

Kingston Single Malt Society

www.kingstonsinglemaltsociety.com

A social club for the appreciation of Single Malt Whisky since 1998
FEBRUARY 17th, 2020 VOLUME 13; NUMBER 8a



This evening's menu with Single Malts from
SOUTH HIGHLANDS & ISLANDS



HIGHLAND PARK SINGLE CASK SERIES 13 YEARS OLD BOTTLED EXCLUSIVELY FOR EMPIRE STATE
Distilled: 2004; Bottled: 2018; CASK # 6046;
LIMITED TO 593 BOTTLES VINTAGES 395790 | 750 mL bottle
Price: **\$347.95** Spirits, Whisky/Whiskey, Scotch Single Malts 65.8% Alcohol/Vol.

DEANSTON DRAGON'S MILK STOUT CASK FINISH
VINTAGES 13558 | 750 mL bottle Price **\$86.95** Spirits, Whisky/Whiskey 50.5% Alcohol/Vol.

DEANSTON 1995 OLOROSO CASK MATURED Vintage 1995; Bottled 2019; Stated Age: 23 years old Bottled for Distillery Exclusive Limited Edition VINTAGES 13558 | 700 mL bottle Price **\$275.00** Spirits, Whisky/Whiskey 50.2% Alcohol/Vol.

HIGHLAND PARK TRILLIUM LCBO 644377 | 750 mL bottle Price: **\$249.95**, Spirits, Whisky/Whiskey 61.4% Alcohol/Vol.

MENU

Welcoming Dram & 1st Nosing: NOMAD
(introduced by: Ken Goodland)

Soup: West African Peanut Soup, Toasted Peanuts and Coconut Milk
2nd Nosing: HIGHLAND PARK EMPIRE STATE
(introduced by: John Leighton)

Appetizer: Sun Dried Tomato & Local Aged Cheddar, Arancini with Sofrito and Basil
3rd Nosing: DEANSTON DRAGON'S MILK STOUT CASK FINISH (introduced by: Bill Gorham)

Entree: Roasted Pork Rack, Honey Glazed Heirloom Carrots, Rosemary Roasted Mini Potatoes with a Mushroom Marsala Sauce
4th Nosing: DEANSTON 1995 OLOROSO CASK
(introduced by: Bill Gorham)

Dessert: Chocolate Caramel Tart
5th Nosing: HIGHLAND PARK TRILLIUM
(introduced by: John Leighton)

COST OF THE MALTS

NOMAD OUTLAND WHISKY LCBO 644153 | 750 mL bottle
Price **\$64.15** Made in: Jerez, Spain By: Gonzalez Byass & Co. Spirits, Whisky/Whiskey 40.7% Alcohol/Vol.

Upcoming Dinner Dates

March 16th, 2020 - Irish / Speyside
April 20th, 2020 - Lowland / Islay
May 25th, 2020 - Campbeltown / Speyside
June 22nd, 2020 - BBQ (Final Exam)
July 20th, 2020 - 9th "Matt" / International Night
Friday August 28th 2020 - 13th Annual Premium Night
September 21st, 2020 - Campbeltown/Lowland/Speyside/Highlands
October 19th, 2020 - Highlands / Islands
November 16th, 2020 - Highlands / Islands
December 7th 2020 - Christmas Dinner
January 25th, 2021 - Robbie Burns Dinner
February 15th, 2021 - Campbeltown / Lowland / Highlands / Islay
March 15th, 2021 - Irish / Speyside / Highlands
April 19th, 2021 - Campbeltown / Islands / Islay
May 17th, 2021 - Campbeltown / Speyside
June 28th, 2021 - BBQ (Final Exam)
July 19th, 2021 - 10th "Matt" Night
Friday August 27th 2021 - 14th Annual Premium Night
September 20th, 2021 - Campbeltown / Lowland / Speyside / Highlands / Islands / Islay
October 18th, 2021 - Speyside / Highlands
November 15th, 2021 - Speyside
December 6th 2021 - Christmas Dinner

JANUARY - KSMS Financial Statement

(Money from 61 January attendees @ \$75) = \$4575.00
January dinner 71 persons (\$50.00/ea) = \$3550.00
(Money remaining for buying Single Malt) = \$1025.00
Cost of Single Malts = \$1693.70
Cost of Pours per Person = \$18.41
KSMS Monthly operational balance = (\$-668.70)
Cost per person (All inclusive) = \$85.95

January Raffle Result

Congratulations to Ken Goodland
winner of the Tullibardine 1993 Vintage.

During the course of the raffle
a total of \$375 was raised.

Thank you everyone!

THE TOP PEATY ISLAY SINGLE MALTS UNDER \$100

Islay (EYE-la) is a true bucket list destination for fans of peaty single malts. But, if you can't make it to the isle in person, you can take a trip to Islay one sip at a time. Just pick up one of our favorite peaty bottles, each available for \$100 or less.

DEC 28, 2019

12. KILCHOMAN 100% ISLAY 8TH EDITION 86 - PEATY

The 100% Islay series from Kilchoman is made using Optic barley harvested on the isle. The peat level here is ~ 20ppm versus the brand's standard 50ppm offerings. Unlike previous editions, this is matured in oloroso sherry butts in addition to ex-bourbon barrels. This no-age statement single malt has no color added and is non-chillfiltered. Bottled at 50% ABV, this is a limited edition release which yielded 12,000 bottles. Kilchoman 100% Islay 8th Edition is available beginning fall 2018.

11. BOWMORE 15 YEAR 86 - RICH & FRUITY

Fans of sherried scotch and you wine lovers out there, step right up! Bowmore 15 Year is a whisky aged in a combination of ex-bourbon and sherry casks, but it's the portion of the whisky that gets aged the final 3 years in 1st fill sherry casks that really give this whisky that deep rich color and fruity taste. Note: Formerly called Bowmore Darkest 15 Year.

10. LAPHROAIG QUARTER CASK 87 - OILY & PEATY

Harking back to the days of the 19th century, this bottling takes 5-11 year old aged whisky into smaller casks only 125 liters large (a quarter of a Sherry cask). This was the size that two men could carry to market for sale back in the day. Giving more surface area to the amount of liquid in the barrel brings out more vanilla and oily notes from the wood.

9. ARDBEG AN OA 88 - RICH & FULL BODIED

An Oa (pronounced an oh) is a peated Islay single malt comprised of whiskies that were aged in several types of casks of including Pedro Ximenez, virgin oak, and ex-bourbon. These whiskies were then married together in a large French oak vat in Ardbeg's Gathering Room. The whisky is named for the Mull of Oa located on the Oa peninsula. This is the most southwesterly point of Islay. This Ardbeg release marks the first permanent addition to their portfolio in close to ten years. Bottled at 46.6% ABV, this is non chill-filtered. Released September 2017.

8. LAGAVULIN 9 YEAR (GAME OF THRONES- HOUSE LANNISTER)

88 - OILY

Lagavulin 9 Year House Lannister is one of eight single malts Scotch whiskies made to commemorate the eighth and final season of Game of Thrones. Set to hit shelves in the fall of 2018, this Islay single malt was aged 9 years and bears the sigil for House Lannister--a golden lion.

7. CAOL ILA DISTILLERS EDITION 90 - FRUITY & RICH

Not to bore you with the technical data of Moscatel sherry wine, but what is important to note is the taste profile of the wine so you can have an idea of why your beloved Caol Ila is showing you a softer, more delicate side. Moscatel is sweet, honeyed, and often showing tastes of peaches, apricots, and oranges and is rarely bottled on its own.

6. PORT CHARLOTTE ISLAY BARLEY 2011 90 - PEATY & RICH

Port Charlotte Islay Barley 2011 is made using barley grown on three Islay farms: Dunlossit, Kilchiaran, and Sunderland. In addition, it is made from two different barley varieties, Oxbridge & Publican. Distilled in 2011, the barley is malted and peated to a level of 40ppm. The single malt matures in a combination of casks: 75% in 1st fill American whiskey casks and 25% in 2nd fill wine casks. Bottled at 50% ABV.

5. BUNNAHABHAIN CEÒBANACH 90 - SMOKY & SWEET

The barley used to make Bunnahabhain Scotch has not been peat-dried since 1963 (any effects of peat flavor come from the local water used to make it, which naturally runs through the peat bogs on its journey to the distillery). Ceòbanach, which is Scots Gaelic for "smoky mist" is the first release to be made with Islay-grown, peat-dried barley since the 1960s. Fun fact: the stills used to process it are kept separate from the other stills at Bunnahabhain so as not to affect the other releases. Though without a formal age statement, it is the product of 10 years of work from Master Distiller Ian MacMillan, released un-chill filtered.

4. PORT CHARLOTTE 10 YEAR 91 - PEATY & RICH

Port Charlotte 10 Year is a permanent addition to Bruichladdich's portfolio and replaces the multi-vintage Scottish Barley bottling. Made using 100% Scottish barley from the Inverness Shire region. This 10 year old bottling matures in a variety of casks: 65% in 1st fill American whiskey, 10% in 2nd fill American whiskey, and 25% in 2nd fill French wine casks. Port Charlotte bottlings are the heavily peated single malt line distilled at Bruichladdich with the barley peated to 40ppm. Bottled at 50% ABV, it is non-chillfiltered and has no color added. Available beginning May 2018.

3. LAGAVULIN 16 YEAR 92 - FULL BODIED & PEATY

Though not officially (read, legally) established until 1816, there are records that date distillation here going back to 1742. Malted barley produced just a hop, skip, and a jump away at neighboring Port Ellen is utilized. Everything is long at this distillery: fermentation, distillation, and maturation. Good things do indeed come to those that wait. Bottled at 43% ABV after 16 years in oak barrels.

2. ARDBEG UIGEADAIL 93 - FRUITY & RICH

First launched in 2003, Ardbeg Uigeadail [Oog-a-dal] is a marriage of some young and some very old oloroso sherry

aged single malt along with Ardbeg aged in ex-bourbon barrels. The name Uigeadail means "a dark, mysterious place." Fun to say and even more fun to drink. It is also the name of the loch from which Ardbeg gets its water. Bottled at cask strength with no age statement.

1. LAPHROAIG 10 YEAR 96 - PEATY & VANILLA

Far from a shrinking violet, Laphroaig 10 Year is loud and proud, get used to it. They have managed to produce a whisky showcasing the sights and aromas of the island. The peat, burned to dry the malt, is abundantly clear as is the seaweed found lapping the shores just steps from the distillery. That sweet salty sea air found on Islay is woven throughout their whiskies. NOTE: This is sold at 40% abv or 43% abv depending on your market.

Everything You Need to Know About Chill-Filtered Whisky

JANUARY 9, 2020 | TONY SACHS



A whisky doesn't go from still to barrel to bottle in pristine form. Along with sediment from the barrel, chemical compounds like fatty acids, proteins, and long-chain esters are present in the final product. In whiskies lower than about 46% ABV (some distillers believe the threshold is slightly higher), these chemical compounds [create a cloudiness](#), or haze, when the whisky is chilled. The haze doesn't pose any hazards to those who drink it, but for aesthetic reasons most distilleries choose to filter it out using a process called chill-filtration.

Chill-filtration is performed the way it sounds, by lowering the temperature of the whisky to several degrees below freezing. At this temperature, the whisky is still liquid, and the haze-producing compounds have clumped together. The liquid is passed through a series of filters, made of materials ranging from paper to metal to crushed seashells, that trap all compounds larger than several microns. The amount of compounds and sediment removed depends on the number of filters, the speed at which the whisky passes through them, and the pressure at which it's filtered.

WHICH WHISKIES ARE CHILL FILTERED?

Most distilleries that chill-filter do so primarily for aesthetic reasons, to remove the haze. Many distillers and whisky lovers believe that chill-filtering has adverse effects on a whisky's flavor and mouthfeel. Relatively few Scotch whisky distilleries chill-filter whiskies over 46% ABV, and fewer still chill-filter above 50% ABV. In the U.S., however, [larger distilleries like Jim Beam and Wild Turkey chill-filter most of their expressions](#), even those bottled at higher ABVs, while Michter's chill-filters all of its whiskeys, including those bottled at cask strength. An advantage of chill-filtering high-proof whiskey is that haze is eliminated even when water or ice is added, while non-chill filtered whiskey can still become cloudy in the glass. Brands that bottle whiskies both over and under 46% ABV, such as Jim Beam in the U.S. or Balvenie in Scotland, produce both chill-filtered and non-chill filtered expressions; only the latter status is generally mentioned on the label, although it's not a requirement. If a label doesn't say "non-chill filtered," that

doesn't mean that the whisky is, by default, chill-filtered. It's at the distiller's discretion to mention it or not.

Very few distilleries opt to not chill-filter their lower-proof whiskies, but there are exceptions, including Widow Jane 10 year bourbon (45.5% ABV) and Westward American single malt (45% ABV) in the U.S., and Glenglassaugh, BenRiach and Glen Grant in Scotland, all of which offer non-chill filtered single malts at 43% ABV.

CASK STRENGTH SCOTCH: SINGLE MALTS STRAIGHT FROM THE CASK

by [Stephanie Moreno](#) - January 22, 2020

If you're just getting into scotch whisky, you may not have tried single malts that are bottled at cask strength. Or maybe you ordered one, but were surprised to see your bartender offer you water. Whether you're a novice or an expert, cask strength single malt is for everyone to enjoy! So let's go over a few of the basics.

Cask strength scotch whisky is simply that: whisky that is bottled directly from the cask that it matures in. Generally, that will mean that the whisky will be at least 50%-mid 60% ABV give or take. However, if a Scotch whisky is of considerable age, that will often drop in the mid to low 40s due to the environment in which it matured. The opposite tends to happen in climates such as Kentucky.

Cask strength scotch is minimally filtered to remove solids, but aside from that it usually doesn't include any chill-filtration. As such, you'll often see a cloudy haze to your whisky depending on the temperature of the bottle or if you add water to your glass.

ADDING WATER (OR NOT)

Speaking of which, if you do add water or ice to these whiskies, please do keep in mind the quality of the water you are using. If you live in an area with a high mineral content, don't just add water from the tap. Consider using filtered water (using a Brita or something similar) or purchase distilled or spring water. An eye-dropper can be used to slowly add water to your dram. Living in a warm and humid climate such as central Texas, I like to add chilled water to my glass come summertime. Your preferences may vary. In fact, you may not want to add water at all.

The selections below are all bottled at cask strength (or have minimal water added to keep flavor and proof consistent). Often, brands will bottle their cask strength whiskies in either batches or single barrels. Although there will be slight variances in flavor and proof, you should feel free to enjoy any you happen to find in your neck of the woods. Happy imbibing!

[ABERLOUR A'BUNADH](#)

A'Bunadh [a-BOON-arh]—"Original" in Gaelic—is a single malt whisky that is aged solely in Spanish oak oloroso sherry butts. This was designed as a replica to a whisky that was produced at this distillery in the late 1800s. Expect a huge fruit and spice experience.



Aberlour A'bunadh / Photo Credit: Aberlour

[THE GLENLIVET NADURRA FIRST FILL SELECTION CASK STRENGTH](#)

This First-Fill Selection was first added to The Glenlivet's Nàdurra collection back in 2014. In fact, the collection—which means “natural” in Gaelic—consists of all cask strength bottlings. First-Fill matures in virgin American white oak barrels for an undisclosed amount of time. Flavors of vanilla, toasted sugar, apples and more await you.

[LAPHROAIG 10 YEAR CASK STRENGTH](#)

The Cask Strength bottling will vary per batch, but will be somewhere in the 114-117 proof range. Aged in used barrels for 10 years, the whisky is barrier filtered, meaning just large chunks of char are removed leaving the whisky to shine on its own. The intensity of the classic 10 Year Laphroaig is here filled with sea spray, kippers, peat smoke and leather.



Laphroaig 10 Year Cask Strength

[SPRINGBANK 12 YEAR CASK STRENGTH](#)

This is a semi-annual release from the Campbeltown distillery. The peated single malt is aged in a combination of bourbon and sherry casks. After 10 years of maturation, it is bottled without added color or chill-filtration. You'll find a mix of orange and dark chocolate along with tobacco and brine on the palate.

[GLENGOYNE CASK STRENGTH](#)

Glengoyne is known for using sherry cask in its maturation process. In fact, some cask strength batches were matured exclusively in them. However, the most recent batch 7 used bourbon barrels and refill casks in addition to first-fill European and American oak oloroso sherry casks. Expect to find toffee and vanilla notes as well as tropical fruits and nuts.



Glengoyne Cask Strength / Photo Credit: Glengoyne

[BENROMACH CASK STRENGTH VINTAGE 2008](#)

Announced in April 2019, this Benromach Cask Strength bottling was distilled in 2008. It spent 10 years maturing in first-fill sherry and bourbon barrels. It is bottled at cask strength of 57.9% ABV.

This new single malt series replaces the brand's 100 Proof in its Classic range with subsequent batches to follow.

[GLENFARCLAS 105 CASK STRENGTH](#)

In 1968, Glenfarclas was the first to release a cask strength single malt whisky. This bottling was re-named to 105, the British alcohol proof equivalent for 60% alcohol by volume. The single malt matures in a combination of ex-sherry and ex-bourbon barrels for around 8 to 10 years. Try without water first!



Glenfarclas 105 Cask Strength / Photo Credit: Glenfarclas

[ARRAN MACHRIE MOOR CASK STRENGTH](#)

Machrie Moor is the peated family of single malts from Arran, located on the Isle of Arran. Previously this had been released with batch numbers, but as of 2018 this is now a permanent member of the portfolio. The malt used in its production is peated to 20ppm. It is bottled without chill-filtration or added color.

[THE GLENALLACHIE 10 YEAR CASK STRENGTH](#)

Prior to 2017, when the distillery was acquired by a consortium led by master distiller Billy Walker, GlenAllachie was rarely seen as a single malt whisky. The much anticipated core range of the GlenAllachie distillery from Speyside was finally launched in July 2018. This cask strength batch aged for 10 years in a combination of American oak, Pedro Ximénez sherry, oloroso sherry and virgin oak barrels.



The Glenallachie 10 Year Cask Strength / Photo Credit: The Glenallachie

[PORT CHARLOTTE MRC: 01 2010](#)

The heavily-peated single malt from Bruichladdich matures in two parts. One half matures in first-fill American whiskey casks and the other half in 2nd-fill French wine casks. These single malts are then combined and matured for one more year in French oak wine casks from the Left Bank of Bordeaux. It is

bottled at cask strength of 59.2% ABV with no chill filtration and no color added.

[ARBEG UIGEADAIL](#)

A now classic bottling from this Islay distillery, Oog-a-dal—as it's pronounced—is made from single malts which aged in ex-sherry and ex-bourbon. The whiskies are married before bottling without chill-filtration at cask strength (some water is added to keep batches and flavors consistent, but only minimally).



Ardbeg Uigeadail / Photo Credit: Ardbeg

[GLENDRONACH CASK STRENGTH](#)

The GlenDronach Cask Strength bottlings mature exclusively in ex-sherry casks. Notably, both oloroso and Pedro Ximenez casks are used. Following maturation, the single malt is bottled without chill-filtration or added color. Expect tons of cooked fruit, dark chocolate and barrel spices.

Suntory buys 10% stake in Macallan maker Edrington

29th January, 2020 by Melita Kieley

Japanese spirits giant Suntory has acquired a 10% stake in The Macallan owner Edrington for an undisclosed sum.



Suntory was already a shareholder in The Macallan, whose distillery is pictured above (Photo credit: Mark Power)

Suntory already owned a share of single malt Scotch brand The Macallan, and has held a “strong strategic partnership” with Edrington since the 1990s.

Suntory has also acted as the distributor of numerous Edrington brands over the last four decades, covering markets such as Japan, Germany, Canada and South Africa. The companies have also operated joint ventures in the UK, Spain and Russia.

The partnership will provide funds for Edrington’s primary shareholder, The Robertson Trust, enabling it to donate more to worthy causes across Scotland.

The Robertson Trust is the biggest independent grant-making trust in Scotland, and will also provide funds for Edrington’s employee share scheme.

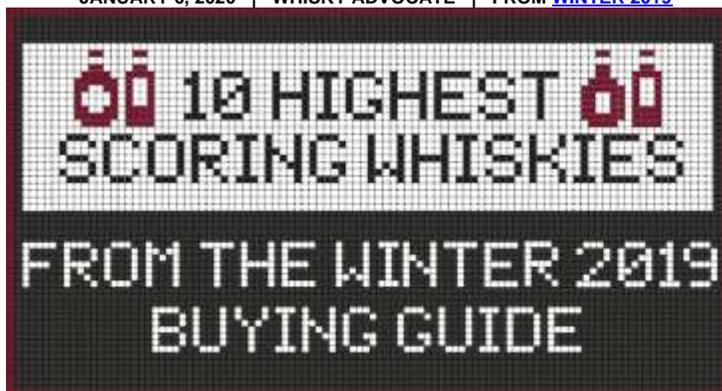
Scott McCroskie, Edrington CEO, said: “Edrington has a successful long-standing strategic partnership with Suntory.

“We share a similar ethos and the same passion for craftsmanship, innovation and quality in our brands. We look forward to cementing and building this deep relationship over the coming years.”

Edrington’s spirits portfolio also includes Scotch whiskies The Famous Grouse, Highland Park, and The Glenrothes, and Brugal rum.

10 Highest Scoring Whiskies in the Winter 2019 Issue

JANUARY 6, 2020 | WHISKY ADVOCATE | FROM [WINTER 2019](#)



There are over 170 whiskies reviewed in the Winter 2019 Buying Guide, covering everything from scotch to bourbon to German single malt—and beyond. Here, we highlight ten of the highest-scoring whiskies (not featured as [Collectibles](#) or [Editors' Choice](#) bottles, nor in the [Top 20](#)), each netting 93 points or above. For the full line-up of reviews, check out the [Winter 2019 Buying Guide](#).

10 OF THE HIGHEST-SCORING WHISKIES FOR WINTER 2019

Ardbeg 19 year old Traigh Bhan

95 points, 46.2% ABV, \$300

Ardbeg’s first core bottling with an age statement in nearly 20 years was matured in bourbon and oloroso sherry casks. Rock pools, fabric Band-Aids, coal dust, licorice, hot peat, pineapple, and a seafood platter on the complex nose. The palate is oily, with smoked fish, overt peat smoke, chili, iodine, and lemon. Long in the finish, with more iodine and peppery peat. A delightfully traditional Ardbeg. —Gavin Smith

Lux Row Distillers 12 year old Double Barrel

Kentucky Straight Bourbon

94 points, 59.2% ABV, \$150

Deeply inviting on the nose and satisfying on the palate. Aromas of iced tea, orange Tang, peanuts, dark fruit, weathered oak, leather, and spices commingle with the freshness of an alpine retreat. Flavors and texture fill the mouth: chewy oak, semi-sweet chocolate, cinnamon plums, walnuts, cherry cough syrup, orange oil, and cloves. Cooked dark fruit, semi-sweet chocolate, and copious mature oak on the finish, which is velvety and expansive. Needless to say, at this proof, it benefits from generous amounts of water. (6,000 bottles) —Susannah Skiver Barton

Alberta Premium 20 year old

93 points, 42% ABV, \$90 CAD

This has the classic sweetish, oily, floral, leathery nose of 100% rye grain whisky. A luxurious, creamy, medium-weight dram with caraway rye bread, restrained but hot peppery spices, vague

citrus notes, and hints of cedar setting goal posts for punts of sweet and vaguely floral barley sugar, nail polish (in a good way), caramel, barrel wood, well-aged lumber, dark rye bread, ripe apples, milk chocolate, and baking spices. —Davin de Kergommeaux

Eifel Peated German Single Malt (2019 Release)
93 points, 46%, \$75

I'm calling this the pitmaster's dram: the nose has muscular peat smoke, prune juice, savory notes of barbecued brisket bark, venison charcuterie, and a hint of peppermint cream. The palate is a gluttonous feast of sweet dark fruits, milk chocolate, dried fig, plum, sultanas, and ginger, sliding into baked orange and spicy gingerbread, and wallowing luxuriously in chocolate and rich fruit. A welcome addition to Eifel's already impressive range. (1,200 bottles for the U.S.) —Jonny McCormick

Kilchoman ImpEx Cask Evolution 02/2019 Single Cask Oloroso Sherry Cask-Matured (Cask #622/11)
93 points, 56.1% ABV, \$140

Distilled in 2011 and bottled in 2019, this is the first fully sherry-matured version of Kilchoman's 100% Islay expression sold in the U.S., made with barley grown and malted on-site, and from a cask selected by importer ImpEx. A bold, complex nose of peat, smokehouse, dried leaves, and lime. Bitter chocolate and raisins on the palate, and a finish of blackberry coulis, chocolate, and pepper. A tour de force from this young distillery. (U.S. exclusive; 329 bottles) —David Fleming

Lagavulin 12 YO (2019 Diageo Special Releases)
93 points, 56.5% ABV, £110

Matured in refill American oak casks. Brine, sea breezes, woodsmoke, green apples, and ginger on the nose, plus buttery smoked haddock. Sweet and supple on the palate, with cigar, citrus fruit, and spicy peat notes developing. Scorched saucepans, licorice, lemon juice, and black pepper in the finish. —Gavin Smith

Little Book Chapter 3 "The Road Home" Kentucky Straight Bourbon

93 points, 61.3% ABV, \$125

The chewy caramel aroma is bursting with all types of vanilla—frosted birthday cake, Nilla wafer, and pudding—along with honey-roasted peanuts and dark berry. On the palate, deep fruit and an explosion of spice flavors, including nutmeg, cinnamon, and cloves. For all its power, this whiskey remains impressively sippable, although it shows a more elegant side with some water added. A blend of 9 year old Knob Creek and Basil Hayden's, 11 year old Booker's, and 12 year old Baker's bourbons, bottled at barrel proof and unfiltered. —Jeffery Lindenmuth

Michter's 10 year old Single Barrel Straight Rye (Barrel No. 19F965)

93 points, 46.4% ABV, \$160

Concord grape juice, leather armchair, cola syrup, iced tea, roasted pecans, and furniture polish on the nose. The palate is deeply fruity, with cooked cherries, blackberries, Concord grape jelly, Coca-Cola, dark chocolate, silky baking spice, and white pepper, with a lush and velvety texture. A complex finish of bitter chocolate, peanut shell, Dr. Pepper, and leathery oak rounds things out. —Susannah Skiver Barton

Mortlach 26 year old (2019 Diageo Special Releases)
93 points, 53.3% ABV, \$2,000

Aged in newly toasted first-fill Pedro Ximénez and oloroso sherry-seasoned casks, this veteran 'beast of Dufftown' makes a big impression. Sweet, with smoky sherry, fragrant pipe tobacco, old leather, walnuts, vanilla, and ripe cherries. The oily palate yields more leather, blackcurrant cough drops, nutmeg, cloves, Jaffa oranges, and black tea. Raisins, licorice, and oak tannins, before sweeter chocolate in the very long finish (3,883 bottles; 276 for the U.S.) —Gavin Smith

Pittyvaich 29 YO (2019 Diageo Special Releases)
93 points, 51.4% ABV, \$430

Distilled in 1989 and matured first in Pedro Ximénez, then in oloroso sherry-seasoned casks. Delicate and restrained on the nose, with apple, pear drops, ginger, and malt. Initially, sweet sherry, then dark berry fruits emerge on the supple palate, with oatmeal stout. More apples, and ginger, plus prunes and chili in the long, warming finish. An excellent release from an underrated closed distillery. (4,976 bottles; 600 for the U.S.) —Gavin Smith

BIG PEAT: A CONVERSATION WITH FRED LAING

by [Thijs Klaverstijn](#) - December 4, 2019

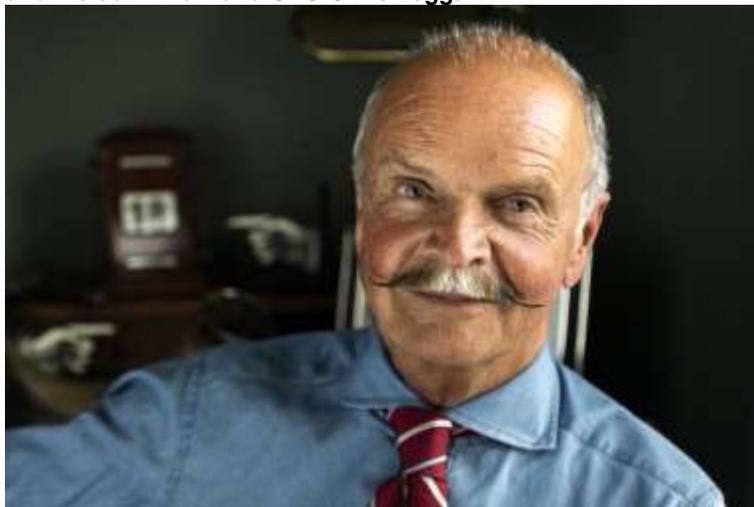
Douglas Laing & Co, one of the leading Scotch whisky bottlers in the world, has been around for over seven decades. The family business has shown remarkable growth in recent years, not the least of which is thanks to its Remarkable Regional Malts. This series is a collection of blended malt whiskies based around the different whisky regions of Scotland. The most iconic of the Remarkable Regional Malts is the sturdy, rugged, smoky Ileach [Big Peat](#)—the first of the series and now celebrating its 10th birthday. Apologies, *his* 10th birthday, as Big Peat is lovingly referred to as an actual human person in the Glasgow offices of Douglas Laing & Co.

Disruptive is a term often thrown around in modern marketing, but Big Peat can safely claim to be one of the original disruptors of Scotch whisky. Even today Scotch whisky is still associated with armchairs and log fires. While this is slowly changing, ten years ago the idea of a cartoon character like Big Peat on the label of a malt whisky was a stage too far for many.

INTRODUCING FRED LAING

"A lot of people said they couldn't buy it, such as our importers. At trade shows people wouldn't drink from the bottle. Initially I had to send cases for free. I told them: 'You're an old generation like me, but please remember there's a younger generation for whom life is still fun'."

That's Fred Laing remembering the introduction of Big Peat. He's the Chairman and paterfamilias of the family business. He runs Douglas Laing & Co—the company his father founded—together with his daughter and Director of Whisky Cara Laing, and his son-in-law and CEO Chris Leggat.



Fred Laing /Photo Credit: Douglas Laing & Co
Distiller recently exclusively interviewed Fred Laing. We talked to him about his beloved Big Peat and the inclusion of Port Ellen, as well as his fondness for blending. *This interview has been edited for length and clarity.*
DISTILLER: WHEN YOU FIRST THOUGHT OF BIG PEAT TEN YEARS AGO, DID YOU EVER EXPECT HIM TO BUILD THE FANBASE HE HAS?

Laing: “No, it was only about four or five years ago that I realized this. Anybody who is fond enough of Big Peat to have a tattoo applied to his arm or leg, that’s got to be a cult-ish following. There’s even a group that call themselves Big Peat Nerds. They came across for a celebratory dinner a few months ago and flew in from all over. It’s very warming for us to see that sort of interest.”

DISTILLER: WHAT DO YOU REMEMBER ABOUT THE INCEPTION OF BIG PEAT?

Laing: “At that time, the boys from our design company could not afford the very high price we charged for a Port Ellen commemorative bottling for our 60th anniversary. They asked me to describe the flavors. While doing that, the words big peat stuck in my mind.

So I said, ‘Please sketch me a big Islay fisherman who’s just coming of his boat.’ The designer then drew me Big Peat, but he was smiling. I said, a bit cheeky, ‘No, he’s just about to meet his wife, so he needs a big drink of strong Islay whisky.’ So, he rubbed out the smile and drew in Big Peat’s grimace.”



Big Peat Platinum Edition 26 Year /Photo Credit: Douglas Laing & Co

DISTILLER: A SINGLE DRAWING DOES NOT A WHISKY MAKE. HOW DID YOU ACTUALLY CREATE BIG PEAT’S WHISKY?

Laing: “Together with Jan Beckers, our malt ambassador at the time, we arrayed all the different Islay whiskies we had, and started playing with different percentages. Because the guys in the west of Scotland have a sweet tooth, I ended up with a somewhat sweeter version of an Islay malt, but still with all the coal dust, chimney soot and bonfire ash that I wanted.”

DISTILLER: PART OF THE LEGEND OF BIG PEAT IS THE INCLUSION OF PORT ELLEN IN THE RECIPE, AN ICONIC CLOSED ISLAY DISTILLERY.

Laing: “Obviously we had more stock of Port Ellen ten years ago. But nowadays I can put Port Ellen in with a little more confidence than I used to. As our casks get up to 35 and 36 years of age, I notice that they’ve lost some of the big phenolic, iodine and maritime influences. In all fairness to our single cask category, I can’t release these with any confidence. But it’s still a very attractive name to have on any whisky bottle. I will not tell you what the percentage of Port Ellen is in Big Peat. It’s not a lot, but it’s certainly in there.”



Big Peat with other Douglas Laing & Co bottlings /Photo Credit: Douglas Laing & Co

DISTILLER: WHAT GIVES YOU MORE SATISFACTION: FINDING A GEM OF A SINGLE CASK LANDING ON THE RIGHT RECIPE FOR A BLENDED MALT?

Laing: “I can wax lyrical and poetic about the beauty a single cask can part onto a whisky. I love the effect that mother nature has through the oak. The vatted malts obviously give me great satisfaction also. Not only because of the creative process surrounding the brand name and packaging, but also the marrying of all the distilleries of your choice. I think there’s maybe more of a personal ego at work when you see the benefits of the vatted malts coming to fruition.”

DISTILLER: WAS IT ALWAYS THE PLAN TO INTRODUCE A BLENDED MALT FOR EACH WHISKY REGION?

Laing: “Big Peat came from the heart and a sense of fun. [Scallywag](#), our second regional malt, came from a similar place as it was based on our own fox terrier. Then a little bit of commerce took over and my daughter Cara felt that we had some possibilities to develop the theme. It made sense for us to create [Timorous Beastie](#), [Rock Island](#), [Epicurean](#) and more recently [The Gauldrons](#), a vatted malt for the Campbeltown region.”

DISTILLER: WHAT DOES THE FUTURE HOLD FOR BIG PEAT?

Laing: “We believe he has a great future. We continue to invest heavily into our relationships with the Islay distilleries of our choice. We have so much fun with Big Peat in terms of special editions also. We’ve had special bottlings for the Netherlands, Japan, Paris, Edinburgh, Berlin and London. It’s a lot of fun putting him in a striped jersey for Paris or a rugby jersey for the World Cup in Japan. I think the US market might see some specials through the course of next year.”

Port Ellen distillery secures planning permission

2nd January, 2020 by Nicola Carruthers

Diageo has been given the green light to restore its silent Port Ellen distillery on Islay, and intends to recreate the original spirit and ‘alternative’ whisky styles.



Artist's impression of the revived Port Ellen Distillery
Diageo first announced [plans to invest £35 million \(US\\$46m\) in reviving its Port Ellen and Brora distilleries in October 2017](#). Both sites were mothballed in 1983 and are expected to be back in production by 2021.

Johnnie Walker owner Diageo [submitted a detailed planning application](#) to Argyll & Bute Council in May 2019 following community engagement and a pre-application consultation. Port Ellen master distiller [Georgie Crawford](#) said: "We are delighted to have reached this important milestone in our journey to bring Port Ellen back into production. "We are grateful to Argyll & Bute Council and to the local community who have engaged positively with us during the planning process. We are incredibly excited to begin the next phase of the project and to make our long-cherished dream of restoring Port Ellen distillery a reality."

As part of the plans, the site's pagoda-roofed kiln house will be restored and new production buildings will be created. The distillery will use two pairs of copper pot stills and two separate distillation regimes.

The first primary regime will use two stills that replicate the original Port Ellen copper pot stills to recreate the original spirit character of the distillery.

The second will use a smaller pair of stills to produce 'alternative' spirit characters and new styles of whisky. Diageo says this experimental approach to distillation pays homage to John Ramsay, who owned Port Ellen in its formative years in the 1800s.

Port Ellen first opened in 1824 and was largely demolished in the 1930s before being rebuilt in the 1960s. Following its most recent closure in 1983, very few of the original buildings remain. In addition to its investment in Port Ellen and Brora, Diageo has [pledged to spend £150m \(US\\$196m\) enhancing its distillery visitor experiences in Scotland](#), including the building of a Johnnie Walker experience in Edinburgh, [plans for which were approved in May 2019](#).

In October 2018, [Diageo secured planning permission for its work on Brora](#), based on the eastern coast of Sutherland.



Spirit Master: Compass Box Hedonism

21st January, 2020 by Nicola Carruthers
Scotch lovers will undoubtedly be preparing their best drams to toast Scotland's national poet on Burns Night this Saturday (25 January) – and this award-winning blended grain whisky should not be overlooked.

Compass Box Hedonism is thought to be the world's first blended grain Scotch whisky

Every week, *SB* celebrates some of the top-scoring Master medallists from [The Global Spirits Masters](#) blind-tasting competitions.

We scoured the [results of our Scotch Whisky Masters](#) to find an expression that would be best suited for celebrating legendary bard Robert 'Rabbie' Burns this Saturday.

The Scotch Whisky Masters, held in May 2019, awarded 16 Master medals across a number of categories and price points. The blind-tasting is one of the biggest competitions in The Global Spirits Masters series.

Hedonism, from independent Scotch whisky bottler Compass Box, was bestowed a Master medal in the Blended Grain – Ultra Premium leg. It was said to have a "fabulous nose of pineapple and caramelised apple" as well as a "pleasing gentle heat". One judge added: "It was very cohesive and it felt very natural. It had all the elements I am looking for in a whisky."

The expression – thought to be the world's first blended grain Scotch whisky – is a vatting of Scotch grain whiskies from American oak casks. Bottled at 43% ABV, Compass Box Hedonism is priced at £68 (US\$89) per bottle.

The non-chill-filtered whisky is recommended served neat, as an apéritif, with a small amount of chilled water, or in a Whisky Sour or Rob Roy cocktail.

To recreate a Rob Roy, check out the recipe below:

Ingredients:

50ml Compass Box Hedonism

20ml Red vermouth

A dash of Angostura Bitters.

Method: Stir 50ml of Hedonism with 20ml red vermouth (Hedonism recommends Cocchi Vermouth di Torino), a dash of Angostura bitters and ice, then strain and serve up in a coupe glass garnished with a Maraschino cherry.

LVMH LAUNCHES GLENMORANGIE THE CADBOLL ESTATE 15 YEAR
[Glenmorangie The Cadboll Estate 15 Year](#) is the very first single estate whisky that Glenmorangie has ever released. The whisky is made using barley grown at Glenmorangie's 440 acre Cadboll Estate estate in the Scottish Highlands. It ages for 15 years in first-fill American oak ex-bourbon barrels and, following chill-filtration, it is bottled at 43% ABV. "I'm thrilled to be sharing our first single estate whisky, Glenmorangie The Cadboll Estate. I have personally guided every aspect of this whisky's journey from grain to glass, right here at Glenmorangie," says Dr. Bill Lumsden, Glenmorangie's director of whisky creation, distilling & whisky stocks.

Glenmorangie The Cadboll Estate 15 Year is available in the US, Canada and Mexico as of March 2020 for a suggested price of \$85 per 750ml bottle.



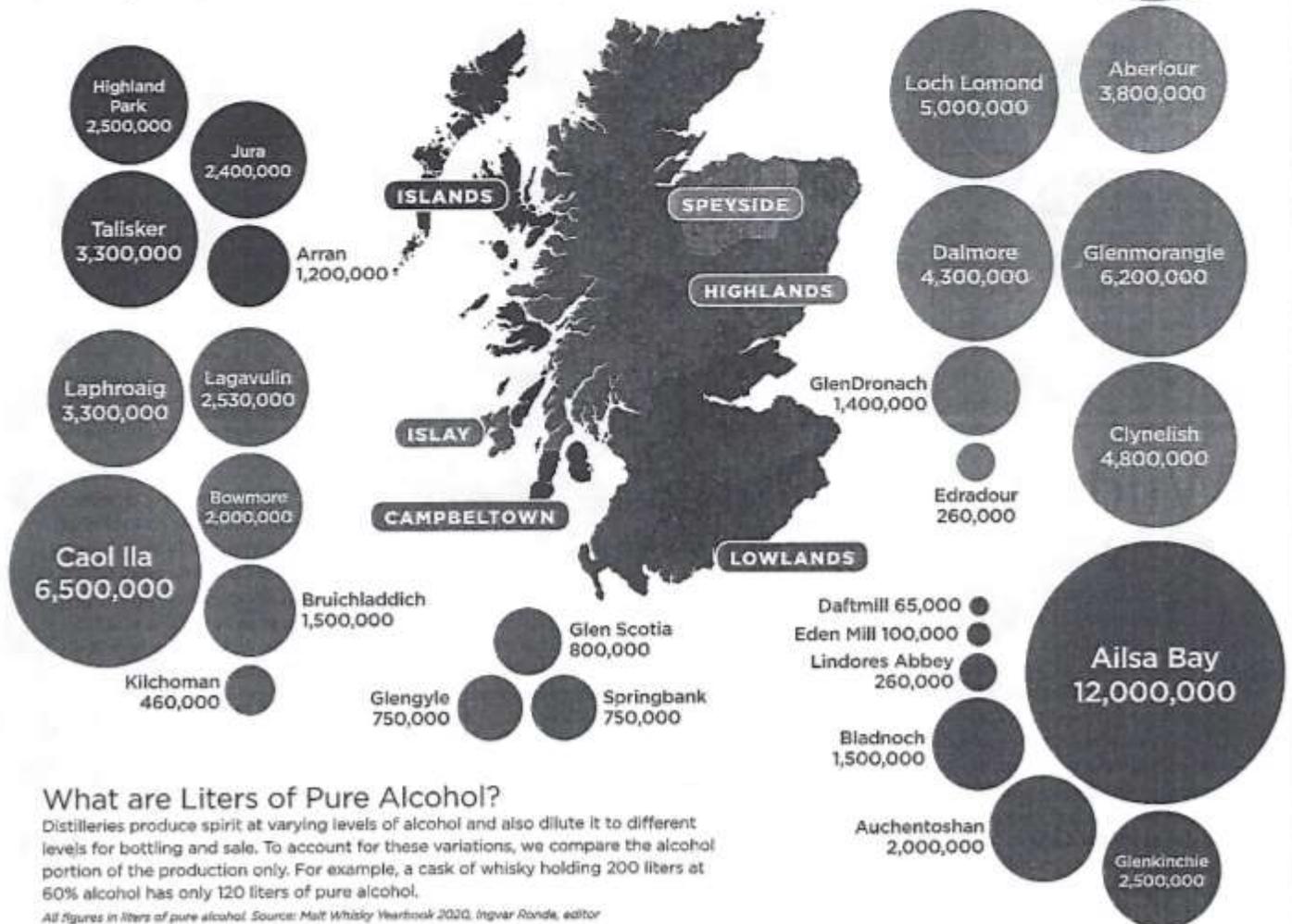
Glenmorangie The Cadboll Estate 15 Year / Photo Credit: LVMH

INFORMER

Sizing Up the Malt Makers

Malt distilleries of Scotland compared by capacity

Browsing the store shelves and the back-bar isn't always a reliable indicator of a scotch distillery's size. That's because some very large distillers dedicate much of their production toward supplying the malt component for blended Scotch whisky, leaving their names almost unknown. Other seemingly ubiquitous distilleries might reserve all their production for bottling as single malt, although they are actually quite small. Here, we visualize the capacity of a few scotch malt whisky makers, from the massive to the miniscule — *Jeffery Lindenmuth*



What are Liters of Pure Alcohol?

Distilleries produce spirit at varying levels of alcohol and also dilute it to different levels for bottling and sale. To account for these variations, we compare the alcohol portion of the production only. For example, a cask of whisky holding 200 liters at 60% alcohol has only 120 liters of pure alcohol.

All figures in liters of pure alcohol. Source: Malt Whisky Yearbook 2020, Ingvar Rönne, editor

Membership and Dinner prices for 2019-2020

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

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 23rd, 2019 dinner date as an example:
 - Dinner invitations will be sent out Friday August 23rd, 2019. 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 6th, 2019 @ 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 6th, 2019 @ 6pm will be removed from the list.
 - Anyone canceling between Friday September 6th, 2019 @ 6pm and Monday September 23rd, 2019 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 23rd, 2019 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 6th, 2019 @ 6pm and Monday September 23rd, 2019, their name will be placed on a wait-list and be accommodated on a first-come first-serve basis.
-

Assigned / Reserved Seating

- Assigned Seating will be offered for the January, June, August, and December dinners.
 - Reserved Seating will only be considered if it is a group consisting of a single member plus 3+ guests or a couple member plus 2+ guests.
-

Perfume / Cologne and Whisky

- Our enjoyment of fine whisky at KSMS starts with a nosing - for many a definitive and delicate moment in their relationship with a new dram. The power of aroma is unquestionable. From defining life experiences to the recall of special memories, the sense of smell is as individual as a fingerprint and has the ability to evoke some of the most precious, rewarding and distinctive moments. Unfortunately strong perfumes can mask and distort other aromas and smells and interfere with the ability to register and recognize subtler fragrances.
 - To be fair to all we ask all our members to please refrain from wearing scented products and perfumes to our KSMS evenings.
-

Dinner Payments

- Please consider sending your payment by e-transfer prior to the dinner. The password will be "KSMS", to whatever your security question is. Receiving payment in advance will allow everyone the opportunity to socialize before the dinner as well as reduce the accounting work required after.
 - For e-transfers, Members are responsible for collecting from their guests, and then forwarding one payment in total by e-transfer.
-

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.



Kingston Single Malt Society

Roberto Di Fazio, President

827 Old Colony Road

Kingston, Ontario, K7P 1S1, Canada

613-532-5285

rdifazio04@gmail.com

<http://www.kingstonsinglemaltsociety.com>

