that there had to be a significant number of local jobs. It's been very good for the town, giving it a new buzz and vibrancy.”*

And Old Pulteney single malt is set to get some 'new vibrancy' of its own later this year, with the launch of the first of a series of exciting releases. *Keep an eye on www.whiskyshop.com for details in due course.*



Interview



Mystery Maker

Whiskeria goes to Speyside to share a few drams with one of Aberdeen's most famous authors. We ask the *Sunday Times* No.1 bestselling author Stuart MacBride how he writes so prolifically, why so many crime writers come from Scotland, and which Speyside distillery is his favourite?

PHOTOGRAPHY: BRIAN SWEENEY
LOCATION: CRAIGELLACHIE HOTEL

Interview



➤ **The Glenfiddich 18 Year Old, a customer favourite at TWS, features in your new novel in a rather prominent way. Is this your death-row dram?**

I've resisted giving my characters my personal likes and tastes. In this case, I do like the Glenfiddich, it's a lovely, lovely dram. One of my famous whisky stories was when Detective Logan McRae is given a dram by an Aberdeen crime lord who gifts him an unusual bottle. When Logan gets back to his house, he checks the price is over 3000 quid, and that he's just been unwittingly bribed! I like putting some whisky in my stories because one, I like whisky, and two, you don't get much more Scottish than whisky. You can say, '*oh, what about haggis?*' No! It's not much of a national dish — most of us will only touch haggis once a year if forced. Whisky, on the other hand? Oh, yes!

Whisky is part of being Scottish, it's like being thrrawn: it runs all the way through me. But not when I'm driving.

What is your death-row dram?

Oh, the Glenfiddich 1937 Rare Collection.

Do you have a dram of choice at the moment?

My favourite would have to be something by The Balvenie which I just adore. The 14 Year Old Caribbean Cask - it's like a really good whisky shackled up with the finest of brandies, and they both went to the Caribbean and had the most beautiful baby. We had to stop ourselves buying it because we ended up having about three or four bottles in a row.



There is only one rule in writing. There are not ten rules or 100 rules, there is one, and that is don't be boring.

Interview



I like putting some whisky in my stories because one, I like whisky, and two, you don't get much more Scottish than whisky.



Never listen to writing advice from anybody who's writing you don't enjoy.

Have you gone to many Speyside distilleries, and if so, do you have a favourite?

We've been to The Macallan, Bowmore, Talisker, Islay, but strangely not many from nearby where we live. We've got distilleries aplenty in the area, but we've only been to one of them which is really weird. I'm extremely fond of the Glen Garioch Founders Reserve, and we used to live next the distillery. And still, we never went! It's strange how much more you do when exploring a new area, that you would never do when it's in your own back garden!

What is it about Scotland that lends itself to being such a hotbed for wonderful crime fiction writers?

I think crime fiction is baked into Scotland. I also think a lot of it is related to the way that we as Scottish people are. If you cut a Scottish person in half you will see the word thrown all the way through. We do not like authority; we do not like being told to do. And that is reflected very strongly in our crime fiction. Most of our detectives are not there to be the hero that saves the day, they will go to catch the killer because they've been told that they can't. Rebus is like that. Hamish Macbeth is like that. If you look at Sherlock Holmes, he's thrown as hell!

How and why has Aberdeen become the setting for your most popular novels?

I was still planning *Cold Granite* when I interviewed Ian Rankin for a website that was I working for, and when I was talking to him at that point, you could only write Scottish crime fiction about the central belt or a remote island village. Aberdeen is where I live, so I was thinking maybe I should set in Aberdeen and Ian said, "well, yeah!" But the whole point of setting it in Aberdeen is that I can look at things through an Aberdeen lens because I have lived there since I was two years old. It's in my bones, and it also means I can make fun of it. You can make fun of your hometown; you cannot make fun of somebody else's. That is that is how you get lynched.

How did you become a writer?

I became a writer by accident. I had a couple of friends at the time who were writing fantasy novels for a hobby, and they said it was fun. So I had a bash and I loved it, even though the book I produced was absolute mince. People think when we write crime fiction, we are playing detective, but really we're playing God. We decide who lives, who dies, what happened, everything. It's probably the only part of my life that I have complete control over. Nobody can make anything happen without your say so, and that is intoxicating.

Did the adjustment to working-from-home come quite naturally to you, as a writer?

I've worked from home now for nearly 17 years, but I actually found it quite difficult. Lockdown made me realise how much I depend on being able to leave the house. A lot of us during lockdown discovered that if you're just stuck in the house, it is nowhere near as exciting as it may first appear. What really made life worthwhile to me was that the opportunity to drive up to the coast and buy fish in Buckie or go out for lunch with friends in Aberdeen to a nice restaurant, even just to be more than five miles from the house.

We're very lucky we live in the middle of nowhere. But that the whole thing of not being allowed to go anywhere? You cannot escape that. It's like light crime fiction. It can be as dark as you like, but you need light bits somewhere in the book.

Has the last two years affected the way that you tell stories?

The first thing I did when it came to writing my new novel was ask my wife, Fiona, what should I do? Would you like me to write a COVID based novel? And her response was "no, and under no circumstances do I want to read about COVID. We're living with it. Do something that's escapist." There's a theme going through the novel about what happened in society through COVID, but it's done without actually focusing on COVID itself. There's definitely a sort of osmosis that happens when I write, I don't like to stick rigidly to a plan, so if something bad happens in the news, I will quite often react to that in the next scene. I might not reference them directly, but that feeling will come into the book.

What does crime fiction tell us about society?

It can be both a mirror and an escape. It can show us what's happening but take us beyond that. It's a bit like the *Alice in Wonderland* thing. You can actually step through the looking glass and see the mechanics behind it. Why people are the way they are and why they do things that they do. And that's the thing that crime fiction gives us that real life doesn't. Within crime fiction, we want to know why something is happening. Whereas in real life we often we don't we don't get to know, and no one will ever know why.

Have you always had a fascination with crime?

Always. Ever since I was a little boy, since the first books I ever took out the school library. I was one of those cliché kids who would read under the bedcovers at night after I'd be told I have to go to bed. I would read the whole book, take it back to the school library, and get the next one the next day. The weekends were long because you weren't allowed to take out books over the weekend. There's nothing quite like blazing your way through a whole shelf of books.

What is your ideal reading experience? In terms of setting, time, and company?

I read mostly at home. I set a reading pillow on my chest, and I balance a book on top of it, and then, hopefully a cat will come in at some point, snuggle down and fall asleep. That is bliss. The books I've enjoyed the most have been in my study on my couch with our cat Grendel sleeping. For me, nothing could be better.

Interview

Knowledge Bar

Stuart MacBride



- 1969**
Stuart is born in Dumbarton, Scotland, on 27 February.
- 1971**
 At two years of age, he moves to **Aberdeen**, which will become the mainstay throughout his literary career.
- 1988**
Stuart goes to **Herriot-Watt University** to study architecture.
- 1992**
Stuart goes on to work in a number of varied careers, including for offshore oil companies, with graphic design agencies, and in IT.
- 2005**
 Encouraged by his friends, **Stuart** writes his first novel **Cold Granite**, the start of his bestselling series involving **Logan McRae**.
- 2006**
Stuart wins a **Barry Award** for **Best First Novel**, and **Aberdeen** is dubbed by The Scotsman as “**Scotland’s new city of fictional crime**”. He publishes **Dying Light**, which is another bestseller.
- 2007**
Stuart wins **CWA Dagger** in the **Library Award, 2007**. He publishes **Broken Skin**, **Flesh House**, **Blind Eye**, and **Dark Blood** over the next three years.
- 2008**
 Wins **ITV3 Crime Thriller Award** for **Breakthrough Author of the Year 2008**, for **Broken Skin**.
- 2015**
Stuart goes on to release a new book every year from 2006 onwards, culminating with a short novel **22 Dead Little Bodies** and **The Missing** and **the Dead** in 2015.
- 2021**
Stuart features in the **Aberdeen ‘Hall of Heroes’** alongside nine other individuals including Sir Alex Ferguson, Annie Lennox, Denis Law, and Rose Leslie, in the **Historic Provost Skene’s House** in Aberdeen.
- 2022**
 After a small hiatus from Logan McRae novels, **Stuart** writes **No Less The Devil**, a standalone book based on **Lucy McVey**. The hardcover reaches the **Sunday Times Bestseller List**, with the paperback expected to arrive toward the end of this year.





Do you have any tips for aspiring writers?

Never listen to writing advice from anybody who's writing you don't enjoy. So many people who will tell you what you can and can't do in terms of writing, if you don't like what they write, pay no attention to them whatsoever. But there are not ten rules or 100 rules to writing, there is one: don't be boring.

Is there anything you avoid doing when writing a book?

It very much depends on the stage of writing I am in. Once I start to get into the rhythm and pattern of a writer's language, I will start to speak in that kind of way. I have to be very careful, because this chapter will be in one tone, the second chapter a different tone, the whole thing just becomes this mishmash of horror. Part of it is being empathic as well, I always think that being a writer is very much like being an actor. You have to inhabit the character to make them come alive. That's your job is to make these people that don't exist appear to be real people.

What subjects do you wish more writers would write about?

I think things that matter to you. There is definitely a chunk of crime fiction that chases market trends, and some of those people can be very successful. And there is a chunk of crime fiction that go after things that really interest the authors. Those are the books I much prefer to read.



You know, if you've got a Scottish person in half, you will see the word *thrawn* all the way through.

Interview

Knowledge Bar

Whisky tasting



We selected four delicious whiskies for Stuart to sample – here's his thoughts:

Balblair 2006 #78

70cl | 55.8% ABV | £191

Certainly getting the aromas of a 'gentlemen's club', leathery, hints of tobacco, like a wingback armchair that's been in there for years and years and years. It reminds me a lot of my grandpa; I don't even remember him being a big whisky drinker. But there's some very nostalgic childhood kind of smell to it. The taste is very peppery. It's got a slight acidity just at the back of the tongue as well. It's not sweet, which I would have imagined it to be. It's more of a fino sherry. It's strangely refreshing for something quite dark and heavy!

Murray McDavid Linkwood 2008 13 Year Old

70cl | 56.8% ABV | £105

A definite whiff of maple, that must be from the bourbon cask. One of those that you really cannot sniff too often! Definite hints of Dundee Cake? Slight cloves, nutmeg, but cut through with orange juice. Is that a slight bitter almond nuttiness? Like a poisoned fruitcake! Is that okay to say?

Rare Find Speyside 1982 39 Year Old

70cl | 48.7% abv | £385

This is exciting. Certainly beeswax, honey, with a hint of mace? It feels lighter in the mouth, very, very smooth. Is that a slight hint of nectarines? It's got the warmth of the peach, but that slight curl of acidity over the tongue. I think it's a genius thing to say 'we are not going to tell you where it's from. Go on, guess!' I imagine people who really, really like whisky will be going mad trying to figure out where this one's from. There's something slightly Dufftown-ey about it, that little triangle. Beeswax polish, a slight hint of vanilla? Like a like an alcoholic marshmallow. That's it.

Arran 1999 #225

70cl | 48.7% abv | Speyside

I definitely get the sort of sun-drenched raisins, right? Sherry hogshead. Am I supposed to get cashews? I definitely get cashews. A creamy, certain fatty nuttiness. That's massively complex; the layers change. It's like a book, you get a different interpretation of the book as a whole once you finish it, but then also when you pick it up again, because then you pick up the layers you didn't get the first time.

What are the current trends you see right now in crime fiction?

Currently we've just come over the cusp of domestic noir and household mystery stuff. Things where people in a relationship suddenly discover that the husband, boyfriend, wife is in fact a manipulative horror. That sense of domestic noir has been around for quite a long time and we're just coming off the wave of that.

Could you give us a quick synopsis of your new book, *No Less The Devil*?

Operation Maypole have been hunting the blacksmith for 17 months and they are no nearer to catching him. The media are baying for blood and the top brass are not happy at all. So now really isn't the time for Detective Sergeant Lucy McVey to get distracted.

When he was an 11-year-old boy, Benedict Strachan hunted down and murdered a homeless person in a vicious attack. Nobody knows why. He's now out of prison with a drug habit, and he is obsessed with the notion that some sort of shadowy, 'they' are out to get him. The trouble for Lucy is figuring out whether he's not paranoid at all? What if there is if there is a cabal of people who run the world for their benefit and against ours? And what's going to happen if Lucy McVey goes up against these people? And then that's all I can tell you, because this is one of these books that it would be almost too easy to spoil it, just so I can guarantee you that what you think is going to happen is not what's going to happen.

Much like a favourite dram, what is it that keeps your readers coming back to a specific character or favourite detective?

I think with good crime fiction, readers really invest in the character. It's not like it's not sitting there in front of you, where everything is done for you, and it's presented. Readers are hugely invested in the characters that they read. Once you have done that for one or two books, that means you've got a series character. And every single extra book invests more in that character until they become like real people. We've been telling ourselves these stories ever since we were in caves: talking about the tribe over the hill, the monsters out there, the sabre-toothed tigers, the bears, the wolves, the lions, these are the tales that we have told ourselves.

"I definitely get cashews. A creamy, certain fatty nuttiness. That's massively complex."

Arran 1999 #225

"Certainly getting the aromas of a 'gentlemen's club', leathery, hints of tobacco, like a wingback armchair that's been in there for years and years and years."

Balblair 2006 #78





"This is exciting. Certainly beeswax, honey, with a hint of mace."

Rare Find Speyside 1982
39 Year Old



Interview

Do you see like whisky and reading as a natural pair?

More so than whisky and writing. Whisky and writing are very good, but I can advise that you can tell when to stop doing both by counting how many fingers you're using to type. I will start off with ten and eventually it will become eight, and then there will be six, and then it will be two fingers and one thumb. That is when you have to stop at least one of the pursuits! Then you come back to it tomorrow once you have more fingers.

If you could share a dram with any of the characters in your new book, who would it be and why?

The person I would really like to have it with would be The Dunc, Lucy McVey's sidekick and a rampaging socialist. It would be great to have a really, really expensive dram with someone that would be averse to buying a truly incredible dram, just to mess with him.

Do you have any toasts for our readers?

My usual toast is l'chaim. It's the Yiddish 'To Life'. I have no idea why, it's not part of my heritage, but I like the thought of the simplicity of toasting 'to life'. You only get one, after all.



Stuart at Craigellachie Bridge



Wild & Beautiful

Taking inspiration from the rugged landscape of the Isle of Jura, these serves use in-season ingredients that celebrate Jura whisky. A smooth, bright, and lively malt whisky.

PHOTOGRAPHY: ARMANDO FERRARI
STYLIST: EMMA DUNCAN



JURA
THE ISLE OF JURA
TIDE
JURA
SINGLE MALT SCOTCH WHISKY
AGED 21 YEARS
TIDE
70cl e 44% vol
DISTILLERY CO

JURA
SINGLE MALT SCOTCH WHISKY

JURA
SINGLE MALT SCOTCH WHISKY
SEVEN WOOD
INFLUENCED BY SEVEN SELECTED FRENCH AND AMERICAN OAK BARRELS FOR A BALANCE AND DEPTH WITH A HINT OF VANILLA
NOTES: MATURED IN AMERICAN WHITE OAK, FRENCH TRONÇON, FRENCH ALLER, FRENCH APPELLE AND LES BOURGEOIS BARRELS
DISTILLERY HARBOR GILBEY ESTD 1810
70cl e 44% vol

JURA
SINGLE MALT SCOTCH WHISKY
AGED 18 YEARS
RICH AND FULL-BODIED WITH A QUALITY RED WINE FINISH AND OTHER 'WOOD' NOTES
NOTES: MATURED IN AMERICAN WHITE OAK, FRENCH TRONÇON AND FINISHED BY FINEST RED WINE CASKS
DISTILLERY HARBOR GILBEY ESTD 1810
70cl e 44% vol

JURA
SINGLE MALT SCOTCH WHISKY
AGED 12 YEARS
A RICH AND BOUNDED BALANCE OF SWEET SHERRY NOTES WITH A SWEET SHERRY CASK FINISH
NOTES: MATURED IN AMERICAN WHITE OAK, EX-AMERICAN BARRELS WITH AN OAK OR BONDAGE SHERRY CASK FINISH
DISTILLERY HARBOR GILBEY ESTD 1810
70cl e 44% vol

Mixing It Up



Barnhill Boulevardier

INGREDIENTS	Jura 12 Year Old	35ml
	Aperol	20ml
	Sweet vermouth	20ml
GLASS	Tumbler	
GARNISH	Orange peel	
METHOD	Stir over ice.	

The Barnhill Boulevardier is a delicious whisky apéritif that tells the story of a particularly special place on the Isle of Jura. Barnhill, on the islands north tip, was home to Jura's most famous inhabitant, George Orwell in the 1940's. Orwell referred to the island as the "most un-get-at-able of places" and found the tranquil and serene surroundings to pen his last novel, 'Nineteen Eighty Four' in 1949. In this cocktail we see Jura 12 Year Old's lively and boisterous character shine with support from the bittersweet Aperol and the richness of the vermouth. As a relation to the more popular negroni this drink makes for the perfect apéritif and we've chosen some of the finest Scottish shellfish as flavoursome accompaniment. A simple drink to make at home, the Barnhill Boulevardier is a crowd pleaser for whisky and cocktail fans alike.

Elderflower Highball

INGREDIENTS	Jura Seven Wood	40ml
	Crème de Pêche Liqueur	10ml
	Lemon	20ml
	Sugar syrup	20ml
	Top with elderflower soda	
GLASS	Highball	
GARNISH	Lemon peel	
METHOD	<p>Mix in a shaker with plenty of ice.</p> <p>Served straight up.</p>	

Jura Seven Wood is a shining example of the importance great quality casks play in a whiskies character. Jura is smooth, bright, and lively and the house style is complimented by great quality ex-bourbon and French oak casks. This deep and complex way of ageing allows for a whisky with a broad range of flavours to discover. Vibrant bursts of peach melba and vanilla cream give way to a sweet liquorice finish, and this makes the perfect base for a refreshing cooler - the Elderflower Highball. Crème de Pêche Liqueur and lemon bring out the whisky's freshness and chilled elderflower soda allow the aromatics to pop on your palate! This style of drink can work as an effective palate cleanser or an accompaniment to a sweet and savoury dish. We've served alongside inner Hebridean scallops and black pudding dressed with fresh apple and fennel. A feast for the senses!





Mixing It Up





Jura 18 and Sorbet

Jura 18 shows a rich and more full-bodied side to this distillery. Sweetness from ex-bourbon casks overlayed with rich, red fruit and spice from premier grand cru classe barriques from Bordeaux. A wonderful single malt to sip and savour or great to enjoy as part of the perfect pairing. We recommend a delicious seasonal fruit sorbet using local produce. We've combined local blackberries and sprinkle of dark chocolate. Perfect on a warm afternoon or to end the evening.

Jura 21 and Oysters

Jura is an island of beauty and splendour and one of the most serene whisky making locations in Scotland. Jura 21 Year Old Tide highlights the influence of great quality ex bourbon casks play in the distillery's character. Long maturation brings indulgent flavours of lemon drizzle cake and crystalized ginger with flashes of smoked coconut and creamy caramel arriving as a result of a finishing period in virgin oak. Delicious alongside fresh oysters.





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ISSUE

Autumn 2022

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UNIQUE
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INTERESTING



Autumn Splendour

Look forward to the time of year called the 'season of mists and mellow fruitfulness', with this hearty selection of products from The Whisky Shop.

IN THIS ISSUE

Bonfire Sherry Bombs

Autumnal Drams

Halloween Party

International Arrivals

THE WHISKY SHOP

Bonfire Sherry Bombs

Celebrate Guy Fawkes Night with these explosive fire-starters!

① Macallan 12 Year Old Sherry Oak

70cl | 40% VOL | £85

Sultanas / Oaky / Tropical sherry

- A deliciously smooth Macallan single malt
- Refined, rich, and rounded with plenty of sherry cask influence
- The taste brings medium-body with plenty of fruits and marmalade, sublime

② Kilchoman Loch Gorm 2022

70cl | 46% VOL | £78

Rich tobacco / Caramel / Sweet smoke

- A sherry matured expression released in limited numbers
- A vatting of whisky from eight-year-old oloroso sherry butts
- Named after the body of water which the distillery resides by

①



②



③



③ Dalmore 12 Year Old Sherry Cask Select

70cl | 43% VOL | £71

Dark chocolate / Crushed almonds / Panna cotta

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

⑤ Arran Sherry Cask The Bodega

70cl | 55.8% VOL | £61

Chocolate-coated raisins / Rich palate / Ripe figs

- A 2019 addition to the Arran core range, a return to the distinctive Arran style
- Matured in first fill sherry hogsheads, free from chill filtration
- Presented at cask strength, full of sweet sherry notes

④ The Octave Bunnahabhain 2008 13 Year Old #3832519

70cl | 55.3% VOL | £132

Ripe banana / Nutmeg / Figs

- This single malt has spent 13 years maturing in oak casks before an octave flourish
- Bottled in 2022 by Duncan Taylor exclusively for The Whisky Shop at 55.3% abv
- Just 86 bottles exist of this rich, decadent sherry bomb

⑥ BenRiach 12 Year Old Sherry Wood

70cl | 46% VOL | £49

Honeyed figs / Sweet fruits / Pear

- 12 years of maturation in sherry casks, followed by finishing in PX and oloroso sherry casks
- Big, hearty Speyside single malt
- Long and lingering sherry finish

④



⑤



⑥



THE WHISKY SHOP

Autumnal Drams

Stock up for the Autumn months with these richly tasty treats

① Balblair 2006 #78

70cl | 55.8% VOL | £191

Pineapple / Rich oak / Vanilla

- First-fill, sherry seasoned Balblair expression
- Matured for 15 years before bottling in 2021 at punchy cask strength 55.8% abv
- Just 378 bottles exist of this rare single cask bottling, exclusive to W Club members

② Old Malt Cask Tamdhu 2014 7 Year Old

70cl | 50% VOL | £70

Demerara sugar / Raspberry / Honey

- Seven years maturing in a sherry hogshead, bottled in April 2022
- Produced by esteemed independent bottler Hunter Laing & Co. for their Old Malt Cask series
- Only 159 bottles were filled, each one at 50% abv



**③ Glengoyne
12 Year Old**

70cl | 43% VOL | £49

Lemon zest / Honey / Coconut

- Fruity, sippable Highland single malt
- Matured in hand-selected sherry casks crafted from European and American oak
- Gold Medal Winner in the International Spirits Challenge 2020 & in 2022

**④ Bushmills
2000
1st Fill Port Cask Finish The Causeway Collection**

70cl | 54.1% VOL | £260

Strawberry / Grapefruits / Spices

- Lifted out of a hefty 20-year-long slumber in Portuguese first fill ruby port wine casks
- A celebration of Bushmills rarest and most special casks
- Inspired by the Giant's Causeway, just down the road from the Old Bushmills Distillery

**⑤ North Star Mannochemore
10 Year Old**

70cl | 51.2% VOL | £72

Delicate nose / Fresh and fruity / Boiled sweets

- A subtle malt from a young distillery whose whisky is rarely seen as a single malt
- Matured for ten years, only 563 bottles are available
- Surprisingly mellow, and bottled exclusively for The Whisky Shop

**⑥ Loch Lomond 1999
22 Year Old
Open Course Collection 2022**

70cl | 48.9% VOL | £225

Black cherry / Dark chocolate / Warming ginger spice

- Only 4000 bottles have been created by Master Blender Michael Henry
- An initial maturation in American oak followed by a finish in Claret barriques
- A definitive Loch Lomond malt, celebrating The Open



⑥



**⑦ Macallan
12 Year Old
Double Cask**

70cl | 40% VOL | £68

Toasted panettone / Custard cream / Vanilla ice sugar

- A sherry seasoned single malt from The Macallan
- Matured in a combination of American and European oak for a minimum of 12 years
- Sweet, smooth and fruity, an indulgent dram that is easy to love

⑦



THE WHISKY SHOP

Halloween Party

Blow your guests away with these unique expressions

① The Lost Explorer Salmiana 12 Year Old

70cl | 42% VOL | £147.99

Grapefruit zest / Chilli pepper / Dried herbs

- A wonderfully spicy mezcäl from Lost Explorer
- Using Salmiana agave from San Pablo Huixtepec, Oaxaca
- A fiery expression, with a big earthy finish

② Kraken Black Spiced Rum Unknown Deep Bioluminescence Limited Edition 2021

70cl | 40% VOL | £39

Golden syrup / Sticky molasses / Oak

- This luminescent bottle shines in the dark like a deep-sea creature
- A popular rum in an unforgettable bottle, this is only available while stocks last
- For each bottle sold Kraken donates £1 to Project Aware: Dive Against Debris



③ Mijenta Tequila Blanco

70cl | 40% VOL | £57

Melon / Honey / Cinnamon

- From Jalisco, Mexico, Mijenta is a sustainable tequila made with 100% blue weber agave
- Bottled without filtration, crafted by Mexico based Maestera Tequilera Ana Maria Romero
- Bright and vibrant, the ultimate margarita base!

⑤ Bunnahabhain 1998 Calvados Feis Ile Release 2022

70cl | 49.7% VOL | £400

Barley sugar / Cereal notes / Dried fruits

- A limited edition Bunnahabhain expression released to celebrate Feis Ile 2022
- Presented at 49.7% abv, free from chill filtration, and arrives with a natural cask-imparted colour
- The expression spent 23 years maturing before a finish in beautifully rich Calvados brandy casks

④ Darkness Glenrothes 12 Year Old

50cl | 61.1% VOL | £84.95

Aromatic oak / Caramel / Dark Chocolate

- Only 103 bottles exist, exclusively available here at The Whisky Shop!
- A 12-year-long maturation, then spending a six-month finish in sherry octave casks
- A cask strength, limited release dram, that is free from chill filtration and artificial colouring

⑥ Crystal Head Vodka Onyx

70cl | 40% VOL | £48

White pepper / Citrus / Sweetness

- A striking, clean and pure vodka, created in 2007 and displayed in a skull-shaped bottle
- The liquid is filtered through crystal diamonds, then reduced with glacier water
- A clean and semi-sweet finish, without any oils, sugars or additives

④



⑦ Kiss Black Diamond Rum

50cl | 40% VOL | £38

Dried stone fruits / Vanilla / Rich chocolate

- This powerful dark rum was named after KISS' final song on their debut album
- A bold and exciting dram bottled at 40% abv
- Difficult for any KISS fan to forget anytime soon!

⑤



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⑥



THE WHISKY SHOP

International Arrivals

Explore the world from the seat of your tastebuds

① Maker's Mark 46 (Free Gift with purchase)

70cl | 47% VOL | £46

Nutmeg / Mulled wine / Caramel

- Finished Maker's Mark is added to barrels with french oak staves
- This process lends natural flavours of caramel, vanilla and wonderfully rich spice
- Big and bold, but still approachable

② Equiano Original Rum

70cl | 43% VOL | £46.95

Tropical fruits / Caramelised sugar / Rich toffee

- The world's first African and Caribbean rum blend
- Maturing in a combination of ex-bourbon and ex-cognac casks to create its exceptional flavour
- Made out of completely natural ingredients and bottled at 43% abv

①



②



③



③ Basil Hayden 2022

70cl | 40% VOL | £47

Citrus / Toasted oak / Apple

- A fabulously smooth and mild Kentucky bourbon from Clermont's James Beam Distillery
- Inspired by 1792 whiskey pioneer Meredith Basil Hayden, Sr.
- A top-drawer bourbon sure to impress any American whiskey fan

④ Kill Devil Barbados 15 Year Old Four Square Rum

70cl | 62.1% VOL | £140

Fruity esters / Tangy citrus / Peppery spice

- Another outstanding release from Foursquare Distillery
- This single cask rum was distilled in 2006 and spent 15 years maturing
- Just 262 bottles of this tantalising expression have been produced, available while stocks last

⑤ Hibiki Japanese Harmony

70cl | 43% VOL | £79

Vanilla / Sandalwood / Black pepper

- A blended whisky from Suntory that brings to life the harmony of Japanese nature and craftsmanship
- Crafted with more than 10 malt and grain whiskies to create a harmony of flavours and aromas
- Lightly sweet, then leaving a charred, oaky aftertaste. Sensational!

⑥ Yamazaki Distiller's Reserve

70cl | 43% VOL | £80

Strawberries & cream / Soft vanilla / Cinnamon

- Suntory's flagship single malt, praised by whisky connoisseurs all over the world
- Mild with fresh fruit and mizunara (Japanese oak) aromas
- The Yamazaki distillery houses a whisky reference library of over 7000 bottles

⑦ Starward Single Barrel Red Wine Barrique

70cl | 55.4% VOL | £93

Tart berry fruits / Sweet vanilla / Oak shavings

- A first-rate single malt whisky from down under, exclusive to The Whisky Shop
- The spirit is matured in an American oak red wine cask from Victoria
- Beautifully rich, this is an award-winning and head-turning dram

④



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⑥



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THE WHISKY SHOP

Customer Favourites

Light / Floral

① Fettercairn 12 Year Old

70cl | 40% VOL | £53

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.



"Fresh and fruity, with lashings of tropical mango, papaya, and pineapple. Bourbon casks bring a vanilla sweetness to this delicious dram."

Jeremy, The Whisky Shop Paris

①



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.

②



③



**④ Loch Lomond
14 Year Old**

70cl | 46% VOL | £59 Green apple / Grapefruit / Vanilla

A 14-year-old single malt from the Loch Lomond Distillery, made using unpeated spirit. This liquid matured in refill American oak casks and lightly toasted French oak from the Limousin region for up to twelve months.

**⑤ 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.

**⑥ Bunnahabhain
12 Year Old**

70cl | 46.3% VOL | £53 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.

**⑦ Glen Moray
18 Year Old**

70cl | 47.2% VOL | £83 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.



THE WHISKY SHOP

Customer Favourites

Rich / Sweet

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.



“Sweet and light at the beginning, but full of subtle twists and turns. Something for everyone – a great malt to have in your cabinet!

→ Angus, Whiskeria Producer

② **The Dalmore 15 Year Old**

70cl | 40% VOL | £91

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.

③ **Blair Athol 12 Year Old**

70cl | 43% VOL | £56

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.

①



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④



**④ Old Pulteney
15 Year Old**

70cl | 46% VOL | £67

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 | £62

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 | £59

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 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.

**⑧ Loch Lomond
18 Year Old**

70cl | 46% VOL | £86

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 | £46

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 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!



"Sublimely complex, this dram offers layer after layer of salted caramel, cigar smoke, and apple pie. Very sippable, very moreish - it's a constant on my shelf."

Lauren, The Whisky Shop Inverness

①



② Mortlach 12 Year Old The Wee Witchie

70cl | 43.4% VOL | £60

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 Mortlach 16 Year Old Distiller's Dram

70cl | 43.4% VOL | £112

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.

②



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④ Glenfiddich Project XX

70cl | 47% VOL | £56

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.

⑤ Glen Scotia Victoriana

70cl | 54.2% VOL | £80

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!

⑥ Benromach 10 Year Old

70cl | 43% VOL | £44

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.

⑦ 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.

④



⑤



⑥



⑦



THE WHISKY SHOP

Customer Favourites

Smoky

① Talisker Port Ruighe

70cl | 45.8% VOL | £57

Cocoa / Plum / Spicy pepper

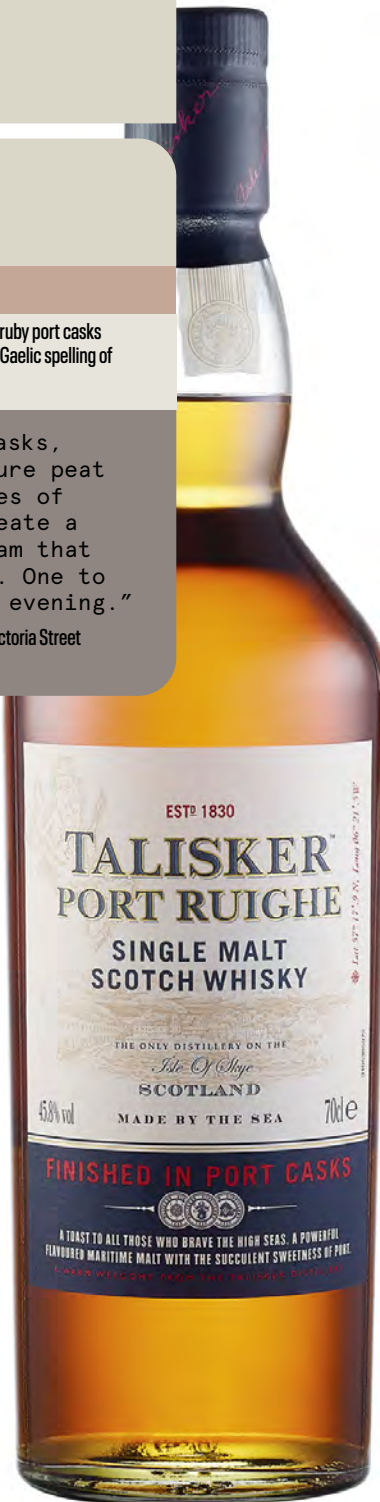
Rich and fruity, Talisker have taken their Isle of Skye malt and finished it in ruby port casks to achieve this delicious dram. 'Port Ruighe' (pronounced 'Portree') is the Gaelic spelling of the once bustling trading port on Skye.



"Matured in port casks, Talisker's signature peat combines with notes of dark fruits to create a deep and moody dram that is full of flavour. One to sip late into the evening."

→ Andy, The Whisky Shop Edinburgh Victoria Street

①



②



② Balvenie The Week of Peat 14 Year Old

70cl | 48.9% VOL | £75 Peat smoke / Citrus flavours / Light floral notes

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.

③ Jura 18 Year Old

70cl | 44% VOL | £79 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 Ailsa Bay 1.2

70cl | 48.9% VOL | £57 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.

⑤ Caol Ila Distillers Edition

70cl | 43% VOL | £77 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 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.



"More than just a striking bottle: this is a whisky that offers balance and versatility. Enjoy its light, approachable fruit sweetness straight up or in a highball."

→ Neil, Whisky Specialist



② Bushmills 16 Year Old

70cl | 40% VOL | £94

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 Redbreast 12 Year Old

70cl | 40% VOL | £58

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.



④ Writers' Tears Copper Pot

70cl | 40% VOL | £42 **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 Green Spot

70cl | 40% VOL | £50 **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!

⑦ Roe & Co

70cl | 45% VOL | £38 **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 Maker's 46

70cl | 47% VOL | £47 **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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Paternoster
EC4M 7DZ
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BN1 1HQ
01273 327 962

GUILDFORD
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GU1 3UL
01483 450 900

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BA1 5AQ
01225 423 535

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OX1 3DQ
01865 202 279

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3 Swan Lane
NR2 1HZ
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M2 7EE
0161 832 6110

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YO1 9NT
0190 4640 300

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Waverley Mall
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0131 558 7563

EDINBURGH
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EH1 2JW
0131 225 4666

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16 YEARS OLD

3RD RELEASE: 2022

Each release of Fettercairn 16 year old single malt will showcase a maturation journey that enhances the tropical distillery character derived from the copper cooling ring distillation process.

The 2022 release brings together spirit from Sherry matured and Sherry finished casks. A hand-picked trilogy of 1st and 2nd fill Oloroso, Pedro Ximenez and ex-Bourbon casks finely balanced to accentuate the beauty of the tropical house style.

TASTING NOTES

COLOUR

Amber gold with sunrise flecks.

NOSE

Sugared almonds, dried fruits & aged wood.

TASTE

Dried exotic fruits, lightly syruped figs, grapefruit and notes of mature oak.

FINISH

Sunkissed raisins, ripe guava, patisserie spices and cocoa qualities elaborated with a crescendo of natural vanilla. Finish encompasses moist ginger cake, passion fruit, baked apple, underpinned with gentle notes of roasted coffee.

ABV 46.4%

Expert Tasting: Bowmore ARC-52



With a breathtaking design that has wowed the industry, Charlie MacLean gets a chance to review the highly anticipated Bowmore ARC-52.

➤ The full name seems to be Aston ARC 52, indicating a collaboration with the iconic car designers and manufacturers Aston Martin. The '52' clearly related to the whisky's age, but I have been unable to interpret 'ARC', although it may simply refer to the unique shape of the bottle, sorry, vessel – I hesitate to call it a mere 'bottle'.

The 52YO is one of the oldest whiskies ever released by Bowmore and seemingly stands for 'the past', while the striking flask design represents 'the future' – in one of the on-line promo films it hovers like an alien space-ship over various earthly situations. Bowmore's strap-line for the brand is "The Art of Time since 1779" – the date of the distillery's foundation.

The spirit has been matured in both European oak sherry-seasoned 500 litre butts and 250 litre American oak hogsheads in Bowmore's ancient No. 1 warehouse, known as 'The Vault' and built in the late 18th Century, its thick walls washed by the sea at high-tide. In spite of its cool and damp atmosphere, 52 years have evaporated most of this liquid, concentrating the flavours of the mature whisky.

Only 100 bottles will be available, 50 will go on sale this Summer, and the other 50 will be released in early 2023, "in order to ensure high quality and craftsmanship for each vessel...

which merges natural and man-made contours, from 3D printing to hand crafted clay modelling".

Availability will include U.K., Germany, Netherlands, USA, Canada, China, Singapore and Global Travel Retail. So The Whisky Shop is privileged to have an allocation - buy now while stocks last!

About the whisky, Bowmore's Master Blender, Ron Welsh, said:

"A Bowmore as exquisite and complex as this 52 year old is testament to the skills of our distillery team and their commitment to optimising the time spent in cask to create such an incredible whisky. With ARC-52 the complexity of the single malt is unquestionable and to achieve such perfect balance not only defines its physical form but unites beautifully in every drop of this stunning whisky. Working with Aston Martin remains hugely rewarding and fascinating for me. It continues to inspire and show us a different way of working, with absolute precision, and has allowed us to create what, in my opinion, is the best Bowmore over 50 years old that I've ever tasted."

The Chief Creative Officer of Aston Martin, Marek Riechman, added: "ARC-52 sits at the apex of our partnership, truly showing the depth of what we can create collaboratively. We set out to produce something which hasn't been seen before, capturing our uncompromised design principles and also the magnificence of

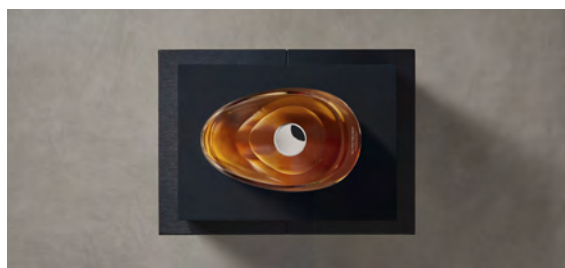
the whisky. I believe that what we have created is truly a piece of sculpture. Taking balance as the most important factor, as we do in designing Aston Martin cars, we've harnessed heritage and innovation in perfect balance. For me there is just so much to discover with this whisky as it embodies so much hidden knowledge - even the colour looks like it's been created by time."



Bowmore ARC-52

70cl	42.3% VOL
52 Year Old	£TBA
Island Single Malt	

A rich amber hue and an initial aroma which wraps custard cream biscuits, sour green apples and ripe plums in a swirl of coal-smoke – multi-layered and complex. The taste starts fresh, citric and tart, with a vanilla cream and more fruit (gooseberries and peaches?), and finishes smoky, with lingering spice, leaving an aftertaste of unripe plums and vanilla fudge.



When did you fall in love with whisky?

With so many exciting developments happening across the whisky industry, it can be easy to forget just how our affinity with whisky began. We asked some of the key figures that featured across this issue: did you have a ‘moment’ of falling in love with whisky?

› Rachel Barrie

Master Blender at Morrison Bowmore

“I used to treat myself to a miniature of single malt every couple of weeks as a reward”

It started with my Dad, at home in Aberdeenshire. He had a single malt collection that I was in awe of and The GlenDronach was his absolute favourite. On leaving home for Edinburgh University, I used to treat myself to a miniature of single malt every couple of weeks as a reward for hard work, and soon tasting and collecting miniatures became a hobby.

› Stuart MacBride

Author

“My parents tell a story that I waddled around a party when I was a toddler, unwittingly minesweeping everyone’s drinks.”

I had gone to study architecture at Herriot Watt in Edinburgh. I personally loathed the degree, but occasionally we’d have a big dinner and that’s where I learned about whisky. Although, apparently, my taste for whisky began much earlier. My parents tell a story that I waddled around a party when I was a toddler, unwittingly minesweeping everyone’s drinks. It’s fair to say my parents were fairly shocked when they discovered what had been happening!

› Angela Dineen

Operations Director at The Scotch Whisky Experience

“I grew up in Speyside surrounded by whisky distilleries.”

I grew up in Speyside surrounded by whisky distilleries. My granda and uncle both worked at Benrinnes distillery, and I spent my summers at university working as a tour guide at Glenfiddich distillery. I feel in love with whisky during those fun-filled summers up in Speyside where I also made friends for life.

› Nick Bradley

Brand Manager, Glen Scotia and Littlemill

“My dad used to give me nips of it on fishing trips and when my mum was out!”

I’ve enjoyed whisky since I was a very young man — my dad used to give me nips of it on fishing trips and when my mum was out! But moving to Scotland is where my love and appreciation really blossomed. The first thing I did was get myself a membership to whisky clubs. Then I was lucky enough to be offered the Brand Manager job with Glen Scotia, which was my first introduction to Campbeltown whiskies. Safe to say my mind was officially blown, and then I was truly happily hooked.

Share your thoughts by tweeting
@whiskeriamagazine!

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bowmore.com

Please drink responsibly and never drink and drive. drinkaware.co.uk

ARC_52 | BEYOND LIMITS