

Kingston Single Malt Society

www.kingstonsinglemaltsociety.com

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

NOVEMBER 19th, 2018

VOLUME 12; NUMBER 5



COST OF THE MALTS

SPRINGBANK 10 YEAR OLD CAMPBELTOWN SINGLE MALT SCOTCH WHISKY VINTAGES 708362 | 750 mL bottle
Price \$103.95 Spirits, Whisky/Whiskey, Scotch Single Malts
46.0% Alcohol/Vol.

SPRINGBANK 15 YEAR OLD SINGLE MALT SCOTCH WHISKY VINTAGES 627307 | 750 mL bottle
Price: \$151.95 Spirits, Whisky/Whiskey, Scotch Single Malts
46.0% Alcohol/Vol.

SPRINGBANK 18 YEAR OLD CAMPBELTOWN SINGLE MALT SCOTCH WHISKY VINTAGES 235119 | 700 mL bottle
Price \$275.00 Spirits, Whisky/Whiskey, Scotch Single Malts
46.0% Alcohol/Vol.

SPRINGBANK 21 YEAR OLD CAMPBELTOWN SINGLE MALT SCOTCH WHISKY VINTAGES 235119 | 700 mL bottle
Price \$451.25 Spirits, Whisky/Whiskey, Scotch Single Malts
46.0% Alcohol/Vol.

THE GLENLIVET CODE VINTAGES 539577 | 750 mL bottle
Price: \$325.00 Spirits, Whisky/Whiskey, Scotch Single Malts
61.6% Alcohol/Vol.

THE GLENLIVET DAVOCH 14 YEAR OLD SINGLE CASK SCOTCH WHISKY SINGLE CASK # 48622; Bottled 12/2016; Bottle 359 of 510 VINTAGES 539577 | 750 mL bottle
Price: \$325.00 Spirits, Whisky/Whiskey, Scotch Single Malts
61.6% Alcohol/Vol.

THE GLENLIVET CAPTAIN'S RESERVE LCBO 806126 | 750 mL bottle
Price: \$67.75 Spirits, Whisky/Whiskey 40.0% Alcohol/Vol.

THE GLENLIVET NADURRA OLOROSO SHERRY (Bottled 05/16; Batch No. OLO516) LCBO 387498 | 750 mL bottle
Price: \$90.25 Spirits, Whisky/Whiskey 60.4% Alcohol/Vol.

Upcoming Dinner Dates

December 10th, 2018 - Christmas Dinner
January 21st, 2019 - Robbie Burns Dinner
February 18th, 2019 - Islands / Islay
March 1st, 2019 - Game of Thrones Single Malt Collection
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 & SPEYSIDE

MENU

1st Course: Celeriac Soup with Brown Butter and Sage

1st Nosing: SPRINGBANK 10 YEAR OLD
(introduced by: Doug Perkins)

2nd Nosing: SPRINGBANK 15 YEAR OLD
(introduced by: Doug Perkins)

3rd Nosing: SPRINGBANK 18 YEAR OLD
(introduced by: Doug Perkins)

2nd Course: Root Vegetables, Apples, Raisins, Baby Kale, Chèvre Sherry Vinaigrette

4th Nosing: SPRINGBANK 21 YEAR OLD
(introduced by: Doug Perkins)

Main Course: Half Cornish Hen, Sweet Potato Puree, Double Smoked Bacon, Brussels, Natural Juices

5th Nosing: GLENLIVET CODE
(introduced by: Philip Henderson)

6th Nosing: GLENLIVET DAVOCH 14 YEAR OLD
(introduced by: Philip Henderson)

7th Nosing: GLENLIVET CAPTAIN'S RESERVE
(introduced by: Philip Henderson)

Dessert: Double Chocolate Cake

8th Nosing: GLENLIVET NADURRA OLOROSO SHERRY
(introduced by: Philip Henderson)

OCTOBER - KSMS Financial Statement

(Money from 40 May attendees @ \$70)	= \$2800.00
(Money from 19 May attendees @ \$85)	= \$1615.00
May dinner 37 persons = \$42.00/ea	= \$2950.00
(Money remaining for buying Single Malt)	= \$1465.00
Cost of Single Malts:	= \$1937.40
Cost of Pours per Person = \$21.06	
KSMS Monthly operational balance	= (-\$472.40)
Cost per person 60 attendees (All inclusive)	= \$82.84

October Raffle Result of the Bunnahabhain Ceòbanach & Black Bottle

Congratulations to Anne Holley-Hime

During the course of the raffle
a total of \$485 was raised.

Thank you everyone!

HOW DO STORAGE CONDITIONS AFFECT WHISKY?

20 March 2018 by David Tjeder – www.scotchwhisky.com

There are certain 'rules' when it comes to storing whisky, but what happens to the liquid if you ignore them? A group of whisky enthusiasts conducted an experiment to find out. David Tjeder reports.

Reference point: Bowmore Laimrig Batch 3 was subjected to cruel and unusual treatment

Whisky should be stored lower than room temperature, in darkness, and with the bottles standing up. Opened bottles should not be left with lots of air in them for too long. If not, you run the risk of the whisky being affected in negative ways.

This is *the received wisdom*. But what happens if you store whisky differently? Swedish whisky enthusiast Mattias Klasson decided to find out. He exposed bottles of peated Islay whisky –

Bowmore Laimrig, Batch 3 – to what most whisky lovers would consider cruel and unusual punishment.

One sample bottle was left in his freezer, at a temperature of -18C. One bottle was left outside, with maximum exposure to sunlight and the changing temperatures of the climate.

Klasson duct-taped a third bottle to the back of a warm machine which was constantly switched on, with temperatures in the bottle held at about 45C. Yet another bottle was exposed to uneven temperatures, with the liquid reaching above 40C twice a day.

A fifth measure of whisky was poured into two cheap PET plastic bottles. To complete the experiment, Klasson left one 70cl bottle with 10cl of whisky in it; another, he kept half-filled. Finally, he kept a reference whisky, unopened and stored under optimal conditions.

The bottles in place, it was now time to wait. And so he waited, for two full years. The whiskies – the plural form is definitely needed – were then all tested independently and blind by a panel of six experts. So is it really that important to store whisky correctly, and how are flavours affected by different ways of storing?

A world of difference: There were some glaring variations between the different whiskies

The answer is yes, it matters a great deal and, indeed, the flavours are affected in different ways. The whiskies were indeed deemed to be quite different from each other.

Most of the whiskies had been weakened. The panellists had to really work with them in order to properly describe them, with the nose plunged deep into the tasting glass.

Two of the panellists found only small differences between the reference whisky on the one hand, and the two whiskies which had been oxidised, as well as the whisky which had been stored under warm conditions, on the other. The other four found more differences, favouring the reference whisky over the others.

Differences were more marked with the other whiskies.

To start at the bottom: the bottle that had been left outside, exposed to a maximum amount of sunlight and the weather. Its colour had turned to pale white wine.

On the nose, panellists found notes of bad grappa, glue and slightly rotting lemon; even gasoline and dirty laundry were mentioned. On the palate, a terrible bitterness, warm plastic and strange, aggressive spices.

All panellists concurred that this whisky was basically undrinkable. On the never-ending finish, described as 'especially repulsive' by one panellist, there was burnt plastic, fiery spices and soap.

This whisky had zero similarity to the reference: no Sherry cask influence, no peat, no smoke, no Bowmore. One of the panellists used the 100-point scale, and gave this whisky a scathing 20 points. Another concluded with the words: 'What a disaster.'

We no longer need to ask ourselves if whisky is affected by extreme amounts of sunlight and the climate: this abomination was unrecognisable as whisky.

Blind tasting: Some of the results were predictable, but others were more surprising

At the other end of the scale, the half-full bottle and the one kept in the freezer were deemed to have been affected negatively, but only slightly. Again, some panellists claimed the differences to the reference were marginal, while others were more critical. The whiskies had minor flaws, and were subdued both on the nose and on the palate.

The bottle which only had 10cl of whisky in it had oxidised too much, and was, to most, but a shadow of its former glory. Perhaps the biggest surprise was the whisky stored under very warm conditions. You might have thought that this would surely destroy the whisky. However, panellists deemed it to be one of the best of the group (excluding the reference whisky).

It was decidedly sweeter and heavier on the oak, and it had lost some of its fruitiness. In all, though, still a good whisky. A few panellists found it older than its 15 years, with the oak being a little too dominant.

Interestingly, the whisky which had been exposed to uneven temperatures also exhibited similar characteristics, with a more marked sweetness than the reference whisky. However, it had almost died on the nose.

The whisky stored in cheap PET plastic bottles did not fare as well – not at all well, in fact. On the nose, it was perceived as more bitter and ashy, but still ok. On the palate and the finish, however, the cheap plastic had completely destroyed the liquid, giving off lots of pencil shaving flavours.

The experiment, then, confirms that how you store whisky does indeed transform its flavours. To put it bluntly: don't do this to whisky, or the whisky will be upset.

Big idea: Mattias Klasson wondered what would happen to bottles stored in extreme conditions

Some of the bottles had clearly fared better than others, but the reference outshone all other whiskies. In the reference, panellists found a wonderful combination of sweetness, fruit, toffee and that lighter style of peat smoke which is Bowmore's hallmark. By comparison, even the whisky which had been left standing half-full had lost intensity.

To conclude, some advice. If you only have 10cl left in your bottle, don't leave the bottle standing for too long. If you pour whisky into sample bottles, don't use cheap plastic. Finish opened bottles within the year, at least, or pour the contents into clean, glass sample bottles.

And, for heaven's sake, keep your whisky out of the sunlight.

THE RESULTS

All samples contained Bowmore Laimrig Batch 3, and remained in their conditions for two years.

1. Stored in freezer at -18C: Minor flaws, subdued nose and palate
 2. Stored outside, exposed to sunlight: Undrinkable and unrecognisable as whisky
 3. Taped to a machine at 45C: Still good, sweeter and heavier on the oak, 'older'
 4. Exposed to uneven temperatures: Similar to 3, marked sweetness and poor nose
 5. Poured into two cheap PET bottles: Bitter, ashy nose, 'completely destroyed' on palate
 6. 70cl bottle with 10cl of whisky in it: Oxidised, 'a shadow of its former glory'
 7. 70cl bottle left half-full: As 1: minor flaws, subdued nose and palate
 8. Reference whisky stored under optimal conditions: More intense, with wonderful sweetness, fruit, toffee and light peat smoke
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When putting together the ten highest-scoring whiskies from the Fall 2018 Buying Guide, we realized that the list was heavily weighted to peat. The Fall issue's theme, after all, is smoke, and Whisky Advocate's reviewers took the charge seriously by tasting and scoring a slew of peaty, smoked whiskies. So instead of a single top ten list, we've made two—one for the peatheads, and one that includes [a more diverse array of whiskies](#).

Check out the ten highest-scoring peated whiskies below—and pick up a copy of the [Fall issue](#) for a whole lot more!

Ardbeg Corryvreckan

95 points, 57.1%, \$90

Part of the permanent Ardbeg range since 2008, Corryvreckan is created from a blend of standard Ardbeg and Ardbeg aged in virgin French Limousin oak casks. Smoky bacon and seaweed, plus dark berries, prickly spices, walnuts, lemon, and sweet peat on the nose. Sweet and savory on the palate, with more lively spice, woodsmoke, phenols, and licorice. The finish is lengthy, with peat, sea salt, pepper, and black coffee. —Gavin Smith

Samaroli Over an Islay Rainbow 2017 Edition

94 points, 45% ABV, \$471

Aromatic with smoke, this lays down thick chocolate ganache, toffee banana, and salted caramel. It bowls you over with chocolate-dipped sultanas, soft melon, and ripe berries ahead of a spicy middle section replete with pepper, coriander, cinnamon, fig rolls, baking chocolate, and a dry finish of cocoa and peppery spices. As blended Islay malts go, pretty special. —Jonny McCormick

Ardbeg Uigeadail

94 points, 54.2% ABV, \$80

Launched in 2003, Uigeadail remains one of Ardbeg's core offerings. Matured in a mix of sherry and bourbon barrels and bottled at cask strength. Peppery peat, warm tar, coffee grounds, machine oil, and black pepper on the nose. The palate is complex and rich, offering orange segments sprinkled with sea salt, dark chocolate, malt, and ever-present sweet peat. Nicely balanced. Lengthy in the finish, with smoky caramel. —Gavin Smith

Laphroaig 10 year old Cask Strength (Batch 010)

93 points, 58% ABV, \$70

A turbocharged version of the formidable standard 10 year old, Cask Strength varies in ABV from batch to batch. Tar and antiseptic hit the nose immediately, along with peat smoke, malt, newsprint, and new leather. There's also lemon, vanilla, and brine. The sinewy palate mirrors the nose, adding charcuterie and cocoa powder. Predictably medicinal and phenolic in the very long finish, with balancing sweet malt. —Gavin Smith

Laphroaig Triple Wood

93 points, 48% ABV, \$70

Initially aged in bourbon barrels before being transferred into quarter casks, and ultimately oloroso sherry butts. The sherry influence adds an additional dimension to the quarter-cask style, hence an oily nose of dates, vanilla, tropical fruits, and bonfire smoke. The palate is drier than might be expected, with Laphroaig iodine, barbecued meats, muted sherry, and peat smoke. The finish comprises dried fruits and lots of oak. —Gavin Smith

Highland Park The Light 17 year old

92 points, 52.9% ABV, \$300

Following last year's release of The Dark, this parallel 17 year old cask-strength expression was matured in refill American oak. The nose yields vanilla, oats, ripe pears, and mild wood-fire embers. Supple and initially sweet on the palate, with icing sugar, tangerines, and developing darker, spicier notes. Lengthy in the finish, with spicy cedar oil. Proof that Highland Park doesn't need sherry casks to be good. (4,500 bottles for U.S.) —Gavin Smith

Ardbeg 10 year old

92 points, 46% ABV, \$56

Classic 'southern shores' Islay from the onset: salty and medicinal on the nose, with smoked haddock, citrus fruits, and milk chocolate. The palate yields full-on hot peat, pipe tobacco, black coffee, licorice, and

more chocolate. The finish is long and malty, with sweet smoke. Non-chill filtered. —Gavin Smith

Laphroaig 10 year old

92 points, 40% ABV, \$50

This expression offers an uncompromising note of brine-laden peat and iodine, with charcoal and sweeter fruit notes also present. The palate is equally out there, with old-fashioned fabric Band-Aids, bladderwrack seaweed, black pepper, smoldering peat, vanilla, caramel, and sweet oak. The finish is as big as everything else, with barbecue, iodine, and asphalt. Still a classic! —Gavin Smith

Balcones Peated Texas Single Malt

92 points, 63% ABV, \$80

Subtle and rounded smoke on the nose, balanced by lemon, grilled pineapple, and chocolate-chip cookie dough. A big, tannic, and chewy palate, chocolaty and extremely fruity—hints of Meyer lemon, grilled plums, walnut paste, and five-alarm chili wrapped in a thick, spicy smoke. A fiery finish benefits from water. Their first peated release and it's a showstopper. (531 bottles; distillery only) —Adam Polonski

Kornog Roc'h Hir

91 points, 46% ABV, \$150

Made by the sea in Côtes d'Armor on direct-fired small stills attached to worm tubs, which the French elegantly call condenseurs serpentins. This has smoked fish, iodine, pine forests, driftwood, lemon zest, and clean medicinal qualities rather than peatiness. Waxed lemon, light fudge, lemon bonbons, and vanilla from the bourbon barrels ride a crescendo of pepper and ginger before smoke obscures all before it. A match for any Islay. —Jonny McCormick

WHY YOUNG SCOTCH WHISKY IS WORTH A CHANCE

29 January 2018 by [The Whisky Virgin](#) - [www.scotchwhisky.com](#)

Having always been taught that age is a sign of quality, the Whisky Virgin is thrilled to realise whiskies aged for less than 10 years are still worth a try – even if you're observing Dry January.

Core addition: The originally limited Lagavulin 8 Year Old was so popular it was added to the distillery's core range

Happy New Year, whisky friends – 2018 is upon us and I'm making the notoriously difficult month of January more unbearable by abstaining from all booze, Scotch included. That means I'll be writing this here article based on theory and research with absolutely no drinking involved... None at all... probably.

Should be easy anyway because during a particularly intense New Year's Eve banger at my place, bigger boys picked my booze cupboard clean. All that remains is an almost certainly immature and undrinkable bottle of Scotch that my well-meaning auntie got me for Christmas.

I can still see her Port-reddened face, smiling down at me as I tackled the wrapping paper that had defro been saved from the previous year and ironed out for re-use. She'd asked the lady at the whisky shop what one was selling well at the moment, the way aunties do. Barely able to contain her excitement as I unpicked the sticky-tape, she blurted out what it was.

'It's Lagavulin! The lady said it's very popular!'

But my poor trusting Auntie, brimming with supportiveness for me and my voyage of whisky discovery, had clearly been mugged off by the shop-worker. The [Lagavulin](#) she was sold was bottled at only *eight years old*.

'Thanks, Auntie Pat. I love it.'

'Do you really?' she asked, eyes crinkling at the corners with happiness.

'Yes, it's exactly what I wanted.'

She doesn't know what I know. She isn't aware that to be delicious a whisky has to have spent decades in oak barrels. I'm paraphrasing my hero Bernard Black here, but it's common knowledge that, when it comes to booze, the older it is, the gooder it is. Basic stuff, right?

Bypassed youth: Ignore young whiskies and risk missing out, says the Whisky Virgin

I tried the classic Lagavulin 16 last year. It tasted like a burnt fish being slapped about with a bag of fruit, but in a way that was totally delicious. By my calculations – did it my head, no big deal – this low-class bottling will be half as good as that. It's called maths, mate.

Knowing that this immature baby Scotch-ling will probs be harsh and overly boozy, I do a quick round of Googling to see how I should safely dispose of it. It has to be useful for cooking or cleaning mirrors or something.

But, as I scan the reviews for [eight-year-old Lagavulin](#), I see that the online whisky fam is going crazy for it. It *has* actually been a best-seller

and this originally limited release is going to be rolled out on a permanent basis this year. I gingerly whip the foil off the bottle-top and take a sniff. Sniffing isn't cheating on Dry January.

It can't smell this good just because I've been whisky-deprived for weeks. It's nutty and salty and smoky, just like its big brother, but that fruitiness and spiciness is super-intense and bright. I'm definitely not going to drink it, though... Absolutely not.

A little more research shows me that loads of well-respected names in the Scotch game have bottles out there with less than 10 years on them. You can buy loads of different *Caol Ila*s at about seven years old and there's an eight-year-old release from *Kilkerran*, made at rogue Campbeltown distillery *Glenogle*, doing the rounds. It also seems that in the '90s, seaweedy old *Ardbeg* dropped a 'Very Young' expression that was just a sixer, and now goes for several arms and a big pile of legs at auction. Even before I'd tried my first sip of Scotch, I'd heard tweedy and intimidating drinkists like my granda' say things like: 'I'm more into malts at 15 years or more.' Seems like they might have been missing a big ole trick.

I remember the book I bought with my annual Amazon voucher from da'. *The Way of Whisky* by Dave Broom is all about how our whisky-making cousins in Japan do their thing.

Mostly went over my little head, but the pictures were class and it taught me that those guys have a good handle on what happens to whisky as it ages. It has a peak, a moment when it's at its absolute best, but on the way up it also has fresh qualities that change over time.

Young whisky may not be as totally complicated as its older counterparts, but it can have stuff going on that's worth appreciating. I think of my older, more successful siblings and like the idea that my own immaturity and impulsiveness might not necessarily make me worse than them, just a bit more green and interesting in my own way. Yeah, sounds plausible.

Cult classic: Despite being just six years old, Ardbeg Very Young was an instant hit upon release

In fact, I've knocked down whisky that didn't have an age on the label at all. Some more homework tells me that if you put an age on a bottle of Scotch, then the law says that it has to be the age of the youngest spirit in the bottle. True of blends, true of single malts. It all has to be over three years, but that's it. Sometimes the whisky makers choose to leave this number off.

My mind is blown. My commitment to Dry Jan is in bits. My whisky bottle is open. My glass is full. Oh well, January is dry enough as it is, I can have a taste of Scotch – which I reckon is very different to a drink – and get back on the wagon tomorrow.

My baby Scotch is fruity and savoury and light. It's also super-smoky, but not like cigarettes in nail varnish remover, as I'd naively expected. It's almost as if the crew at Lagavulin knew what they were doing with this one. It's not Lagavulin 16, it's also not really better or worse, it's just interesting and different.

Most of the older peaty Scotch I've managed to nab a gulp of has been a little more subdued on the smoke front. I think in future if I'm looking for a total smoke bomb to sip on, I won't walk straight past more youthful malts.

Thanks, Auntie Pat, I'm sorry I ever doubted you.

I pop the bottle back into the cupboard to avoid further temptation and write the names of some more bright young bottles onto my whisky hit list for when February rolls around.

I'm not saying I won't always find space for a nice old Scotch with some maturity and woody experience – if I can ever afford one – but then again, there's plenty of room on the whisky shelf.

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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