

Kingston Single Malt Society

www.kingstonsinglemaltsociety.com

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

SEPTEMBER 17th, 2018

VOLUME 12; NUMBER 3



- **ROYAL BRACKLA 21 YEAR OLD** LCBO 441303 | 750 mL bottle
Price: \$341.70 Spirits, Whisky/Whiskey, Scotch Single Malts
40.0% Alcohol/Vol.

- **OLD PULTENEY 17 YEAR OLD SINGLE MALT (INVER HOUSE)**
LCBO 11270 | 700 mL bottle **Price: \$167.50** Spirits, Whisky/Whiskey,
Single Malt Scotch 46.0% Alcohol/Vol.

- **JURA TASTIVAL 2016 BOTTLING** LCBO 516476 | 700 mL
bottle **Price: \$171.30** Spirits, Whisky/Whiskey 51.0% Alcohol/Vol.

- **CAOL ILA 18 YEAR OLD** LCBO 602011 | 750 mL bottle **Price:**
\$102.00 Spirits, Whisky/Whiskey 59.8% Alcohol/Vol.

Upcoming Dinner Dates

- September 24th, 2018 - An Evening of American Whiskey -
Taylor Corrigan & David Smith
October 15th, 2018 - Bunnahabhain Vertical - Mike Brisebois
November 12th 2018 - A Night of Macallan / Highland Park -
Cameron Millar & Marc Laverdiere
Nov 19th, 2018 - BenRiach/Glenglassaugh/Glendonach/Glenfiddich -
David Smith
December 10th, 2018 - Christmas Dinner
January 21st, 2019 - Robbie Burns Dinner
February 18th, 2019 - Islands / Islay
March 18th, 2019 - Speyside
April 22nd, 2019 - Campbeltown / Speyside / Islands - River Mill
May 13th, 2019 - Speyside
June 17th, 2019 - BBQ (Final Exam)
July 22nd, 2019 - World Whisk(e)y - Matt Jones
Friday August 23rd 2019 - 12th Annual Premium Night
September 16th, 2019 - Campbeltown / Lowland / Speyside /
Highlands / Islands / Islay
October 21st, 2019 - Speyside / Highlands
November 18th, 2019 - Speyside
December 9th 2019 - Christmas Dinner

This evening's menu with Single Malts from CAMPBELTOWN / LOWLAND / SPEYSIDE / HIGHLANDS / ISLANDS / ISLAY

1st Nosing: Speyside - ROYAL BRACKLA 21 YEAR OLD
(introduced by: Phil Henderson)

2nd Nosing: Lowland - AUCHENTOSHAN THE BARTENDERS MALT
(introduced by: John Creber)

Soup: Butternut Squash & Maple Soup, Brown Butter

3rd Nosing: Islands (Jura) - JURA TASTIVAL 2006
(introduced by: Chantaille Buczynski)

Antipasti Salad: Grilled Linguica (Portugese Style Sausage), Red
Onion Marmalade, Saint Agur Blue Cheese, Mushroom Confit,
Poached Pear, Walnut, Ricotta

4th Nosing: Islay - CAOL ILA 18 YEAR OLD
(introduced by: Dick Alford)

5th Nosing: Campbeltown - GLEN SCOTIA DOUBLE CASK
(introduced by: John Leighton)

Entree: Roasted Chicken Supreme, Ricotta & Spinach Lasagna,
Mushroom Sauce, Roasted Mini Tomatoes

6th Nosing: North Highland - OLD PULTENEY 17 YEAR OLD
(introduced by: Bill Gorham)

Dessert: Toffee, Kumquat Pudding

COST OF THE MALTS

- **GLEN SCOTIA DOUBLE CASK** LCBO 544148 | 750 mL bottle
Price \$ 74.95 Spirits, Whisky/Whiskey 51.5% Alcohol/Vol.

- **AUCHENTOSHAN THE BARTENDERS MALT** LCBO 535930 |
750 mL bottle **Price: \$74.95** Spirits, Whisky/Whiskey 47.0%
Alcohol/Vol.

Winners at the June BBQ

Perfect Attendance Award Winners

Roberto Di Fazio alongside

Bill & Karin Gorham, & John Creber



Final Exam Winners (out of 18 points)

Steve Bruce (10 of 18) - Tamdhu Batch Strength No.2

Karin Gorham (8 of 18) - Jura 1993 Boutique Barrel

Shan Jhamandas (8 of 18) - Springbank 15YO

Tony Hopley (7 of 18) - Ardmore Legacy

Duncan Brownlee (7 of 18) - Auchentoshan 18YO

Jesse Myers (7 of 18) - Caol Ila 12YO



Results of the JUNE Raffle. The winners were:
- Ken Goodland won the Glengoyne Cask Strength and Highland Park Magnus
- Sandy Finucan won the Flask & Book Gift Set
During the course of the raffle a total of \$540 raised.
Thank you everyone!



SCOTCH WHISKY IN FLIGHT

by Stephanie Moreno - [https://blog.distiller.com/scotch-whisky-flight/July 28, 2018](https://blog.distiller.com/scotch-whisky-flight/July%2028,%202018)

For whatever reason, there are a lot of folks out there who are fearful of the entire Scotch whisky category. Perhaps it's a fear of mispronunciation (drinking can actually HELP to cure this fear) or perhaps you fear a smoky, medicinal experience (there are many Scotch whiskies with nary a hint of smoke). Or maybe you're a huge Scotch whisky fan and are interested in a more focused tasting experience. Whichever camp you fall in, I believe that whisky flights are the best way to explore the category.

In the past, we've run pieces on how to put together a whiskey tasting party and have offered some general guidelines on building a flight, but I wanted to create some actual flights for you to duplicate at home. Whisky flights allow you to compare and contrast the whiskies as you taste, rather than just tasting in a vacuum. Just make sure to save a bit in each glass before moving so you can revisit. I'd say use at least three, and no more than five whiskies in a

session to get the best experience as palates begin to fade. However, feel free to repour your favorites as the night progresses.

Jot down your tasting notes and be sure to highlight which ones you liked (and even more importantly, which ones you DIDN'T like). This way, the next time you head to the liquor store or your favorite whisky bar, you don't have to play 20 questions with the clerk or bartender for another suggestion.

Drinking tends to stoke the hunger urge, so make sure to have some snacks on hand to go along with the theme—such as a variety of Scottish cheese selections or Scottish smoked salmon on toast points. You could even go a step further and prepare a hearty stew to have post-flight.

Below you'll find some suggestions with average US retail bottle prices listed. We've kept the suggestions under \$100 each and made sure these are widely available offerings. These are listed in our suggested pouring order, but feel free to mix around as you see fit. Please fasten your seatbelt and make sure your seat backs are in an upright and locked position, because we are ready for takeoff.

INTRO TO SCOTCH FLIGHT

If you're just dipping your toes into the category, this flight highlights mild and crowd-pleasing flavors such as honey, fruit and vanilla.

Dewar's 12 Year (\$29)

Famous Grouse (\$18)

Glenmorangie Original (\$36)

Glenfiddich 12 Year (\$41)

Auchentoshan American Oak (\$41)

Dewar's 12 Year

HORIZONTAL FLIGHT

No, this isn't referring to drinking until you are in the prone position. This type of flight refers to trying similar whiskeys from different distilleries/producers. In this case, these whiskies are all aged for 12 years, but we've mixed blends and single malts in the list for fun.

Chivas Regal 12 Year (\$32)

Glen Grant 12 Year (\$48)

Balvenie Doublewood 12 Year (\$59)

Caol Ila 12 Year (\$69)

Johnnie Walker Black 12 Year (\$38)

Chivas Regal 12 Year

SHERRY TIME

This flight is for those with a bit of a sweet tooth. The sherry wine casks used, at least in part in the maturation process, adds fruity flavors and a hint of sweetness. These are full-bodied drams, perfect after a meal.

Glendronach Original 12 Year (\$64)

Highland Park Dark Origins (\$83)

The Macallan Double Cask 12 Year (\$64)

Glenfarclas 12 Year (\$55)

Aberlour A'Bunadh (\$94)

Glendronach Original 12 Year

PEAT SMOKE PROGRESSION

As the title suggests, this flight will gradually increase the peat factor as you go along. Have some water handy as some of these are cask strength.

Talisker 10 Year (\$69)

Springbank 12 Year Cask Strength (\$94)

Port Charlotte 10 Year Second Edition (\$67)

Ardbeg An Oa (\$66)

Laphroaig 10 Year Cask Strength (\$74)

Talisker 10 Year

Orkney spirits scene grows with new distillery

12th July, 2018 by Amy Hopkins - www.thespiritsbusiness.com

The new Orkney Distillery has opened in Kirkwall after two years of planning and construction.

Orkney Distillery will include a gin and coffee bar, retail outlet and events venue

Founded by Orkney Distilling's husband and wife team Stephen and Aly Kemp, the distillery and its visitor centre are based on Kirkwall's historic harbour front.

Construction work began last February after the Kemps received planning permission in June 2016.

The new facility has created six local jobs. It incorporates a gin and coffee bar, retail outlet and events venue, and also offers tours around its production area.

"We're incredibly proud of our new home and can't wait to share it with the local community, and the many visitors who come to



Orkney each year," said Orkney Distilling managing director Stephen Kemp.

"From the outset it was our intention to create a place where people could relax and enjoy a drink in comfortable surroundings, while learning more about our gins and, indeed, Orkney.

"We also felt, given the very welcome rise in visitor numbers to Orkney, that there was a need for a new, high quality tourist attraction in the town. Hopefully we've filled that gap with a project that does the islands proud."

Orkney Distilling produces the Kirkjuvagr gin brand, which launched in August 2016.

Kemp added: "Although our gin branding very much reflects the Norse heritage of Orkney, we've created a contemporary atmosphere within the distillery and visitor centre.

"That merging of the old and new, blending tradition and innovation, is unmistakably Orcadian in its approach, and something we've strived for with our gins too."

The Scottish archipelago of Orkney has witnessed a distilling boom in recent years, producing its first rum and welcoming its first new commercial distillery in 130 years – Deerness. The area is also home to the Highland Park and Scapa distilleries.

Fettercairn single malts return

2nd August, 2018 by Tom Bruce-Gardyne - www.thespiritsbusiness.com

Scotch whisky producer Whyte & Mackay has relaunched its Fettercairn single malt brand in a range of four age statements, including a 50-year-old priced at £10,000 (US\$13,500).



Fettercairn whisky has historically been used in Whyte & Mackay's blends

The distillery, described as one of the "most beautiful in Scotland", lies at the foot of the Cairngorms in the eastern Highlands on the border of Angus and Aberdeenshire.

It is part of Glasgow-based Whyte & Mackay, which was [acquired by Philippines drinks firm Emperador in 2014](#).

Most of Fettercairn's production has historically disappeared into blends, including the Whyte & Mackay brand, but it is now seeking to highlight its single malt liquid.

"The side effect of not having really focussed on the brand much in the past is that we have a treasure trove of stock that we're now ready to share," explained Whyte & Mackay's innovations manager, Rod Gillies.

In 2010 Fettercairn released the no-age-statement Fasque and then Fior – the last single malts from the brand.

These have been replaced by the new expressions, starting with a 12-year-old with an RRP of £48 (US\$60). The range then jumps in price and age to a 28-year-old priced at £500 (US\$675), followed by a 40-year-old at £3,000 (US\$4,000) and a 50-year-old at £10,000 (US\$13,500).

All expressions were matured in ex-Bourbon barrels, but the 40-year-old has been finished in an apostoles Sherry cask and the 50-year-old in a tawny Port pipe.

Initially, the whiskies will be available in the UK, France, Germany and Taiwan, with plans to roll out into other markets over the next few years. They feature a "much premiumised brand identity, bottle and packaging".

Gillies added: "It's really exciting for us as a further expansion of our portfolio. And from a personal point of view, it's hugely exciting to bring to people's attention a distillery that has been around since 1824.

"Fettercairn has a depth of history and heritage, and above all, some fantastic whisky."

The relaunch follows a surge in investment from Whyte & Mackay that most recently included the [overhaul of Jura](#) earlier this year and the rebrand of Tamnavulin in 2016.

Whyte & Mackay is also set to reveal two new brands.

MORTLACH RELAUNCHES MALTS AFTER BACKLASH

24 July 2018 by [Becky Paskin](#)

Diageo is relaunching its Mortlach range of single malts, and reintroducing a 16-year-old expression, after admitting its previous range 'disappointed' whisky fans.



Malt makeover: Mortlach's new range features completely new liquid and revised prices

The Scotch producer had introduced a high-end range of no-age-statement malts in 50cl bottles for its Speyside distillery in 2014, withdrawing the 16-year-old expression that existed as part of [Diageo's](#) Flora and Fauna range.

The range drew criticism from whisky fans who 'weren't happy about the smaller bottle sizes, and the prices that went with those bottle sizes as well'.

Now Diageo has reimagined its [Mortlach](#) offering, discontinuing the previous range and introducing four new expressions, including a 16-year-old.

Rich Walker, global head of whisky marketing at Diageo, said: "When we launched Mortlach in 2014 we were looking to create a new category. However, we heard from many people we respect and admire that when it came to price and pack we got it wrong.

"Whilst every whisky we have launched from Mortlach has always been welcomed and indeed won awards, it was felt that we needed to listen and review our position."

Mortlach's previous range was comprised of Rare Old (£55), Mortlach 18 Year Old (£180), Mortlach 25 Year Old (£600) and the travel retail exclusive Special Strength (£75).

The ornate bottles were inspired by the Victorian industrial era in tribute to George Cowie, a Scottish civil engineer who built Mortlach as the first distillery in Dufftown in 1823.

"We have now rethought the range and this is our response to that feedback," Walker added. "We are confident that this outstanding new liquid which is bold in flavour and will deliver success for the brand moving forwards."

The new range is comprised of three core range expressions – a 12-, 16- and 20-year-old release – as well as a 14-year-old which will

be a travel retail exclusive. All four expressions have been bottled at 43.4% abv – the original bottling strength of Mortlach in the early 1900s – and presented in the same bottle as Mortlach Rare Old.

Mortlach 'Wee Witchie' 12 Year Old is a 'meaty, sulphury' expression matured in American and European oak ex-Bourbon and Sherry casks to 'showcase Mortlach's distillery character'.

Described as having notes of chocolate, marmalade and tobacco, it will be available for £50 for a 70cl bottle.

Mortlach 'Distiller's Dram' 16 Year Old has been matured in a mixture of refill and first-fill American and European oak Sherry casks, and is described as 'more balanced than the Flora and Fauna 16 Year Old'. The expression will be available for around £80 for a 70cl bottle.

Mortlach 'Cowie's Blue Seal' 20 Year Old is named after one of the original bottlings of Mortlach dating back to 1909, which was also the inspiration for the new range's design.

Matured exclusively in American oak ex-Sherry casks, with a percentage of refill wood, the expression has waxy notes of overripe fruit, wood spice and oak. The expression will be available for £200 for a 70cl bottle.

Finally, Mortlach Alexander's Way 14 Year Old, named after former distillery owner Alexander Cowie, will be released as a global travel retail exclusive.

Unusually unique: The 'Beast of Dufftown' distils its spirit 2.81 times, creating a waxy, meaty style of whisky

Nick Morgan, head of whisky outreach at Diageo, said: 'Mortlach of course is known as the Beast of Dufftown – big bold uncompromising whisky, totally atypical of that Speyside style of apples and pears.'

Mortlach distillery is unique in that it *distils its spirit 2.81 times*, a complicated process known as 'The Way'.

Mark Brunton, Mortlach distillery manager, added: 'We worked with our colleagues in maturation to create a diverse range with each at its heart still reflecting the bold distillery flavour.'

'The 16-year-old is a classic Mortlach expression, while the 12-year-old offers a strong distillery character through its use of refill casks. The 20-year-old offers a balance of character and distillery character with active wood.'

The new range will be released across Europe, Southeast Asia, Taiwan and the US this autumn.

Collectivum XXVIII—94 points, £125: Includes malt whiskies from all 28 of Diageo's currently operating malt distilleries. Fresh fruits, waxy oiliness, and dark chocolate.

Compass Box Spice Tree Extravaganza—93 points, \$140: Released to mark the tenth anniversary of Spice Tree. Pale sherry, clove, and red berries.

Sheep Dip Islay Blended Malt—93 points, \$60: The best Islay blended malt on the U.S. market. Bacon fat, sweet satsuma, and huge smoke.

Rock Oyster Sherry Edition—91 points, \$60: An Island-inspired blended malt with a warming Spanish sherry finish. Smoky bonfires, orange oils, and clove.

Usquaebach An Ard Ri Cask Strength—91 points, \$200: Includes more than 20 single malts that have been married together, then finished in sherry casks. Barley sugar, orange peel, and ginger.

Lost Distillery Classic Selection Towiemore—90 points, \$43: A blended malt meant to mimic Towiemore, which ceased distilling in the early 1930s. This re-creation of their malt has peach, hazelnut, and candied peel.

Shackleton—90 points, \$35: A blended Highland malt inspired by whisky that Ernest Shackleton left behind in the Antarctic in 1907. Green fruits, vanilla, and cinnamon.

The Tweeddale Last Centennial—90 points, \$190: A cask-strength blend including malts from Islay, the Highlands, and Speyside. Grassy, warm caramels, and rich orange.

Brace Yourselves: Game of Thrones Scotch Is Coming

JULY 23, 2018 - SUSANNAH SKIVER BARTON - <http://whiskyadvocate.com>



It only took seven years, but **Game of Thrones** fans will finally be able to pair the perfect scotch with each action-packed episode of the hit series when its eighth and final season premieres in 2019. Drinks conglomerate **Diageo** has partnered with HBO to release eight special single malts this winter—each from a different distillery and named for a different house or group from the fictional land of Westeros.

The labels for each whisky have been approved by the Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau (TTB), but Diageo hasn't yet released additional details. Here's what we know about the whiskies so far:

Cardhu Gold Reserve (40% ABV): A non-age-statement single malt from Speyside, representing House Targaryen and featuring its three-headed dragon on the label.

Clynish Reserve (51.2% ABV): A non-age-statement Highlands single malt, representing House Tyrell and displaying its rose sigil.

Dalwhinnie Winter's Frost (43% ABV): A non-age-statement single malt from the Highlands, representing House Stark and featuring a fearsome direwolf on the label.

Lagavulin 9 year old (46% ABV): An Islay single malt, representing House Lannister and showcasing its lion sigil.

Oban Bay Reserve (43% ABV): A non-age-statement Highlands single malt, featuring an appropriately dark and simple label with the vow of the Night's Watch.

Royal Lochnagar 12 year old (40% ABV): Hailing from the Highlands and representing House Baratheon, the label shows a rampant stag with a crown around its neck.

The Singleton of Glendullan Select (40% ABV): A non-age-statement Speyside single malt, representing House Tully and showcasing its leaping fish sigil.

Talisker Select Reserve (45.8% ABV): A non-age-statement single malt from the Isle of Skye, representing House Greyjoy and featuring its kraken.

In addition to these eight single malts, Diageo plans to release a special White Walker edition of Johnnie Walker. "Freeze for an unexpected icy reveal," the label commands, also noting that the whisky includes Cardhu and Clynish malts, and is "distilled, bottled, and blended North of the Wall."

Continue checking whiskyadvocate.com for further information. We will update this article as it becomes available.

9 Blended Malt Scotches Rated 90 or Above

JUNE 7, 2018 - JONNY MCCORMICK - FROM WINTER 2017 - <http://whiskyadvocate.com>



Blended malt scotch, a long-overlooked whisky style caught between single malt and blended scotch, struck a chord in 2017. Blended malt whisky is simply a combination of single malts from different distilleries (it specifically avoids the grain whisky permitted in blended scotch).

"The beauty of blended whisky is that each component brings its unique character to the blend, to ultimately reveal a whisky that is even greater than the sum of its parts," explains Chivas Regal's director of blending Sandy Hyslop, creator of Chivas Regal Ultis, the storied whisky's first-ever blended malt.

Independent Scotch whisky blenders like **Compass Box** and Douglas Laing's **Big Peat** have long been practitioners of blending malt whiskies. With the recent revival of **Johnnie Walker Green Label**, along with Island Green, its new smoky accomplice, mainstream enthusiasm for blended malts is rising. And, Diageo added the first blended malt to its highly regarded annual Special Releases 2017 lineup, **Collectivum XXVIII**, available for the UK only.

Blending malt whiskies involves an extra step beyond single malt scotch. "You are seeking to align the individual sections of an orchestra that when combined create a symphony," says Keith Law, the master blender behind **Collectivum XXVIII**. The harmony of these innovative, playful, challenging, and luxurious whiskies is music to our ears.

TRY ONE OF THESE OUTSTANDING BLENDED MALT SCOTCHES

Chivas Regal Ultis—96 points, \$160: A magnificent blend of five Speyside single malts honors the five Chivas Regal master blenders since 1909. Red fruits, malt, and dark vanilla.

Old Pulteney 'evolves' single malt offering

14th August, 2018 by Amy Hopkins - www.thespiritsbusiness.com

Old Pulteney has launched a new core range of single malts as part of an extensive brand overhaul.



Old Pulteney's new core collection

The Caithness-based distillery's new collection will feature a refreshed design and packaging to signal its "evolution".

The range consists of Old Pulteney's "flagship" 12-year-old single malt, matured predominantly in second-fill American oak ex-Bourbon casks, as well as three new expressions: the no-age-statement Old Pulteney Huddart, which is named after the street on which Old Pulteney distillery is located and is finished in ex-Bourbon casks that had previously held heavily peated whisky; Old Pulteney 15 Years Old, finished in ex-oloroso Sherry butts; and Old Pulteney 18 Years Old, also finished in ex-oloroso Sherry butts.

All of the new expressions were initially aged in second-fill American oak ex-Bourbon casks.

"This new collection signals an evolution for the brand, with a renewed vigour around the maritime malt yet staying true to Old Pulteney's rich heritage and traditions," the brand, owned by Inver House Distillers, said.

The range will be available from today (14 August) in the UK through The Whisky Exchange, The Whisky Shop, Royal Mile Whiskies, and Sutherland Brothers, before rolling out globally.

The prices for each expression are as follows: Old Pulteney 12 Years Old (40% abv), £32; Old Pulteney Huddart (46% abv), £45; Old Pulteney 15 Years Old (46% abv), £70; and Old Pulteney 18 Years Old (46% abv), £115.

Last year, the brand's 21-year-old was [replaced by a 25-year-old](#), which will continue to be available outside of the core collection.

Laphroaig launches 27yo single malt

26th October, 2017 by Nicola Carruthers - www.thespiritsbusiness.com

Islay single malt Scotch brand Laphroaig has released a limited-edition 27-year-old expression in the US, priced at US\$750.

Laphroaig 27 Year Old maintains notes of Laphroaig's "trademark peat smoke", with flavours of "limes and nectarines, essences of sea salt and mild chilli spice" on the palate.

On the nose, it is described as "ripe, pulpy tropical fruit flan, topped with finely chopped toasted macadamia nuts and smothered with vanilla cream".

While the palate has notes of "antique leather and green tobacco leaf".

This expression features matured Laphroaig previously aged in refill hogsheads, then transferred into first-fill ex-Bourbon barrels and refill quarter casks.

Aged in Laphroaig's Warehouse No. 1, the casks were then hand-selected for a final maturation.

The expression is presented in a white wooden box with hand-carved images of the distillery inside.

Bottled at 41.7% abv, Laphroaig 27 Year Old is available in limited quantities across the US. It is priced at US\$750 for a 750ml bottle.

Last month, Laphroaig unveiled a series of [five 'unscripted' online videos](#) as part of its #OpinionsWelcome campaign, called A First for Friends.



'LAST CHANCE' TO BUY OLD PULTENEY 21YO

16 July 2018 by [Richard Woodard](#)

Fans of Highland single malt Old Pulteney are being offered the chance to buy the last available UK stocks of the Wick distillery's discontinued 21 Year Old expression.

Going, going...: The twin pack offers the last UK stock of 21yo and the 1989 vintage

The single malt, named World Whisky of the Year in 2012 by Jim Murray's Whisky Bible, is being offered for sale as part of a twin pack that also includes a bottle of [Old Pulteney 1989 Vintage](#) – named World's Best Single Malt in the World Whiskies Awards 2016.

Priced at £600 each and available from mid-July, 276 twin packs are being made available exclusively in the UK, each one numbered and accompanied by a certificate signed by [Pulteney](#) distillery manager [Malcolm Waring](#).

In June last year, Old Pulteney owner [Inver House Distillers](#) announced that it would [discontinue the distillery's 17-year-old and 21-year-old expressions](#) thanks to a lack of available stock.

Two new expressions – a 25-year-old and a 1983 vintage – [joined the Old Pulteney range](#) in October last year.

'The twin pack speaks for itself, with each expression winning a top, respected industry award for their exceptional quality,' said Vicki Wright, Old Pulteney brand manager.

'We are incredibly proud of these exquisite bottles and hope other passionate whisky drinkers share our enthusiasm about this special collector's release.'

Speyburn unveils 15yo whisky and redesign

29th September, 2017 by Nicola

Carruthers -

www.thespiritsbusiness.com

Speyburn Distillery has launched a limited edition 15-year-old expression, at the same time as introducing new packaging for its single malt range.

Speyburn has released a 15-year-old whisky at the same time as revealing a new design for its range

Bottled at 46% abv, Speyburn 15 Years Old has been matured in American oak and Spanish oak casks, and is made with spring water from the Granty Burn.

The aroma is described as "subtle dark chocolate, vanilla, orange, raisins and spice", while on the palate it has of "citrus fruits" and a "creamy, warm and long-lasting finish".

The range is now displayed in robust, premium cartons, each featuring the distillery to reflect the heritage and natural landscape of its home in the heart of Speyside.

"We're excited to release the 15 Years Old expression, with its distinctive rich taste and aroma, we're sure this spirit will satisfy whisky enthusiasts looking to extend their collection," said Gillian Gibson, brand manager, International Beverage.

"Since 1897, Speyburn has had a long history of working with the natural sources of Speyside, dating back to when our founder John Hopkins first established the distillery after discovering the Granty Burn. An insistence on using the most traditional methods of production, combined with an innovative and intuitive approach to distilling has resulted in a whisky portfolio packed with taste. This rich heritage is now, more than ever, reflected in the premium packaging and new website, bringing to life a history we are very proud of."

Limited to 3,500 cases, Speyburn 15 Years Old is available from selected independent and specialist retailers with an RRP of £60.



GlenAllachie launches first core range of whiskies

2nd July, 2018 by Melita Kiely - www.thespiritsbusiness.com

Speyside distillery GlenAllachie has released its first core range of single malt whiskies featuring four expressions that have been aged for 10, 12, 18 and 25 years.



The GlenAllachie core range comprises a cask strength 10yo, a 12yo, a 18yo and a 25yo

This is the first core range release from the firm since Billy Walker and business partners Trisha Savage and Graham Stevenson [acquired the distillery from Pernod Ricard in October 2017](#) in a multi-million-pound deal.

GlenAllachie 10 Year Old is a cask strength whisky, bottled at 57.1% abv, and will retail at RRP £57 (US\$75). It has been matured in American oak, Pedro Ximénez, oloroso and virgin oak casks and is said to have notes of honey, vanilla, toffee, marmalade, rose hip and Caribbean spices.

The 12-year-old has been aged in Pedro Ximénez, oloroso and virgin oak casks, and is described as delivering notes of butterscotch on the nose and honey, marzipan and bananas on the palate. It is bottled at 46% abv and has an RRP of £43 (US\$56).

GlenAllachie 18 Year Old “exemplifies the signature style of GlenAllachie”, with notes of heather, butterscotch and hints of dark chocolate. It has an abv of 46% and an RRP of £92 (US\$121).

The final aged single malt in the collection, the 25-year-old, is bottled at 48% abv and has an RRP of £232 (US\$305). Matured in Pedro Ximénez, oloroso and American oak casks, the whisky is said to have flavours of sultanas, pineapples, dark chocolate, Christmas cake, marmalade and sweet spices.

Billy Walker, managing director and master distiller, said: “The first release of our GlenAllachie core range has been a culmination of months of hard work and passion to turn GlenAllachie into a very popular and much sought after single malt whisky.

“The range of casks we have warehoused is tremendous with nearly 50,000 maturing at our distillery, some of which date back to the 1970s. Our aim is to nurture this tremendous spirit and for these single malts to be admired both at home and abroad.”

The GlenAllachie is available in more than 28 markets, including the US, Germany, Taiwan, China and France.

In April, GlenAllachie celebrated its 50th anniversary with the launch of a [limited edition range of single cask whiskies](#).

Earlier this year, [SB interviewed Walker](#) to discuss life since [he sold BenRiach in 2016](#) and his plans for GlenAllachie.

RIGHT PLACE, RIGHT TIME: The lotus eaters lounge on the beach, swaying to the sound of [Samba](#).

WHAT'S THE FUTURE OF WHISKY?

27 June 2018 by [Becky Paskin](#) - [www.thescotchwhisky.com](#)

Whisky producers are visionary by their very nature. They spend every day looking to the future, forecasting what demand will be like in 10, 20, 30 years' time. This constant crystal ball gazing shapes how they think about whisky – what flavours will consumers be craving next, what lifestyle choices will influence their spending decisions?

With the future on their minds, distillers, blenders, marketers and owners congregated at the Cotswolds distillery last week for the second [World Whisky Forum](#), a space for sharing ideas with the common goal of developing the global whisky category. International producers rubbed shoulders with small ‘craft’ operations, while innovative Asian distillers shared insights with traditional Scottish blenders. With such openness, it’s hard to imagine there once was a time when distillers were forbidden from speaking to rival companies.

Developing the whisky category is not just about looking forward and predicting the future, it’s also about being cognisant – aware of what developments are occurring right now, within and without the sector.

With 13 speakers from the likes of [Johnnie Walker](#) and Irish Distillers through to New York’s Kings County and Finland’s Kyrö, the Forum was a hotbed of discussion for what trends will shape the future of whisky. The following areas were the most commonly raised, from the global growth of ‘single rye whisky’ to the death of craft.

Safe space: The World Whisky Forum is a trade-only conference for producers to share insights

Challenge everything; ignore the dogma

One of the key issues challenging Scotch whisky in particular is how to innovate sufficiently to stay relevant and appeal to whisky consumers’ changing palates, while remaining within the strict legal guidelines. However Ian Palmer, managing director of [InchDairnie](#) distillery, was resolute that the existing guidelines allow sufficient headroom for innovation. ‘The definition isn’t the problem,’ said Palmer. ‘Working within the definition takes imagination – challenge everything and everybody.’

The new Lowlands site became one of the first in Scotland to begin distilling rye (more on that later), and one of only two in the country to use a [mash filter](#) instead of a mash tun. Last year InchDairnie used seven different types of yeast, and is introducing two new strains this year. They’re all ways the distillery is experimenting with flavour while staying true to Scotch whisky’s identity, even if sometimes that boundary is blurred. ‘We’re happy to produce whiskies that taste like they should have an ‘e’ in the name,’ he said.

From Scotland’s perspective the rest of the world’s whisky producing countries seemingly bask in looser regulations that allow for greater innovation. ‘Should Scotch be worried?’ challenged moderator Dave Broom. There was a moment of reflective silence before Cotswolds head distiller Nick Franchino replied: ‘Scotch or not, if you make it badly you should be worried.’

Have courage; take risks

Similarly, having the courage to challenge the status quo was a common theme from speakers, one raised early on by Simon Coughlin’s tale of Murray McDavid’s purchase of [Bruichladdich](#) distillery in 2000. With only limited stocks of whisky and no new spirit since the mid-1990s, the team began bottling whisky from other distilleries under independent labels. ‘The fringe IB business was doing better than the Bruichladdich brand,’ he said. Realising they were in difficulty, the team was forced to do something daring. ‘We launched the Botanist gin, and it saved our bacon,’ Coughlin said. Never before had a gin been produced on Islay, but using an old still sourced from Dumbarton’s [Lomond](#) distillery, the Botanist was born. ‘We had to take the risk,’ Coughlin said.

Honesty and truthfulness

‘Today’s consumer is inquisitive, knowledgeable and noisy,’ InchDairnie’s Palmer noted. ‘A thin veneer will be very quickly exposed.’ Foresight indeed from a man whose first whisky won’t be released for at least another 10 years, but it’s an insight that many speakers identified as being a cornerstone of success. ‘You need to believe in something in this industry,’ commented Coughlin. ‘If it’s all built on marketing bullshit you’ll be found out.’

The Cotswolds’ Franchino agreed. ‘There are too many gimmicks going on. When people try to weave something like that into their brand story that shouldn’t be there, it devalues it.’ Similarly, he said, releasing too many expressions in a short space of time that have no correlation to a genuine brand story is confusing for consumers. ‘If you only have

GLENMORANGIE 16 YEARS OLD, 175TH ANNIVERSARY

SCORE: 92

PRICE BAND: £ £ £ £ £

ABV: 53.1%

PRODUCTION TYPE: *Single malt whisky*

REGION: *Highland*

FLAVOUR CAMP: *Fruity & Spicy*

NOSE: The fresh fruit which is always present in ‘morangie has been upped here: a luscious explosion of tropical fruit punch, including passion fruit, papaya, guava, mango – plus a little fresh raspberry, tangerine jelly and a sprig of mint. In time, there’s agave nectar and wild flower honey with a sprinkling of nuts. Water brings out buttery biscuits, lemon meringue pie and more of the tropical fruits.

PALATE: As you’d expect, there’s masses of fruit, but also now some heavy jasmine notes. The texture is like thick Greek yoghurt with pine honey, while bursts of fresh kumquat and some heat add a balancing pep. As it develops, so it shows increasingly mature depths. With water, there’s some red cherry alongside the passion fruit, some cinnamon toast and a heady buzz of

pollen.

FINISH: Back to ripe fruit, with a hint of light char.

CONCLUSION: A heady and hedonistic anniversary treat.



one layer and someone scratches below it, you're in trouble. You don't have a coherent brand.'

The death of 'craft'

'There's a craft distilling bubble coming if we carry on this way,' Colin Spoelman of Kings County said. According to his presentation, just five 'craft' distilleries were operational in the US in 1990. 'Now there are more distilleries in New York State than in Scotland.' Kings County, he pointed out, is smaller than Scotland's second-smallest distillery, [Edradour](#). But although his operation in Brooklyn pales in size next to some of its global industry peers at the Forum, he claimed that 'craft distilleries should just be called small distilleries.' Every distiller and their mouser refers to itself as craft these days, even Irish Distillers' Brian Nation, whose photograph of Middleton's sizeable 1,500 litre 'micro distillery' stills generated laughter from the room.

Social terroir

There has been much talk of barley terroir, of a distillery's sense of place, its unique water qualities and climate which contributes to maturing whisky's flavour. Far less is said of social terroir, of the people who make it, who influence the whisky with their personalities, experiences and skill.

Every speaker spoke of the people that makes their product great. 'Our area is important to the distillery and the quality of our whisky, but so are the people,' said Kavalan's Ian Chang.

Country conference: Some 60 delegates packed into the Cotswolds distillery for the Forum (Photo: Tristan Stephenson)

Age hangups will become obsolete

Greater education is already shifting consumers' preconceptions that age equals quality, but advances in warehousing technology is likely to drive the conversation toward other signifiers of quality and flavour. Spoelman of Kings County, said: 'Over the years the focus on age will diminish, but not entirely – the use of controlled warehousing will change it, lower the emphasis on age and allow consumers to focus on other elements.'

On the other hand, the question of how important rapid ageing technology will be in whisky's future was raised, and very quickly shot down. 'There are lots of processes that earn a lot of press, but it isn't interesting to most distillers,' Spoelman added.

Rye will be a global phenomenon

The majority of speakers at the World Whisky Forum spoke of distilling rye, and not all from countries typically associated with that style of whisky. The explosion in popularity of American rye whiskey, coupled with a resurgence in rye-based cocktails such as the Sazerac, has inspired global distilleries to give it a shot. Under current Scotch whisky legislation a rye whisky would be classed as 'grain whisky', but should the category continue to grow around the world a movement to establish a [Scotch rye](#) or 'single rye' definition could take shape. After all, Bruichladdich's Coughlin spoke of purchasing an adjacent farm on Islay on which to – possibly – grow a rye crop. Miika Lipiäinen and Kalle Valkonen from Finland's Kyrö distillery are already working on the establishment of a Nordic rye and single malt rye category. Could it be just a matter of time before Scotland catches up?

Meanwhile Hiram Walker's Don Livermore believes the future of the category won't include questions about the content of mashbills. 'Rye has the highest lignin content of all grains, which is the world's most unappreciated molecule. Don't ask me how much rye is in my whisky, ask me how much 4-ethylguaiacol it contains.'

Keep moving forward

One of the final takeaways, which not only encapsulated the mood of the Forum but spoke of an ongoing theme driving the global industry, was a need for progression. Not just from the Scotch producers, who are often – perhaps mistakenly – perceived to be behind the curve when it comes to innovation, but for world whisky as well. Not just for individual operations, but for the entire industry as one. A need to continue speaking to one another, to share ideas and collaborate. To look to other industries, take inspiration from bartenders and brewers, chocolatiers and coffee roasters (guest distilling was one, wonderfully exciting, suggestion).

Palmer said: 'The Scotch industry is weak; they all just talk to each other and so the spiral [of knowledge] is closing in.' InchDairnie is taking its inspiration from distilleries around the world, as well as other producers across the food and drink sector. 'We're even looking at the world of chocolate to see how they create flavour,' he said.

Laphroaig unveils 15yo Cairdeas whisky

5th December, 2017 by Owen Bellwood

Islay distillery Laphroaig has extended its Cairdeas series with the launch of a 15-year-old whisky, exclusively available for its 'Friends of Laphroaig' group.

The 15-year-old expression from Laphroaig has notes of "subtle spice and toasted almonds"

Launched in 1994, the Friends of Laphroaig are fans, friends and followers of the Scotch whisky distillery from all over the world. Each year, Laphroaig rewards this group with exclusive bottlings as part of the Cairdeas series.

John Campbell, Laphroaig distillery manager, comments: "Our friends are very important to us at Laphroaig. It's a polarising whisky, so it means a great deal that our fans remain loyal to us. Friends of Laphroaig gives us a great opportunity to engage with our supporters and give back to them with these exclusive Cairdeas whiskies."



Cairdeas means 'friendship' in Gaelic and, each year, a limited-edition bottling is crafted by Campbell which is available exclusively to Friends of Laphroaig.

The limited-edition whisky was distilled throughout 2002, before maturing for 15 years in first fill ex-Bourbon casks next to the Atlantic Ocean.

This gives the whisky a bright golden colour, with "sweet vanilla and subtle spice" on the nose, and on the palate, these notes develop into "gentle, warming peat smoke".

Cairdeas 15 Year Old is available exclusively online and at the distillery. Previously, the Cairdeas range has included a quarter cask finished release as well as an expression which underwent secondary maturation in Madeira casks.

Talisker celebrates Sherry casks with 40-year-old whisky

27th April, 2018 by Amy Hopkins - www.thespiritsbusiness.com

Diageo-owned Talisker has unveiled the first variant in its new Bodega Series: a 40-year-old single malt finished in ex-amontillado Sherry casks.



Talisker 40 Year Old is one of the oldest and most exclusive single malts from the Isle of Skye-based distillery

The expression, which will launch in June this year, is one of the oldest whiskies from the Isle of Skye-based distillery. At £2,750 (US\$3,800), it is also one of the most expensive.

Talisker Bodega Series has been designed to explore the impact of different Sherry cask finishes on single malt Scotch. The finishing casks used in the range have been sourced from the 'Sherry Triangle', where Talisker once sourced all its casks.

Talisker 40 Year Old is a blend of vintage liquid aged in refill casks. This whisky is then finished in Bodega Delgado Zuleta Sherry casks that once held 40-year-old amontillado Sherry.

"This Talisker 40 Year Old is an exquisite single malt Scotch whisky which captures the age-old relationships with Delgado Zuleta and the high quality craftsmanship which took place throughout the creation of this rare expression," said Donald Colville, Talisker's global ambassador.

"We are delighted to launch this as the first of the Bodega series and the liquid is something that we are extremely proud of."

The expression is presented in a screen-printed bottle and hand-made wood encasing, with a design inspired by the arches of Sherry bodegas.

Talisker will release 2,000 bottles of the new expression globally.

Brand owner Diageo recently announced a [£150m \(US\\$215m\) investment plan to improve its Scottish visitor experiences](#), including the one based at Talisker distillery.

SILENT SPEYSIDE DISTILLERY COULD REOPEN

20 August 2018 by [Becky Paskin](#) - [www.scotchwhisky.com](#)

Another of Scotland's silent distilleries could be given a new lease of life after the Scottish government launched an appeal for third parties to develop the site.

Whisky resurrection: Dallas Dhu has been silent since 1983, but could be operational once more

[Dallas Dhu](#) distillery in Forres, Moray, closed in 1983 but has since been preserved as a distillery museum by government agency Historic Environment Scotland (HES).

New HES is seeking investment and development ideas from interested individuals or companies, with the possibility of recommencing distilling.

Should Dallas Dhu restart whisky production, it will become the fourth silent distillery to reopen in recent years, following the redevelopment of [Port Ellen](#), [Brora](#) and [Rosebank](#).

A spokesperson for Historic Environment Scotland said: 'Given the unique nature of the site, we are keen at this stage not to limit the scope of potential interest, so interested parties can apply either on their own, or as part of a group, as well as submitting ideas for different parts of the site.'

'The aim is to look at opportunities to explore different options to build on Dallas Dhu's distinct heritage and offering, to encourage opportunities for use which will enhance the site and its existing visitor offer.'

Areas for development could include the storage of whisky casks in Dallas Dhu's historic dunnage warehouse, an extension to the visitor experience, the introduction of a whisky academy, as well as the potential to distil whisky, gin, or rum on-site.

'Once ideas have been submitted we will then move to create a short list and explore the ideas in more detail.'

Part of the [Malt Whisky Trail](#), Dallas Dhu was built in 1898 by Victorian entrepreneur [Alexander Edward](#), who also erected the [Aultmore](#), [Craigellachie](#) and [Benromach](#) distilleries.

Shortly after opening, Dallas Dhu was sold onto a blending firm and eventually wound up in the ownership of [Distillers Company Ltd](#), the precursor to [Diageo](#).

The distillery experienced long periods of closure during the early 1900s, staying closed for almost a decade following a serious fire in 1939.

During the whisky downturn of the 1980s, Dallas Dhu was eventually closed and sold to Historic Environment Scotland in 1986.

A spokesperson for Historic Environment Scotland added that the distillery is not expected to be sold in its entirety.

'It is not anticipated that there will be any changes to the guardianship arrangement but rather we are keen to work with partners to explore avenues to maximise the potential of the site, building on its distinct heritage and origins,' they said.

Richard Lochhead MSP, who campaigned to persuade HES to develop the site, said the proposals are 'good news at long last'.

'Dallas Dhu is spectacular and unique distillery and is also Scotland's only historic distillery with the potential to restart production of a famous whisky at a time when the industry is booming,' he said. 'Not only that but there is scope for the site to play a wider role in the Scotch whisky sector and local tourism.'

'It is crying out for investment and is overflowing with opportunity. I've already had exciting and creative ideas suggested by very serious players in the industry and hopefully now these can be taken forward soon and we can also have Dallas Dhu back on the shelves.'

Currently visitors can explore the site and learn more about how Scotch whisky was made in the 1900s.

James Johnston, chair of the Malt Whisky Trail, said: 'Interest in Scotch is booming with recently released figures showing record numbers of visitors, so we welcome proposals to produce whisky at this historic distillery again.'

Speyside distillery Aberlour has added a new single malt to its portfolio designed to be the "ideal introduction" to Sherried whiskies – Casg Annamh.

Aberlour Casg Annamh has been aged in oloroso Sherry casks
Aberlour Casg Annamh translates as 'rare cask' in Gaelic, and the whisky has been matured in oloroso Sherry casks.

Bottled at 48% abv, Aberlour Casg Annamh will be available to purchase globally at an RRP of US\$70 per bottle.

It is described as having notes of orange, glazed cherries, raisins and a hint of ginger on the nose, leading to flavours of apple and cinnamon crumble, ripe peaches, liquorice and cloves on the palate. The finish is said to be "long and rich", fruity with a slight dry spiciness.

Graeme Cruickshank, Aberlour's master distiller, said: "Casg Annamh is a tribute to our craftsmen's passion for Sherry and their expertise when it comes to creating a rare and fine single malt."

"We carefully hand-pick our oloroso Sherry casks from traditional Sherry bodegas in Spain, making sure the wood has exactly the right combination of aromatic qualities for Aberlour."

"The end result is a distinctively rich and fruity finish which we're confident will offer something new and exciting for those looking to explore the single malt category."

Record high for Scotch whisky tourism

1st August, 2018 by [Owen Bellwood](#) - [www.thespiritsbusiness.com](#)

Scotch whisky tourism reached an all-time high in 2017 as 1.9 million people visited distilleries across Scotland.



The number of people visiting Scotch whisky distilleries grew by more than 190,000 in 2017

The Scotch Whisky Association (SWA) compiled the figures as part of its annual survey, which found visitor numbers have risen by more than 190,000 – representing an 11.4% year-on-year rise.



The increase in visitor numbers at distilleries across Scotland represents a 45% growth in the popularity of Scotch distilleries since 2010.

Results from the SWA's 2017 annual survey also revealed that spending at visitor centres was up by 15.6% to £60.9 million, with the average visitor spending £32 on each trip – a 4% year-on-year increase.

Karen Betts, chief executive of the SWA, said: "These record figures are great news for the industry and great news for Scotland."

"These are exciting times. Scotch whisky distilleries have invested – and continue to invest – hugely in providing world-class visitor facilities at their sites all over Scotland, and they are collaborating in

Aberlour Casg Annamh 'ideal intro' to Sherried whiskies

1st August, 2018 by [Melita Kiely](#) - [www.thespiritsbusiness.com](#)

establishing new whisky trails and finding new ways of telling the story of Scotch to British and foreign visitors alike. It's a wonderful story: part traditional, part modern and set among Scotland's communities and in its breathtaking landscapes."

According to the SWA, visitor centres reported that the highest number of guests came from Germany and the US, followed by those from India, China and Japan.

Malcolm Roughead, chief executive of Visit Scotland, said: "We're delighted that the popularity of Scotch whisky distilleries is continuing to grow with our visitors, which reflects the hard work and investment by the industry in delivering a world-class experience.

Earlier this week, it was announced that the booming interest in Scotch whisky helped the [economic impact of tourism in Moray reach £128.9 million](#) (US\$169m) in 2017.

Kingsbarns Distillery unveils first Scotch whisky

24th August, 2018 by Nicola Carruthers - www.thespiritsbusiness.com

Fife-based Kingsbarns Distillery is set to release its inaugural single malt Scotch whisky – the first in a series of five annual bottlings.

Kingsbarns Distillery's first single malt Scotch whisky will initially be available to Founders' Club members



The Lowland distillery has bottled the expression exclusively for members of its Founders' Club. It will be delivered to subscribers in December 2018.

The Founders' Reserve Inaugural Release comprises several casks filled in 2015 using the wood policy set by the [late Dr Jim Swan](#).

First-fill Bourbon barrels, provided by Kentucky's Heaven Hill Distillery, were selected for having "succulent wood tannins that balance well with the complex Kingsbarns spirit".

Future releases will be drawn from a combination of different cask types and ages, as well as being

bottled at cask strength, non-chill-filtered and without caramel colouring.

William Wemyss, family owner of Kingsbarns Distillery, said: "Over the past few years, the development of Kingsbarns Distillery and its long awaited single malt has been an enthralling experience and the next chapter in the history of Kingsbarns Distillery is almost complete.

"I am sure the Founders' Reserve will meet all expectations and I look forward to sharing this inaugural release with fellow Founders' Club members later this year."

Bottlings of the Scotch whisky will be available to non-members from early 2019.

Family-owned Scotch whisky bottler Wemyss Malts [opened the Kingsbarns Distillery on St Andrew's Day](#) (30 November) 2014.

HOW TO ENJOY THE WHISKEY COMMUNITY

By [George Koutsakis](#) - February 28, 2018 - www.blog.distiller.com

A huge part of one's journey with whiskey is understanding the culture that surrounds each category. There's always something new to learn, for both beginners and connoisseurs alike.

The rules below are by no means final, but they aid in keeping the whiskey world rich and inviting. We're all guilty of overly asserting our opinion at times. What matters most, however, is that we all continue to grow and thrive, just like the ever-popular whiskey industry.

Etiquette goes a long way and, approached correctly, one can learn, teach, and make lifelong friends in the industry. Keep these rules in mind when next entering your favorite whiskey bar.

DRINK IT YOUR WAY

When first delving into the wonderful world of whiskey, you don't want to seem out of place, so you may want to mimic what you see at first. Viewing the whiskey drinking habits of others is helpful. And yes, getting suggestions from your whiskey-collecting uncle can help you understand the industry a bit better.

Whisky on the rocks / Photo Credit: James Nord

It's perfectly fine to take people's recommendations on board. But, at the end of the day, what matters most is what YOU enjoy. Attempting to seem knowledgeable isn't worth it if you hate the experience. Close

out the world around you and focus on the experience and dram in front of you.

[Want to add an ice-cube](#) to that expensive scotch whisky? Go ahead. Feel like adding a splash of water to that \$30 dram of bourbon? Do it! At first, the high ABV and flavor intensity of whiskey can be overwhelming. So adding water and/or ice can take the edge off. A splash here, an ice cube there, if it makes the drinking experience more pleasant, go for it.

If you are looking to dive deep into a whiskey's flavor, though, mixers aren't really recommended. There's no harm in experimenting with some [whiskey cocktails](#), however, once you've experienced a whiskey's true character.



EDUCATE & BE EDUCATED

Whiskey provides an endless source of information, found in rich traditions, history and modern innovations. Learn as much as you can and teach those who want to learn.

Whiskey books / Photo Credit: Azoghlin

Attend whiskey tastings. Often your favorite liquor store will have some drams available to taste, sometimes with experienced brand ambassadors to boot. Check out your town's whiskey bars. They too will host whiskey tastings and will likely have flights on offer to further



your education. You could even attend a whiskey festival. We've got a [few tips for you](#) if you've got one in your area.

Just remember that no one knows everything, and there's always something new to learn. Incorrect information and

misunderstood concepts should be met with understanding, not judgement.

The whiskey world is a club everyone is allowed to join.

IT'S NOT A COMPETITION

As prices of rare whiskey rise and limited releases become harder to acquire, a competitive streak has started to grow.

Claive Vidiz Scotch Whisky Collection / Photo Credit: microwavedboy

Social media platforms are vibrant and friendly. From time to time, however, debates break out. Fans compare the size of their collections, while others debate over knowledge, in an attempt to outsmart their fellow whiskey lover.

Can't we all just get along?



Whiskey should bring people together and create a warm, friendly platform for others to enter. Having a huge whiskey collection and abundant knowledge is wonderful, but these assets should be used to inspire, not to dissuade others.

SPREAD THE LOVE

This rule spans across the oceans, over the mountains, and through the pot stills—to each and every corner of the earth.

There's a reason whiskey has grown so greatly in popularity in recent years. Drinkers develop the wonderful habit of becoming global ambassadors for their favorite whiskey categories and brands.

Scotch fanatics are more than willing to educate you on the spirit of Scotland. In Japan, despite language barriers, locals will open your eyes to a world of tradition you never knew.

Bourbon, Canadian whisky, Irish whiskey- name one at a bar and odds are someone around has a captivating tale of how they fell in love with the spirit.

Join the movement. Apply all the aforementioned rules to your adventure, and set out to spread the good word. We'll see you on the way.

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: | \$50 (member) \$60 (non-member) |
| Robbie Burns Dinner Fee: | \$70 (member) \$80 (non-member) |
| June BBQ Dinner Fee: | \$70 (member) \$80 (non-member) |

KSMS Financials since April 2008

Monthly Dinner: In April 2008 Monthly Dinners cost members \$50. The cost rose to \$60 on September 2010 where it has remained. In 2008 the cost of Dinners averaged \$34.94 and this past year have risen to an average of \$42.57, an increase of 21.8%.

Robbie Burns Dinner: In January 2009 the Robbie Burns Dinner cost members \$60. The cost rose to \$70 on January 2011 where it has remained. In 2009 the cost of Robbie Burns Dinner was \$42.42 and has risen to \$46.00, this past January, an increase of 8.4%.

BBQ Dinner: In June 2008 the BBQ Dinner cost members \$50. The cost rose to \$60 on September 2009 and then \$70 on September 2010 where it has remained. In 2008 the cost of the BBQ Dinner was \$35.86 and has risen to \$50.00, this past June, an increase of 39.4%.

Conclusion: As a result, the allowance for purchasing Single Malts has diminished. It is only through the introduction and continued success of our raffles that we have managed to offset price increases to members.

"If you had invested in the top 500 performing bottles at auction in 2008, and in 2013 if you had sold them, you would have made a gain of 250 per cent over their original retail prices."

(cbc.ca/news/business/scotch-whisky-market-booming-investors-say-1.2677304)

Membership and Dinner prices Effective September, 2018 Dinner

Membership and Dinner prices for 2018-2019

| | |
|--------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Membership Fee: | \$50 (singles) \$75 (couples) |
| One Time Initiation Fee: | \$15 |
| Standard Dinner Fee: | \$70 (member) \$85 (non-member) |
| Christmas Dinner Fee: | \$75 (member) \$90 (non-member) |
| Robbie Burns Dinner Fee: | \$80 (member) \$95 (non-member) |
| June BBQ Dinner Fee: | \$80 (member) \$95 (non-member) |

Reserved Seating

- Reserved Seating will only be provided in the case of groups consisting of four (4) or greater.

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 17th, 2018 dinner date as an example:
 - Dinner invitations will be sent out Friday August 24th, 2018. 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 7th, 2018 @ 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 7th, 2018 @ 6pm will be removed from the list.
- Anyone canceling between Friday September 7th, 2018 @ 6pm and Monday September 17th, 2018 will be expected to pay for the cost of the dinner and scotch (\$70). 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 17th, 2018 dinner without having cancelled and been successfully replaced will be expected to pay the full cost (\$70). A member will be responsible for their guest's cancellation (\$80).
- If a member asks to be included at the dinner between Friday September 7th, 2018 @ 6pm and Monday September 17th, 2018, 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.



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