

Whiskeria



Open Invitation

Professional golfer turned broadcaster Iona Stephen tees up a summer of sport



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Summer
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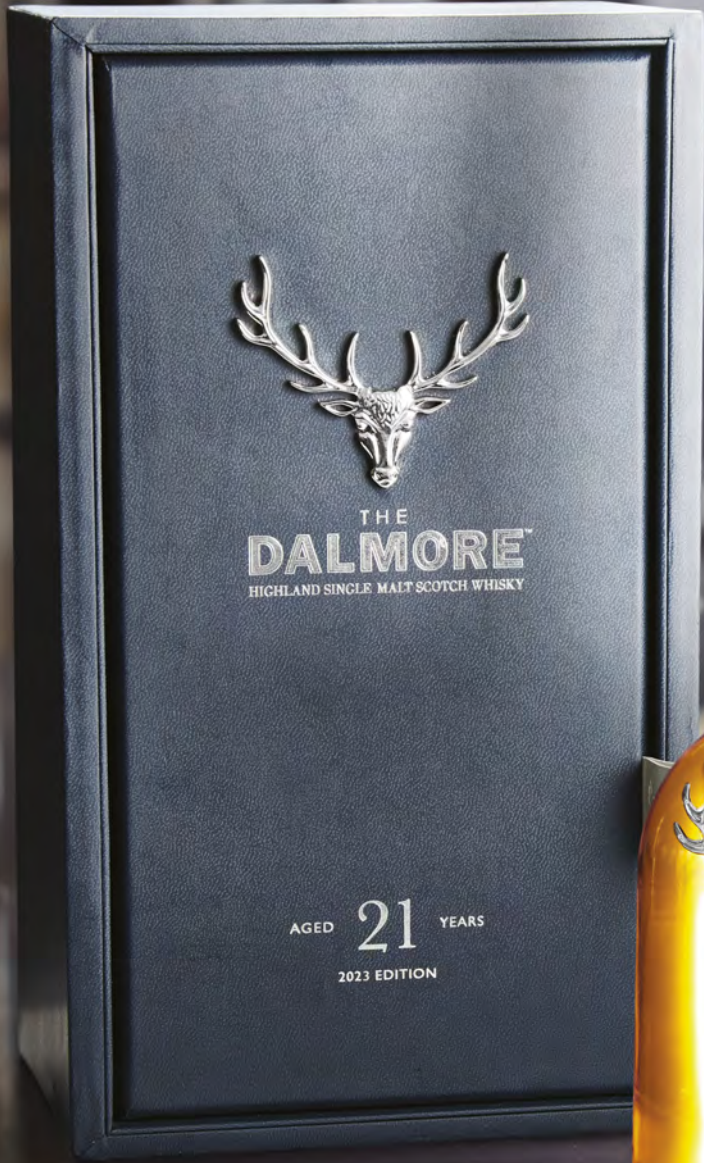
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THE MAGAZINE OF

**THE
WHISKY
SHOP**

UNLOCKING
THE MYSTERY
OF WHISKY



THE
DALMORE[™]
HIGHLAND SINGLE MALT SCOTCH WHISKY

AGED **21** YEARS

2023 EDITION

The Making of a Masterpiece

Craftmanship

For 180 years, The Dalmore Single Malt has nurtured every drop, releasing untold potential

Potential

A true coming of age whisky, our whisky makers describe 21 years as the moment where complexity and depth come to the fore, and the full potential of our maturing spirit becomes manifest

Scarcity

Our 30 Year Old first-fill Matusalem casks are exclusively available to The Dalmore

Available only in limited annual batches, this exquisite whisky is finished for up to 3 years in Matusalem Sherry casks, exclusive to The Dalmore

————— *Available from 1st May 2023* —————

Premium whiskies have entered luxury's hallowed hall of fame

Ian P. Bankier, Chairman of The Whisky Shop, muses on the place of premium whiskies among luxury items.



➤ In 2003, when I began my journey with The Whisky Shop, premium Scotch Malts were retailing at under £20 per bottle and the sector looked very likely to fall down the same plug hole that Scotch Blends had done in the preceding decade. The demise of the blend was largely brought about by the supermarkets, who identified blended Scotch as a 'known value item' within the shopper's basket and drove retail prices down to levels that were unsustainable. This not only starved blends from brand investment, but crucially, it devalued the product. Thus, Scotch Blends became 'bad' and Single Malts 'good'. This was the perception of the buying public, based on the extraordinary low pricing of Scotch Blends and had entirely nothing to do with the inherent merits of the product.

What happened next is a long story for another day, but, against the odds, Scotch Malts managed to hold their value and, alongside whiskies from around the world, they have achieved the premium status that they merit. Whiskies regularly retail at £100 per bottle and upwards and at the high end, as we call it, beautifully presented rare expressions retail in the thousands of pounds. That vital recognition of quality that started with Scotch Malts has drawn more and more consumers into the space

and this has enabled distillers to invest in better and better expressions. A virtuous circle if you will.

Such has been the success of premium whiskies, I would go as far as to maintain that currently, the very top Scotch Malts and super deluxe world whiskies enjoy the same consumer status as watches, designer handbags, and, I dare say, exotic sports cars. They have entered luxury's hallowed hall of fame. Demand outstrips supply for the very best, because they are produced in very small numbers. And just as with watches and handbags, the secondary market is buoyant.

The overall impact of the emergence of super luxury whiskies is that they have created a 'halo' effect that has lifted all whisky products in the eyes of the consumer. By no means everyone can afford a top end luxury item, but everyone feels that they are getting a piece of something special when they buy even an entry point bottle of premium whisky. As I see it, to have and enjoy something special is good for the soul. In this world of media-fuelled misery, it can feel that there is little to cheer about. That it makes it all the more important that we do not overlook life's pleasures.

Slainte!

Ian P Bankier, Chairman

THE WHISKY SHOP



Such has been the success of premium whiskies, I would go as far as to maintain that currently, the very top Scotch Malts and super deluxe world whiskies enjoy the same consumer status as watches, designer handbags, and, I dare say, exotic sports cars.

Competition

Win!

A Johnnie Walker gift bundle

This summer, we're running an exciting competition that will put you in with the chance of winning a fabulous Johnnie Walker gift bundle. The bundle will include a Johnnie Walker Blue Label Gift Pack, a Johnnie Walker branded golf umbrella, a Johnnie Walker water bottle, a Johnnie Walker power bank, and an extra-comfy pair of Johnnie Walker socks.

To be in with a chance to win, simply visit: tws.cx/win

Competition closes 24th July 2023.
T&Cs apply. Winners will be contacted directly.



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OF WHISKY

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Contributors

ILLUSTRATION: FRANCESCA WADDELL

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

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Gavin D Smith

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

Distillery Visit

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New Releases/ Summer 2023



Reviewed by
Charles MacLean

Glen Scotia / Glenfarclas /
InchDairnie / Kilchoman
The Loch Fyne: Islay /
Teainich / Ledaig /
The Lakes

ILLUSTRATIONS: HRAFNHILDUR HALLSDÓTTIR



New Releases

Glen Scotia 21 Year Old

70cl 46% VOL

21 Year Old £265

Campbeltown single malt

Pale amber with tawny lights. A mix of European and American oak. Surprisingly good beading at this strength. Glen Scotia's typical oily, maritime style is modified by finishing to present a faintly vinous top-note (grape must rather than sherry). A soft texture and a distinct taste of milk chocolate. Unusual and delicious.

"Glen Scotia's typical oily, maritime style is modified by finishing to present a faintly vinous top-note"



Readers may recall that Glen Scotia 25 Year Old won 'Best in Class' - i.e. 'Best in the World'! - at the San Francisco World Spirits Competition in 2021, which attracted 3,800 entrants. As Iain McAlister, the distillery's legendary manager, writes: *"This was a hugely important moment in our 190 year history and an indication of how we have looked to bring the distillery into the modern age while not losing the authenticity of a great Campbeltown malt"*.

He set about creating another core range expression, limited to 2,500 bottles annually, which would stand between the award-winning 25-year-old and the well-loved 18-year-old, and this is the result, Glen Scotia 21 Year Old, aged in a combination of refill American oak ex-bourbon barrels and hogsheads, then finished in first-fill ex-Oloroso sherry casks for six months.

Iain McAlister says: *"Like all good things, it has taken us a bit of time, but we are delighted with the result and can't wait to see what people think. One of the things I am most grateful for at Glen Scotia is our fantastic and supportive fan base, which continues to grow around the world - it's very humbling. We sincerely hope they like this latest edition to the Glen Scotia family."*

Iain is a proud son of Campbeltown, about which he writes:

"It's a place like no other - a small town on the west coast of Scotland that was to become the 'Victorian Whisky Capital of the World'. The people of Campbeltown are stoic and proud, and our whisky has always had a wonderful way of bringing us together in times of need. Glen Scotia prevailed against the odds where some thirty other local distilleries fell. Today it stands proudly among the last of the many, by virtue of the community spirit that defines Campbeltown".

Glenfarclas 35 Year Old

70cl	43% VOL
35 Year Old	£850
Highland single malt	

Deep amber in colour; a mild nose, the top note is of browned flaked almonds, backed by a dried fruit complex (figs, dates) with a hint of tablet and refined oil at reduced strength. A smooth texture and a sweetish taste, with tablet in mid palate; a long, dry finish and a pleasant nutty aftertaste.



“A smooth texture and a sweetish taste, with tablet in mid palate; a long, dry finish and a pleasant nutty aftertaste.”

Glenfarclas is one of only three malt whisky distilleries founded in the nineteenth century which is still owned and controlled by descendants of its founder. Can you guess the other two?

Although a small distillery had been established at Rechlerich Farm on Ballindalloch Estate in the 1830s, its true history begins with the acquisition of both by a neighbour, John Grant, in 1865. The distillery and farm have passed down six generations of Grants, all named either John or George.

Alfred Barnard, the tireless author of *The Whisky Distilleries of the United Kingdom* (1887) was not impressed by Glenfarclas' situation, but did comment

“...nevertheless, if unlovely, all was strange, gigantic and sublime”. By contrast, the ebullient Tommy Dewar, who used the whisky in his blends, described it, in 1912, as: “The King of Whiskies and the Whisky of Kings... In its superiority it is something to drive the skeleton from the feast and paint landscapes in the brain of man”.

During the 1890s, John and George Grant made the near-fatal decision of going into partnership with Pattison, Elder & Company, blenders in Leith, who became the agent for the new-make spirit and undertook to take *“the whole make of the whisky”*. When Pattison collapsed in 1900 (the principals being sent to prison for fraud and embezzlement), it very nearly dragged

down Glenfarclas with it, but the Grants managed to trade out of their difficulties by 1906, vowing henceforward to remain independent.

The single malt began to be promoted by its owner in the 1960s - Glenfarclas was the first malt to be offered at cask strength, in 1968 - the majority of the make being matured on site, typically in ex-sherry casks. As a result, the distillery retains a uniquely large stock of old whiskies, including a number of casks filled in 1987 and now 35 years old, *“discovered”*, according to the press release, by the distillery's manager, Calum Fraser.

New Releases

InchDairnie RyeLaw

70cl 46.3% VOL

NAS £107

Lowland rye whisky

Deep gold with orange lights: virgin American oak casks. The top notes are fruity, led by banana, backed by coconut, permeated by fresh oak. All simple and harmonious. A creamy texture, the taste is sweet and centre palate, finishing elegantly spicy.

“A creamy texture, the taste is sweet and centre palate, finishing elegantly spicy.”



This whisky is unusual in two respects: it is the first release from InchDairnie Distillery on the edge of Kinglassie village in Fife, which commenced production in December 2015. Furthermore, it is a rye whisky.

The distillery is the brainchild of Ian Palmer, a hugely experienced and highly respected distiller. Quoting sci-fi novelist, Arthur C. Clarke: “Any sufficiently advanced technology is indistinguishable from magic”, Ian Palmer writes:

“We couldn’t agree more. That’s why, alongside malted barley, water, and yeast, one of the most important ingredients in our whisky will be technology. In our quest for flavour, we have distilled decades of

industry experience and knowledge into fine-tuning one of the most meticulously designed distillation processes in the world.”

You bet! In the interest of enhancing flavour, he has designed an astonishingly innovative production system for InchDairnie, unlike any other.

The distillery uses both spring and winter barley and rye, locally grown. The malted grains are pulverised to flour in a hammer mill and processed in a mash-conversion vessel, which increases the extraction of very clear worts. The only other distillery to use this system is Teaninich [see p 15].

The worts are fermented by a unique yeast recipe, developed from thousands of tests, at higher than usual gravities. The three stills are each equipped with two condensers, making for very pure spirit. One of the stills is of Lomond design, capable of producing different styles of spirit and used in distilling the rye component in RyeLaw. The spirit is matured on site.

RyeLaw employs a high proportion of malted rye, combined with malted barley. Although rye was widely used in Scotland in the past, today it is uncommon, indeed I know of only one other, from Arbikie Distillery. The whisky will be released in limited quantities each year.

Kilchoman PX Cask #314-2015 W Club Exclusive

70cl 56.6% VOL

18 Year Old £110

Single cask Islay single malt

Deep amber/cream sherry in colour. A rich, dry nose with some initial prickle. The top notes are typical Kilchoman (sea-salt, warm sand, canvas, boat varnish), backed by wafts of fragrant peat-smoke and developing tablet notes. A mouth-filling texture, the taste is lightly sweet, with salt in mid palate and smoke in the finish. A classic example of the make.

"A mouth-filling texture, the taste is lightly sweet, with salt in mid palate and smoke in the finish."



Kilchoman Distillery is situated on the wild west coast of Islay and is a true 'farm distillery' - growing and malting its own barley, maturing, and bottling on site. It was the brainchild of Anthony and Kathy Wills and is very much a family business: Kathy runs the shop and tearoom, and their three sons are the sales force. The distillery was opened by the present writer in June 2005, following the conversion of a group of semi-derelict farm buildings, and in 2019, a second distillery was purpose-built nearby.

The distillery's slogan is "*Taking Whisky Back to its Roots*", based on the fact that the lands of Kilchoman were gifted by the Lords of the Isles to their hereditary physicians,

named MacBeatha (Anglicised to Beaton), who may well have brought the secrets of distilling with them when they arrived on Islay in 1300. A fine Celtic cross from the sixteenth century commemorating the Beaton of the day stands in Kilchoman kirkyard nearby.

The earliest written reference to distilling in Scotland dates from 1494: "*By order of the King, VIII bolls of malt, wherewith to make aqua vitae*". The king was James IV, our greatest Renaissance prince, interested in all things scientific and medical, who had been campaigning on Islay against the Lord of the Isles that year and the year before. It seems to me highly

likely that he might have learned about distilling there.

Kilchoman's style is maritime and smoky. This 18-year-old is a superb example of the distillery's character but is rounded and enriched by maturation in casks seasoned with Pedro Ximénez sweet sherry-wine. I understand it to be a mix of 1/3 fully matured in Pedro Ximénez casks (from 2015) and 2/3 Pedro Ximénez finished casks (from 2013). It is delicious.

New Releases

The Loch Fyne Islay 12 Year Old

50cl 54% VOL

12 Year Old £115

Islay single malt

Pale straw in colour with good beading. A sharp nose-
feel and a classic Islay nose
- maritime and phenolic (sea
spray, iodine, antiseptic,
carbolic, Coal Tar soap),
bound up with peat-smoke.
A very sweet taste, with some
salt and a fresh, smoky finish,
with chilli-spice. I would
guess it's a Caol Ila.

“Pale straw
in colour with
good beading.”



Malt whisky distillers have long been nervous about their products appearing on the lists of independent bottlers for the simple reason that they do not have any control of the quality of the liquid bottled under their brand-name.

However, up until the 1970s, the vast majority of single malt bottlings were not released by their proprietors - the brand owners - but by indie bottlers like William Cadenhead in Aberdeen (established 1842) and Gordon & Macphail in Elgin (established 1895) or by licensed spirits merchants, something of a precedent had been established so it was difficult for brand owners to object.

There were a few exceptions. Glenfarclas, for example, has consistently and successfully gone to law to prevent the use of their good name, leading to a famous wrangle with Cadenheads in the early 1990s which was settled 'at the door of the court', but which cost the latter a substantial amount.

Apart from embarking on the costly and uncertain outcomes of litigation, brand owners have adopted two tactics to protect their copyright. The first is by inhibiting brokers selling their casks to indie bottlers or investors under the distillery name, on penalty of refusing them further casks. The second is by

'teaspooning' - adding a tiny amount of another malt to their casks pre-sale, so they cannot be retailed under the original name - nor even as a 'single' malt.

Pioneers of this practice were William Grant & Sons, who teaspoon Glenfiddich and Balvenie with small amounts of whisky from each other or from Kininvie and give the makes new names - Glenfiddich becomes Wardhead and Balvenie, Burnside. I know of a further seventeen such malts, and there will be more.

Malts which do not bear a name, like this Islay whisky, are known as 'bastard malts', since their parentage is unknown!

The Loch Fyne Teainich 8 Year Old

50cl 58.1% VOL

8 Year Old £69

Highland single malt

Pale straw in colour, with lemon lights, the prickly nose offers initial notes of acid drop boiled sweets and pear drops, moving towards fruit salad - fresh, vigorous and youthful. The taste is sweet overall, with light acidity and a shortish, somewhat etheric finish, even with a drop of water.

“The taste is sweet overall, with light acidity and a shortish, somewhat etheric finish, even with a drop of water.”



Founded in 1817, Teainich Distillery is located at Alness, just north of the Cromarty Firth in Easter Ross. Alfred Barnard wrote in his *Distilleries of the United Kingdom* (1887) that it was “Beautifully situated on the margin of the sea...the only distillery north of Inverness that is lighted by electricity... besides which it possesses telephonic communication”.

The name, pronounced ‘Chi-an-in-nick’, may be unfamiliar to many readers since all but a drop of the spirit goes for blending (not least in the Johnnie Walker blends). However since doubling capacity in 2015, to 10.2 million LPA, it is now the seventh largest malt distillery and the third largest in Diageo’s estate.

Its singular claim to fame was the installation in 2000 of a hammer mill and mash filter instead of the traditional mill and mash tun, but this is no longer unique, having been installed at Inchdairnie Distillery in 2015 [see p.12]. The malt is ground to a fine flour, without husks, in the hammer mill, then mixed with hot water in a ‘mash conversion vessel’, where a vortex stirs the mash like water porridge to convert the starch to soluble sugar. The slurry then passes through a filter press where it is squeezed between 24 cloth plates and the wort collected. A second water is then added throughout the filter; known as ‘weak worts’, this becomes the first water of the next batch. The filter plates are then

separated and the draff collected.

Each pressing takes two hours, and it takes three pressings to fill one washback, but the process is capable of handling different grains - rye and different grades of barley, for example - so is ideal for conducting trials and experiments.

Teainich’s spirit character is ‘grassy and oily’ and the mature whisky is typically sweet and lightly citric, sometimes with fresh fruit and floral notes. It was first released as a single by its owner in 1992 - a 10-year-old under United Distillers’ *Flora & Fauna* label.

New Releases

The Loch Fyne Ledaig 11 Year Old

50cl 53% VOL

11 Year Old £95

Island single malt

Silver in colour, from a much refilled American oak cask. The nose-feel is quite sharp and the aroma distinctly peaty and briny to start, with fresh acetone and iodine notes. The taste is surprisingly sweet, with a pinch of salt and a smoky finish and aftertaste.

“Silver in colour,
from a much refilled
American oak cask”



Ledaig - pronounced "Laycheck" - is the name of the burn which flows into Tobermory Bay, close to Tobermory Distillery, and is now applied to the peated expressions from that distillery.

Tobermory is a model village planned in the late 1780s to be a 'fishing station' by the landlord, the Fifth Duke of Argyll, with the support of the British Fisheries Society (BFS), of which distinguished body he happened to be Governor. The principal contractors on the job were Hugh and John Stevenson, who also built Oban Distillery. Another Stevenson, Robert - Robert Louis Stevenson's grandfather and Chief Engineer to the Northern Lighthouse

Board - was critical of the choice of the site. Although the bay was a perfect harbour, the village was too far from the fishing grounds.

He was proved correct, and Tobermory never took off as a fishing port. It did become an important trading port, however, especially after the Crinan Canal opened in 1801, and later the Caledonian Canal, and the 'enormous increase in the kelp trade from the Inner and Outer Hebrides'.

Among those whose fortunes were founded on kelp was one John Sinclair from Loch Etive, who set up first as a 'merchant' then, in April 1797, applied to the BFS to lease 57 acres at Ledaig, on which he wished to build houses and a distillery. He

built his distillery the following year, as well as a pier known as 'Sinclair's Quay'.

The subsequent history of Tobermory Distillery is patchy, with several owners and even more years of closure. In 1996, Ian MacMillan, the company's Director of Production, began to distil *Ledaig* regularly for the first time, allocating six months to the production of the peated expression. He claimed to have been "*inspired by the traditional style of single malt Scotch whisky that would have been originally distilled on the island of Mull*".

The Lakes Whiskymaker's Reserve No.6

70cl 50% VOL

NAS £85

English single malt

A rich umber colour with ruby lights; excellent beading. A dense mellow nose, the first impression is savoury, leathery, soon developing faintly herbal/floral notes and a suggestion of dark chocolate. A creamy, mouth-filling, texture and a sweet taste, drying lightly, with some spice and chocolate in the aftertaste (Turkish Delight). Unusual and delicious.

“Unusual and
delicious.”



The 'Whiskymaker' is Dhavall Gandhi—a remarkable man for whom I have the highest respect.

He is a scientist, but he's also a highly creative artist: his motto, adopted by the distillery itself, is *"The nature of our art is whisky. The inspiration for our art is Nature"*. He is also a philosopher—even a mystic (he meditates every morning)—and a poet: have a look at The Lakes Distillery website. It is exemplary; would that others were as intelligent, honest and informative.

Dhavall stresses the holistic nature of whisky making. While he is acutely aware of the influences upon the flavour of the finished product by every stage of process

and maturation, he starts from the end, from the flavour he wants to create for each of his whiskies, and works back from there. He has overall responsibility for every stage of process—raw materials, mashing, fermentation, distillation, maturation (predominantly sherry-seasoned European and American oak casks)—and selects the casks for his limited edition vatting to achieve his goals.

The distillery's website describes Whiskymaker's Reserve No. 6 as *"delving deep into the subtleties of flavour creation to explore multi-layered nuances, turning the spotlight on exotic spices and gentle rose fragrance to create a distinctly*

different mood from its predecessors. More flavour-driven, with a focus on accentuating notes of wood spice, it has been principally matured in bespoke-made Oloroso, PX, and red wine casks, hand-crafted from Spanish and American oak, and designed through the art of élevage and blending expertise."

How could you resist?

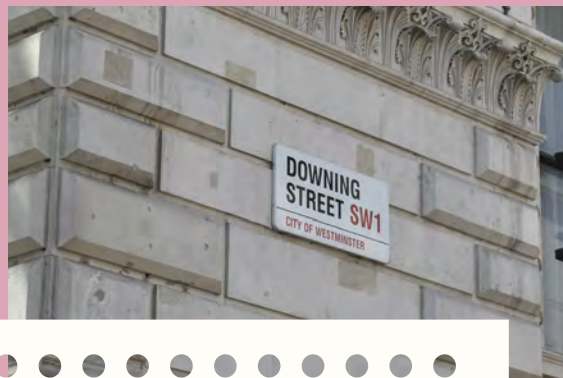
The Lakes Distillery was founded in 2011 in the World Heritage English Lakes district of Cumbria – beloved of romantic poets like Wordsworth and Coleridge and a fit cradle for a talent like that of Dhavall Gandhi. Although the poets were 'opium eaters', they will have been impressed by Dhavall's creation!

Whisky business

2 Loch Lomond release limited edition Single Grain expressions

Loch Lomond have launched two fabulous, limited edition Single Grain whiskies that celebrate the distillery's innovative spirit. Created by Master Blender, Michael Henry, the expressions are made using exclusively malted barley. Loch Lomond Single Grain Distiller's Choice and Loch Lomond Single Grain Cooper's Collection are truly drams to behold.

Speaking of the whiskies, Michael Henry said, *"We're proud to introduce the latest additions to our Single Grain portfolio. Created using our innovative Coffey still, these are two very special whiskies with distinct and diverse flavours."*



1 Alcohol duty increase hits the whisky industry

Chancellor Jeremy Hunt has announced that the blanket alcohol duty freeze will end in August this year which means that levies will rise in line with inflation. The Scottish Whisky Association described this increase as a *"historic blow"* to the industry. The only alcoholic beverages to avoid being hit are on-draught products such as beer and cider.





4

Fettercairn completes The Warehouse Collection with Warehouse 14

Fettercairn’s fabulous new limited edition release from The Warehouse Collection, Warehouse 14, is available now! This is the first time a dram from Warehouse 14 has been unveiled by the distillery as part of their Warehouse Collection, with all previous releases coming from Warehouse 2. Matured in a combination of first fill and second fill ex-bourbon barrels, this unique expression enjoyed a finish in a variety of beer barrels (stout, dark ale, and pale ale) to enhance Fettercairn’s signature tropical style. Master Whisky Maker, Gregg Glass, said, *“Each of our warehouses at Fettercairn has a sense of magic. It is a fantastic place to make whisky and with Warehouse 14 I think we have once again pushed the boundaries and offered a new perspective of what Fettercairn can be.”*

3

Berry Bros. & Rudd buy minority stake in The Cotswolds Distillery

Berry Bros. & Rudd have purchased a minority stake in The Cotswolds Distillery. The funds from the sale are being used to reach some of the distillery’s sustainability goals which include building a bio-diverse wetlands ecological treatment system. Daniel Szor, founder of The Cotswolds Distillery, said, *“We could not be more delighted with the results of our funding round, in particular our new partnership with Berry Bros., who, like us, stand for excellence in fine spirits as we further build our brand through increased national and international distribution.”*



Fair game



W Club Manager, Luke Crowley-Holland, talks us through The Whisky Shop's ballot system, introduced to give our W Clubbers equal opportunity to purchase highly exclusive bottles.

Knowledge Bar

W Club



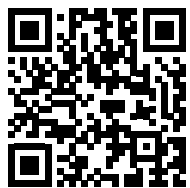
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Members Hub



W Club Whisky Ballots and Priority Access

Casting lots and random ballots is a tradition that stretches back beyond written history. Much like our relationship with alcohol. It is believed that humans were seeking out and consuming alcohol before we were even fully evolved as homo sapiens, and we were drawing lots to make decisions and distribute goods for almost as long.

There is a strain of scholarship that explores the interrelationship between the first emergence of agriculture and the production of alcohol (and other mood-altering products) in Neolithic society. Across all our ancient texts, from Hellenic poems, through The Bible and our oldest surviving Germanic and Old English epics, we find near constant references to alcoholic beverages: **"Well, friend Unferth, you have had your say about Breca and me. But it was mostly beer that was doing the talking..."** – Beowulf

Similarly—while Noah may have wasted little time after the flood in planting a vineyard, and getting drunk—Moses, under instruction from his god, divided the land west of the River Jordan by the drawing of lots. The ancient Babylonians, Egyptians, Greeks, and Romans used raffles and ballots in a number of ways, from the distributing of goods, to the raising of funds, to simply playing games—and beyond.

For the ancient Athenians, selection by lottery was then the principal way of achieving fairness. For this famous Greek city-state, sortition, not

elections, were the most democratic practice, as it prevented the use of corrupt methods to buy one's way into office, blunting the ambitions of would-be oligarchs. Like many great enlightenment thinkers and scholars before us, the team at the W Club made the decision last year to deploy random ballots as the fairest way to put our most in-demand whiskies to our members.

We still use our Priority Access system—which gives an exclusive period of access to our member—to release bottles to W Clubbers before anyone else gets the chance to purchase, and we will continue to do so. However, within our list of bottles that would traditionally go to members on priority access, we have a number that are extremely limited in allocation, and so sought-after, that they would sell out in a matter of minutes after going live to W Club Members. As a result of your feedback regarding the annoyance of some of our Priority Access releases selling out much too fast—as a result of both the high demand on specific releases and the growth in our W Club membership numbers—last June, we unveiled the first of our new W Club Ballots with the launch of The Macallan Distil Your World New York. Finally bringing together these two great traditions of alcohol consumption and randomised ballots.

Since then, we have sold over 1,000 bottles of some of the world's most wanted whiskies to W Club members via about 60 separate ballots. And we will continue to hold these on a weekly basis as the fairest way to deliver bottles to our valued W Club Members.



The Inaugural W Club Awards

Since the start of 2023, we've been quietly getting ready to launch the first ever W Club awards. All the brand entries are in and now, over the coming weeks, our W Club members will be deciding which is their favourite whisk(e)y of the year across a selection of different categories. The winners will be decided in a series of blind tastings conducted in TWS locations throughout the UK. Meaning our W Clubbers-slash-judges deciding will not be swayed by any branding or preconceptions they might have about a specific producer or release but will decide based purely off the quality of the liquid they will try, judged to a specific set of criteria.

If you're interested in taking part in one of our judging sessions, make sure your membership is up-to-date and see that you are keeping an eye on the events being run in your local branch of The Whisky Shop. You can do this via your W Club emails, our W Club Events or via our new Discussion Feed on the W Club Members hub. There will be some other exciting announcements coming from the W Club over the coming weeks and months. Keep a lookout and keep on Clubbing.



TWWSA un corked



One of the most knowledgeable figures in the world of online whisky auctions, Christoffer Hällström, answers Whiskeria readers' burning questions on investments, storage, and more!

PHOTOGRAPHY: DECLAN CORCORAN

Knowledge Bar
Free home collection



If you have an interesting bottle at home that you'd like to auction, we'll pick it up from your doorstep, free of charge!



Email auctions@whiskyshop.com to find out when your dram can be collected.

THE WHISKY SHOP
AUCTIONS

How do you decide which bottles go into each auction?

Rab, Inverness

—
It largely depends on what comes into the office! We try to keep a fair policy of 'first in, first on the site' as we can get multiples of the same bottle. This means everyone gets a fair go at selling the bottle without flooding an auction with hundreds of the same one.

Do I need to keep the corks moist on the bottles I am storing?

Stephen, Nottingham

—
This is a hotly contested question amongst whisky collectors and drinkers! You don't want to lie the bottles down, like you would with wine. Whisky is a lot stronger in ABV and it will eat away at the cork and the glue holding it on to the top. A gentle inversion of the bottle every so often to stop it becoming too dry is probably all you need to do.

I've a growing collection of whisky. Where do I start with regards looking at insuring my bottles?

James, Newcastle upon Tyne

—
There are specialist insurance brokers who should be able to help you. Most household insurance will offer a small level of cover, but if you have a growing collection, it is best to seek specialist advice. Make sure you're keeping an accurate record of what you have and purchase prices for the bottles, too!

If you had £150 a month to invest in whisky, via auctions, what advice would you give to try to maximise your return over 20 years?

Phil, Aberdeen

—
This is a tricky question! It depends on what you're looking to do with your bottles long term. Some whisky collectors and drinkers like to 'trade up' so use the money to steadily purchase more expensive bottles to be able to drink more expensive bottles than they would usually afford to open.

At the end of your 20 years of collecting, do you want to have some really cool bottles to open or sell back into the marketplace? If you're looking to return them back into the market, you need to play the game carefully and ensure you've bought bottles that will remain attractive at that point in time.

Which are the hidden gems for collecting and investing in the whisky category?

Georgi, Bulgaria

—
There's a general principle that you want to look for bottles which are from small releases, for example, single casks or limited releases. This means as time goes on there will be fewer of them remaining as bottles are opened and consumed. Just be careful—some limited releases can mean 60,000 bottles, which is a lot more than a single barrel which can be only a couple of hundred bottles!



I will have over 100 bottles to auction in time. I know prices go up and down over the years, but is there any evidence about the best time of year to enter bottles for auction?

David, Oxfordshire

—
Another tricky question! It depends if you have multiples of the same bottle. You don't want to sell them all at once because you're crowding your own market. Over our years of experience, we don't think that there's one time of the year that's necessarily better than another. Obviously if you're selling at Christmas, you might be appealing to bidders who are looking for gifts. But if you're selling an interesting bottle that a bidder really wants, it doesn't matter if it's December or July! Don't forget that at TWSA we've got a global audience so what's happening here in the UK doesn't necessarily reflect the seasons in another country.

Is there an ideal temperature to store whisky? Does humidity affect storage?

Alasdair, St. Andrews

—
This is quite important for long term storage. You want to think about a cool place which is not affected by too much light. We often get asked about storing in a loft or a garage. Ideally, you want a consistent temperature that doesn't fluctuate too much. This means that a loft which isn't insulated is not ideal because it goes from hot to cold. Humidity can affect the labels and the glue which holds them on to the bottles, so ideally you want somewhere dry but not hot.

What are the main criteria which determines value to bottles of whisky?

Mark, Girvan

—
Lots of things, but the main ones (in no particular order) are scarcity, brand / distillery reputation, condition of the bottle, and demand from the bidders! If you have a bottle that fits those then you're on to a strong auction entry.

When it comes to investing through auctions, what are the tips and tricks to grab the best bottles?

Ang, London

—
We get asked this a lot! When you're bidding, put in the price you're comfortable with and walk away. It's very easy to get caught up in a bidding war if you're not careful! Obviously, this might sound like odd advice coming from us, but it's human nature to get competitive. If you follow this, you shouldn't end up feeling like you've bid too much for a bottle. Auctions are meant to be fun for bidders and sellers alike.

What underrated bottlings do you recommend people look out for?

Andrew, Tonbridge

—
At TWSA, we recommend using the auctions as a chance to try something perhaps you've never seen before. We have lots of old blends which give you a chance to open a whisky which contains a little slice of whisky history! There are some great blends which will contain whiskies that may be older than you! We think that's a fun thing to try too.

How significant is having the original box/ packaging to the value of a whisky lot?

John, London

—
In our experience, it's a bit of a misconception as to how important this is. You can have a look through our auction price history. Quite often there's not much difference in the final hammer prices of bottles which may have some of the packaging missing. This depends on the person who is bidding on the bottle. If they are a collector, then they may want to have all the packaging. If you've got it then save it with the bottle, just in case!

What is it like to be a whisky auctioneer? I have always wanted to pursue a career in the whisky industry.

Nathalie, London

—
We're a really close team here at TWSA. You need to be able to muck in with anything that comes up as every day looks different in our office! So being a team player is really important as we deal with a wide variety of tasks over the week. From getting the bottles in the door, working with customers, processing bottle images, and getting products live. That's before you think about getting bottles back out to customers! We've also got our lovely Davie who goes all over the UK collecting bottles from customers to put into the auctions.

The whisky industry encompasses many jobs. Why not start by getting involved in a local whisky club and festival? They are great places to make connections whilst enjoying whisky too!

Celebration time



Brian Wilson reflects on the many successes of Japanese whisky over the years, and how some of our favourite spirits have managed to stand the test of time.

ILLUSTRATION: KATIE SMITH

Knowledge Bar

Japanese whisky



In the mood to try out an exceptional Japanese whisky? Here are some of our top picks:

Yamazaki 12 Year Old

70cl | 43% VOL | £145

Suntory's flagship single malt, Yamazaki. Prepare yourself for this wonderfully well-balanced 12-year-old whisky, brimming with notes of cinnamon, vanilla, and ginger.

Hibiki 21 Year Old

70cl | 43% VOL | £1250

A legendary Japanese whisky. Centred around the idea of true harmony, this multi-award-winning blend is truly an expression to behold.

Nikka Tailored

70cl | 43% VOL | £113

This highly impressive blend brings together malts from Yoichi and Miyagiko distilleries. Expect flavours of apricot, raisin, and apple in this delectable whisky.

➔ The Suntory name has become pretty much synonymous with Japanese whisky, in both Western and Asian markets. They were the pioneers and experimenters who developed into a vast corporation and this year celebrate their centenary of single malt whisky production, using the Scottish method of distillation.

Two individuals are most closely associated with this exceptional history. In the early 20th century, a pharmacist named Shinjiro Torii adapted his professional skills to the manufacture of alcoholic drinks; initially Akadama Port Wine, sold from his shop in Osaka. It became an instant success and provided the basis for future investment.

But it was whisky production along Scottish lines which fascinated Torii. While there had been small-scale efforts in Japan to produce an alcoholic drink that answered roughly to the name “whisky”, Torii's ambition was far higher and to achieve it, he needed to understand what suits the Japanese palate through refining the skills rather than simply bringing Scotch to Japanese. In order to do so, it required advice from someone who had practical experience in the Scotch whisky making process.

Fortuitously, he learned about the return to his native country of Masataka Taketsuru, whose family owned a saké distillery, and who came to Scotland in 1918 to study organic chemistry at Glasgow University. His interest was more in the practical than the academic and Taketsuru quickly

transitioned to working in distilleries and learning the secrets of the trade at first hand—Longmorn distillery in Strathspey; James Calder's in Bo'ness; and then—after marrying Rita Cowan from Kirkintilloch—Hazelburn distillery in Campbeltown. By the end of 1920, the couple were back in Japan where Taketsuru's own plans to build a distillery foundered and, instead, the critical decade-long partnership with Torii began. By 1923, construction of the first Suntory distillery was underway at Yamazaki, close to Kyoto and six years later, the first release was on the market, Suntory Shirofudo (White Label).

The two collaborators had their differences, not unknown in the whisky industry, arising from a difference in vision: Torii's vision was to create a new, subtler style of whisky inspired by Scotch, whereas Taketsuru preferred the heavier, smokier profile. By 1934, Taketsuru had departed to form his own company, Nikka, on the northern Japanese island of Hokkaido, the part of Japan most similar to Scotland's hills and glens. Nikka is still Japan's second most popular whisky brand.

Suntory have grown relentlessly over recent decades to become the world's third biggest producer of alcoholic beverages, behind Diageo and Pernod Ricard.

Over the same period, Suntory led Japanese whisky into global markets, to compete in terms of both quality and quantity. The exports of Japanese whisky are to Asia Pacific markets with Europe and North America as the known brands have

百



A Time in History



Above: The iconic Yamazaki distillery. Right: Samples of Yamazaki malt.

pushed their way out of Japanese bars and restaurants into wider awareness among discerning whisky drinkers.

In terms of quality recognition, however reluctant, the final turning point came in 2003, when Yamazaki 12 Year Old became the first Japanese whisky to be awarded the gold medal at ISC, followed by being named as “Distiller of the Year” in 2010 and 2014. Additionally, in 2015, Jim Murray’s Whisky Bible ranked Yamazaki’s Sherry Cask as the world’s best whisky. That caused quite a flutter in the Scotch dovecot.

Since 2010, another Suntory expression, Hibiki 21 Year Old, has been named the world’s best blend in the World Whisky Awards on six occasions.

France has acquired a particularly strong taste for Japanese whisky and the country accounts for two-thirds of imports into Europe. Imogen Bankier, who heads up The Whisky Shop in Paris, said: *“Demand for Japanese whisky in France, and particularly Paris, has been strong for around a decade and doesn’t seem to be slowing up. In our boutique The Whisky Shop Paris, this is largely driven by the international clientele, but we have discovered that French customers have also developed a taste for whiskies they see as being lighter and more approachable than traditional Scotch.”*

“The collectability of Suntory whiskies, paired with plenty media exposure, means that our challenge is getting enough stock to satisfy the demands of our customers. Luckily, we have nurtured a strong relationship with House of Suntory who support us and in turn, we activate their brand regularly both in store and online.”

It is difficult to believe now that, as the Japanese economy forged ahead in the 1950s and ‘60s, they were looked down on as mere copiers of products rather than as innovators. As far as whisky was concerned, this was neatly reflected in a

song from Andy Stewart’s repertoire (he fronted the BBC *White Heather Club*, for the benefit of younger readers). Andy’s song about *“Donald Dhu, the Man who First made Whisky”* included the stanzas: *“The Japanese are really great, the things that they can imitate; but something they can’t recreate is good old Highland whisky”*

Whatever the truth in other industries, any assumption they were mere imitators touched raw nerves with Japan’s whisky makers. Decades ago, I visited the former Suntory headquarters in Osaka to write about the rise of Japanese whisky as a serious competitor to Scotch. As always in Japan, I was courteously received and up to a point they were very open about ambitions for the business and pride in what had been achieved.

They were also anxious to correct what they saw as the misrepresentation that Japan had copied in order to exploit a market Scotch had created. It was they who had built the market for whisky prior to the Second World War, and it was only then, the taste for whisky having been developed by Japanese producers, that the Scotch whisky moguls moved in. The Andy Stewart version would not have been a big hit in Japan.

Around that time, bulk exports of Scotch whisky to Japan was a huge issue in Scotland with those responsible accused of betraying the native industry by allowing the Japanese to enhance the quality of their own product. It is certainly true that bulk imports helped many Japanese producers to do exactly that—which was good business for some Scottish distillers and did no long-term harm to the onward march of Scotch itself, as the statistics confirm.

Indeed, looking at present day numbers, it is curious how opposition to bulk exports has been replaced with a largely unspoken acceptance that they form a substantial, legitimate part of the whisky trade,

accounting for around one-eighth of all Scotch Whisky exports. In some markets it is much higher than that—including Japan, where almost two-thirds of our whisky exports are still in bulk. However, whilst many beloved Japanese whiskies exported Scotch, Suntory is proud to point out that all their exported whisky brands exclusively contain whisky made in their three Japanese distilleries.

The figure for India is even higher. A report for the SWA by the Fraser of Allander Institute in 2021 found that: *“bulk Scotch represented 84 per cent of export volume to India and 48 per cent of export value ... Around 31 per cent of the bulk Scotch is directly bottled in India, while the remainder is mixed with Indian whisky”*.

It’s all a far cry from the controversy which surrounded early bulk exports to Japan. For anyone who puts liquid across his or her throat, it would be difficult to escape the extraordinary reach of Suntory and its 329 subsidiaries worldwide, even if you stick to soft drinks. Lucozade, Orangina, Ribena... Then there are beers, wines, and every form of spirits—but whisky is still the mainstay of the business.

The Suntory stable now owns a substantial chunk of Scotland’s whisky industry. They have Bowmore and Laphroaig on Islay as well as Glen Garioch, Auchentoshan and Ardmore, the Aberdeenshire distillery built a century ago to supply the Teachers blend, now also part of the Suntory stable.

The Japanese pupils of the 1920s have become, you might say, the Teachers of the 21st century!



JOHNNIE WALKER
Blue Label
BLENDED SCOTCH WHISKY
ESTABLISHED 1820
BOTTLE No 181 43132
WALKER & SONS LIMITED, SCOTLAND
ESTABLISHED 1820
Our blend cannot be best.

JOHNNIE WALKER
Blue Label
BLENDED SCOTCH WHISKY
ESTABLISHED 1820
Johnnie Walker & Sons

Johnnie Walker & Sons

A living legacy

We join House of Hazelwood's Marketing Director, Jonathan Gibson, as he unpacks the story behind the remarkable casks that are being released from the legendary Gordon family's private stocks.

➔ **Could you tell our readers a little bit about the House of Hazelwood range and how it came to be?**

First and foremost, this is a family story. The inventory was built up by successive generations of the Gordon family, primarily, with many of the casks we are working with today dating back as far as the 1950s.

It was at this point—in the middle of the last century—that Charles and Sandy Gordon became Directors of the family business following the death of their father. At the time, they were young men in a Scotch whisky industry that some would say hadn't changed a great deal since the 1930s. Most whisky firms were run by substantially older individuals—in fact, if you look at photos from that point in time, it's hard to find a Scotch whisky Director that looks much under the age of 60.

Charles and Sandy were different. They were young and confident. They had a lot of energy about them and—in contrast to many others within the industry at the time—they were not afraid to rock the boat. They used their positions to look at the entire whisky

making process from distillation to when you blend to how you treat blends after they'd been put together and innovating in ways that other people weren't.

What this means for House of Hazelwood is that some of the stocks that we have access to today are really quite innovative, and to see the combination of innovation and great age within a whisky is unusual. You don't see terribly many whiskies like the expressions that we've brought to market and that certainly reflects the personalities of Charles and Sandy Gordon themselves. It is their decisions, their ways of thinking all those decades ago that now gives us the unique stocks we are able to draw from today.

Could you tell our readers about the background of Girvan distillery, an integral part of the House of Hazelwood story?

Some of the oldest and rarest stock that we've released so far has come from Girvan distillery – this includes The First Drop – literally the very first drops of whisky to run off the stills, which was collected

on Christmas Day 1963, held in cask for almost sixty years and released as one of our first bottlings.

At the time Girvan was founded, there was a lot of consolidation going on within the Scotch whisky industry. Charles and Sandy Gordon had an appetite to stay independent and to maintain that family ownership but to do so, they had to secure their supply of grain whisky. The story goes that there was a challenge from a large competitor who threatened to cut off grain supply to the Gordons because they were advertising on TV. Charles Gordon was issued with an ultimatum—either stop advertising on TV or else the grain whisky supply will be cut off to your business and you won't be able to create your blends anymore. The response was the creation of Girvan distillery.

Whatever the provocation, it took just nine months to complete the distillery—an almost unimaginable feat. Charles apparently used a bike to cycle silently around the construction site checking on progress so that people couldn't hear him coming.



A dram of House of Hazelwood's 43-year-old *The Lost Estate*

Knowledge Bar

House of Hazelwood



The House of Hazelwood range has proved to be in high demand with our customers, particularly at our Manchester store. Explaining their popularity, Manager Phil Dwyer said, *"The breadth of the House of Hazelwood collection is honestly limitless. From whiskies that can't legally be produced anymore, to some of the oldest stocks, as well as some of the first drops of distillate from distilleries, House of Hazelwood's yearly releases tick all the boxes when it comes to heritage, collectability, prestige, and rarity."*

Once the site was open and building work was complete, the workers welded that bicycle to the top of the cooling tower as a practical joke. The distillery opened on Christmas Day 1963.

Girvan is a great example of the confidence, energy, and drive that Charles Gordon brought to the family business. But the other side of things is the private casks. The family had for generations been putting aside casks for personal consumption, gifting, and reciprocal trading. What happened when Sandy and Charles Gordon came in was that the scale and the ambition really increased.

What we have access to today is an inventory at a scale and age that no longer makes sense as a purely private family collection of whisky. It's an undrinkable quantity of whisky, even over several lifetimes. The wonderful thing about it is that every cask somehow reflects the character and personality of the individuals that first laid it down. There are experimental casks, there are old and rare whiskies, flavours we have never

seen before, and what holds it together is the character of the family itself.

Where does the name "House of Hazelwood" come from?

The name comes from Hazelwood House, the family home of the Gordons. It's just outside Dufftown. It's a place where generations of the family have lived and holidayed so the name connects to the entire family.

Could you tell us a little bit about the collections you've released so far?

The launch collection came out in June last year. There were four bottles in the Legacy Collection and a further four bottles in the Charles Gordon Collection—eight bottlings in total. We then had the same mix of four and four come out in autumn as a second wave of releases. We plan to repeat this model as we move forward.

Bottles within the Legacy Collection offer enthusiasts access to what are often very unusual flavour profiles within Scotch whisky or connections back to lost processes

and ways of working within the Scotch whisky industry. The Charles Gordon Collection are the oldest, rarest, and most collectible stocks within our inventory—typically above 50 years of age and often with a direct link to Charles Gordon.

Talk us through some of the expressions in The Legacy Collection.

Within this range, we have whiskies that have been selected for different reasons—some will be very rare, or very old, or linked to an experimental approach, but we also have whiskies that are in there purely by virtue of their character and flavour. Sunshine on Speyside is exactly that. It's a Speyside Blended Malt and despite being forty years of age, it's got this amazing freshness to it. There's a striking tropical character to it—roasted pineapple, mango, guava—that is incredibly compelling. When working through the inventory of stocks, we picked this one for the Legacy Collection because when you look at the traditional Scotch flavour wheel, this is simply off the charts. We loved it.

Industry Insider



*The Long Marriage from The Charles Gordon Collection.
A 56-year-old double matured wonder.*



A cooper crafting a cask.



When people taste through those first eight whiskies, what we want is for every single one to be completely different flavour-wise and each story to be completely different.



Collecting samples from the private stocks.

When we complete tastings with press or specialist writers, it is often the flavoured expressions that light up participants' faces because even for the most experienced of palates these provide something that is new and unexpected. In the case of Sunshine on Speyside, there is something that's quite inexplicable about it—no one can exactly explain why this whisky has ended up with the character it has. There's a bit of magic to it and we love that.

Within the Legacy Collection, we also have whiskies like The Lost Estate. That's a 43 Year Old Blended Grain Whisky composed of grains exclusively sourced from distilleries that are now closed. It's celebrating grain whisky as well as parts of the industry that are no more and, with a broader perspective, changes in the industry over time. Grain whisky production is something that's become increasingly consolidated over the years—with fewer sites and arguably less variation in styles. In a way, the expression is looking at the change between then and now in Scotch whisky production.

The Tops, our 33 Year Old heavily sherried Blended Malt, provides something of an insight into how our team approaches the blending process. When assessing malt spirit traded in from other distillers, the team will rate it as second, first, or top quality. So The Tops is literally a blend of the top quality malts that come in from other distilleries. It's been aged exclusively in wonderful custom coopered ex-sherry casks that give it a rich, dark character

—so, for many enthusiasts, this is the perfect marriage of top-quality spirit with best-in-class oak all coming together to create a perfect after-dinner style of Scotch.

We also have releases like Spirit of Scotland, which is about celebrating a milestone within the Scotch industry. In 1994, every major Scotch whisky company at that point put forward their strongest blend to celebrate the quincentenary (500 years since the first reference of Scotch whisky production). We had a blend that went forward for that in 1994. Some of the stock was held back in cask after blending and was given a secondary maturation for a further 28 years to create what is now a 46-year-old Blended Whisky. There's a little bit of Scotch whisky history within that one.

The range is diverse. You've got blended malt, blended grain, and blended Scotch in there, but all of them reflect the character of the individuals that laid them down, and all of them are remarkable in their own way—whether that be as a consequence of the character, their origins or their connection to moments and lost ways of working within the Scotch whisky industry.

What about the Charles Gordon Collection?

As we talked about, Charles Gordon was one of the two brothers that came into the business. He was a visionary in his own time and changed the Scotch whisky industry quite significantly over the course of his lifetime. He was also a true one-of-a-kind character and the whiskies from the Charles

Gordon Collection are one-of-a-kind whiskies as well. They connect to him one way or another and reflect his personality and in many instances are built on his achievements.

Two within the first collection are Girvan releases (The First Drop and The Cask Trials), so there's a strong personal connection between Charles creating Girvan grain distillery and this whisky being available today.

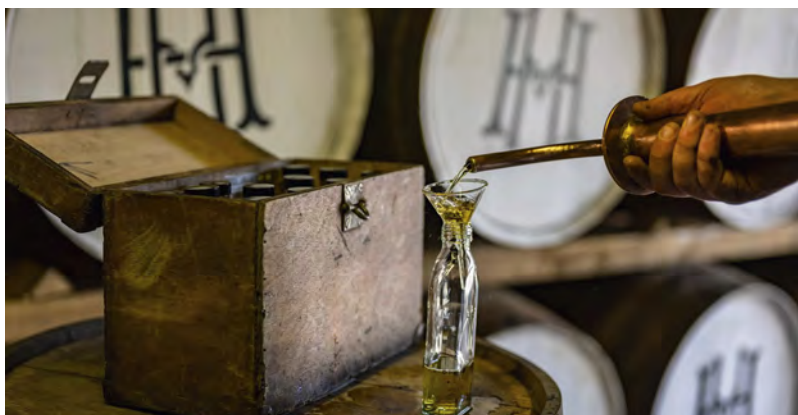
Then there are releases such as Blended at Birth—a piece of Scotch whisky history that can literally never be repeated again. It's a blend of new-make spirits from the 1960s and was aged for its full lifetime as a blend. The curious thing about it is that while we can sell it as Scotch whisky today as it complied with the guidance at the time, you can't legally make whisky like that anymore. It's a great example of what a Charles Gordon Collection whisky is all about – it's innovative, it's experimental, it's an old whisky, it's the last of its kind, and it's incredibly rare.

Those are the kind of things you get with whiskies from the Charles Gordon Collection. It all starts off with the flavour, but these whiskies also have a real collectability around them, too.

How did you decide that these expressions would be the first whiskies House of Hazelwood would be releasing?

We started off with literally hundreds of samples that the blending team had brought together and, in the first instance, we were

Industry Insider



Top: Some of House of Hazelwood's exemplary stock.

Bottom: A sample of the ultra-rare liquid being poured.

led by the liquid. That was really the starting point. We then went through a process of honing it down to what we thought were the strongest balance of liquids—what we didn't want was eight of the same type of whisky, so we tried to strike a balance between different flavour profiles, different categories, and different stories.

There are a tremendous number of whiskies that were absolutely good enough to go into that first collection, but we've saved them in many instances for future releases.

In that first collection, we wanted to get just the right balance that showed people what is in the inventory. It set the expectation for what is going to come in the future.

When people taste through those first eight whiskies, what we want is for every single one to be completely different flavour-wise and each story to be completely

different. I think the first collection achieves that really well.

Why was 2022 the time to start releasing?

This inventory of stock goes back to the 1950s and beyond. It reached a stage where there was a huge amount of stock in the collection that was at its peak or approaching its peak and far too much stock to keep as a private family collection. If they were left in cask for another twenty years, they weren't necessarily going to get any better.

We have a principle within the business that we release the whisky when it's ready. We don't wait for it to hit a particular age statement. It's led by the liquid reaching what the blending team consider to be optimum maturity. That's really at the heart of why it's being released now.

What can we expect this year from



The wonderful thing about it is that every cask somehow reflects the character and personality of the individuals that first laid it down.

House of Hazelwood?

We want to maintain the principle of releasing collections in the format of four bottles in the Legacy Collection and four bottles in the Charles Gordon Collection. Every whisky within them will be unique and will bring new flavours. Lots of new stories, lots of new liquid, but the same general principles.

We believe that there is also a role for us to play in exploring old and rare blends and grain whiskies and encouraging consumers and press to look at these in a new light. Blends in particular haven't always gained the attention that they deserve but in my personal opinion, at the ages that we are talking about (all of our releases are over 30 years of age, and many are nearing 60 years old), they really come into their own. The grain whisky component adds so much to the flavour at this age—giving the old blends a luscious drinkability—and many of the blends have been marrying for many years or decades so the integration is wonderful.

We will be reaching deep into the inventory to bring forward some exceptional old examples this year and look forward to sharing these with you and others in due course. Importantly, this year—as with every year—we will be laying down stocks for the business to draw from in the future. A major part of our role is to ensure that in the same way that we benefit from the stocks that others laid down before us, we too pass on a meaningful legacy for future generations to draw from.

THE 42



THE GLENROTHES

Excellence can't be rushed. Our spirit matures slowly. As years pass, the colours and landscape that surround us change, as does our whisky. It matures slowly in oak casks within our highland home; until we select the perfect moment to bottle it from just four casks. The result is a colourful masterpiece. Inspired by our home, exclusively for those who value the wait.

theglenrothes.com

Please enjoy responsibly.
be drinkaware.co.uk

The Glenrothes

Gavin D Smith explores The Glenrothes,
a vibrant Speyside distillery in the
beautiful town of Rothes.





THE
GLENROTHES
ESTD LIMITED RELEASE 1879
SPEYSIDE MALT
WHISKY

Distillery Visit

Knowledge Bar

Roths



GLENROTHES DISTILLERY

ROTHS

ABERLOUR

SCOTLAND



The Glenrothes is one of only a few distilleries in Scotland to have its own source of water for production, processing, and spirit reduction on site. The water that runs from the Mannoeh Hills contributes to The Glenrothes' ultra-clean character.





Distillery Visit

Knowledge Bar

Four Corners



The Glenrothes has established what it terms **The Four Corners** that help to explain the whisky's genesis. The first is *"Our very own crystal-clear water. Remaining one of the few distilleries in Scotland with its own unique sources of water, our precious surrounding springs provide us with every drop we need to give our whisky its pure, impeccable character."*

The second Corner is *"Our uncommonly slow distillation. Slower and more meticulous than most, we distil our liquid in tall copper stills for precisely the time it takes to eliminate impurities and achieve the lighter, fruitier signature taste that makes The Glenrothes incomparable."*

Third is the use of sherry-seasoned casks. *"Our coopers know fine wood better than anyone. They ensure every drop of our whisky is delicately matured within carefully selected sherry-seasoned oak casks, to produce the depth and balance of flavour that remains uniquely ours. Our commitment to the most sought-after sherry casks is driven by the knowledge that to make the best whisky, only the best wood will do."*

The final Corner is presentation with natural colour. *"Time-honoured cask ageing grants our liquid its rich, alluring colour that to this day remains entirely natural."*



The small but bustling town of Rothes is to be found in the heart of Speyside, with the great river itself running just to the east, and the regional 'capital' of Elgin 10 miles to the north.

While nearby Dufftown may style itself 'The Malt Whisky Capital of Scotland,' Rothes could reasonably dispute the title. It is home to four malt distilleries, the world-renowned copper-smithing firm of Forsyth and the state-of-the-art CoRDe biomass plant which processes wet draff from local distilleries. Looking to the future, Simpsons Malt Ltd. has planning permission to construct a new malting plant to serve Speyside just outside the town.

Rothes may have whisky at its heart, but drive through it with an eye open for The Glenrothes distillery and you will be disappointed. The Glenrothes is accessed via a narrow, climbing road off the main street, that shadows the Burn of Rothes. This tributary of the River Spey runs through the distillery site, separating production areas from warehousing. The road also takes you to the local cemetery, located next door, of which more later.

The distillery does not have a visitor centre and is not open to the general public, with The Glenrothes Head of CRM & Estate Experience, Kirsten Spence, explaining that *"It's a living, breathing distillery making great liquid and we are always mindful of putting the needs of the operation first. We have a strict invitation only policy."* Those individuals who do gain access and a unique immersion in all things Glenrothes are 'advocates'—people committed to The Glenrothes including private clients, on and off-trade partners and colleagues representing the brand from within Edrington, the private company that owns the distillery.

Edrington also has The Macallan and Highland Park in its portfolio—not to mention The Famous Grouse blend—so the distillery is in extremely illustrious company. Unlike many Scottish distilleries which have passed through multiple owners, The Glenrothes has had very few proprietors in its time which is unique for the industry. The distillery was established in 1878 by a small group of investors, namely James Stuart of The Macallan, bankers Robert Dick and William Grant, and Elgin solicitor John Cruikshank. However, financial difficulties, caused by the collapse of the Glasgow Bank, forced Stuart out of the venture.

The three other partners formed William Grant & Company, obtaining a loan from the unlikely source of the United Free Presbyterian Church of Knockando to complete work on the distillery. The first spirit flowed on 28th December 1879. In 1887, William Grant & Company amalgamated with the Islay Distillery Company, proprietors of Bunnahabhain, to create Highland Distilleries Company Ltd., later Highland Distillers, and just over a century later, in 1999, Highland Distillers became part of Edrington.

DEVELOPING THE BRAND

When The Glenrothes first came on stream, the blended whisky boom was nearing its height, and the distillery's spirit soon began to develop a reputation as an excellent blending whisky, as well as a fine single malt in its own right. The whisky remained elusive, however, until the venerable London wine and spirits merchants Berry Bros & Rudd took control of the brand in 2010, proceeding to release the single malt in vintage format, rather than by age statement. This arrangement continued until 2017,



Distillery Visit



when Edrington took The Glenrothes back ‘in house,’ and introduced bottlings with age statements the following year. As Kirsten Spence explains, *“Reuniting the brand with its distillery has been a phenomenal opportunity to continue to grow The Glenrothes as part of Edrington’s leading family of ultra-premium brands, and to accelerate the growth of this award-winning single malt in international markets.”*

But what of the character of the whisky itself? The Glenrothes Education Manager Kathryn Robertson says that *“The Glenrothes’ DNA is elegant and fruity, and we’ve nurtured that character over time. Fermentation takes 60 hours, and we are very consistent with this. It helps achieve the fruity character. We have very slow distillation in large stills which enhances the delicate character.”*

“In terms of maturation, we use predominantly sherry-seasoned casks, both European oak and American oak. Our Master Whisky Maker Laura Rampling employs various percentages and combinations of the two in order to develop and maintain flavour profiles for different ages of single malt.”

THE WHISKIES THEMSELVES

The core Glenrothes range currently embraces 12, 18, and 25-year-old expressions, along with an NAS Whisky Maker’s Cut, aged entirely in first-fill sherry-seasoned casks, and bottled at the whisky maker’s preferred strength of 48.8% abv.

With ultra-premiumisation in mind, the principal expression of The Glenrothes is considered to be the 18-year-old, matured

using a high proportion of first-fill sherry casks. It is described by Spence as *“A very well received award winning whisky, respected by those in the know. We have a small core range, and 25-year-old and even some of our older expressions could be considered a part of it too. A testament of the timeless artistry of The Glenrothes.”*

The 42-year-old, recently launched in February, boasts an outturn of 1,134 bottles and comprises the contents of four refill casks which were filled in May 1980. The original wood origin cannot be traced as is the nature of age, but the flavour profile leans more towards an American oak style with the sweet vanilla notes and the creamy, yet delicate nuttiness.

According to The Glenrothes’ Master Whisky Maker Laura Rampling, *“Part science, part alchemy, and a little bit of magic, the result is a beautifully elegant whisky that truly allows the bright and vibrant character of The Glenrothes to sing.”*

Kirsten Spence adds that *“We’ve had incredible feedback so far about this very special release. It fits into the story of who we are, and the inspired creativity of what a limited release from The Glenrothes looks like. The vibrancy of the local community, the landscape, and the spirit itself, have inspired the whisky and the packaging design. The red of the stillhouse doors, the flow of the river, the green of the forest, the use of Verdigris copper, and so on. The crystal decanter reflects the iconic Sample Room bottle of The Glenrothes with cuts inspired by the oak staves of our casks.”*



The Glenrothes’ Master Whisky Maker Laura Rampling;



Knowledge Bar

The Spirit of Bye-way



Biawa Makalanga—known locally as **Bye-way**—was an unlikely figure on the streets of Rothes. He had been discovered, abandoned in Matabeleland, Africa in 1894 by Major James Grant of Glen Grant distillery, who was on a hunting trip at the time. Bye-way returned with the Major to Scotland and served as his butler, becoming a notably popular character in Rothes. When he died in 1972, he was buried in the village cemetery, close to The Glenrothes.

A problem arose, however, eight years later, soon after the new stillhouse opened, when a stillman noticed a ghostly apparition, which was unmistakably that of Bye-way. The story of the apparition reached the ears of Cedric Wilson, Professor of Pharmacology at University College, Dublin, and an expert in paranormal phenomena. He visited The Glenrothes and declared that the distillery lay on an important ley-line, which the creation of the new stillhouse had damaged. His solution was to hammer an iron stake into the ground on either side of the perceived damage. With the flow of energy along the ley-line restored, Wilson announced that the earthbound spirit of Bye-way had agreed to depart. It has never been seen since.





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

The Glenrothes' Master Whisky Maker Laura Rampling



The Glenrothes' Master Whisky Maker Laura Rampling at work

ALL ABOUT VALUE

Regarding the overall philosophy behind The Glenrothes', Kirsten Spence says that *"We've always produced a rare whisky. Our whisky maker samples hundreds of casks of varying ages before selecting the ones that have produced the right liquid, with the refined quality that significant age brings and that really represents the vibrancy of the Estate. It's not about starting with an age in mind, but more of an idea about what the liquid should be like."*

In terms of future releases, Spence declares that *"We naturally have some exciting ones to come, which we can't talk about yet, but we are always asking ourselves 'What story does the whisky tell?' We won't release for the sake of releasing."*

CHANGES ALONG THE WAY

The Glenrothes may only have had a small number of owners, but the distillery has seen many changes over the years. As was common across the Scotch whisky industry, the 1960s 'boom' period saw an increase in capacity, from four to six stills, with another pair being added in 1980, when a new stillhouse was created, and mashing and fermenting facilities were enlarged. In 1989, the complement of pots was increased to the current ten, and these stills are accompanied by a 5.5 tonne full lauter mash tun, while twelve Oregon pine washbacks are accommodated in one tun room and a further eight stainless steel washbacks are housed in an adjacent space. If working at full capacity, the distillery can produce 5.6mlpa per year.

The origins of The Glenrothes distillery were financially precarious, and on the day when the first spirit flowed, one of the worst storms to hit Scotland for many years precipitated the collapse of the Tay Railway Bridge at Dundee, causing a train to plummet into the icy waters below, killing all 75 passengers on board.

These were hardly positive omens, but through bad times and good, The Glenrothes has survived and ultimately thrived, to the point where the spirit it produces can now be considered one of the very finest well-aged single malts of them all.

NOBLE REBEL

BLEND MALT SCOTCH WHISKY



PURSUIT OF POSSIBILITY

Noble Rebel is a blended malt Scotch whisky unlike any other. Skilfully curating the finest malts, each with a history of their own, and artfully blending them into flavourful masterpieces. We push the boundaries of

flavour with courage, craftsmanship, and creativity. Respectful of tradition, inquisitive about the future, we herald a new dawn of whisky mastery.

BORN BRAVE. BLENDED EXQUISITELY. ENJOYED FREELY.



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Tee party

Summer drinks with
Iona Stephen

The Coral Room,
The Bloomsbury Hotel,
London.

PHOTOGRAPHY: BRIAN SWEENEY
ART DIRECTION: A VISUAL AGENCY
ASSISTANT: JONNI
HAIR AND MAKE UP: JADE SOAR
LOCATION: THE CORAL ROOM /
THE BLOOMSBURY HOTEL



Interview

Professional golfer turned broadcaster Iona Stephen is now a permanent fixture on our screens, commentating on the biggest tournaments—such as The Masters and The Open—for Sky Sports. She gives us the inside track on making computer game history, her favourite golf courses, and being a Brand Ambassador for Loch Lomond Whiskies.

Knowledge Bar

Iona Stephen



Iona studied the History of Art at the University of St. Andrews after transferring from Glasgow. Whilst completing her studies, she spent time at the golf course every day to polish her skills. After turning professional in 2016, Iona enjoyed a career as a golfer before moving into presenting work in 2019.

Iona's broadcast work has seen her working for the BBC, Golf TV, NBC Golf, and Sky Sports Golf, covering major golfing events such as The Masters, The Open, and The Ryder Cup.

Recently, Iona made history as the first ever female on-course commentator in an EA Sports game with their recent release, *The Road to the Masters*.

➔ When and how did you first get into golfing?

I started playing golf when I was at university in Glasgow. I was part of a sport transfer scheme called Gold for Glasgow which was targeting elite athletes in team sports into individual pursuits with the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow in mind. Of course, golf isn't at the Commonwealth Games, and I never expected to take up golf with the ambition of becoming a professional but having been to see the AIG Women's Open at Carnoustie around the same time, I felt very inspired to take up the game.

As soon as I started playing, I knew this was the game for me. I set about adjusting my life to make sure that I had the best shot of becoming a professional and playing on the Ladies European Tour. I transferred my degree to St Andrews University, and I played golf every single day I was there. I was absolutely determined to make my dream a reality.

What has been your favourite memory as a golfer?

I have some very fond memories playing golf as an amateur. I played for Renfrewshire County and when I moved down south, I played for Surrey County. I treasure lots of wonderful memories from these times and being part of these teams. I think some of my best memories come from the course records I broke during this time. I hold the ladies course record at Wentworth, Lambourne, and, more recently, at Crail Golfing Society.

I have very fond memories of playing professional golf in Spain on the Santander Tour. I remember shooting one of my best scores around the home course of the late

Seve Ballesteros, in Pedreña. I remember feeling his spirit, character, and passion for the game in every hole of the course there. I enjoyed every single shot and, unsurprisingly, played very well. I would describe myself as an emotional golfer and while that doesn't always make it easy, it has its advantages now and again.

I continue to collect fond memories playing golf, particularly when I'm playing anywhere with my dad. In the summer when the nights are longer and the sun has warmth again, it's hard to beat nine holes with a half set of golf clubs on the links when the day is drawing to a close. Even better if we can share a dram on the way back in.

What is your favourite course to play and why?

My favourite course to play right now is Balcomie Links at Crail Golfing Society, and, no surprise, I play well there. I love the view from the first tee, high up on the cliff. You look down towards the sprawling links and out to the North Sea. Even when the wind is blowing at 40 miles per hour, it's one of my favourite tee shots in the world. I love the history around the links – it's one of the oldest courses in the world and it's where Mary Queen of Scots once came to play.

Separately, my favourite golf book, *Golf in The Kingdom* was inspired by Balcomie Links, and it somehow manages to capture the spiritual experience that can be found there. The journey of the round is even more enjoyable thanks to the proximity to the sea. When you have a putt for birdie on the par-5 second hole, the backdrop of lapping waves provides the perfect theme tune for a celebration.

When it comes to inland golf, you will find me doing loops of The Queen's Course



Interview

Knowledge Bar

The Open



ROYAL LIVERPOOL GOLF CLUB

HOYLAKE

WIRRAL

ENGLAND

This year's Open is due to take place at Royal Liverpool Golf Club from the 16th-23rd July. This will be the thirteenth time that the event has been hosted by Royal Liverpool, the last time being in 2014, an Open which saw Rory McIlroy lift the Claret Jug.



Royal Liverpool Golf Club



Iona playing in front of the Claret Jug at The Open. Top: Iona taking a shot at the BMW PGA Pro-Am

at Gleneagles. That's somewhere I could never spend enough time.

Do you have any advice for aspiring golfers?

My advice for any aspiring golfers or anyone interested in taking up the game of golf is to just do it.

I was recently covering the 87th Masters Tournament in Augusta and the breakaway story of the week came from a young amateur, Sam Bennett. He sadly had lost his father in 2021 and he shared the last written message his father gave him: "*Don't wait to do something*". Sam has this tattooed on his forearm. I think it's a great message. Don't wait to start playing golf. If you're interested, give it a crack because it's a wonderful game that can change your life for the better. If you feel intimidated, take comfort in the fact you're not alone. No matter how well you can play, it will always make you feel nervous from time to time and that becomes part of its charm. If you can take the first step, you'll never look back.

Golf is not nearly as scary or serious as you might think it is and like so many things in life, golf teaches us that often the biggest walls we have to climb are the ones we build in our minds.

How did you get into presenting?

Unfortunately, in my first year of playing on the Ladies European Tour, I injured my right wrist. I stopped to have multiple operations during this time and decided to document my rehab and recovery on social media. Sadly, I was fighting a losing battle, but it didn't curb my enthusiasm. I was determined to find a way back to playing.

It was during this time that I was approached to screen test for a presenting job with IMG. Before I knew it, I was on a plane to Mexico as the presenter of a golf show called *Golfing World*. That was in 2019, at the beginning of what would be the best year of my life. Working for *Golfing World* was a fantastic training ground and created the momentum for many of the opportunities I have now.

Many aspiring presenters write to me asking how they can follow in my footsteps, and I always advise them to start their own channel or begin creating their own content about something they are passionate about. Find your own voice and, before you know it, you'll find a home for that voice.

You're just back from The Masters. Tell us a bit about that!

I just got back from the 87th Masters. What a week that was!

We started the week with a celebration of the launch of the new EA sports golf game, *The Road to The Masters*. Over the last two years, I have been recording with EA as the first ever female on-course commentator in an EA golf game. It has been a really exciting project to be a part of and a huge honour to be one of the commentators in the game.

From the Monday of Masters week, it was all business, especially as it was my first week working as a presenter and commentator for the American network, CBS. I was contributing to the *Live from the Range* show, and it was very exciting to be down there watching the best players in the world prepare for the first men's major of the year.

From Thursday—Sunday, I was commentating on the feature holes 15 and 16. Two fantastic golf holes, a par-5 and a par-3 that play a key role in the Masters every single year. Watching the players take on these two iconic holes was fascinating. It was one of those weeks where I regularly thought to myself *I can't believe I get paid to do this*.

We had some turbulent weather disrupting things a little (I brought the Scottish weather with me!) which meant the weekend was a bit stop and start, but ultimately it finished with a great head-to-head battle with Brooks Koepka and Jon Rahm down the stretch. When the leaders had played through hole 16, my co-commentator, Ned Michaels, and I hurried along to the 18th green so we could be there when Jon Rahm sunk his winning putt. It was very emotional, and it was amplified even more so as it would have been Seve Ballesteros' 66th birthday. It was a very poignant moment for Spanish and European golf. I was very lucky to be there to witness another powerful moment in sporting history. That week is one that I will remember for the rest of my life.



“No matter how well you can play, it will always make you feel nervous from time to time and that becomes part of its charm.”



Find your own voice and, before you know it, you'll find a home for that voice.

You mentioned that you recently became the first female commentator on an EA Sports golf game with their most recent release, 'The Road to the Masters'. How did that feel?

It has been one of the highlights of my career being involved with EA and The Road to The Masters. I can't really believe my voice is in a game that will last forever and, now that it has officially launched, is in households all over the world.

It's been an honour to be the first female to step into this role, but I wouldn't be here without the women who have been forging a path for me to follow. When I was at the Masters, I met Dottie Pepper who one of the on-course commentators for CBS. It's thanks to the likes of Dottie and other female trailblazers, that I have the opportunities I do today. I hope to keep driving the momentum forward and contribute to creating more opportunities for women to work within the media side of golf. It is a fabulous career and I'm loving every single minute of it.

What has been the highlight of your career so far?

Being involved in the EA game is definitely one of the highlights of my career so far. I would also add interviewing Cam Smith at the 150th Open Championship in St. Andrews in front of thousands, and also to a worldwide audience, straight after he had collected the Claret Jug as another. This was a moment I'll never forget.

I am fortunate that I often have the role of interviewing the winner of the tournament. It's an extremely privileged role. I interviewed Rory McIlroy live when he won the DP World Tour at the end of last year, and Shane Lowry when he won at Wentworth last September. Another two stand out moments!

This year, I will host the closing ceremony of The Ryder Cup in Rome and I'm really looking forward to that one, too.

How did you first get involved with Loch Lomond Whiskies as a Brand Ambassador?

I first became involved with Loch Lomond Whiskies at The Open at Royal Portrush. Funnily enough, at that time, I wasn't experienced enough in my career to interview Shane Lowry when he won but I was given the role of interviewing Bo Martin, his caddy, and I loved that! The atmosphere around that 18th green was unlike anything I have experienced in my time working in the media.

During that week I hosted some light-hearted conversations with the Loch Lomond Whiskies ambassadors each day, and what a laugh we had! I particularly enjoy spending time with Monty [Colin Montgomerie]. He is a wonderful storyteller and ambassador for both the whisky and the game of golf.

What is your favourite whisky from the Loch Lomond range?

My favourite whisky from the range has been a tough call between the Portrush Special Edition, which I loved because it came from a claret cask and has a lovely sweetness to it, and the 10 Year Old. I love the gentle taste of the 10 Year Old and find it to be the one I reach for when there is a warm fire roaring at the end of a long day.

Recently, I had the chance to taste the Open Course Collection whisky for Royal Liverpool that will celebrate the 151st Open Championship and I think it will give both of those two a run for their money! It's simply delicious. Similarly, to the Portrush Special Edition, it has a rosy colour to it as well as a sweet taste which I really enjoy. I am looking forward to hosting a few more conversations with a wee dram in my hand at Hoylake this July.

We had some fabulous cocktails made for us at The Coral Room. What is your favourite whisky-based cocktail?

My favourite whisky cocktail? It's a no-brainer. The Dramble, which I first experienced in Portrush at the Loch Lomond Whiskies Bar. If there's a Dramble on the go, you can count me in!



Interview

Knowledge Bar Whisky tasting



Iona gives her verdict on...

Loch Lomond 22 Year Old Open Course Collection Royal Liverpool
70cl | 48.2% VOL | £240

To celebrate the 151st Open, Loch Lomond have released this cracking 22-year-old dram. Crafted using unpeated organic barley, this refreshing expression is perfect for summertime. Expect flavours of lemon, butterscotch, ginger, and nectarines.

Loch Lomond Open Special Edition Royal Liverpool 2023
70cl | 46% VOL | £57

A decadent single malt made by Loch Lomond Master Blender Michael Henry alongside Brand Ambassador and golfing legend Colin Montgomerie. This rioja-finished wonder is full to the brim with enticing notes of pear, peach, and gentle smoke.





“Without doubt my favourite Open Course Collection bottling to date. The fruit character and influence of the organic wine cask finish is amazing.”

Loch Lomond
22 Year Old Open Course Collection
Royal Liverpool



“I can pick up the influence of the Rioja finish and love the notes of red berries and that hint of chocolate.”

Loch Lomond
Open Special Edition
Royal Liverpool 2023



I hope to keep driving the momentum forward and contribute to creating more opportunities for women to work within the media side of golf.

Tell us a bit about last year's Open in St. Andrews. I imagine that will have been a big one for you. How was that experience?

The Open at St. Andrews was simply magic. A true coming home of the game and, luckily for me, a homecoming also. My family live in St. Andrews and I also studied History of Art (in between the golf practice!) at the university, so it was a particularly special week for me.

I joined the Sky Sports Golf team in covering this celebration and I can honestly say it was one of my best weeks of work to date. St. Andrews had been experiencing some uncharacteristically hot weather and the course looked like something from The Open archives filmed. The ground was fast, firm, and the colour of a burnt biscuit. It made for a tremendously exciting four days of competition golf! A true celebration of 150 years of The Open. The oldest major in golf crowning yet another champion. Many professional golfers will admit winning the Open at St. Andrews is number one of the resumé hit list and I'm certain the LPGA golfers aspire to do the same for the AIG Women's Open. There are some majors you want to win, and some majors you have to win if you want to stand in the most prestigious history books of golf.

I was in charge of the interviews during the Monday's Celebration of Champions. I spoke to everyone from Annika Sorenstam to Georgia Hall to Sandy Lyle to Jack Nicklaus. I did develop some heatstroke after standing out in the sunshine all day on the first tee, but it was absolutely worth it! During the tournament days, I was on-course commentating and had a lot of fun.

He may not have lifted the Claret Jug but watching Rory McIlroy hole out from the bunker on the 10th hole on Saturday is a scene I will forever have etched in my mind. I get shivers whenever I think of that moment and the eruption from the gallery in the grandstand on the 11th tee.

Where are your favourite places to go in St. Andrews?

St. Andrews is full of secret nooks and crannies you can get lost in for hours. From book shops like Toppings & Company to coffee shops like Taste, you'll find plenty to keep you occupied.

I love spending time down on the west sands with my dogs but it's the east sands where you will find the waves. I love to surf there during the summer with my family and the dogs in tow. If the waters are flat, then taking the paddle board out along the water's edge is a wonderful experience—you can launch the boards from the beach right next to the R&A World Golf Museum.

If you have worked up an appetite, then I'd recommend The Steak Barn down at the Balgove Larder – they serve the best truffle chips I've ever tasted! If you're looking for a bit of glamour, then a cocktail up on the roof at the Rusacks is where I love to go – and before you ask, yes, they serve Drambles!

What do you have planned for the rest of the year?

This year, I'll continue to contribute to the broadcast of the DP World Tour and PGA Tours with Sky Sports. Of course, it's a particularly exciting year with both Ryder and Solheim Cups coming in September! I will be there presenting, interviewing, and commentating. I can't wait to see if Europe can do the double on home soil.

I also have plans for my own YouTube channel 'On the Road with Iona', where I will continue to share stories from inside and outside the ropes of golf. My passion for this game continues to grow every single year and my biggest inspiration comes from sharing that with the world in the hope that others will lean into all golf has to offer. I hope it contributes to their lives as positively as it has to mine. See you along the road soon...



Mixing it up



Wildly delicious

Highland Park Brand Ambassador,
Teddy Joseph, rustles up the perfect
cocktails to quench your thirst
this summer.

PHOTOGRAPHY: CHRISTINA KERNOHAN
ART DIRECTION: A VISUAL AGENCY
STYLIST: EMMA DUNCAN
ASSISTANT: CAT THOMSON



Mixing it up

Tammie Norrie

This cracker showcases the distinct character of Highland Park 12 Year Old. The recipe is inspired by the Tammie Norrie (puffins) that arrive in Orkney each spring.

Ingredients:

37.5ml Highland Park 12 Year Old
12.5ml Crème de peche
25ml Lemon juice
25ml Honey syrup
2 dashes Angostura bitters
10ml Charred peach and strawberry purée
Soda to top

Glass: Highball

Garnish: Strawberry

Method:

Combine Highland Park 12 Year Old, crème de peche, lemon juice, honey syrup, bitters, and charred peach and strawberry puree in a cocktail shaker / Shake hard for ten seconds / Double strain into an ice filled highball glass / Top with soda / Add strawberry to garnish





Mixing it up



Orcadian Cobbler

A play on a classic cocktail which highlights the citrus and honey notes of Highland Park 12 Year Old.

Ingredients:

37.5ml	Highland Park 12 Year Old
12.5ml	Crème de framboise
25ml	Lemon juice
25ml	Honey syrup
	2 slices of orange
	3 raspberries

Glass: Goblet

Garnish: Seasonal fruit

Method:

Lightly muddle the fruit in a cocktail shaker / Combine the remaining ingredients with ice / Shake hard / Strain into a goblet glass filled with crushed or cobbled ice / Top with more ice / Garnish with seasonal fruit



Mixing it up

Meadowsweet Dreams

This sweet serve uses meadowsweet to encompass the feeling of being out in the wild and in touch with nature and the produce of the seasons.

Ingredients:

50ml Highland Park 15 Year Old
20ml Meadowsweet syrup
10ml Lemon juice
2 dashes Orange bitters
Top with ginger ale

Glass: Highball

Garnish: Meadowsweet leaf

Method:

Combine Highland Park 15 Year Old, meadowsweet syrup, lemon juice, and bitters in a cocktail shaker filled with ice / Shake well / Double strain into highball glass filled with cubed ice / Slowly top with ginger ale / Add meadowsweet leaf to garnish





Mixing it up

Getting Caught in the Rain

This Old Fashioned emphasises the dried fruit notes of Highland Park 18 Year Old in this moreish cocktail, which takes inspiration from the Piña Colada.

Ingredients:

60ml Highland Park 18 Year Old
7.5ml Salted coconut water syrup
5ml Coconut water
1/3 pipette of pineapple
and star anise bitters

Glass: Rocks

Garnish: Orange zest

Method:

Add all ingredients to an ice filled mixing glass / Stir for 40 seconds and strain over an ice filled rocks glass / Grate some orange peel over the top to garnish







FETTERCAIRN

RARE. PURE. ENLIGHTENED.

WAREHOUSE 14

BATCH: N°001

This release completes The Warehouse Collection with Warehouse 14, the latest limited edition release. This will be the fifth and final instalment of the 'Warehouse Collection', an experimental limited edition release, opening the doors to Warehouse 14 for the first time.

Fettercairn Warehouse 14 Batch N°001 has been crafted using a handpicked selection of Ex-bourbon Barrels and Local Beer Barrels; filled with spirit that flowed from the Fettercairn stills in 2016 and has since been maturing in Fettercairn Warehouse 14.

CASK TYPE	WAREHOUSE 14
 2016 EX-BOURBON BARRELS	81%
 2016 REFILL EX-BOURBON BARRELS	7%
 2016 LOCAL BEER BARRELS	12%





Picture perfect

15 years on from the beginning of his project, Ernie Button was ready to share his latest photography collection with the world. ‘The Art of Whisky: The Vanishing Spirits of Single Malt Scotch’ is a fascinating foray into beauty in the most unexpected of places—the bottom of a whisky glass.

Knowledge Bar Vanishing Spirits



You can purchase *The Art of Whisky: The Vanishing Spirits of Single Malt Scotch* by Ernie Button on Amazon now. Featuring insight from our own contributing writer, Charlie MacLean, this book is a must-have for the inquisitive-minded whisky fan! You can find out more about Ernie's other work at erniebutton.com.

➔ Ernie Button has been fascinated by photography since he was in single digits. As a child, he went halves on a camera with his brother, and has been snapping pictures ever since. A speciality of Ernie's is making something magical out of something pretty ordinary. His *Cerealism* project reimagines landscapes that have been created with, you guessed it, breakfast cereals. *Back and Forth*, one of Ernie's personal favourites, is a collection of images of the coin operated rides that could be found at the front of supermarkets that begin to disappear around the same time as the economic collapse. *Portraits in Plastic*, one of his earliest endeavours, saw Ernie photograph his childhood toys, inspired by photographer David Levinthal. What could be considered mundane by most people can work as a fascinating starting point for Ernie.

Inspiration for *Vanishing Spirits* struck Ernie one night almost two decades ago. He had been working on project for a friend of his in which he would take close-up images of agates to try and enlarge the “*tiny landscapes*” of the rocks. Not long after completing this project, Ernie enjoyed a dram one evening. Upon finishing, he held his empty glass up to the light and was taken aback when he realised he could see repetitive patterns at the bottom of the glass.

“*I had just spent a year photographing these close-up objects and landscapes. I knew I could do something with it,*” said Ernie. “*How far I would go I had no idea, but I immediately took*

it into my studio and started creating images.”

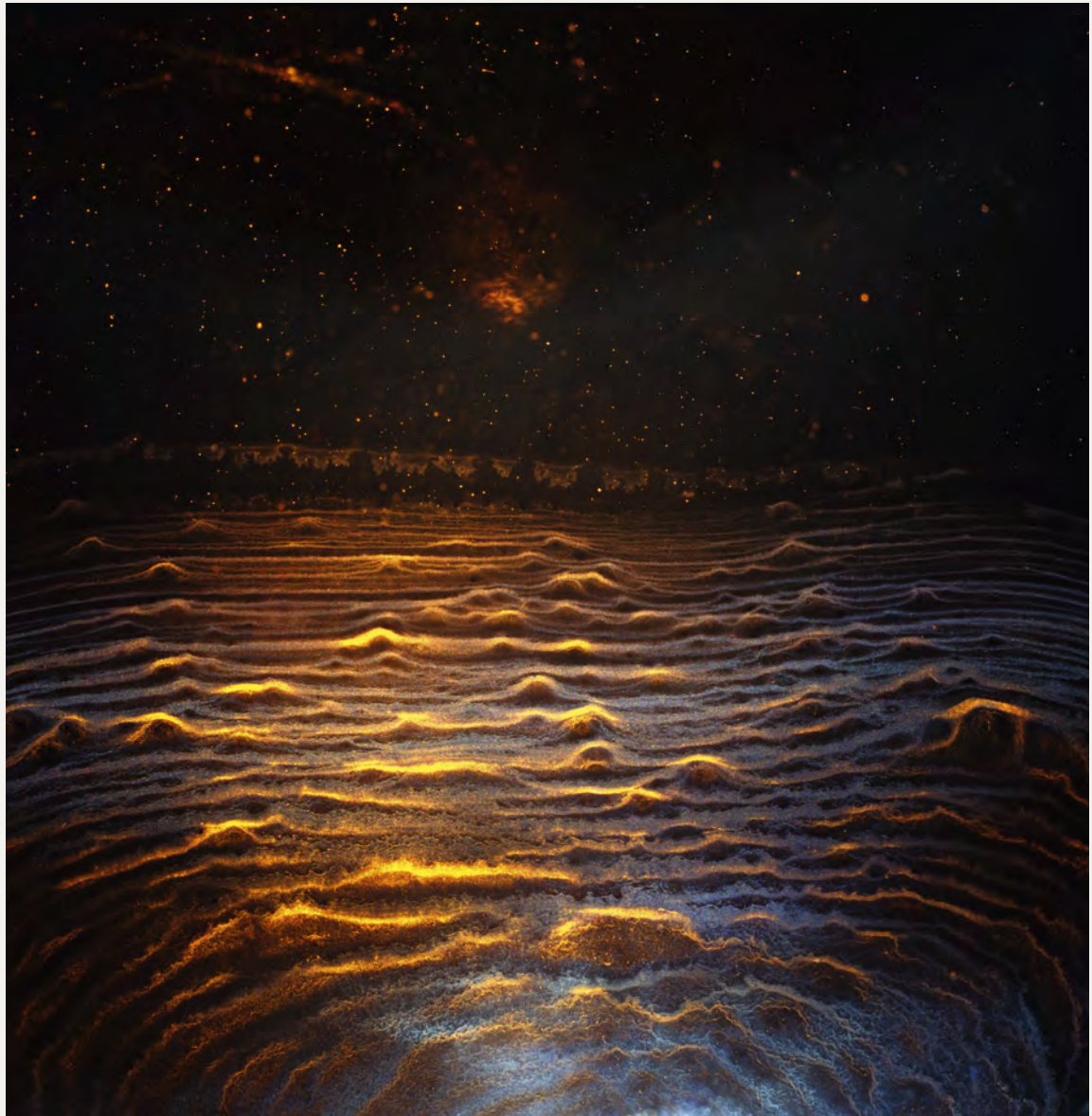
These first images were taken on a medium format film camera so Ernie had to wait a couple of weeks for his film to be developed and the results returned to him. In truth, he wasn't sure what to expect. However, once Ernie had received the final images, he knew that there was something there.

“*Then the next question was, could I repeat this? Could I make these lines happen again? And lo and behold, I could, and I was off to the races experimenting,*” said Ernie.

The variation between the images in the collection is really quite spectacular. Ernie found that the type of glass the whisky was in, the region the whisky was from, and the type of cask the whisky matured in could have a huge impact on the final result. It is, perhaps, unsurprising that this is the case, as every dram you try tastes so different.

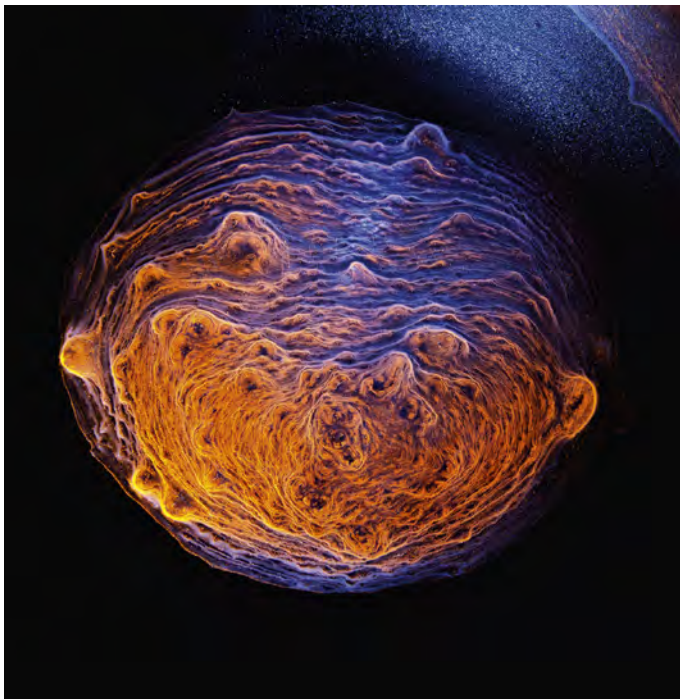
What draws the collection together is the circular shape of each of the photos which transforms the celestial looking images into something that you would expect to see in outer space. While Ernie tends avoid manipulating his images, he realised that altering the shape of the photos into circles added something truly special to the project.

“*What I've always appreciated about art is we all bring our own individual thoughts and ideas and what's affecting us at the moment, and we imprint it upon the art,*” Ernie said. “*Some people might be seeing something really planetary or undersea-like and that's okay.*”

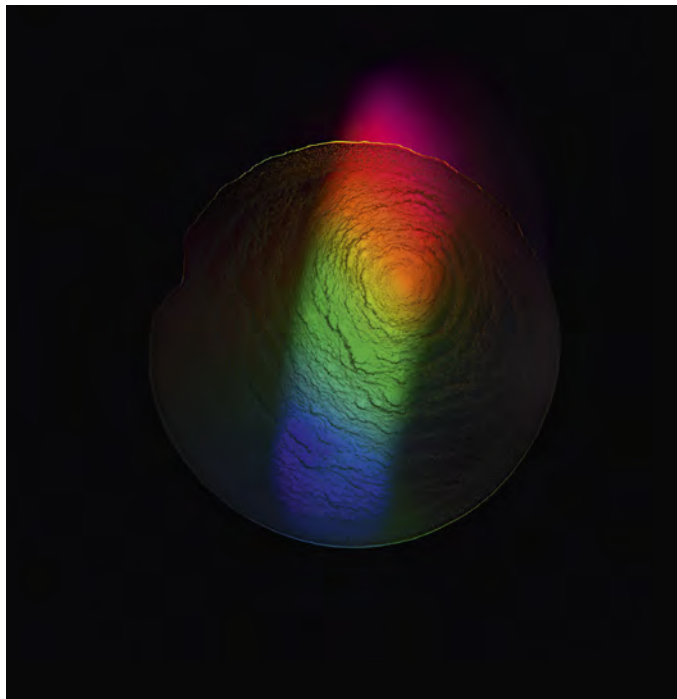


The Glenlivet 12

Whisky People



① | Ardbeg 10



② | The Balvenie Doublewood 25

If the art is engaging you and it's provoking an emotion or a thought, that's a good thing."

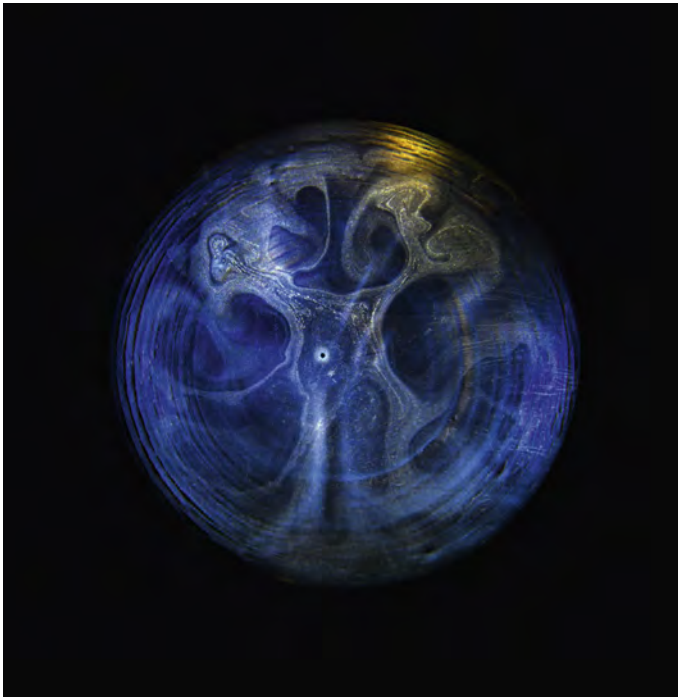
Ernie, who is based in Arizona, fell in love with whisky through his wife. She came from a whisky drinking family and was the one to introduce Ernie to the drink that would become the focus of his biggest project to date. Each whisky that is featured in the project is from a bottle that Ernie and his wife have shared and enjoyed together.

Even though Ernie's phenomenal book is out in the world, his project is far from over. He is still keen photograph any new whiskies that he tries. His enjoyment in drinking whisky has doubled. He now describes sitting down with a dram as *"drinks and a show" because I'm going to see that show at the end but I'm going to enjoy the process as well.* He has his eye on a bottle of The Balvenie 27 Year Old – A Rare Discovery on Distant Shores for his next dram. Having enjoyed a rum cask finish, Ernie is keen to see the kind of impact that this would have on the dried remains.

Whisky and art are pretty similar, when it comes down to it. Everything is subjective – a smoky dram might remind one person of a bonfire with friends and another of the pipe their grandfather smoked. One of Ernie's photos may appear like an underwater scene to one person and a rocky terrain to someone else. There are no right or wrong answers – the important part is what you take from the experience.



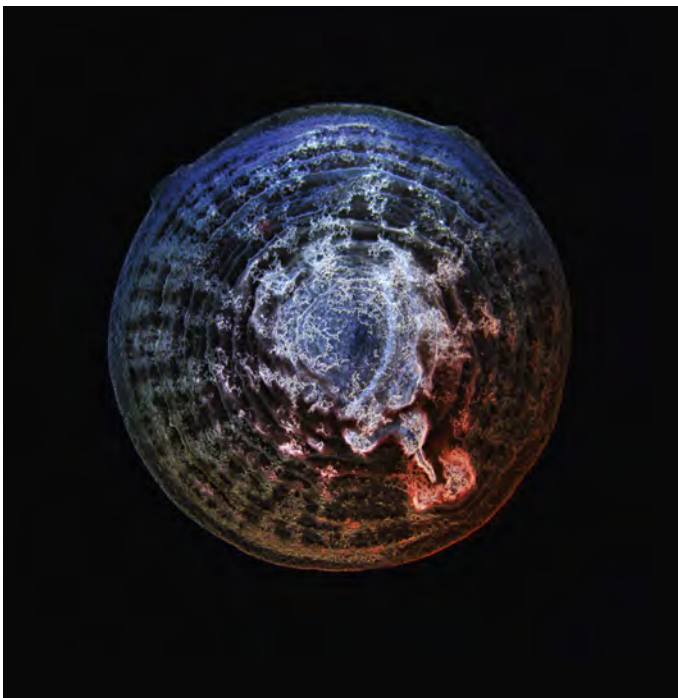
③ | Glenmorangie Signet



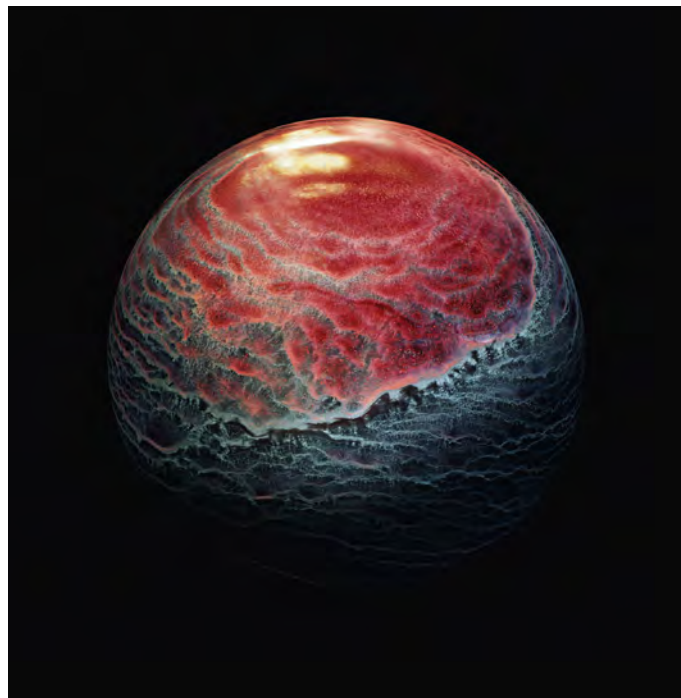
④ | Glenkinchie Distiller's Edition



⑤ | The Macallan



⑥ | Springbank 10



⑦ | Planet Macallan



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Sunshine Season

Our definitive list of all the must-have additions
to your drinks cabinet this summer!

Island Hopping

Father's Day

Garden Party

Independence Day

THE WHISKY SHOP

Island Hopping

Take a tour of Scotland's islands with these outstanding drams!

① Ledaig 10 Year Old

70cl | 46.3% ABV | £50

Baking spices / Charcoal / White pepper

- Impressively peaty fare from Mull's Tobermory distillery
- Aged for ten years in superior oak casks
- Made using aromatic lochan water from the Hebridean island's mountains

② Old Malt Cask Jura 2007 14 Year Old

70cl | 50% ABV | £110

Orange peel / Ginger / Fennel

- A cracking independent bottling of Jura from Hunter Laing & Co.
- Matured for 14 years in a single hogshead cask
- Just 304 bottles were filled - you'll need to be quick to get your hands on one!



③ Talisker 18 Year Old

70cl | 45.8% ABV | £175 Toffee / Peat smoke / Toasted oak

- A delectable single malt bursting with decadent flavours
- Matured in a combination of ex-bourbon and ex-sherry casks
- Hailing from the oldest distillery on the Isle of Skye

⑤ Highland Park Octave 2007

70cl | 55.3% ABV | £140 Tobacco / Aniseed / Wood smoke

- Exceptional flavours have been imparted from the 15-year maturation
- Finished in an octave cask for five months
- Just 83 bottles have been filled by Duncan Taylor

④ Arran 10 Year Old

70cl | 46% ABV | £41 Citrus / Vanilla / Apple

- The signature Arran single malt
- The perfect dram for summertime sipping
- A fruity and floral delight!

⑥ Isle of Raasay Single Malt R02.1

70cl | 46.4% ABV | £55 Peat smoke / Cinnamon / Vanilla

- An outstanding small-batch expression
- Created using Scottish barley malted with Highland peat
- Matured in a combination of first-fill ex-rye whiskey casks, new Chinkapin oak casks, and first-fill Bordeaux red wine casks.



THE WHISKY SHOP

Father's Day

Treat your dad to one of these special bottles this Father's Day.

① Regent Street Staoisha 2012 9 Year Old

70cl | 50% ABV | £88 Raisins / Nuts / Peat smoke

- A wonderful bottling exclusive to The Whisky Shop
- Matured for nine years in an octave cask
- Just 64 bottles have been filled

② Compagnie Des Indes Great White Ghana

70cl | 50% ABV | £50 Pepper / Plums / Mango

- Created at a mystery distillery in Ghana
- An exceptional 2020 vintage white rum
- Perfect sipped neat or in a variety of rum-based cocktails



③ Stauning Rye

70cl | 48% ABV | £67

Black pepper / Vanilla / Boiled sweets

- Inspired by the flavours of Danish rye bread
- Created using open-fire pot still distillation
- Matured in new American oak barrels

⑤ The Dalmore Port Wood Gift Set

70cl | 46.5% ABV | £100

Toffee sauce / Toasted nuts / Blood orange

- An impressive gift pack fit for a king!
- Matured in a combination of American white oak ex-bourbon casks and Tawny port pipes
- Extremely decadent fare from The Dalmore

④ Glengoyne Time Capsule Pack 3x20cl

3 x 20cl | 43% ABV / 48% ABV | £26

Treacle / Toffee apple / Ginger

- Three of Glengoyne distillery's signature single malts
- Showcases Glengoyne's signature sweet, fruity character
- Why gift dad one dram when you can gift him three?

⑥ Redbreast 12 Year Old

70cl | 40% ABV | £61

Toasted oak / Baking spices / Dried fruit

- A real sherry bomb from Ireland
- A single pot still whiskey matured in Oloroso sherry casks
- A wonderfully smooth sipper



THE WHISKY SHOP

Garden Party

These expressions are staples for any summer-time garden party!

① Oban 14 Year Old

70cl | 43% ABV | £83

Biscuits / Sea salt / Leather

- Aged for 14 years at one of Scotland's oldest licensed distilleries
- Oban's copper pot stills are some of the smallest in Scotland
- This sweet and salty dram is bound to impress whisky fans far and wide

② Benromach 15 Year Old

70cl | 43% ABV | £82

Root ginger / Fruit cake / Vanilla

- A classic Speyside single malt
- Delicious fare from Morayshire's Benromach distillery
- Expect fantastically well-balanced fruity and spicy flavours



③ Green Spot

70cl | 40% ABV | £52

Citrus / Tobacco / Mint

- A highly impressive non-age statement pot still whiskey
- Matured in a combination of new bourbon, refill bourbon, and sherry casks
- Winner of Gold at the International Spirits Challenge 2022

④ Isle of Harris Gin

70cl | 45% ABV | £52

Baking spices / Grapefruit / Lime

- A critically acclaimed triumph from the Isle of Harris
- Created with hand-harvested sugar kelp to create striking maritime flavours
- A must-have gin for summer

⑤ The Macallan 12 Year Old Sherry

70cl | 40% ABV | £83

Dried fruit / Marmalade / Golden syrup

- An extremely smooth single malt from The Macallan
- Wonderfully well-rounded from a sherry cask maturation
- Perfectly showcases everything that makes The Macallan so great

⑥ Hibiki Japanese Harmony

70cl | 43% ABV | £86

Vanilla / Polished copper / Oak

- Absolutely excellent in a highball
- Created with over ten malt and grain whiskies from Yamazaki and Hakushu
- A unique harmony of flavours



THE WHISKY SHOP

Independence Day

Celebrate Independence Day with some of these fabulous whiskeys from across the pond!

① Westward Single Malt

70cl | 45% ABV | £65

Vanilla / Pears / Cinnamon

- Created using locally sourced malted barley
- Brewed with ale yeast before a maturation in lightly toasted American virgin oak casks
- A truly outstanding single malt whiskey from Oregon

② Rabbit Hole Boxergrail Kentucky Straight Rye

70cl | 47.5% ABV | £53

Black pepper / Dark chocolate / Blackberries

- This dram was created to celebrate Louisville's long boxing history
- Created with 95% rye and 5% malted barley that is matured in slow-toasted barrels
- Punchy and unforgettable



③ Blanton's Original Single Barrel

70cl | 46.5% ABV | £125

Vanilla / Caramel / Honey

- A beautiful single barrel bourbon from the middle sections of Blanton's Warehouse H
- Created from a sour mash of corn, rye, and malted barley
- Presented in one of the most unique bottles you'll ever set your eyes upon

⑤ Kentucky Owl Confiscated

70cl | 48.2% ABV | £145

Baking spices / Honey baked peaches / Ripe red berries

- Created to pay homage to the whiskey lost to government officials during Prohibition
- A rich and fiery bourbon
- The perfect dram for any history buff this Independence Day

④ Eagle Rare Single Barrel Select

70cl | 45% ABV | £99

Herbs / Cocoa / Toffee

- Matured in a single barrel for ten years
- Exclusively bottled for The Whisky Shop
- A distinctive bourbon that we cannot get enough of!

⑥ Woodford Reserve

70cl | 45.2% ABV | £56

Tobacco / Black pepper / Orchard fruit

- Created by Woodford Reserve's Master Distiller Chris Morris
- A fabulously spicy expression that is bound to set the taste buds alight
- A staple in the collection of any rye whiskey fans



⑥



THE WHISKY SHOP

Customer Favourites

Light / Floral

① Balblair 12 Year Old

70cl | 46% VOL | £55 **Sultanas / Honey / Apple**

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



“A bright, fresh and crisp approach to Highland whisky. Every since my first sip of Balblair, the 12 Year Old summarises it better than any other expression. Apples, pears and elderflower in a bottle. So welcoming and natural in everything it does.”

— Phil, Manchester



② Fettercairn 12 Year Old

70cl | 40% VOL | £56 **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.

③ Loch Lomond 14 Year Old

70cl | 46% VOL | £61 **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.



④ Bunnahabhain 12 Year Old

70cl | 46.3% VOL | £51 **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.

⑥ Auchroisk 10 Year Old

70cl | 43% VOL | £56 **Orange zest / Cut grass / Roasted nuts**

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.

⑤ Balblair 15 Year Old

70cl | 46% VOL | £84 **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.

⑦ Glengoyne 12 Year Old

70cl | 43% VOL | £48 **Honey / Ginger / Lemon zest**

A real smooth sipper from Glengoyne distillery. Matured in hand-selected sherry casks crafted from European and American oak, this multi award-winning expression is sure to keep you coming back for more.



THE WHISKY SHOP

Customer Favourites

Rich / Sweet

① Benriach The Twelve

70cl | 46% VOL | £50

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.



"A lovely balance of sweet and spice makes this a new Speyside classic. Perfect for a wee pre-dinner dram!"

— Lynsey, Maltrees Walk



② The Dalmore 15 Year Old

70cl | 40% VOL | £106

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 Glenrothes 18 Year Old

70cl | 43% VOL | £159

Sweet vanilla / Wood oil / Ginger biscuits

An exceptional 18-year-old Speyside single malt. Released as part of The Glenrothes' Soleo Collection, this expression has been exclusively matured in sherry seasoned oak casks.



**4 Blair Athol
12 Year Old**

70cl | 43% VOL | £55

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.

**7 Benrinnes
15 Year Old**

70cl | 43% VOL | £60

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.

**5 Old Pulteney
15 Year Old**

70cl | 46% VOL | £79

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.

**8 anCnoc
12 Year Old**

70cl | 40% VOL | £40

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.

**6 Arran
10 Year Old**

70cl | 46% VOL | £47

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.

**9 The Dalmore
12 Year Old**

70cl | 40% VOL | £70

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.



THE WHISKY SHOP

Customer Favourites

Rich / Sweet

① Mortlach 16 Year Old Distiller's Dram

70cl | 43.4% VOL | £105

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.



"If you haven't tasted a sherry bomb yet, make Mortlach 16 Year Old your first one! Expect an intense whisky packed full of rich fruit flavours, dark chocolate and exotic spices. A top-notch, well-balanced whisky best served neat."

— Neil, Whisky Specialist

①



②



④



② Glen Scotia Victoriana

70cl | 54.2% VOL | £81

Creme 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!

③ Glen Scotia Double Cask Rum Finish

70cl | 46% VOL | £55

Toasted coconut / Baking spices / Molasses

A beautiful dram that pays homage to the rum casks that were on sale in Campbeltown in 1815. Matured in ex-bourbon casks before an eight-month finish in ex-Demerara rum barrels, the result is something simply spellbinding.

③



④ Mortlach 12 Year Old The Wee Witchie

70cl | 43.4% VOL | £61 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.

⑤ Oban Distillers Edition

70cl | 43% VOL | £86 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!

⑥ The GlenDronach 12 Year Old

70cl | 43% VOL | £55 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.

⑦ Benromach 10 Year Old

70cl | 43% VOL | £48 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.

⑧ Jura 18 Year Old

70cl | 44% VOL | £80 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.



THE WHISKY SHOP

Customer Favourites Smoky

① Ailsa Bay 1.2

70cl | 48.9% VOL | £64 **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.



"One of the most well balanced whiskies I have ever tasted. This dram is like sitting around a campfire with a mouth full of citrus fruits. A must-try!"

— Lee, Trentham

①



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③



④



② Talisker Port Ruighe

70cl | 45.8% VOL | £58 **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.

③ Bunnahabhain Toiteach A Dha

70cl | 46% VOL | £51 **Dried fruit / Peat / Black pepper**

Made with Bunnahabhain Moine, Bunnahabhain's peated spirit, this expression is the follow-up to the original Toiteach single malt. It uses a higher proportion of sherry casks than its predecessor. "Toiteach" translates to "smoky two" in Gaelic, so it is no surprise that this dram is bursting with sumptuous, peaty flavours.

④ Torabhaig Allt Gleann Legacy

70cl | 46% VOL | £60 Sea salt / Peat smoke / Lemon peel

The second release in Torabhaig's Legacy series is an impressively peaty malt. The series consists of small batch bottlings, all drawn from 30 casks or less.

⑤ Caol Ila Distillers Edition

70cl | 43% VOL | £80 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.

⑥ Ledaig 10 Year Old

70cl | 46.3% VOL | £50 Gingerbread / Sea salt / Stewed fruit

This beautifully smoky dram is one third of the Ledaig core range. Hailing from the Isle of Mull's only distillery, this an impressively balanced maritime whisky that is sure to keep you coming back for more.

⑦ Glenturret 10 Year Old Peat Smoked

70cl | 50% VOL | £66 Citrus / Smoke / Sea salt

This exceptional single malt has been crafted in the same stills that the distillery's unpeated spirit runs through. Sweet and smoky, this is a simply delightful expression from an exemplary Highland distillery.

⑧ Highland Park 12 Year Old

70cl | 40% VOL | £46 Honey / Cream / Floral smoke

An intriguing expression from Scotland's most northerly distillery. This beautiful dram is the flagship expression of Orkney's Highland Park.

⑤



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THE WHISKY SHOP

Customer Favourites

International

① Widow Jane 10 Year Old Bourbon

70cl | 45.5% VOL | £88

Sandalwood / Tobacco / Madagascan vanilla

A fabulous bourbon from Widow Jane Distillery in Brooklyn. Each bottle of this ten-year-old tippie has been drawn from a single barrel, meaning that no two bottles of this fabulous expression will be exactly the same.



"Expect sweet pecan nuts and maple syrup. Caramel is abundant; a perfect whisky for those of us with a sweet tooth!"

— Phil. Manchester

①



②



② Maker's 46

70cl | 47% VOL | £46

Nutmeg / Mulled wine / Caramel

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

③ Bushmills 16 Year Old

70cl | 40% VOL | £96

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



④



④ Writers' Tears Copper Pot

70cl | 40% VOL | £43 **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 Waterford The Cuvée

70cl | 50% VOL | £72 **Orange zest / Barley sugar / Lemon peel**

An outstanding release from Ireland's Waterford Distillery. This impressive expression draws together spirits from the distillery's Single Farm Origins series to create this striking single malt.

⑥ The Irishman Single Malt

70cl | 43% VOL | £35 **Crystallised pineapple / Ripe stone fruits / Honey**

A bourbon and oloroso matured dream! This whiskey wonderfully balances sweet, fruity, and woody flavours to create this gorgeous Irish tippie. This small batch expression won Gold at the International Spirits Challenge 2022 - get your hands on one now!

⑦ New York Distillers Ragtime Straight Rye

70cl | 45.2% VOL | £47 **Liquorice / Cinnamon / Marmalade**

An impressive rye from New York Distilling Company. Specially created to be used in cocktails, this expression will be right at home in a delicious Manhattan! A must-have addition to your drinks cabinet.

⑧ Stauning Smoke Single Malt

70cl | 47% VOL | £82 **Digestive biscuits / Apple / Campfire smoke**

A real triumph from Denmark's Stauning distillery. This Danish expression is full to the brim with seductively smoky notes that give way to soft, sweet, fruity hints.

⑤



⑥



⑦



⑧



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LONDON
169 Piccadilly
London,
W1J 9EH
0207 499 6649

LONDON
Unit 7,
Queens Head Passage
Paternoster
EC4M 7DZ
0207 329 5117

BRIGHTON
64 East Street
BN1 1HQ
01273 327 962

GUILDFORD
25 Chapel Street
GU1 3UL
01483 450 900

BATH
9-10 High Street
BA1 5AQ
01225 423 535

OXFORD
7 Turl St
OX1 3DQ
01865 202 279

NORWICH
3 Swan Lane
NR2 1HZ
01603 618 284

WALES

NEWLY OPENED
CARDIFF
36 Royal Arcade
CF10 1AE

NORTH

GATESHEAD
Unit 1/9 Red Mall
Intu Metro Centre
NE11 9YP
0191 460 3777

MANCHESTER
3 Exchange Street
M2 7EE
0161 832 6110

YORK
11 Coppergate Walk
YO1 9NT
0190 4640 300

STOKE-ON-TRENT
Unit 210 Trentham Gardens
ST4 8AX
01782 644 483

NOTTINGHAM
3 Cheapside
NG1 2HU
0115 958 7080

BIRMINGHAM
Unit 9
Great Western Arcade
B2 5HU
0121 233 4416

FRANCE

PARIS
7 Place de la Madeleine
75008
+33 1 45 22 29 77

SCOTLAND

GLASGOW
Unit L2-02
Buchanan Galleries
220 Buchanan Street
G1 2GF
0141 331 0022

EDINBURGH
Unit U23
Waverley Mall
Waverley Bridge
EH1 1BQ
0131 558 7563

EDINBURGH
28 Victoria St
EH1 2JW
0131 225 4666

NEWLY OPENED
EDINBURGH
Maltrees Walk
28 St. Andrew Square
EH2 1AF

INVERNESS
17 Bridge Street
IV1 1HG
0146 3710 525

FORT WILLIAM
93 High Street
PH33 6DG
0139 7706 164

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PA34 5SD
0163 1570 896

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MORE THAN A WHISKY

Matured for eighteen long years in American White Oak ex bourbon barrels, this whisky is then beautifully enriched by superior Premier Grand Cru Classé Bordeaux red wine barriques from the South of France. The result is an incredibly rich and fruity whisky, with flavours of cooked raspberries, warm spice, rich caramel and crème anglaise.

CASK INFORMATION

Matured in American White Oak ex-bourbon barrels and enhanced by a finish in Premier Grand Cru Classé Bordeaux barrels.

TASTING NOTES

QUICK DESCRIPTION: Rich and fruity

COLOUR: Rosewood gold

NOSE: Bold red fruits, toffee, crème anglaise and cinnamon

TASTE: Warm spice and rich black forest fruit, bolstered by cooked raspberries and strawberries and a hint of chocolate

ABV: 44%



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The Glenrothes 42 Year Old



Charlie MacLean takes his taste buds on a journey with The Glenrothes' wonderfully vibrant new release, The 42.

➤ Spirits first ran from the stills of Glenrothes on 28th December 1879—a wild and stormy night, with winds gusting to 80 m.p.h. Unknown to the operators, that same gale brought down the railway bridge over the River Tay—designed to be ‘indestructible’ by the leading engineer, Sir Thomas Bouch, and completed only nineteen months previously—pitching the night train from Edinburgh into the foaming Tay Estuary with a loss of all seventy-five souls, including the train driver, fireman and ticket inspector.

Soon after it went into production, the spirit was in demand from blenders, who ranked it ‘Top Class’, and as a result the distillery was expanded to four stills in 1896, to plans drawn up by the leading distillery architect, Charles Doig of Elgin. While work was proceeding, a fire devastated part of the site, and in spite of installing Doig’s patented appliance for preventing explosions in the mill-room—an ever-present risk in distilleries, owing to the presence of fine flour, easily ignited by a spark if there are any stones in the

malt—this failed to avert another fire six years later!

Glenrothes’ later history—both brand and distillery—can be somewhat confusing. In 1987, Highland Distilleries licensed the brand to Berry Bros. & Rudd, the distinguished London wine merchant, with whom Highland’s sister company, Robertson & Baxter, had a long-standing relationship—together they owned 50/50 of Cutty Sark, which R&B had blended for BBR since the 1920s. The first ‘official’ bottling was released that year. Being a wine merchant, BBR labelled it and subsequent bottlings as a vintage format.

In 2010, Edrington (the holding company of both Highland and R&B) took 100% ownership of Cutty Sark and BBR 100% ownership of The Glenrothes with Edrington maintaining ownership of the distillery and production. In 2017 the position was reversed, with The Glenrothes returning to Edrington in totality.



The 42 on show as part of a beautiful display in our Paris boutique store.



The Glenrothes 42 Year Old

70cl	43% VOL
42 Year Old	£6,750
Speyside single malt	

The 43% ABV whisky presents aromas of sun-ripened apricots, sugared almonds, orange peel and coriander seed on the nose, and creamy vanilla, honeycomb and fragrant orange oil on the palate, with a lingering finish.

Brand owners note: Richly sweet with brown sugar and honeycomb. Creamy with vanilla and toasted almonds. Some light oak and distinctive orange oil fragrance.

A beautifully balanced whisky bottled only at the perfect moment, 42 years. The 42 boasts an intensely aromatic fragrance, distinctly sweet taste, yet a smooth, velvety mouthfeel. Bottled at natural colour, like all our whiskies, its naturally deep amber tone is a result of the four decades' long maturation in oak casks.

A dram with Dad

Ahead of Father's Day [18th June, mark it in your diary] we ask: what are your favourite memories of a dram shared with your Dad?



Grant Hutchison,
Musician and entrepreneur
 Spring 2020 Cover Star

There's one specific dram I remember having with my Dad and it was in the dressing room of the Barrowland Ballroom in Glasgow. We had just played our first sold out gig there and before the hoard of pals and hawks descended on the backstage, we had a moment of calm with close friends and family and raised a glass of 12 Year Old Balvenie Doublewood together.

Although my parents have always been supportive of what I chose to do, this felt like a very real moment of proof that we were doing alright and the years of borrowing Mum's car for gigs and sleeping on floors and couches was finally paying off and it was a serious thing! The Doublewood is a dram I will always come back to time and time again as it was my brother's favourite and it holds a lot of great memories for me.



Although my parents have always been supportive of what I chose to do, this felt like a very real moment of proof that we were doing alright



Tony Singh
Chef and restaurateur
 Spring 2022 Cover Star

I love Jura and my favourite dram is, well, was (I have a couple of bottles left), Prophecy, because it was over a few drams of this malt that my dad recounted stories of his youth, of travels, and of adventures. It was a special moment, just the two of us, sharing a love of whisky and reminiscing on memories old and new. The smooth and smoky flavour of Jura Prophecy was the perfect accompaniment to our conversation.



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The Last Word

Dylan, The Whisky Shop Cardiff

My first experience with enjoying whisky was in 2018. It was cold Christmas morning in a cabin next to the lake in the Loch Ness. I bought a bottle of Laphroaig 10 Cask Select for my dad. We cracked it open straight away. His famous words: "an empty stomach is the best palate for whisky". My first sip was like a bonfire in my mouth with a long last of lingering smoke and sweetness. That's where my love for whisky began.



I bought a bottle of Laphroaig 10 Cask Select for my dad. We cracked it open straight away.

Fran, Whiskeria Producer

Before joining The Whisky Shop, my dad had spent my entire adult life trying to get me into whisky. His favourite drams are big peaty numbers from Laphroaig and Ardbeg – not the best expression to start off an unsuspecting 18 year old on! After starting my job with The Whisky Shop and developing a palate for the uisge beatha, I now love sharing a dram with the person who introduced me to it in the first place.



I now love sharing a dram with the person who introduced me to it in the first place.

Christina Kernohan Photographer

I was introduced to whisky properly in 2010 by a friend who clearly knew his booze. It was a dram of Yamazaki in Bramble Bar in Edinburgh and that was it – I was in love, and I've never looked back.

I brought a bottle home to my dad for Christmas – a proud Northern Irish man who deemed it "OK, but no Bushmills." And although I've told stories of all the delicious whiskies I've gotten to taste through work over the years and the various delicious iterations and favourites I brought back home – Hibiki, Balvenie Doublewood, GlenGarioch 15, Caol Ila, and Woven – Dad remains resolute that it's not a whisky if it isn't a Bushmills and I've stopped trying to persuade him otherwise. But I've very much enjoyed the heated discussions over the years with drams in hand that got us here.

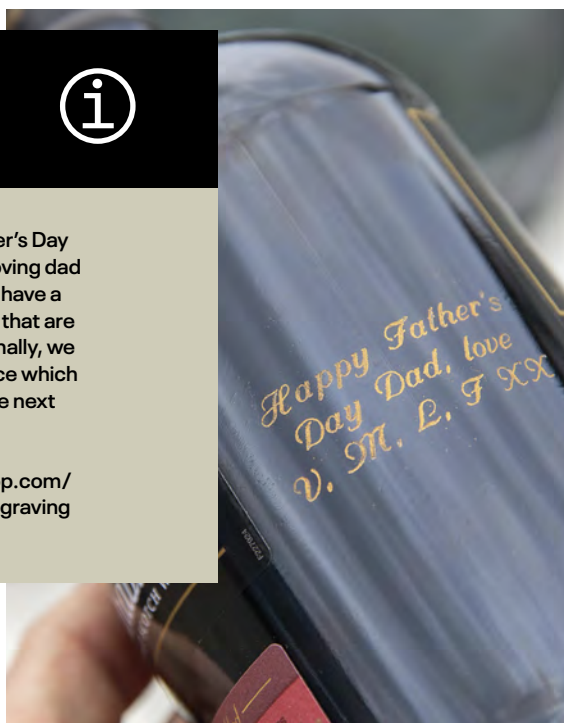
Knowledge Bar

Father's Day



Pick up the perfect Father's Day present for the whisky loving dad at The Whisky Shop. We have a huge selection of drams that are sure to impress. Additionally, we offer an engraving service which will elevate any gift to the next level. Find out more at:

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