

Kingston Single Malt Society

www.kingstonsinglemaltsociety.com

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

June 22nd, 2015 VOLUME 8; NUMBER 12



Explain about ... Scotland's whisky regions

There are six major regions of whisky production in Scotland and each region has its 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 its 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 its 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

MENU

Lakeside: Two Canapes

Salad: Summer Salad of Local Greens & Tomatoes, with Cucumber & Radish in Red Wine Vinaigrette

Entree: Grilled Sirloin Steak with Warm Potato Salad
Or
Grilled Salmon with Ratatouille

Dessert: Trio of Chocolate, Lemon & Fresh Berries

Upcoming Dinner Dates

July 20th, 2015 - 4th Annual Bourbon Night - River Mill
Friday August 28th, 2015 - 8th Annual Premium - River Mill
September 21st, 2015 - Campbeltown/Lowland - VIMY
October 19th, 2015 - Speyside/Highlands - River Mill
November 16th, 2015 - Highlands - River Mill
December 14th, 2015 - Christmas Dinner - River Mill
January 25th, 2016 - Arran - Robbie Burns - VIMY
February 22nd, 2016 - Islands - River Mill
March 14th, 2016 - St. Patrick's (Irish) - River Mill
April 18th, 2016 - Islay - River Mill
May 16th, 2016 - Highlands - River Mill
June 20th, 2016 - BBQ (Final Exam) - River Mill
July 25th, 2016 - 5th Annual Bourbon Night - River Mill
Friday August 26th, 2016 - 9th Annual Premium - River Mill
September 19th, 2016 - Campbeltown/Lowland - VIMY
October 17th, 2016 - Speyside/Highlands - River Mill
November 21st, 2016 - Highlands - River Mill
December 12th, 2016 - Christmas Dinner - River Mill

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 50 May attendees @ \$60)	= \$3000.00
May dinner 50 persons = \$43.00/ea	= \$2150.00
(Money remaining for buying Single Malt)	= \$850.00
Cost of Single Malts:	= \$1177.60
Cost of Pours per Person = \$18.40	
KSMS Monthly operational balance	= (-\$327.60)
Cost per person 60 attendees (All inclusive)	= \$66.55

Top 10 award-winning Scotch whiskies of 2015

2nd June, 2015 by Amy Hopkins - <http://www.thespiritsbusiness.com/2015/06/top-10-award-winning-scotch-whiskies-of-2015/?article-source=newsletter&source=439&date=2015-06-02>

The latest installment of the annual Global Scotch Whisky Masters saw expert judges blind taste test a record number of entries – these are 10 of the competition's most highly ranked expressions.

Looking at the latest Global Scotch Whisky Master medalists, we round up the top 10 award-winning Scotch whiskies of 2015

Run by *The Spirits Business* magazine, [The Global Scotch Whisky Masters](#) seeks to award outstanding expressions during a strict and comprehensive blind tasting competition.

Out of a total of more than 180 entries – a record-breaking number across the entire Global Masters series since its launch – a plethora of brands received the ultimate Master accolade, a testament to the prevailing quality in the sector.

While the individual scores of each entrants are not disclosed, these are 10 of the highest ranking Scotch whiskies recognised in the competition – *listed in no particular order.*

Bunnahabhain 25 Year Old

Owner: Burn Stewart Distillers

One of the stars of the Global Scotch Whisky Masters 2015 show was Burn Stewart Distillers' Bunnahabhain 25 Year Old. Re-introduced as an no-chill-filtered spirit, with natural colour and a higher strength of 46.3%, the expression is described as having an aroma of Sherry and sweet caramel dessert entwined with oak and polished leather. This leads to an "indulgent" flavour of sweet berries, cream and roasted nut with a "soft and dry" finish.

The Balvenie 30 Year Old

Owner: William Grant & Sons

Speyside distillery The Balvenie really flexes its muscles with its 30 Year Old expression. Matured in American oak and Sherry casks before being bottled at cask strength, the whisky is said to have a nose of flowers and honey and a "rich, warming palate" offering flavours of cigar leaf, Sherry and peat.

Aberfeldy 21 Year Old

Owner: John Dewar & Sons

John Dewar & Sons, owned by Bermuda-based drinks group Bacardi, launched a 21 Year Old version of Highland single malt Aberfeldy in 2005, and the expression has sat at the core of the brand's range ever since. With a "fruity" and "zesty" nose, the whisky offers vanilla, honey

and smoke on the palate. In August last year, Bacardi revealed it would be [releasing several new expressions from its five malt distilleries](#), including Aberfeldy.

Aberlour 15 Year Old Double Cask Matured

Owner: Pernod Ricard

Aged in both Bourbon and Sherry oak, Aberlour 15 Year Old Double Cask Matured was the only Master awarded in the Single Malt Speyside: Aged 13-18 Years category. The whisky, which in its final year of ageing sat in specially selected Spanish Oloroso Sherry casks, stood out from the other entrants with its balance of nutty, dry Sherry notes with sweeter cinnamon flavours.

Glen Marnoch Speyside Single Malt Whisky

Owner: Aldi

The success of value supermarket Aldi in the Global Scotch whisky Masters 2015 has already started to grab headlines around the world. Its Glen Marnoch Speyside Single Malt Whisky impressed in what the judges described as a "competitive" and "diverse" category. Bottled exclusively for Aldi, the 12-year-old whisky was praised for its light style with flavours of "cooked apples" and a "hint of spice".

Bunnahabhain 18 Year Old

Owner: Burn Stewart Distillers

Impressing the panel with its "phenomenal nose", Bunnahabhain 18 Year Old was awarded a Master medal in the Single Malt Islay: Aged up to 13-18 Years round. Similar to its older award-winning 25 Year Old cousin, the whisky has been re-introduced as a non-chill-filtered expression and bottled at a higher strength of 46.3%. It has an aroma of "honeyed nuts" and sea salt, with a flavour of Sherry, oak and spice.

Ballantine's 30

Owner: Pernod Ricard

Described as an "excellent balance of sweet and spice", Ballantine's 30 excelled in the Blended: Aged 19-30 Years round of the competition. Sitting at the higher end of the Ballantine's portfolio, the 30 Year Old is described by brand owner Pernod Ricard as a "deeper, more complex" whisky compared to its 21 Year Old version, with a "powerful and opulent" fruity flavour.

Dewar's Signature

Owner: John Dewar & Sons

Showing that blends can earn their stripes in the ultra-premium Scotch whisky segment, Dewar's Signature is described as the brand's "most exquisite blend". A self-proclaimed blend of some of the rarest whiskies from across Scotland, Dewar's Signature sits at the pinnacle of the John Dewar & Sons range and boasts a "long, smoky" finish with subtle hints of honey.

Rock Oyster

Owner: Douglas Laing & Co

Praised by judges for its "fresh and vibrant" notes, Douglas Laing & Co's Rock Oyster is a blend of "maritime malts" from islands such as Jura, Islay, Arran and Orkney. The expression, described as having an "oceanic character", [was released only this year as part of Laing's regionally themed blends.](#)

Buchanan's 18 Year Old Special Reserve Scotch

Owner: Diageo

Super-premium blended whisky Buchanan's 18 Year Old Special Reserve is described by brand owner Diageo as "soft on the tongue". The expression is a blend of 15 individual whiskies, including Dalwhinnie, each of which have aged for a minimum of 18 years.

Top 10 new Scotch whisky distilleries

27th May, 2015 by Amy Hopkins

<http://www.thespiritsbusiness.com/2015/05/top-10-new-scotch-whisky-distilleries/>

As the Scotch whisky industry hails a boom in tourism and all-time-high investment, exciting plans for a wealth of new, reawakened and expanded distilleries have been unveiled.

Despite export declines, there are a number of exciting new Scotch whisky distilleries

While exports of Scotch whisky have dropped in key markets around the world, producers are clearly optimistic and have pushed forward with plans to introduce new brands to the industry.

In particular, many are realising the ample revenue opportunities in distillery tourism and have invested heavily in making their visitors' centres state-of-the-art.

Diageo revealed last year that it would delay its five-year plan to significantly increase its Scotch whisky production capacity and build a new distillery in Teaninich due to slowing demand. However, other producers have predicted that demand will grow in the coming years.

Rival Pernod Ricard could be seeking to triple capacity of its the Glenlivet single malt Scotch whisky if recent planning proposals are approved. Other new distilleries in the early stages of planning include a renovation of Lindores Abbey in Fife and a conversion of the historic Borodale House on Raasay, in the Hebrides.



10. Ballindalloch Distillery

Touted as Scotland's first single estate Scotch whisky distillery, Ballindalloch fired up its stills in November 2014 and was officially opened by the Prince of Wales and Duchess of Cornwall last month. Based on a historic estate of the same name, the distillery creates whisky using barley water sourced from its own same land, only outsourcing yeast. While many new Scotch whisky producers release gin or vodka to fund operations as their whisky ages, Ballindalloch will exclusively sell Scotch, the first batch of which will be ready in the next eight to 10 years.

9. Annandale Distillery

After lying dormant for almost 100 years, the historic Annandale Distillery restarted production in November last year after receiving investment of £10.5 million. Based in the southern Scottish region of Dumfriesshire, the distillery was brought back to life by David Thompson, a sensory consumer scientist, and his wife Teresa Church. The vicinity, which once made liquid for Johnnie Walker, will launch two single malt Scotch whisky labels: the Man O' Sword, inspired by King Robert the Bruce, and Man O'Words, inspired by Scottish poet Robert Burns, both of which will be available by early 2018. The first barrel of Man O'Words was recently bought for £1m.

8. The Glasgow Distillery Company

The race to open Glasgow's first single malt whisky distillery commenced in March this year between The Glasgow Distillery Company (GDC) and The Glasgow Distillery and Visitors' Centre. However, GDC sprinted over the finish line and has now begun production of its single Malt Scotch whisky, which does not currently have a name. As its own whisky ages, GDC acquired a selection of "rare" single malt casks to bottle, launching 26-year-old Speyside single malt Prometheus in January this year.

7. The Glasgow Distillery and Visitors' Centre

Led by former Morrison Bowmore man Tim Morrison, plans for The Glasgow Distillery and Visitors' Centre were first unveiled in October 2013. The £10m site is a transformation of the city's iconic pump house building on the banks of the River Clyde and will feature an "interactive and educational" visitors' centre, expected to open this autumn.

6. The Macallan Distillery

One of the most high profile new distilleries in the Scotch world will belong to The Macallan. Brand owner Edrington revealed its plans to mothball its existing Macallan distillery and open another Speyside site in November 2013. The £100m distillery was approved by Moray Council in August the following year, while construction started in December. Slated to officially open in spring 2017, the new distillery will "significantly increase capacity" for the brand. Edrington has partnered with architects Rogers Stirk Harbour + Partners to build the distillery, which complements the surrounding area with a grass-covered undulating roof.

5. Kingsbarns Distillery

Scotch whisky bottler Wemyss Malts officially opened its new Lowlands distillery, called Kingsbarns, in December last year. The Wemyss

family, headed by distillery director William Wemyss, took over the build of the distillery in 2013 when a government grant worth £670,000 was pledged. Douglas Clement, a former caddie, launched the project and raised £100,000, but struggled to raise the remaining required funds. The Kingsbarns Distillery will produce single malt Scotch whisky from Fife-grown malted barley that's matured predominantly in ex-Bourbon casks.

4. Ardnamurchan Distillery

Ardnamurchan Distillery – located at Glenbeg, Lochaber, on the Ardnamurchan Estate – is part of Adelphi Distillery Ltd. and was opened by The Princess Royal in July last year. The multi-million pound project is the first distillery in Scotland to be heated solely by locally sourced wood chips. Based at Glenbeg, Lochaber, on the Ardnamurchan Estate, the distillery is expected to bring as many as 14,000 visitors to the area each year.

3. Eden Mill Distillery

Eden Mill became Scotland's first combined brewery and distillery last August when it branched into whisky and gin production. The move brought whisky distilling back to the St. Andrews-based site for the first time in 150 years, since the Haig family produced grain whisky at the former Seggie Distillery between 1810 and 1860. Despite its infancy, the distillery has quickly pushed innovation in the Scotch industry. Appealing to its brewing heritage, Eden Mill uses malts inherent to beer in its mash – Golden Promise, which is historically local to Fife.

2. Isle of Harris Distillery

In March 2014 work commenced on building only the second distillery to be based in the Outer Hebrides, called the Isle of Harris Distillery. Billed as having the potential to "open up an entirely new whisky region for Scotland", the distillery, based in Tarbet, has received £10 million from 17 private investors as well as a number of public investors. Construction is due to be completed imminently, while no set release date has been announced for its The Hearach single malt bottling.

1. Gartbreck Distillery

Plans for Islay's ninth Scotch whisky distillery were revealed in January last year. Gartbreck Distillery will produce 100% peated single malt whisky from its two fire-heated copper pot stills – the only distillery on the island to use such equipment. Set to open this autumn, the distillery is situated near Lochindaal, just west of Bowmore and across the sea from Port Charlotte. Founded by Jean Donnay, owner of Brittany distillery Glann ar Mor distillery in Brittany, France, Gartbreck's whisky will be aged primarily in Bourbon barrels, with a limited number of Sherry cask bottlings.

Edrington Americas appoints new exec team

15th June, 2015 by Amy Hopkins - <http://www.thespiritsbusiness.com/2015/06/edrington-americas-appoints-new-exec-team/?article-source=newsletter&source=448&date=2015-06-15>

The Macallan Scotch whisky producer Edrington has appointed a new leadership team to develop its brands in the Americas.

Edrington Americas has revealed a new executive team line up Edrington has given roles to six new executives in its wholly-owned US sales, marketing and distribution arm, Edrington Americas, which launched in May last year.

Michael Misiorski has been named executive vice president and chief financial officer of the firm having recently served as CFO of Bacardi North America and Stoli Group USA.

Christopher Spalding has been promoted to the new role of senior vice president and commercial director, North America, having most recently served as vice president division manager, Northeast USA.

Jim Brennan has been promoted to senior vice president and marketing director, North America, from his previous position as vice president of Edrington Brands.

For the Latin America and travel retail division, Juan Gentile has been promoted to vice president and regional director.

Meanwhile, Tracy Genesen has been appointed general counsel of Edrington Americas and Nadege Dethy has been promoted to human resources director.



With brands like Brugal rum and The Macallan Scotch whisky "already extremely popular" in the US, Edrington launched Edrington Americas to control distribution of the group's leading brands in the market.

The subsidiary assumed control of the group's distribution in the US following the termination of its agreement with Rémy Cointreau USA in March last year.

Edrington Americas is led by CEO Paul Ross.

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 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.

Membership and Dinner prices for 2015-2016

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)

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 21st, 2015 dinner date as an example:
 - Dinner invitations will be sent out Friday August 21st, 2015. 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 Friday September 4th, 2015 @ 6pm.

Cancellation policy

- Using the same example as above, anyone who cancels anytime prior to Friday September 4th, 2015 @ 6pm will be removed from the list.
- Anyone canceling between Friday September 4th, 2015 @ 6pm and Monday September 21st, 2015 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 21st, 2015 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 4th, 2015 @ 6pm and Monday September 21st, 2015, their name will be placed on a wait-list and be accommodated on a first-come first-serve basis.

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



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