

Kingston Single Malt Society

www.kingstonsinglemaltsociety.com

A social club for the appreciation of Single Malt Whisky since 1998
APRIL 16th, 2018 VOLUME 11; NUMBER 10



This evening's menu in the company of
Single Malts from SPEYSIDE / HIGHLANDS / ISLAY



MENU

1st Nosing: MACALLAN EDITION No. 3

1st Course: Spring Pea Soup

2nd Nosing: ARDMORE TRADITIONAL

3rd Nosing: ARDMORE LEGACY

(introduced by: John Creber)

2nd Course: Ricotta & Spinach Filled Cannelloni,
San Marzano Tomatoes,

Caciocavallo, Arugula Gremolata

4th Nosing: GLENMORANGIE SPIOs

9th PRIVATE EDITION (2018)

(introduced by: Philip Henderson)

3rd Course: Braised Short Rib Of Beef, Yukon Gold Mash,
Braised Mushrooms, Onions,

Brussel Sprouts, Carrots, Horseradish Jus

5th Nosing: BRUICHLADDICH OCTOMORE EDITION 8.1

(introduced by: Bill Gorham)

Dessert: Baclava, Vanilla Ice Cream

6th Nosing: GLENROTHES ALBA RESERVE

(introduced by: Ken Goodland)

MARCH - KSMS Financial Statement

(Money from 29 March attendees @ \$60)	= \$1740.00
March dinner 36 persons = \$45.00/ea	= \$1305.00
(Money remaining for buying Single Malt)	= \$435.00
Cost of Single Malts	= \$878.75
Cost of Pours per Person = \$27.46	
KSMS Monthly operational balance	= (-\$443.75)
Cost per person (All inclusive)	= \$75.30

COST OF THE MALTS

MACALLAN EDITION No. 3 VINTAGES 535161 |
750 mL bottle **Price \$179.95** Spirits,
Whisky/Whiskey, Scotch Single Malts 48.3%
Alcohol/Vol.

ARDMORE TRADITIONAL LCBO 478230 | 750 mL
bottle **Price: \$74.95** Spirits, Whisky/Whiskey, Scotch
Single Malts 46.0% Alcohol/Vol.

ARDMORE LEGACY LCBO 478230 | 750 mL bottle
Price: \$51.95 Spirits, Whisky/Whiskey, Scotch Single
Malts 40.0% Alcohol/Vol.

GLENMORANGIE 9th PRIVATE EDITION (2018)
SPIOs VINTAGES 520833 | 750 mL bottle **Price \$**
179.95 Spirits, Whisky/Whiskey, Scotch Single Malts
46.0% Alcohol/Vol.

BRUICHLADDICH OCTOMORE EDITION 8.1 8
YEAR OLD PPM: 167 LCBO 551838 | 750 mL bottle
Price: \$229.95 Spirits, Whisky/Whiskey 59.3%
Alcohol/Vol.

GLENROTHES ALBA RESERVE VINTAGES 31674 |
750 mL bottle **Price: \$69.99** Spirits, 46.0% bottle
Alcohol/Vol.

Upcoming Dinner Dates

- May 14th, 2018 - Tobermory & Ledaig Vertical - Mike Brisebois - River Mill
- June 18th, 2018 - BBQ (Final Exam) - River Mill
- July 23rd, 2018 - World Whisk(e)y - Matt Jones-River Mill
- Friday August 24th, 2018 - 11th Annual Premium Night - River Mill
- September 17th, 2018 - Campbeltown / Lowland / Speyside /
Highlands / Islands / Islay - River Mill
- Sept. ???, 2018 - Auchentoshan/Bowmore/Laphroaig-Matt Jones-River Mill
- October 15th, 2018 - Bunnahabhain - Mike Brisebois - River Mill
- November 19th, & 12th 2018 - Glenlivet Vertical Nosing - River Mill
- December 10th, 2018 - Christmas Dinner - River Mill
- January 21st, 2019 - Robbie Burns Dinner - River Mill
- February 18th, 2019 - Islands / Islay - River Mill
- March 18th, 2019 - Speyside - River Mill
- April 22nd, 2019 - Speyside / Highlands - River Mill
- May 13th, 2019 - Speyside / Highlands - River Mill
- June 17th, 2019 - BBQ (Final Exam) - River Mill
- July 22nd, 2019 - International Night - River Mill
- Friday August 23rd, 2019 - 12th Annual Premium Night - River Mill
- September 16th, 2019 - Campbeltown / Lowland / Speyside /
Highlands / Islands / Islay - River Mill
- October 21st, 2019 - Speyside / Highlands - River Mill
- November 18th, 2019 - Speyside - River Mill
- December 9th, 2019 - Christmas Dinner - River Mill

TASTING WHISKY WITH THE MURRAY METHOD

26 February 2018 by [The Whisky Virgin](#) – [www.scotchwhisky.com](#)

His first flirtation with Jim Murray's Whisky Bible has The Whisky Virgin questioning his approach to tasting whisky. Has he been doing it wrong all this time?



Eighteen commandments: Jim Murray lays down the law when it comes to whisky tasting, but is he right?

I'm afraid I have to kick off this month's piece with an apology to all you lovely Scotch botherers. It turns out that every time I sampled a dram and wrote about it for your amusement, I actually tasted it all wrong. I haven't been following proper drinking procedure and for that I am sorry.

This realisation came when I got my hands on a copy of [Jim Murray's 2018 Whisky Bible](#). This annual guidebook not only contains old Jim's thoughts and feelings about hundreds of different whiskies from around the world, but also his 18-step guide to tasting whisky. Eighteen rules! Bloody Fight Club only had eight. And there was me thinking Scotch was just a drink I could knock back without a care, like it was common Fanta.

In an effort to mend my ways, I'm going to try to taste some whisky on a serious level. Tonight's mission is to crack a bottle – in this case



a [Highland Park](#) 12 I picked up on the cheapsky at Tesco – and try to follow the rules as I go. Who knows what kind of whisky magic I've been missing out on? Time to find out.

The first three commandments laid out in the Murray Method™ are about avoiding distracting scents and sounds to get yourself in the zone. Easier said than done in a South London flat-share above an illegal laundrette, but I do my best to clear my living room of smelly debris and wedge a folding chair against the door for maximum solitude.

This makes sense to me. It's probably hard to take a serious taste of Scotch when you've just cooked a curry or are covered in Lynx Africa. Jimmy also recommends black coffee or some dark chocolate to cleanse the palate, but I'm fresh out of both so I make do with a swig of off-brand diet cola.

The next set of Jimbo's rules are about the serve. I'm told to use a stemmed, tulip-shaped glass to concentrate all the deliciousness compounds in my whisky. I actually did pick up a few of these last year after I realised that drinking Scotch from old Sports Direct mugs was doing nothing for me. Not sure why the stem is so important – easier to gesticulate with maybe? Anyway, I totally get that proper whisky glasses are important.

Giant mug or Glencairn?: Your choice of drinking vessel is vital in whisky tasting, says Murray

He also says a big no to water and ice, and insists that your bottle goes nowhere near the fridge. I quite like a cube or two in my tumbler from time to time, but I take his point about tasting a new dram in its natural state.

I'm on step eight and I'm not even allowed a taste yet. C'mon J-man, I'm dying of thirst over here! Before I can dive in, I apparently have to warm up the glass with my hands to get the contents maximally tasty. Once it's good and ready, I'm to hold my dram out at arm's length. Is this like a yoga thing? I have to admit, I feel a bit daft.

Following Notorious J.I.M's instructions to the letter, I uncover my glass and move it towards my face, bringing it to rest on my top lip and inhaling slowly. I try to breathe normally while rolling the tulip between my nostrils.

I'm not sure this is something I could do down the pub, or in front of any other living human, but I have to admit I am in a whole world of smells. This must be how dogs feel. Seems like resisting the urge to stuff my whole nose in my glass and taking a bit of time to sniff around before draining my dram is a sound move.

Step 11: Ah finally, I'm allowed a sip. Lovely Scotch, all flowers and honey and smoke and... oh wait, I've gotten ahead of my fool self. Jim-Jim says the first taste is to be totally ignored. Seemed fine to me, but apparently sip number two is where the real tasting happens.

I start to 'chew' my malt, swirling it around and breathing in and out. Am I sort of gargling? Is this what he's telling me to do? If I accidentally choke to death on whisky with the door wedged closed, would my parents lie to people about what happened to me? So many questions.

Amazingly, I do feel like I've got a lot more out of this here hooch on the second go-around. That said, steps 14 and 15 are a little over my head, describing 'shape' and 'balance' and so on, but I think I know what the Method Man is getting at. These guidelines may not be appropriate for every setting – or many settings, for that matter – but I think there's a lot to learn here about taking time to think about what you're drinking.

Rule 16 of Scotch appraisal is one I can totally get on board with: 'Never make your final assessment until you have tasted it a third or fourth time.' Will do, Captain J, here's to you. His last two rules basically amount to him saying you should form your own opinion about a whisky, regardless of what anyone else says, and stop tasting when you can't tell the difference between whiskies any more. Strong stuff.

I get that the Murray Man's 18 rules are meant for serious – no hint of irony – whisky tasting and as such they don't really need to apply to your everyday malt snaffling. Did following the rulebook make me appreciate my whisky more? Absolutely, and it also made me think for the first time about how there might be different ways to smell something.

Still, I think there's a time and a place for covering yourself in after-shave, chugging down spicy food, throwing some ice in a tumbler and enjoying a carefree whisky with the fam. In future, I'll think more about how I'm approaching my drams, but I don't think I'll stop drinking whisky however it feels right at the time.

But then J-to the-I-to the-M Murray is not a mere man like me, he's a pro taster. I've heard rumours that he can taste a glass of Scotch through a brick wall and tell you how the barley was feeling the day it was malted. I also think I read somewhere that he actually invented rye whisky; imagine that.

Thanks for the wise words, Jim-lad – and the baffling ones – I'll be sure to hold a glass of whisky at arm's length and then carefully move it to my face in your honour soon.

WHISKY GLASS 'FOR WOMEN' CONDEMNED AS SEXIST

06 March 2018 by [Becky Paskin](#) – [www.scotchwhisky.com](#)

A new 'elegant and stylish' whisky glass designed for women has been criticised by members of the industry as 'ridiculous'.

Feminine design?: The new Highlander Whisky Glass has been created with women in mind

The Highlander Whisky Glass, which features 'a new shape especially for women', has been designed by Austrian firm Luxor Crystal, which is known for its Swarovski crystal-studded glassware.

Taking its cues from the Glencairn glass, the 20cl Highlander Whisky Glass features a short, thin stem that uses a 'new technology' for glass design.

Luxor Crystal co-owner Caro Reindl was inspired to create a new style of whisky glass after visiting Scotland's distilleries for the first time.

She said: 'I visited a few distilleries and I thought they always use the same glass – the Glencairn glass – and I was interested in why there was no other shape of glass.'

'We wanted to create a new shape especially for women to enjoy their whisky with ice, or mixed or whatever. I think the normal whisky tumblers are often a little bit too big for the women's hands.'

'We tried to find a nice shape especially for the women. It's more elegant, stylish.'

However the planned introduction of the glass has been criticised by some members of the industry as unnecessary.

Geraldine Murphy, founder of the Pot Still Whisky Girls club, said a glass designed specifically for women is 'pretty ridiculous'.

'The same as there is no such thing as a "woman's whisky", we do not need our own special glass.'

'Women are much smarter and savvier than to be fooled by a fancy glass or [changing from Johnnie to Jane](#). If you like whisky or want to try whisky, I doubt glassware is going to play a part in what you drink.'

Amy Seton, founder of Birmingham Whisky Club and Birmingham Whisky Festival, added that the introduction of a glass for women was undoing 'so much work to equalise the industry'.

'There does not need to be a point of difference at all. It's like the "Bic biro for her" all over again,' she said. 'Something like this takes us back a couple of steps.'



'I think it looks lovely – it's a simple, aesthetically pleasing design, but it doesn't need to be marketed to women.'

Based in Mils, Austria, Luxor Crystal specialises in creating luxury glassware, much of which is adorned with Swarovski crystals.

Stewart Bain, chief commercial officer and co-owner of Luxor Crystal, added: 'Our blender glass is for everyone, however in developing our core collections which embrace the Swarovski crystals we

simply thought to develop and adapt a tumbler shape to the female direction as well as a more masculine version.'

'We have made no decisions and, as with our core lines of wine and Champagne glasses, they are enjoyed by all drinkers, no matter their sex.'

The Highlander Whisky Glass will be available 'with or without crystals' from this spring.

Glenmorangie Spios

<https://www.whiskyandwisdom.com/?p=2127>

The whisky calendar is blessed these days to have annual events and annual releases that we all look forward to. For example, Islay-philes hang out each year for the Feis Ile bottlings, and Ardbeg fans are always keenly anticipating May for Ardbeg Day and the release of the special Ardbeg limited edition that accompanies it. For those who prefer a more typical "Highland" style of whisky, there is always huge interest in the annual release of Glenmorangie's Private Edition bottling. This year's release – Private Edition No. 9 – is called "Spios".

For the uninitiated, Glenmorangie's Private Edition range is a special once-off and limited release that comes out each year to showcase a new variation or interpretation on the Glenmorangie flavour profile. Through the use of different casks or wood regimes during maturation, or by using different varieties of barley (or different peating levels), the usual Glenmorangie DNA is given a tweak and a nudge to explore new and – without fail – *delicious* flavour territories. Some within Glenmorangie, including Dr Bill Lumsden himself, (Glenmorangie's Director of Distilling, Whisky Creation, and Whisky Stocks) have hinted or suggested that the Private Edition range showcases experimentation but, to my palate, the results are consistently too successful and too good to be mere experiments. No, this is a product line that knows what it's doing. And for those who are curious, in terms of volume, the Private Edition range makes up less than 1% of Glenmorangie's total annual production, so it is genuinely a very limited product.

Glenmorangie Spios – Matured 100% in American oak, ex-rye casks.

Eight previous releases make up the Private Edition range, namely the *PX Sonalta*, *Finealta*, *Artein*, *Ealanta*, *Companta*, *Tusail*, *Milsean*, and *Bacalta*. Experimentation is a long-term exercise in the whisky world, with the results of any tweak in production or new cask filling not being fully realised until years after the fact and after maturation plays its role. Of course, if the results are good, then replicating the experience resets and starts the process with – again – a return period of 10-12 years. It would be nice to think that some of these Private Edition releases might one day form part of the core range but, as Dr Bill explained during the launch of Spios, some of them simply don't have the quantities of materials or economies of scale to make this possible.

Spios is the Scots Gaelic word for "spice", and the whisky itself showcases spirit that has been wholly matured in American oak (*quercus alba*) ex-rye casks. Many associate *finishing* "extra maturation" with Glenmorangie, but it's worth re-iterating that Spios is *wholly* matured in the ex-rye casks – in this case, the casks evidently held and matured the rye whisky for six years before Glenmorangie acquired them.

Rye whisky (or whiskey, as is more commonly and appropriately referenced) once held court as America's most-loved grain spirit. However, tastes, palates, and traditions changed over the 13 years of prohibition, and when US distillers went back into production in 1933, rye had fallen from favour and the softer, sweeter tones of bourbon ruled the roost. Interest in rye has been building again in recent years, arguably driven by the bar scene and its trendy use in cocktails,

although – it must be said – the likes of Jim Beam, Wild Turkey and others have been churning out rye in healthy quantities for a few years now. Anyone looking to "pigeonhole" rye or de-base it down to a singular descriptor invariably reaches for the word "spice" or "spicy" at some point (particularly when comparing it to corn-based bourbon), and so it is no surprise that Glenmorangie's rye cask release is similarly named.

Dr Bill Lumsden & Brendan McCarron made a fine double act in launching the Spios Repeating the

successful format of last year's Bacalta, Spios was launched simultaneously around the globe this year via a virtual tasting and audience with Glenmorangie's Dr Bill Lumsden and Brendan McCarron. Courtesy of a live hook-up, TV screens, internet cameras and microphones, Brendan & Dr Bill sat in the Whisky Creation room at Glenmorangie's headquarters in Edinburgh, and were beamed directly to a number of gathered audiences around the globe. The Australian launch shared a mutual session with Hong Kong, Seoul, Singapore, and Sydney. After a shared address and tasting by Bill and Brendan to everyone, each city was then given an allocated slot to speak directly with the two gents, and to ask questions, which they both happily and helpfully answered.

The initial tasting, led by both gents, commenced with Glenmorangie Original, which set an important context for the night, given that most of the Private Edition range whiskies "start out" as Original and are then manipulated beyond this. This was followed by Nectar d'Or, which again stamped its credentials as surely being amongst the most luxurious of readily-available whiskies on the planet.

And then came the star of the show: The Spios. So what of the whisky itself? Well, happily, the new release was being freely poured out on the night, and yours truly spent some serious time getting acquainted with it. The whisky is bottled at 46% and is non-chillfiltered. Whilst it's officially a No Age Statement, Dr Bill dropped enough hints on the night to indicate the whisky was around 10 years old, give or take. Whisky & Wisdom's tasting notes as follows:

Nose: There's no mistaking this is Glenmorangie, but the rye casks add unmistakable...um...spice! Cinnamon, clove, mint, toffee are up front, followed by hay (straw?) and stale wood shavings.



Palate: The signature Glenmorangie fruit is here, but there's a lush wood smoke note evident that reminded me of smoked and/or cured meats. The cereal notes never stray too far from centre, and there's also spicy barley and weak black tea.

Finish: Long and intensely silky and smooth! Some wood tannins come through at the very tail.

Comments: As a Private Edition release, this has achieved exactly what it set out to do: It's a twist and a variation on the standard Glenmorangie theme. There's no denying that rye (as a category in itself) and rye-finished or rye-casked Scotch whisky is gathering traction (note Johnnie Walker's recent foray into this field), and the results speak for themselves: It's good, tasty whisky.

As a suggested food pairing, Glenmorangie nominates trying Spios with a chilli-infused dark chocolate.

As an aside, it is a stunning and rewarding exercise to go back and forth between the Spios and the Glenmorangie Original. The Original is 100% matured in ex-bourbon casks, whilst the Spios spent its years in ex-rye. When tasted side by side, the vanilla in the Original becomes very pronounced, and – almost on cue – the spice and the cloves in the Spios becomes extremely evident in its own right.

Well done, Dr Bill and Brendan – we look forward to Private Edition No. 10!

Cheers, AD

McClelland's Highland Single Malt Scotch Whisky

By Ryan on March 9, 2018 - <http://www.scotchblog.ca>

The **McClelland's** brand of regional single malts is a fairly common sight on LCBO shelves nearly everywhere across the province. Named after 19th century Glaswegian whisky firm, T&A McClelland's, it's four expressions are inspired by Scotland's "key whisky distilling regions": Lowland, Islay, Speyside, and Highland. Bottled at 40% ABV, all the whiskies share the same \$45.20 price tag making them among the cheapest Scottish single malts around. But without a distillery name or an age statement, is it worth a gamble?

Given that the Morrison Bowmore Distillers' "McClelland's" product line isn't a distillery nor owns any distilleries, there's much speculation that it's regional single malts are actually unnamed whiskies from the parent company's distillery holdings: Auchentoshan, Bowmore, and Glen Garioch. Being a [lover of Bowmore](#), I tested this theory with the [Islay expression](#) and it was a let down.

Could the Highland expression be better?

Nose: Sharp; redolent of wood shavings and damp cardstock with a whiff of vanilla buttercream icing. A little time in the glass reveals a delicate fruitiness.

Palate: Light-bodied with flavours of thinned caramel, more wood shavings, fruit lozenge, ginger, and a dash of cocoa powder.

Finish: Plenty of hang time here the cocoa notes are stretch out by squirt of lime to become a sour, burning tootsie roll whose smoldering embers steadily release a mouth-coating reek of whisky-soaked ashtray.

Overall: Truly unpleasant and that finish tastes like someone cleaned out my throat with an old bong brush. There's not much appeal here for me and the cheap-ish price still doesn't make it go down any easier. If McClelland's Highland expression really is Glen Garioch, (and don't think it is...) I can understand why they'd rather not say.

Membership and Dinner prices for 2017-2018

Membership Fee:	\$40 (singles) \$60 (couples)
One Time Initiation Fee:	\$15
Standard Dinner Fee:	\$60 (member) \$70 (non-member)
Dinner only - No Single Malt:	\$55 (member) \$65 (non-member)
Christmas Dinner Fee:	\$65 (member) \$75 (non-member)
Robbie Burns Dinner Fee:	\$70 (member)

June BBQ Dinner Fee:	\$80 (non-member) \$70 (member) \$80 (non-member)
----------------------	---

Reserved Seating

- Complimentary Reserved Seating will only be provided to groups of four (4) or greater, when requested.

Reservation policy

- The agreement with the Kitchen's requires that we provide seven (7) business days notice for them to guarantee accommodation for our requested numbers. To accommodate the Kitchen's needs and meet our contractual obligation with them; our members are requested to respond to the emailed invitation seven (7) business days prior to the respective dinner to guarantee a seat at the dinner. Following the RSVP date members will be placed on a waitlist.

- For these individuals the process will be as follows, using the Monday September 18th, 2017 dinner date as an example:

- Dinner invitations will be sent out Friday August 18th, 2017. Please respond to me (rdifazio04@gmail.com). I will then acknowledge that you have a seat. Please understand that if you do not receive a response you are not guaranteed a seat at the respective dinner. In such circumstances (e.g., computer glitches) please e-mail me again or call me (613-532-5285).

- Unless otherwise stated accommodation at the dinner will be guaranteed for all members who respond by Friday September 1st, 2017 @ 6pm.

- Once the RSVP date has been achieved I will e-mail a spreadsheet informing everyone of their status and amount due.

Cancellation policy

- Using the same example as above, anyone who cancels anytime prior to Friday September 1st, 2017 @ 6pm will be removed from the list.

- Anyone canceling between Friday September 1st, 2017 @ 6pm and Monday September 18th, 2017 will be expected to pay for the cost of the dinner and scotch (\$60). It is the responsibility of the member who cancels their (or their guest's) reservation to find a replacement. If I am asked to find a substitute and one is found, then the member will be asked to pay for 50% of their dinner cost.

- Anyone who fails to attend the Monday September 18th, 2017 dinner without having cancelled and been successfully replaced will be expected to pay the full cost (\$60). A member will be responsible for their guest's cancellation (\$70).

- If a member asks to be included at the dinner between Friday September 1st, 2017 @ 6pm and Monday September 18th, 2017, their name will be placed on a wait-list and be accommodated on a first-come first-serve basis.

Just a note because we care.

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



If you have any questions or comments please free to contact me. Thank you for your understanding, Roberto



Kingston Single Malt Society

Roberto Di Fazio, President

827 Old Colony Road

Kingston, Ontario, K7P 1S1, Canada

613-532-5285

rdifazio04@gmail.com

<http://www.kingstonsinglemaltsociety.com>

