

Kingston Single Malt Society

www.kingstonsinglemaltsociety.com

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

AUGUST 22nd, 2014

VOLUME 8; NUMBER 2



Welcome to our 7th Annual Premium Night

MENU

Welcome Nosing: **BLUE HANGER 7th LIMITED RELEASE**

1st Nosing: **BENRIACH AUTHENTICUS 25 YEAR OLD**
(introduced by: **Bill Gorham**)

2nd Nosing: **BALVENIE TRIPLE CASK 25 YEARS OLD**
(introduced by: **John Leighton**)

1st Course: **NIAGARA PROSCIUTTO,
BURRATA, & HEIRLOOM TOMATOES**

3rd Nosing: **GLENMORANGIE 25 YEAR OLD**
(introduced by: **Ken Goodland**)

4th Nosing: **GLENGLASSGAUGH 26 YEAR OLD**
(introduced by: **Mavis Bouffard**)

2nd Course: **PAN-SEARED SCALLOP,
DOUBLE SMOKED PORK BELLY,
PARSNIP PUREE & MUSHROOMS**

5th Nosing: **LINKWOOD 25 YEAR OLD**
(introduced by: **Doug Perkins**)

3rd Course: **RICOTTA GNOCCHI,
SUMMER VEGETABLES, RAMP & GREEN GARLIC
PARMESAN CREAM**

6th Nosing: **GLEN KEITH 43 YEAR OLD**
(introduced by: **Phil Henderson**)

Main course: **DUCK FAT POACHED VEAL LOIN,
BUTTER POACHED LOBSTER, MUSTARD GREENS,
CELERIAC & POTATO PUREE, BORDELAISE
OR**

**FRESH, DE-BONED, WHOLE ROASTED
SEA BASS, ROMESCO BROTH, SUMMER
VEGETABLES**

7th Nosing: **COAL ILA 25 YEARS OLD**
(introduced by: **Phil Henderson**)

Dessert: **TIRAMISU WITH CHOCOLATE & ESPRESSO
OR**

GOAT CHEESE CAKE, STONE FRUIT COMPOTE

COST OF THE MALTS

- **BENRIACH AUTHENTICUS 25 YEAR OLD SINGLE MALT**
VINTAGES 93518 | 700 mL bottle **Price: \$233.79** Spirits, 46.0%
Alcohol/Vol.

- **BALVENIE TRIPLE CASK 25 YEARS OLD** VINTAGES 327452
| 700 mL bottle **Price \$ 399.00** Spirits, Whisky/Whiskey, Single
Malt Scotch 40.0% Alcohol/Vol.

- **GLENMORANGIE 25 YEAR OLD** VINTAGES 327452 | 750 mL
bottle **Price \$ 599.99** Spirits, Whisky/Whiskey, Single Malt
Scotch 43.0% Alcohol/Vol.

- **GLENGLASSGAUGH 26 YEAR OLD HIGHLAND SINGLE MALT**
SCOTCH WHISKY 1985 VINTAGES 306225 | 700 mL bottle **Price:**
\$335.00 Spirits, Whisky/Whiskey, Single Malt Scotch 46.0%
Alcohol/Vol.

- **GORDON & MACPHAIL LINKWOOD 25 YEAR OLD** **Price**
\$ 229.95 Spirits, Whisky/Whiskey, Single Malt Scotch 40.0%
Alcohol/Vol.

- **1968 (GORDON & MACPHAIL) CONNOISSEURS CHOICE**
GLEN KEITH 43 YEAR OLD Distilled: 1968; Bottled: 2011
VINTAGES 262808 | 700 mL bottle **Price \$ 405.95** Spirits,
Whisky/Whiskey, 46.0% Alcohol/Vol.

- **CAOL ILA 25 YEAR OLD** VINTAGES 247049 | 700 mL bottle
Price: \$ 279.99 Spirits 43.0% Alcohol/Vol

Results of the Deanston 30 Year Old
JULY Bourbon Night Raffle
Congratulations to Jason Kovacs
During the course of the raffle a
total of \$415 raised.
Thank you everyone!

Upcoming Dinner Dates

September 15th, 2014 - Campbeltown/Lowland - VIMY

October 20th, 2014 - Speyside - 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 - 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

Top 10 funny drinking quotes

www.thespiritsbusiness.com

Winston Churchill

"The water was not fit to drink. To make it palatable, we had to add whisky. By diligent effort, I learned to like it."

Winston Churchill, the revered British Prime Minister and great wartime leader, was no stranger to a glass of Champagne or dram of whisky, with reports claiming his daily routine consisted of large breakfast at 7.30am, a weak whisky and soda at 11am and Champagne with his lunch. When attempting to lift wartime spirits, he is also thought to have said: "Remember, gentlemen, it's not just France we are fighting for, it's Champagne!"

Joe E. Lewis

"Whenever someone asks me if I want water with my Scotch, I say, 'I'm thirsty, not dirty.'"

American comedian and singer Joe E. Lewis came up with many amusing drinking observations throughout his career, particularly referring to his favourite tippie, Scotch. Another favourite drinking quip of Lewis's goes: "I distrust camels, and anyone else who can go a week without a drink." The performer was played by Frank Sinatra in a biopic of his life, depicting his vicious mutilation by Al Capone's gang after he refused a request by a gangster lieutenant to contractually sing in his club.

Ron Burgundy

"I love Scotch. Scotchy, Scotch, Scotch. Here it goes down, down into my belly..."

Anchorman's Ron Burgundy is the only fictional character to feature on this list, but his thoughts on Scotch have become so iconic, we thought the most famous one was worth a spot on this list. The egotistical San Diego TV anchorman says the now-famous words while inebriated on television. The character's penchant for the spirit even inspired one company to release a bottling inspired by the film, called [Great Odin's Raven](#).

James Thurber

"One martini is alright, two is too many, three is not enough."

American journalist, author, cartoonist and playwright was renowned for his wit, which is demonstrated in this quote about the point where one too many Martinis have been consumed. Thurber was best known for his cartoons and short stories, published mainly in *The New Yorker* magazine and collected in his numerous books.

Frank Sinatra

"Alcohol may be man's worst enemy, but the bible says love your enemy."

Known for his womanising and drinking, as well as his acting and singing talents, legendary performer Frank Sinatra also said: "I feel sorry for people who don't drink. When they wake up in the morning, that's as good as they're going to feel all day."

Rodney Dangerfield

"I drink too much."

The last time I gave a urine sample it had an olive in it."

It was difficult to select one drinking quote by American actor and comedian Rodney Dangerfield, so here's another written in his autobiography: "I tell ya, may family are a bunch of drunks. When I was a kid, I went missing. They put my picture on a bottle of scotch." Dangerfield is also known for his catchphrase "I don't get no respect", as well as his numerous 80s film roles.

W.C. Fields

"Always carry a whiskey in case of a snake bit, and furthermore, always carry a small snake."

Revered comic actor and juggler W.C. Fields memorably performed with an egotistical, hard-drinking persona. There's a wealth of quotes relating to his Fields's favourite drink, whisky, but the one mentioned above is a personal favourite. However, Fields never drank in his early career as a juggler, because he did not want to impair his functions while performing.

Mark Twain

"I always take Scotch whisky at night as a preventive of toothache. I have never had the toothache; and what is more, I never intend to have it."

American writer and satirist Samuel Clemens, otherwise known as Mark Twain, is well-known for his witty one-liners. Out of 1000s of articles and more than 30 books, this one stands out as particularly poignant for the Scotch whisky-lover.

The *Huckleberry Finn* writer also said: "Of the demonstrably wise there are but two: those who commit suicide, and those who keep their reasoning faculties atrophied by drink."

Raymond Chandler
"There is no bad whiskey."

There are only some whiskeys that aren't as good as others."

The British-American writer Raymond Chandler produced a wealth of detective fiction, some of which were considered masterpieces. He also wittily noted: "Alcohol is like love. The first kiss is magic, the second is intimate, the third is routine. After that you take the girl's clothes off."

Steve Martin

"Writer's block is a fancy term made up by whiners so they can have an excuse to drink alcohol."

Of course, we writers here at *The Spirits Business* wouldn't agree with this observation by American comedic actor Steve Martin...

What should I do if my scotch whisky smells moldy?

Posted on June 23, 2014 by Jim www.thespiritsbusiness.com



Have you ever removed the cork from a bottle of scotch or wine and thought it smelled a little off? Have you poured out some of the elixir and found it to have something off about it? Maybe it's a musty odor or a smell that you just don't associate with whisky?

It could be mold.

That's the risk you run into when you use the bark of a tree to stop up bottles! A little cork history...

The stopper, commonly called a cork, is made from the bark of a Cork Oak. What's amazing is that the cork bark is harvested from the tree without causing permanent damage, which means a single tree is capable of producing a lot of cork in its lifetime.

One of the main benefits of cork is that compresses easily, which makes it ideal for stopping bottles. It's been used as a stopper of wine and other beverages for centuries.

As you can imagine from any wood product, it's also subject to moisture. More moisture means it'll expand, less moisture means it'll shrink. This is one of the reasons why they recommend storing wine bottles on their side, so the wine keeps the cork from drying out.

But isn't alcohol a mold-killer?

Alcohol is a mold killer but cork is porous, so mold can get inside where the alcohol can't get to it.

Also, and this might be related, there's a whole mystery surrounding "whisky black," a black fungus that grows around distilleries. It has appeared in [Scotland](#), [Kentucky](#), and [Canada](#).

What can you do about it?

Don't drink it. Mold is serious stuff.

While this has never happened to me with scotch but it has happened with other corked bottles and I never knew you could contact the manufacturer to get it replaced.

Here's what reader Wayne had to say in our [Facebook group](#):

It's no biggie – taste the scotch for "cork taint". If it has a mildew kind of odor, the cork was moldy & you should return it or write to the company. That happened to me with a bottle of Balvenie once (yes, Balvenie) and after writing to them, they sent me a new bottle @ no charge!

In a case like this, it's all about being unlucky. It's not Balvenie's fault, they likely sanitized the corks as they would any other in the manufacturing process and just missed something.

Or a spore landed on it after the fact... who knows. Either way, you can get the bottle replaced, which is nice!

NEW YORK BAR ONLY SERVES NEAT DARK SPIRITS

29th July, 2014 by Melita Kiely - www.thespiritsbusiness.com

A new bar just opened in New York is breaking the mould with its sole offering of brown spirits such as Bourbon, Scotch whisky, rum and Tequila served neat.

New York bar Copper & Oak is dedicated to serving brown spirits neat

Copper & Oak, situated on the Lower East Side, boasts a back bar of more than 600 different brown spirits.

But guests will find no cocktails on the menu and mixers are limited to a choice of soda water or ginger ale, all of which are served in a separate glasses if ordered.

"We are not against cocktails, we are just pro-spirits," Joel Cuellar, "spirits sommelier", told the *New York Daily News*. "If someone wants a whisky and ginger ale, I won't refuse, but I will serve it in separate glasses."

Cuellar also keeps eyedroppers filled with water behind the bar for customers who wish to add a few drops to their dram of whisky.

Emulating the bar's name, the venue is decorated in copper and oak from Bourbon barrels.

The walls are made out of deconstructed Bourbon barrels, the bar and bar stools are made out of copper, the bell used for last orders is made from a piece of a copper still and the bathroom sink taps are made from an old copper whisky still.

Serves are offered in either one or two ounces ranging from US\$5 for 30ml of Kentucky Bourbon to almost US\$500 for 60ml of a rare Karuizawa Japanese whisky.



New world record for whisky cask auction in HK

7th July, 2014 by Amy Hopkins - www.thespiritsbusiness.com

A full cask of The Macallan Scotch whisky has smashed its pre-sale estimate to fetch almost HK\$2million at auction in Hong Kong, setting a new world record for a whisky cask sale.

A full cask of The Macallan Scotch whisky has set a new world record for the most expensive whisky barrel sold at auction, Spink Hong Kong has claimed

Spink auction house sold the cask, containing the equivalent of approximately 490 bottles at cask strength of 53.4%, for HK\$1.952m on Friday 4 July.

The sale was part of Spink's Wine and Spirits auction, which saw the sale of 136 valuable and rare bottlings.

The 24-year-old cask of The Macallan, containing liquid first barreled in 1991, was initially estimated to fetch HK\$1.6m at auction.

While the world's first cask of whisky ever to be sold at auction – a 25-year-old barrel of The Macallan – was bought for HK\$793,000 in Hong Kong, this recent sale of The



Macallan barrel is said to have created a new world record.

Other highlights of last week's sale included two crystal decanters of Scotch whiskies by the independent bottler Silver Seal, fetching HK\$32,940 and HK\$35,380 respectively.

A collection of nine single malts commemorating the 30th anniversary of Moon Import fetched HK\$40,260, while a Louis XIII de Rémy Martin fetched HK\$24,400 and an 18 year old Macallan 1979 Gran Reserva was bought for HK\$19,520.

In January this year, a six-litre decanter of The Macallan M [broke the Guinness World Record](#) for the world's most expensive whisky when it sold at auction in Hong Kong for £381,620.

Old Pulteney launches limited edition 35YO

24th June, 2014 by Melita Kiely



Old Pulteney Scotch whisky is launching just 450 cases of a new limited edition 35YO expression

Old Pulteney 35 Year Old has been matured in American ex-Bourbon and Spanish ex-Sherry, hand chosen by Pulteney distillery manager, Malcolm Waring and will be rolled out to global markets.

The new expression is said to be full bodied with sweet and spicy tastes to start that develop into "signature" Old Pulteney flavours, including honey, rum soaked raisins and oranges, with notes of seasoned leather, pralines and a "touch of the salty North Sea air".

"Old Pulteney 35 Year Old is a world class expression and we are delighted to add another high age, limited edition to our existing portfolio," said Margaret Mary Clarke, Old Pulteney senior brand manager.

"From its eye catching packaging to its superior taste, the new malt is a true reflection of Old

Pulteney's outstanding quality and craftsmanship.

"We are confident that it will take its place amongst the best luxury whiskies available today and cement our position as one of the UK's top 10 single malts."

The 35YO expression is packaged in a wooden box with a porthole revealing the Old Pulteney bottle, which has been designed with the herring drifter that has become a symbol of the brand.

Old Pulteney 35 Year Old is non-chill filtered, bottled at 42.5% and carries an RRP of £500 per 700ml bottle.

WILL CONSUMERS EMBRACE NO-AGE-STATEMENT SCOTCH WHISKIES?

29th July, 2014 by Tom Bruce-Gardyne - www.thespiritsbusiness.com

Having taught consumers to seriously value age and regional identity in single malts, can the whisky industry really change its tune?

With a lack of aged stocks, Scotch producers are releasing increasingly more no-age-statement expressions

When Chivas Brothers launched its global Age Matters campaign in June 2010, the original poster declared simply: "Look for the number. Know the age. Know whisky." With no mention of a brand, it felt like a generic campaign cooked up by the Scotch Whisky Association. Instead, it was based on a sample of 2,000 whisky drinkers in nine countries from Brazil to China. The research found that over 90% of consumers believe age is an important indicator of quality – that older whiskies are superior – while 89% said they actively looked for an age statement when buying whisky.

Chivas' Age Matters has since morphed into Great Things Take Time, which continues to communicate the message "with Scotch whisky, age really does matter". Meanwhile, a steady stream of other Scotch brands, particularly single malts, have been touting a rather different message. With age statements discreetly dropped, the message is now more a case of "don't look for the number". By doing so, Ken Grier, director of malts at Edrington, owner of The Macallan, believes producers are able to improve the quality of the liquid. "I'd argue that in some ways you have greater flexibility to tap up products with a wider array of spirits that may give you greater



balance and complexity than if you were simply restricted to products over a certain age," he explains.

Focus on colour

The Macallan has taken a colour-coded approach with its 1824 Series, starting with Gold and Amber and rising in price to Sienna and Ruby. These are being gradually rolled out to replace younger expressions. In the UK, the cheapest Macallan with a number on the label is now the 18-year-old at around £135. According to Grier, 1824 has allowed the firm's whisky maker, Bob Dalgarno, to look at their inventory of 160,000 different casks and "cut it a different way". He explains: "Once the colour decision was taken it would have been illogical to have age constraints, because you need to have casks of different ages to get to a colour." Aside from unleashing the creativity of men like Dalgarno, you don't have to be too cynical to suspect there are other motives involved. "Palpably within that is the fact that everyone in the industry is looking for a way to make sure they can not only do interesting things for consumers, but also make the best use of the stock resources they have," Grier adds. Waiting for every cask to reach an arbitrary birthday as 2% a year evaporates as the angel's share is painfully expensive. Yet as far as The Macallan is concerned, he insists: "It's really driven from an innovation perspective rather than any desire to save cost or purely to eke out stock resources."

Grier goes on to explain: "We originally started with a non-aged range in duty free to have a point of difference. People were interested and intrigued and that gave us the confidence to launch it in certain parts of the world."

While Grier maintains there has never been any resistance to these new age-free expressions, the majority of The Macallan is still sold with a number attached, especially in the US and Asia. "By and large everywhere else is pretty much moving towards the 1824 series," he says.

Scotch producers are increasing telling consumers that age is not necessarily an indicator of quality

Rise of no-age-statements

For Nick Morgan, head of whisky outreach at Diageo, age

statements were rare before the mid-1980s, aside from Johnnie Walker Black and Chivas Regal. "Age came in with a vengeance with the launch of the Classic Malts in 1987, and since then we've had about 25 years of 'age, age and more age' as people tried to establish the category and differentiate their products from others in consumers' minds," he laments.

Thus if the industry now feels constrained by age statements it has only itself to blame.

Morgan believes the trend for dropping age

statements is partly down to "the relentless drive for innovation in the single malt category where every week there have to be new offerings". He adds: "Frankly it's less about running out of stock, than running out of numbers. The only one yet to appear on a label is unlucky 13." He also quotes a recent poll of 25-45-year-old whisky drinkers that contradicts the Chivas research. "Consumers are now telling us that the key driver to purchasing whisky is flavour (60%), whilst only 3% mention age." And yet with the notable exception of Talisker Storm, most of Diageo's malts still come with an age attached.

The industry bean counters must be excited at the prospect of faster stock rotation and less share for those pesky angels, and that's fine so long as it doesn't compromise quality. The consensus is that they wouldn't be so foolish to kill the goose that lays the golden eggs for some short-term gain. "Even with accountants running here there and everywhere," says Richard Paterson, Whyte & Mackay's master blender, "there's no way we would reduce the quality in any shape or form."

Trend which is 'here to stay'

At the time of writing, Whyte & Mackay, whose malts include The Dalmore and Jura, is once again up for sale, this time thanks to co-owners United Spirits and Diageo. "As you can imagine it's not a comfortable position to be in, but having been here 10 times

before we get pretty used to it," says Paterson with a weary sigh. Back to the subject of non-age whiskies he says: "I think they're definitely here to stay." In one duty free outlet, he was recently told they accounted for nearly half the malts on sale.

Four years before The Macallan took the plunge, Speyside malt The Glenrothes launched its Select Reserve in 2008. "People thought we were absolutely bonkers not having an age on the label," says brands heritage director, Ronnie Cox. "But we very quickly found that consumers did understand what we were trying to do."

For Cox, malt whisky is an organic substance that matures at its own pace depending on the quality of the wood. He says: "Just being a 12-year-old is no guarantee of quality if the whisky was filled into exhausted, third-fill casks."

But, as Paterson says: "Many consumers are still hooked on a magical age – that's the way whisky's been marketed. So it is up to the industry to convey the message that age isn't everything."

Bill Lumsden, Glenmorangie's head of distilling and whisky creation, feels things are slowly changing. "It will take quite a number of years for a global acceptance that age is not important, but if our Kentucky and Cognac cousins can do it without an age statement, then I absolutely don't see why we can't."

Membership and Dinner prices for 2014-2015

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)



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



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