

Kingston Single Malt Society

kingstonsinglemaltsociety.webs.com

A social club for the appreciation of Single Malt Whisky since 1998

June 16th, 2014 VOLUME 7; NUMBER 12



May Raffle Results

Congratulations to

Susie Edgecombe – Arran Devil's Punch Bowl

Dale Rickards – Highland Park 10 YO

Mike Smith – Highland Park 15 YO

Bill Gorham – Macallan Gold

Thanks to Marc Laverdiere for his generosity in donating the Highland Park 10 & 15 along with the Macallan Gold.

During the course of the raffle

a total of \$640 was raised.

Thank you everyone!

MENU

Salad: Caesar Salad & Potato Salad

Entree: Steak or Salmon

Vegetables: Seasonal

Potato: Baked Potato with
(Sour Cream, Chives, and Green Onion)
or Wild Rice Pilaf

Dessert: Chocolate Lava Cake
or New York Style Cheesecake

Upcoming Dinner Dates

July 28th, 2014 - 3rd Annual Bourbon Night - River Mill
Friday August 22nd, 2014 - 7th Annual Premium - River Mill
September 15th, 2014 - Campbeltown/Lowland - VIMY
October 20th, 2014 – Speyside/Highlands - River Mill
November 17th, 2014 - Highlands - VIMY
December 8th, 2014 - Christmas Dinner - River Mill
January 19th, 2015 - Arran - Robbie Burns - VIMY
February 9th, 2015 – Islay - River Mill
March 16th, 2015 - St. Patrick's (Irish) - River Mill
April 20th, 2015 - Islands - VIMY
May 25th, 2015 - Speyside/Highlands - River Mill
June 22nd, 2015 - BBQ (Final Exam) - VIMY
July 20th, 2015 - 4th Annual Bourbon Night - River Mill
Friday August 21st, 2015 - 8th Annual Premium - River Mill
September 21st, 2015 - Campbeltown/Lowland - VIMY
October 19th, 2015 - Speyside/Highlands - River Mill
November 16th, 2015 - Highlands - VIMY
December 14th, 2015 - Christmas Dinner - River Mill

Explain about ... Scotland's whisky regions

There are six major regions of whisky production in Scotland and each region has it's own general characteristics. Of course, there are exceptions to every rule but here I will explain these basic regional characteristics and this may help you to select which style of whisky will suit your taste. Within each region, each distillery also has it's own individual characteristics and this diversity gives us the different styles of the same drink and is what makes the world of whisky so interesting. There are currently over 80 distilleries in operation throughout Scotland.

Campbeltown

Campbeltown is found on a peninsula on the west Highland coast. It was once home to 15 distilleries but the industry there fell on hard times, partly due to the remoteness of it's location and the resulting problems in transportation. Now there are currently only three operating distilleries in Campbeltown - Springbank, Glen Scotia and Glengyle (which has only just reopened in 2004, having been closed way back in 1925). They all use peated malt and the resulting whiskies have a light smoky flavour mixed with some maltiness and sweetness. They would be good examples to give to someone who was wanting to try a smoky whisky but not something too heavy or overpowering.

Lowlands

The Lowlands was once a major area of production but fell on hard times in the 1980s and early 1990s. Currently there are only three operating distilleries - Glenkinchie, Auchentoshan and Bladnoch (which was closed in 1993 and reopened in 2000). 'The Highland line' runs to the north of Glasgow and Edinburgh and this imaginary line is the boundary between the Lowlands and the Highlands whisky regions. The style of whisky produced in the Lowlands is light, fresh and fruity and are regarded as very easy to drink. They are subtle and refreshing, good for hot weather and as an introduction to whisky for someone who has not tasted it before.

Speyside

It is within this region that there is the largest concentration of distilleries in Scotland. There are currently over 30 in operation within what is a relatively small area, based around the towns of Elgin, Rothes, Dufftown, Keith and the surrounding glens. This has historically always been the case and is due to the combination of perfect climate for whisky maturation, quality water supply and locality to the quality barley growing areas. The whiskies produced include some of the most famous in the world, such as Glenfiddich, Macallan and Glenlivet, but also a number of hidden gems. The style

is generally reasonably light with pronounced malty flavours and some sweetness. Speyside whiskies sit somewhere between the light Lowland whiskies and the richer, sweeter Highland whiskies. This is what makes them so popular.

Highlands

The Highlands is the largest region and contains some of Scotland's remotest distilleries. The distilleries are spread far and wide and include Glengoyne that is very close to 'the Highland line', Oban on the west coast, Dalwhinnie in the middle of the Grampians and Old Pulteney up in the far north. There is a large diversity of styles due to the geographical locations but generally the whiskies produced are richer, sweeter and more full bodied than from anywhere else in Scotland. Distilleries that are located by the coast can also have a salty element to their whiskies, due to the casks breathing in the sea air during maturation.

Islands

There are a number of distilleries that are based on the islands around the Scottish coast. These are Arran (on the isle of Arran unsurprisingly!), Jura (on the isle of Jura!), Tobermory (on Mull), Talisker (on Skye) and Highland Park and Scapa (on the Orkneys). There is no distinct style and all are pretty unique due to their locations. Generally, Arran and Scapa are the lighter and fresher whiskies, Jura and Tobermory are richer, sweeter and maltier while Talisker and Highland Park offer full bodied whiskies with some smokiness.

Islay

The island of Islay is the traditional home of smoky whiskies. Six of the eight operating distilleries produce the best smoky whiskies in the world and include some very famous names (the six are Ardbeg, Bowmore, Caol Ila, Kilchoman, Lagavulin and Laphroaig). The other two are Bruichladdich and Bunnahabhain, whose whiskies are normally unpeated and non smoky, but they do both occasionally produce limited edition smoky ones. The Islay whisky industry is booming and production on the island is at an all time high to meet demand. The industry runs the island's economy by giving jobs not just in manufacturing but in other areas, such as tourism. The whiskies are full bodied, smoky and complex. However, they are not to everyone's taste as they are so full on but are definitely worth a try. How will you know if you like it (or don't like it) if you don't try some?

MAY - KSMS Financial Statement

(Money from 60 May attendees @ \$60)	= \$3600.00
May dinner 60 persons = \$47.00/ea	= \$2820.00
(Money remaining for buying Single Malt)	= \$780.00
Cost of Single Malts:	= \$805.75
Cost of Pours per Person = \$12.59	
KSMS Monthly operational balance	= (-\$25.75)
Cost per person 60 attendees (All inclusive)	= \$60.43

Membership and Dinner prices for 2013-2014

Membership Fee:	\$40 (singles)
	\$60 (couples)
One Time Initiation Fee:	\$15
Standard Dinner Fee:	\$60 (member)
	\$70 (non-member)
Dinner only - No Single Malt:	\$50 (member)
	\$60 (non-member)
Robbie Burns Dinner Fee:	\$70 (member)
	\$80 (non-member)
(includes donation to RMC Pipes & Drums with Highland Dancers)	
June BBQ Dinner Fee:	\$70 (member)
	\$80 (non-member)

On Retailers, Scores, and the Human Condition

By Matt on March 7, 2014 - www.scotchblog.ca

Isn't the point of life to live it through one's own actions and experiences rather than trudging along blindly behind those that have gone before? Surely there is some merit in using the findings of others as sign posts to avoid the worst potential pitfalls, but a life without individualized experience is hardly a life worth living. With its etymological origins rooted in the notion of the "water of life", whisky is inexorably tied to the notion of experience; either as a vehicle for it, or as an experience in and of itself.

So why are people allowing others to limit their experiences in life and in whisky?

Perhaps it stems from people's desire to be curated; to be told what is "good" so that they needn't form opinions of their own, and so long as they abide by the edict of the curator then they can never be *completely* wrong. I get it. I understand the fear of "buyer's remorse"; that feeling of "I can't believe I just spent \$100 on *this!*". But to run all decisions through that filter of fear means that you are also robbing yourself of the joy of "I can't believe I only spent \$40 on *this!*". Naturally, not everyone is afraid of making the wrong choice, but it is most certainly true that almost all people want the affirmation that what they have is the best. There is a distinct satisfaction in knowing that you have the best of something, but how do you know if you have the best of something *for you* if you have only listened to one source?

Let's take this line of thought a step further: what if you are not actively engaging that fear filter or reassuring listed ranking, and instead someone is implementing it for you, thereby limiting your available choices?

This is the issue whisky lovers face just about everywhere their purchasing options are limited by their geography. Be it through government regulation of mail/online ordering of whisky, prohibitive shipping cost, or government retail monopolies, many whisky fans are limited in their choices for a variety of systemic reasons. This places these people and their experiences at the mercy of those that control the availability of whiskies in their market: the retailers' buyers. The fact that there are one or a few buyers controlling the availability of what is on the shelves isn't inherently a problem if those people are dedicated to their job at a retailer committed to supplying variety and quality with well trained staff. Problems arise when either one or both of the consumer-side or retailer-side of the equation devolves into apathy and reliance on curated lists and ratings.

Arguably the greatest issue facing the people in these systemically limited markets is the proliferation of one person's scores and lists to the point of becoming gospel. The neophytes and consumers still learning where the road is won't know any better than to accept the opinions of one person as the truth that they should follow as their sign posts. But for the buyers, who are paid (*especially* in government retail monopolies) to ensure that variety is maintained while their selections sell, their duty becomes that of making their own decisions based on both data points and their own experience. Sadly, this is rarely the case and the reliance on scores, lists, and the like promotes lazy buying by lazy retailers, which in turn limits the choices and experiences available to the end consumer. For instance, here in Ontario where all who imbibe do so under the Sauron-like watch of the LCBO, we know for a fact that the first question the LCBO buyers ask whisky makers and purveyors is "what's its score in the Bible?"; not "who might this product appeal to?" or even "how does it taste?". This means that arguably the largest single buyer of alcoholic beverages in the world is allowing one of its top selling categories to be dictated by the tastes of a few number-issuing, list-curating souls who may or may not have ulterior motives such as book sales or payments from manufacturers influencing their lists and scores.

My quarrel in all of this is not with these so-called "taste-makers", rather it is with the positive feedback loop and self-perpetuating cycle created by the undue attention placed on these curated compendiums that seek to codify the whiskies of the world with numerical values assigned based on their opinions. When end consumers pay too much heed to these score-setters, it allows the buyers to be lazy in their selections because they know that with a simple shelf sticker that garishly displays "97 Points - Jem Bippi's Wine Cooler Monthly" they can almost be certain that the product will ultimately sell enough to justify their pay grade, and if it doesn't, then the only ones discredited are the one who issued the score of 97 in the first place and the distiller who must surely have supplied a bad batch. Thus allowing the lazy buyer to remain in their job, while scores of people wonder why they can't stand to enjoy their purchase without drowning it in some crude cocktail.

Sadly, there is likely no quick fix to this systemic situation. But if you are reading ScotchBlog, then odds are that you're a whisky fan at some stage of the journey. You can help others pay less attention to these lists that only rate without ever truly explaining why a whisky deserves nine thumbs up. After all, if we look after our whisky-loving or whisky-curious peers by sharing with them our experiences through an active frame of reference so that they can understand the reasons behind our opinions, that will at least reduce some of the impact of these individual score setters.

Meanwhile, the question of how to ween the buyers from the number-udder is a tougher one. After all, no one likes to be told how to do their job, even if they are visibly half-assing it. Surely there must be a way for these people to become better at the job they are paid to do in a way that everyone wins. I'm not asking that a retailer's whisky buyer be a superhuman registry of all things whisky, as they likely have dozens of different hats to wear in a day. What I am asking is for that person to do their job with pride: to ensure that they bring in products that will sell because those products deliver the experiences that people seek regardless of the name or number they can put on the shelf tag. That they take the time to educate their team's front-line staff on the products that they have selected so that those interacting with the end-consumer can provide some basic guidance to aid them in their decision. The end result of this will be to ensure that the products the buyers do stock will sell and will do so at a greater profit margin as they did not have to suffer a higher cost of goods sold just because some wine ponce decided that they wanted to give a whisky 95 points.

Clearly then, with just a little effort and professionalism, everyone can win. The retailer sees higher profit margins with less reliance on a small number of suppliers, while the consumers see lower overall prices and greater variety meaning that they are apt to have more money to spend on other products. With a little extra money left in their pockets, maybe people will even end up spending more overall as mental barriers tied to the cost of a single product recede, thereby improving sales. Meanwhile the distillers are able to flourish and hone their craft because the sales of their products will be more closely aligned with the overall merit of their whiskies as determined by the end consumers, rather than based on one or two people's arbitrarily assigned numbers for them.

Perhaps together we experienced whisky fans can usher in an era where curated lists and scores no longer rule the day and the shelves around us. Perhaps this is a pipe dream and a curated existence is all the masses really want. In the end, only one thing is certain: we're going to continue to strive to share our whisky experiences in the most relatable way that we can, and maybe, *just maybe*, we'll be able to help someone find something new that they truly love.

World's largest whisky markets

2nd April, 2014 by Amy Hopkins - www.thespiritsbusiness.com

From established single malt Scotch to craft Bourbon and emerging Irish brands, the entire whisky category continues generate surging global interest.

We countdown the world's largest whisky markets, based on Euromonitor data from 2102. The category is stronger than ever, with a host of new distilleries popping up to cut themselves a slice of the profit pie, while at the same time fuelling innovation.

Yet demand has been so strong in recent years, that numerous producers have admitted a shortage of stocks. While Bourbon distilleries have turned to a number of tactics to stretch supply, Scotch and Irish brands have utilised a number of innovative marketing techniques to turn attention away from age statement.

Despite this, traditional heartlands and mega-brands in Scotland, Ireland, Kentucky and Tennessee continue to reap rewards, while Canadian, Japanese and Australian brands are hot on their heels.

Based on Euromonitor's findings of how many litres of whisky were purchased across the globe in 2012, we count down five of the world's largest whisky markets.

The figures account for volume sales of single malt Scotch, blended Scotch, Bourbon and other US whiskey, Canadian whisky, Irish whiskey, Japanese whisky and "other" whisky (such as Indian or Australian)

The Spirits Business also recently compiled lists of the world's largest markets for [brandy](#), [rum](#), [Tequila and mezcal](#), [vodka](#) and [gin](#).

5. UK

80 million litres

With Scotland on its doorstep, a boom in Bourbon resulting from a pervasive prohibition cocktail culture, and a growing interest in world whiskies, it's no wonder that despite its tiny size, the UK is one of the biggest markets for whisky.

Consuming 80 million litres of whisky in 2012, the UK sits fifth on our list of the world's largest whisky markets.

While the Scotch Whisky Association (SWA) recently reported that between 2012 and 2013, the [Scotch market had declined 3%](#), the industry is hopeful of a return to growth after the [automatic tax escalator was scrapped](#) during the 2014 Budget Statement.



4. Japan

98.7 million litres

With its own category of whisky and a fascination premium Scotch brands, Japan boasts an enthusiastic market for whisky, consuming 98.7 million litres in 2012.

A highball drinking phenomenon continues to grip bars and homes in the country and has been single-handedly credited with reversing the domestic decline in the consumption of Japanese whisky.

The country's consumption levels are also affected by the wider Asia Pacific region's standing as the [largest spirits](#)



[market in the world](#), accounting for over half of all spirits consumed.

3. France

141 million litres

Similar to England, an emerging cocktail culture in France might have something to do with the country's position as the third largest market for whisky. Furthermore, despite a backdrop of economic sluggishness, French consumers' penchant for high end premium Scotch drives the value end of the market, as well as the volume.

With sales of 141 million litres, whisky vastly outperformed France's staple spirit Cognac in 2012, which [sold 2.7 million litres in 2012](#).



2. US

433 million litres

As the country which buys the most spirits in the world, the US has yet to lose its love of whisky. Purchasing 433 million litres of whisky in 2012, the country is widely coveted by whisky producers of all varieties across the world.

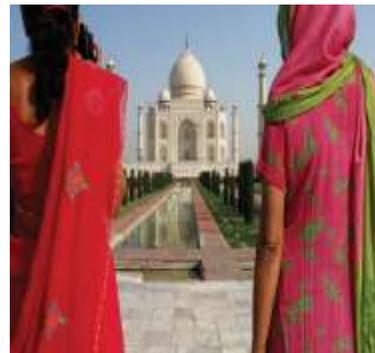
The whisky boom in the US saw no signs of slowing down in 2013, when according to DISCUS, [sales grew 6.2% to 52.7 million cases](#), led by a boom in Irish whiskey.



1. India

1.4 billion litres

With an expanding middle class, no shortage of locally-produced, affordable brands, and a proven love of all things whisky, India is bar a clear mile the world's largest market for whisky. Sales reached 1.4 billion litres in 2012, meaning the country purchased more whisky than the combined total of the four other markets on this list.



An eye-watering 150% tax scheme on imported products means Scotch, Irish and American whisky has not yet reached its full potential. But experts have predicted that the fastest spirits category in the next few years will be white spirits, as it continues to grow in favour among young Indian urbanites.

Bowmore unveils new travel retail range

7th April, 2014 by Becky Paskin -

www.thespiritsbusiness.com

Islay distillery Bowmore is introducing a new exclusive range of single malt Scotch whiskies to global travel retail this month.

Bowmore Black Rock is the "heart" of the brand's new travel retail exclusive range. The range, which is being rolled out from April, includes three expressions: Black Rock, Gold Reef and White Sands 17 Year Old.

Paying homage to its previous travel retail collection – Bowmore Black, Gold and White, which Morrison Bowmore describes as one of the world's most collectable single malt ranges – the "premium and highly giftable" range is targeted at "whisky connoisseurs and collectors" travelling through select airports.



David Wilson, global sales and marketing director at Morrison Bowmore Distillers, said: "We are delighted to present this new range of luxurious single malts, exclusively to travel retail and duty free.

"Matured in finest oak casks, these whiskies have been hand-selected for their unique character, allowing us to bring Islay to life for the discerning traveller around the world."

Black Rock, the "heart" of the range, is a 40% abv single malt matured mostly in first-fill Sherry casks for a "peat smoke, treacle toffee and orange" flavour. It carries an RRP of £44.99 for one litre.

Gold Reef meanwhile has been mostly matured in ex-Bourbon casks for a vanilla, citrus and coconut palate, and bottled at 43% abv. It retails for £59.99 for one litre.



White Sands 17 Year Old, inspired by the beaches of The Big Strand and Laggan Bay near the Bowmore Distillery, has been matured for 17 years in the distillery's No.1 Vaults, bottled at 43% abv and is described as tasting of "ripe exotic fruits and malty sweetness". It carries an RRP of £79.99 for a 700ml bottle.

Morrison Bowmore will invite travellers through European travel retail to sample the two core expressions, Black Rock and Gold Reef, at its bespoke, eye-catching stands throughout 2014.

Personalised "Taste of Islay" postcards will be distributed with information on the range, along with information on the history and heritage of the brand.



accumulated under scallops. Simmer for 2 to 3 minutes until sauce thickens slightly; stir in thyme. Season to taste with salt and more pepper if needed.

Please drink responsibly.

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.

Reservation policy

- Our contract with the Officer's Mess Kitchen requires that we provide seven (7) business days notice for them to guarantee accommodation for our requested numbers. Each month an invitation will be sent out to all members of the Society in the first week of the respective month in which the dinner will be held. 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. After that members will be placed on a waitlist.
- For these individuals the process will be as follows, using the Monday September 15th, 2014 dinner date as an example:
 - Dinner invitations will be sent out Friday August 22nd, 2014. 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 (613-634-0397).
 - Accommodation at the dinner will be guaranteed for all members who respond by Wednesday September 3rd, 2014 @ 6pm.

Cancellation policy

- Using the same example as above, anyone who cancels anytime prior to Wednesday September 3rd, 2014 @ 6pm will be removed from the list.
- Anyone canceling between Wednesday September 3rd, 2014 @ 6pm and Monday September 15th, 2014 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 available, then the member will be asked to pay for 50% of their dinner cost.
- Anyone who fails to attend the Monday September 15th, 2014 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 Wednesday September 3rd, 2014 @ 6pm and Monday September 15th, 2014, their name will be placed on a wait-list and be accommodated on a first-come first-serve basis.

Seared Scallops with Whisky-Mushroom Sauce

SOURCE: tastebook.com / Food & Drink magazine

Ingredients

- 1 tbsp. vegetable oil
- 4 slices bacon, finely diced
- 2 cups finely chopped cremini mushrooms
- 1 small clove garlic, minced
- 12 large scallops
 - black pepper
- 2 tbsp. lemon juice
- 1/4 cup Canadian whisky
- 1 cup low-sodium chicken stock
- 1/4 cup whipping cream
- 1 tsp. finely chopped thyme leaves
 - salt
- thyme sprigs



Directions

In a skillet large enough to hold all the scallops in 1 layer, heat oil over medium heat. Add bacon; cook, stirring occasionally for 5 to 7 minutes until crisp. With a slotted spoon, remove bacon to a paper-towel lined plate. Pour fat from skillet into a small bowl; set aside. Set skillet aside but do not wash.

In a separate medium skillet, heat 1 tbsp. reserved fat over medium-high heat. Add mushrooms; cook, stirring often, for 5 to 7 minutes, until softened and browned. Stir in garlic; cook, stirring, for 30 seconds. Remove from the heat; set aside in skillet.

Rinse scallops; pat as dry as possible with paper towels. Season with pepper. In the large skillet used to cook the bacon, heat 2 tbsp. reserved fat over medium-high heat. Add scallops in a single layer; cook, without moving them, for 2 minutes. Turn scallops over; drizzle with lemon juice. Cook for a further 1 to 2 minutes until seared and the juices are starting to caramelize on the base of skillet, adjusting heat so juices do not burn. Remove scallops to a plate; keep warm.

Add whisky to large skillet; boil for about 1 minute, stirring to scrape up browned bits from bottom of skillet, until liquid is syrupy. Add stock; bring to a boil over high heat. Boil for 2 to 3 minutes, until liquid is reduced to about 3/4 cup. Strain into skillet containing mushrooms; stir in cream and any juices that have

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



Kingston Single Malt Society

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