

Kingston Single Malt Society

www.kingstonsinglemaltsociety.com

A social club for the appreciation of Single Malt Whisky since 1998
April 6th, 2018 VOLUME 11; NUMBER 10a



**This evening's menu celebrating the best of
MACALLAN & HIGHLAND PARK
in the Company of Cameron Millar & Marc Laverdiere**



SINGLE MALTS

- HIGHLAND PARK VALKYRIE LCBO 498105 | 750 mL bottle Price \$99.95
Spirits, Whisky, Scotch Single Malts 45.9% Alcohol/Vol.
- HIGHLAND PARK THE EXCLUSIVE MALTS 25 YEARS OLD Distilled: 1992; Bottled: 2017
VINTAGES 395790 | 750 mL bottle Price: \$424.95 Spirits, Whisky/Whiskey, Scotch Single Malts 46.8% Alcohol/Vol.
- HIGHLAND PARK THE DARK 17 YEARS OLD VINTAGES 395790 | 750 mL bottle Price: \$505.95
Spirits, Whisky/Whiskey, Scotch Single Malts 52.9% Alcohol/Vol.
- MACALLAN CASK STRENGTH SINGLE MALT VINTAGES 608604 | 750 mL bottle Price \$ 149.95
Spirits, Whisky/Whiskey, Single Malt Scotch 58.2% Alcohol/Vol.
- MACALLAN CLASSIC CUT VINTAGES 608604 | 750 mL bottle Price \$ 149.95
Spirits, Whisky/Whiskey, Single Malt Scotch 58.4% Alcohol/Vol.
- THE MACALLAN REFLEXION HIGHLAND SINGLE MALT SCOTCH WHISKY
VINTAGES 414250 | 750 mL bottle Price \$ 1650.95 Spirits, Whisky/Whiskey 43.0% Alcohol/Vol.

MENU

Amuse Bouche

1st Course: Cold Smoked Salmon Crudo, Fennel, Preserved Lemon, Orange, Purple Onion, Frisee

2nd Course: Roasted Eggplant & Harissa Hummus, Charred Onions, Pickled Vegetables, Olives, Halumi, Arugula, Crispy Naan Crumbs, Red Wine Vinaigrette

Main: Cassoulet (Country Sausage, Duck Confit, Pork Belly, Braised Romano Beans, Braising Jus)

Dessert: Gooey, Chocolate, Caramel Cake

New Macallan distillery begins trials



13 November 2017 by [Richard Woodard](#)

Macallan's £100m-plus new distillery has begun its commissioning process and is undergoing 'rigorous' tests before taking over single malt production from the existing plant.

Final stages: The new distillery will make all Macallan spirit once tests are complete

The first mash was produced at the new facility last Thursday (9 November), a spokesperson for [Macallan](#) confirmed to [Scotchwhisky.com](#) – three years after ground was broken on the project.

'We are now entering a rigorous period of testing before switching from existing to new distillery,' the spokesperson added. There is as yet no confirmed timescale for the shift in production.

[The new distillery](#), at Easter Elchies, near Craigellachie, had been scheduled to open to the public during the summer, but [will now open in summer 2018](#). The project's budget is reported to have leapt from £100m to £120m.

Its capacity has not been confirmed, with some reports talking of an immediate 15% increase in production over the old distillery, but with the potential to reach 15m litres of pure alcohol (lpa) a year, compared to the old plant's 9m lpa capacity.

The plans for the new distillery and visitor centre were originally announced in 2013, and building work began in November 2014. The new facility's distinctive subterranean outline, designed by architect Rogers Stirk Harbour + Partners and based loosely on a Scottish *broch* or roundhouse, led some to christen it a 'Teletubby-style' distillery. Once the new distillery is fully operational, the existing Macallan plant will cease production entirely and be mothballed.

MACALLAN EXCEPTIONAL SINGLE CASK LAUNCHED

17 November 2017 by [Richard Woodard](#) – [www.scotchwhisky.com](#)



The Macallan is aiming to showcase its "diversity of styles" with the launch of a seven-strong range of single cask whiskies aged between 12 and 22 years.

Cask strength: The range includes malts that have surprised Macallan's whisky makers

The cask strength whiskies have been drawn from seven ex-Sherry

casks, filled between 1995 and 2004 and bottled without artificial colouring.

Charlie Whitfield, manager of brand education and prestige whiskies at [Macallan](#), said the range had been inspired by the 'whisky maker's bench' found in the single malt's sample room.

'This stunning new range, bottled at cask strength, presents those particular cask samples which have taken our whisky makers by surprise,' he added.

'The Macallan's Exceptional Single Cask range provides an opportunity to experience those moments.'

The Macallan Exceptional Single Cask range is available now in the US, with an estimated retail price of US\$250-1,300 per bottle. The range will later be released in 'select international markets'.

Highland Park releases The Dark single malt

Edrington Group's Highland Park Distillery has announced the launch of its latest special edition, The Dark.

A 17-years-old single malt Scotch whisky, The Dark has been matured in European oak sherry seasoned casks.

Highland Park claims The Dark was inspired by the autumn and winter seasons on Orkney. The new release is available from The Whisky Shop and The Whisky Exchange, with an RRP of £190.

Jason R Craig, brand director, Highland Park, comments: "The Dark is the first of two special editions – The Light will be launched in spring 2018. Both editions share the story of the contrasting seasons of our Orkney islands and the resulting intense balance of Highland Park whisky."

The Dark is presented in jet black bespoke glass; the serpent dragon embossed on the front takes its inspiration from Viking stories. The Dark and The Light are written in runic writing on the serpent dragon's tail emboss itself and on the oak cradle – celebrating the island's Viking ancestry.

The back of the glass bottle has 'Made with Pride on Orkney' embossed – a tribute to the men and women who create Highland Park single malt.

The oak cradle has two circles etched on the top and bottom to represent both the high sun of the summer solstice and the low sun of the winter solstice. The booklet which accompanies this special edition describes the thinking behind this latest special edition.

NOSE: Big and robust, almost to the point of being slightly blunt. Huge, oxidised, Sherry-driven aromas, dry amontillado-style nuttiness, fig rolls and a touch of sulphur coming through, though when neat it's low enough to give a lift. There's less smokiness initially, and more of an earthy element reminiscent of peat-slathered wellies. Allow it to open and a balsamic (high-quality Sherry vinegar) element emerges, mixed with fresh wood, some bungcloth and a cooperage floor. This oiliness then moves towards a savoury and almost meaty element (game stock), then shifts back to leather luggage. I wouldn't add water as it raises the sulphur levels.

PALATE: As on the nose you get an immediate mix of concentrated savoury sweetness, with ripe black berry fruits, bitter orange and, at last, peat smoke. This power continues on the mid-palate with more nuts, some bitter edges, light oak and earthiness – Pontefract cakes. The peatiness is now smoky ember mingling with those dunnage-like aromas seen on the nose. Things begin to soften towards the finish, with some sugared espresso dregs and marmalade. Water builds the nuttiness, but also the sulphur.

FINISH: Long, with some clove, smoke and sweet fruits.

CONCLUSION: After an often baffling splurge of releases, this sees Highland Park going back to its roots and, consequently, right back on form.

RIGHT PLACE, RIGHT TIME: [The earth shakes](#).

8 January 2018 - Sam Coyne *The Drinks Report*, news editor



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