

Kingston Single Malt Society

www.kingstonsinglemaltsociety.com

A social club for the appreciation of Single Malt Whisky since 1998
SEPTEMBER 18th, 2017 VOLUME 11; NUMBER 3



- **GLENMORANGIE 18YO** SINGLE MALT SCOTCH LCBO 398784 | 750 mL bottle **Price: \$198.45** Spirits, Whisky/Whiskey 43.0% Alcohol/Vol.

- **HIGHLAND PARK 10 YEAR OLD** LCBO 334029 | 750 mL bottle **Price: \$60.15** Spirits, Whisky/Whiskey, Scotch Single Malts 40.0% Alcohol/Vol.

- **CAOL ILA 12 YEARS OLD ISLAY** SINGLE MALT SCOTCH WHISKY LCBO 602029 | 750 mL bottle **Price: \$83.05** Spirits, Whisky/Whiskey, Scotch Single Malts 43.0% Alcohol/Vol.

Upcoming Dinner Dates

October 16th, 2017 - Glenfidich Vertical Nosing - River Mill
October 27th, 2017 - Highland Park Night - River Mill
November 20th, 2017 - Bowmore Vertical Nosing - River Mill
December 11th, 2017 - Christmas Dinner - River Mill
January 15th, 2018 - Robbie Burns - River Mill
February 19th, 2018 - Islands / Islay - River Mill
March 19th, 2018 - Speyside - River Mill
April 16th, 2018 - Glenlivet Vertical Nosing - River Mill
May 14th, 2018 - Speyside - River Mill
June 18th, 2018 - BBQ (Final Exam) - River Mill
July 16th, 2018 - 7th Annual Bourbon Night - River Mill
Friday August 24th, 2018 - 11th Annual Premium Night - River Mill
September 17th, 2018 - Campbeltown / Lowland / Speyside / Highlands / Islands / Islay - River Mill
October 15th, 2018 - Speyside / Highlands - River Mill
November 19th, 2018 - Speyside - River Mill
December 10th, 2018 - Christmas Dinner - River Mill

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

1st Nosing: Lowland - **AUCHENTOSHAN 18 YEARS OLD**
(introduced by: Philip Henderson)

Soup: Butternut Squash Bisque - Pumpkin Seeds, Pumpkin Oil,
Croutons, Candied Apples

2nd Nosing: Islands (Orkney) - **HIGHLAND PARK 10 YO**
(introduced by: Anthony Kaduck)

3rd Nosing: Speyside - **INCHGOWER 20 YEAR OLD**
(introduced by: Bill Gorham)

Salad: Scamorza - Grilled Bread, with Grilled Mushroom,
Arugula, Porcini, Sherry Vinaigrette

4th Nosing: North Highland - **GLENMORANGIE 18 YO**
(introduced by: Mike Patchett)

Entree: Grilled Swordfish - Braised Romano Beans, Eggplant
Caponata, Arugula, & Fennel

5th Nosing: Islay - **CAOL ILA 12 YEARS OLD**
(introduced by: Chantaille Buczynski)

Dessert: Cocoa & Cappuccino

6th Nosing: Campbeltown - **SPRINGBANK 15 YEARS OLD**
(introduced by: Doug Perkins)

COST OF THE MALTS

- **SPRINGBANK 15 YEAR OLD SINGLE MALT SCOTCH**
VINTAG ES 627307 | 750 mL bottle **Price: \$151.95** Spirits,
46.0% Alcohol/Vol.

- **AUCHENTOSHAN 18 YEARS OLD LOWLAND SINGLE**
MALT LCBO 143339 | 750 mL bottle **Price: \$94.10** Spirits,
Whisky/Whiskey, Scotch Single Malts 43.0% Alcohol/Vol.

- **FIRST EDITION INCHGOWER SHERRY 20 YEAR OLD**
SCOTCH LCBO 286814 | 700 mL bottle **Price: \$242.70** Spirits,
Whisky/Whiskey, Scotch Single Malts 55.9% Alcohol/Vol.

Winners at the June BBQ

Perfect Attendance Award Winners

Roberto Di Fazio alongside Bill Gorham, Conny &
John Leighton



Final Exam Winners (out of 18 points)

David Simourd (12 of 18) - Springbank 18 YO
Bruce Thompson (9 of 18) - Aberfeldy 21 YO

- Mike Patchett (9 of 18) - Jura Brooklyn
- Sandy Finucan (7 of 18) - Tamdhu 10 YO
- Karen Sargent (6 of 18) - Lagavulin 8 YO
- Leonard Mackenzie (6 of 18) - Macallan 12 YO Elegancia
- Allen Stewart (6 of 18) - Royal Brackla 16 YO
- Serge Acay (6 of 18) – Auchentoshan Virgin Oak

<http://whiskyadvocate.com/7-cask-types-used-to-finish-whisky/>

WHISKY 101

Need a cheat sheet for the different types of casks used to finish whisky? This guide covers the seven main categories. You'll be tasting the difference between port and sherry finishes in no time!

WOOD FINISH

Common Cask Name: Barrel
Wood: Virgin American oak, Irish oak, Japanese oak, etc.
Volume: Usually 200 – 500 liters, though quarter casks are 80 liters
Comes from: Country of origin
Typical flavors: Spice, vanilla, sweet oak
Get tasting: Midleton Dair Ghaelach, Octomore 7.4, Arran The Bothy Quarter Cask

WINE FINISH

Common Cask Name: Barrel or barrique
Wood: Typically French oak
Volume: Up to 220 liters
Comes from: Local to each wine region, e.g. Bordeaux, France
Typical flavors: Varies according to wine. Sauternes has notes of fresh bread, tart au citron, and crème caramel. Bordeaux gives red berry, cherry, and plum.
Get tasting: Glenmorangie Quarter Century, Glenfiddich Age of Discovery 19 year old Red Wine Cask Finish, Glenmorangie Pride 1981

PORT FINISH

Common Cask Name: Pipe or barrique
Wood: Usually French oak
Volume: Up to 600 liters for a port pipe, up to 220 liters for a port barrique
Comes from: Portugal
Typical flavors: Berry fruits, red currant, sultana
Get tasting: Glenmorangie Quinta Ruban, Angel's Envy Port Barrel Finish, Laphroaig Brodir, Balvenie PortWood 21 year old.

SHERRY FINISH

Common Cask Name: Butt or puncheon
Types: Pedro Ximénez, oloroso, amontillado, fino, manzanilla, etc.
Wood: European or American oak
Volume: Up to 500 liters
Comes from: Jerez, Spain
Typical flavors: Dates, walnut, sultana
Get tasting: Balvenie DoubleWood, Lagavulin Distillers Edition, Glenmorangie Lasanta

MADEIRA FINISH

Common Cask Name: Drum
Wood: Portuguese oak
Volume: Up to 650 liters
Comes from: Portugal
Typical flavors: Sweet fruits, figs, spice,
Get tasting: Laphroaig Cairdeas 2016, Tyrconnell 10 year old Madeira Cask Finish

RUM FINISH

Common Cask Name: Puncheon
Wood: American oak
Volume: Up to 500 liters
Comes from: Caribbean
Typical flavors: Molasses, vanilla, tropical fruits
Get tasting: Balvenie Caribbean Cask, Teeling Small Batch Rum Cask Finish, Angel's Envy Rum Cask Finish

BEER FINISH

Common Cask Name: Barrel
Wood: American oak
Volume: Up to 200 liters
Comes from: Usually a local brewery
Typical flavors: Sweetness, malt, creamy
Get tasting: Glenfiddich IPA Experiment, Jameson Caskmates, Mackmyra Vinterrök



Results of the JUNE Raffle. The winners were:

- Mike Patchett won the Aberfeldy 12YO
- Serge Acay won the BenRiach 15YO

During the course of the raffle a total of \$410 raised.
 Thank you everyone!

CHEAT SHEET VINEPAIR

WHISKEY BASICS

COUNTRY	PRIMARY MASH INGREDIENT				PRODUCTION INFO		SPELLING
	CORN	RYE	WHEAT	BARLEY	SINGLE MALT	BLENDED	
USA	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Rare	Yes	WHISKEY
CANADA	Yes	Rare	No	Yes	Rare	Yes	WHISKY
SCOTLAND	Rare*	No	Rare*	Yes	Yes	Yes	WHISKY
IRELAND	Rare	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	WHISKY
JAPAN	Rare	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	WHISKY

*SCOTCH WHISKY THAT IS MADE WITH ANYTHING OTHER THAN WATER AND 100% MALTED BARLEY MUST BE LABELED AS EITHER "SINGLE GRAIN" OR "BLENDED GRAIN" DEPENDING ON HOW IT WAS MADE.

ALTHOUGH CANADIAN WHISKY IS OFTEN REFERRED TO AS RYE WHISKY THIS IS FOR HISTORICAL REASONS. TODAY IT IS RARE FOR A CANADIAN WHISKY TO BE MADE WITH MORE THAN A MINIMAL AMOUNT OF RYE.

REGIONAL SCOTCH WHISKY STYLES

ISLANDS
PEATY & POWERFUL. MARITIME. SUB-REGION OF HIGHLAND.

ISLAY
HIGHLY PEATY. VERY SMOKEY. SALTY AROMAS.

CAMPBELTON
SALTY. SMOKEY. FRUITY AS WELL. ONLY 3 DISTILLERIES REMAIN.

SPEYSIDE
GENTLE. FRUITY. LARGE DISTILLERY VARIATION AS 1/2 OF ALL IN REGION.

HIGHLAND
VARIES FROM SMOOTH & FLORAL TO POWERFUL & PEATY.

LOWLAND
FRESH. LIGHT. FLORAL. OFTEN IS NOT PEATED.

THESE ARE GENERAL GUIDELINES. WITHIN REGIONS & AMONG DISTILLERIES THERE IS VARIANCE.

FACTS & MYTHS

THE MEANING OF "SINGLE MALT"
SINGLE MALT MEANS THAT THE WHISKY COMES FROM ONE DISTILLERY, NOT ONE BATCH OF WHISKY.

7 Cask Types Used To Finish Whisky

AUGUST 22, 2017 - JONNY MCCORMICK - FROM SPRING 2017

Top 10 best value for money Scotch whiskies

12th June, 2017 by Nicola Carruthers – www.thespiritsbusiness.com

The Scotch whisky category is flying high, with exports finally returning to growth in 2016. From single grain to Islay single malt, SB presents the best value for money expressions on the market.

The Spirits Business held its annual Scotch Whisky Masters last month, where an experienced panel of judges recognised the best bottlings in the business.

Looking across multiple categories, from single grain to blended malts and regional single malts, a wide range of Scotch whiskies were awarded the top accolades of Master and Gold medals for their quality.

The individual scores of each entrant have not been revealed, however these are 10 of the highest rated medalists in the competition, in no particular order.

While some expressions are not standard priced, our judges have given each Scotch whisky listed here the seal of approval for offering excellent quality within their respective price categories.

Aberlour A'Bunadh Batch 57 - Price: £49

Bottled at 60.7% abv, Aberlour A'Bunadh is one of two expressions to claim a Master medal in a bumper flight of Speyside – No Age Statement. Made with whisky drawn from Spanish oloroso Sherry butts and bottled at cask strength, the bottling is described as having “fruit and nut” flavours with layers of “chocolate and Christmas spices”.

Balblair 1990 - Price: £102

Moving into Scotland's Highlands and Islands single malts, Balblair 1990, the only expression in the Ultra Premium category was deemed a Master. One judge described it as having “a lot of layers, and a lot going on” without being “unbalanced”. Distilled in 1990, it was set aside to mature in ex-Bourbon casks, then 21 years later, the whisky was moved over to oloroso Sherry butts for the last two years of maturation.

Port Ellen 33 Year Old (That Boutique-y Whisky Company) - Price: £999.95

Bottled at 47.5% abv, Port Ellen 33 Year Old is the sixth batch of Port Ellen independently bottled by That Boutique-y Whisky Company, and the first to boast an age statement on its label from the closed Islay distillery. Described as “tremendously good” by one judge, the bottle's label features Jon Beach of Fiddler's Whisky Bar, looking out to sea with his filling pipe by his side.

Dewar's Signature - Price: £180

Moving on to the Blended: Ultra Premium flight, a Master was awarded to Dewar's Signature, which was praised for its “creamy” mouthfeel, sweet/floral palate and tremendous balance. Dewar's Signature is crafted by blending together “the rarest of rare whiskies from across Scotland”. The backbone of the whisky is a 27-year-old single malt whisky crafted at Aberfeldy Distillery.

Chivas Regal Ultis - Price: £165

One of two expressions to grab a Master in the Blended Malt: Ultra Premium flight, Chivas Regal's first blended malt Scotch whisky contains liquid from five Speyside distilleries – Tormore, Longmorn, Strathisla, Allt A'Bhainne and Braeval. The Chivas Brothers-owned brand claims less than 1% of its casks are individually selected by Chivas Regal's blending team to create Ultis.

The Glenlivet 18 Years Old - Price: £63

Deemed “exquisite” and “honey and golden syrup-led” by our expert judging panel, The Glenlivet 18 Years Old grabbed a Master in the Speyside: Aged 13-18 Years category. The classic Speyside dram is described as “full and rich” with notes of “manuka honey and walnut”. The expression goes through a combination of cask types, including both first and second-fill American oak and ex-Sherry oak.

Glenfiddich 12 Year Old - Price: £25

Bottled at 40% abv, Glenfiddich 12 Year Old is carefully matured in American oak and European oak Sherry casks for at least 12 years, then mellowed in oak marrying tuns to create “sweet and subtle oak” flavours. It certainly didn't disappoint the judging panel who proclaimed it a Master in the Speyside: Aged up to 12 Years flight.

Benromach 35 Years Old - Price: £450

Described as an “exceptional” whisky and “very high quality”, Benromach 35 Years Old is matured in first-fill Sherry oaks and has notes of “cinnamon and beeswax polish, stewed pear and a delicate charred Oak edge”. The whisky was crafted at the distillery before the Urquhart family, owners of leading whisky specialist Gordon & MacPhail, revived it in 1998.

The Balvenie PortWood 21 Year Old - Price: £136

Bottled at 40% abv, The Balvenie PortWood 21 year old single malt whisky is a blend of rare Balvenie transferred to Port casks, or pipes, which have held fine Port wines. On the nose, it is described as a “perfume of fruity and ripe raisin notes, backed by a nutty dryness”, while on the palate it is “creamy and silky with fruit, honey and spice notes”.

Oak Cross - Price: £43.99

Winning a Master medal in the Blended Malt: Super Premium flight was Compass Box's Oak Cross. One judge said: “A lot of care has been put into the blending – it felt deliberate”. The name Oak Cross comes from the use of both American and French oak in the maturation of this whisky. Bottled at 43%

abv, the “refined, rich” whisky has notes of “baked apple or pears, complemented by a rich, toasty oak character”.

10 Essential Whiskies Everyone Should Own (And Why) JUNE 1, 2016 - JONNY MCCORMICK - FROM [SUMMER 2016](#)

Every whisky drinker starts out with a single bottle, but many of us quickly acquire more and more. Different whiskies suit different occasions, after all. If you're looking to cover all the basic bases, but aren't sure where to start, use this list as a guide.

1. A Versatile Mixer: [Jameson](#)
A quality drop suitable for long, cooling drinks on hazy summer afternoons, but sufficiently flavorsome for everyday consumption.
2. The Quintessential Blend: [Chivas Regal 18 year old](#)
A fine luxury that exemplifies the exacting skills of the blender's discerning nose and palate.
3. A Dependable Straight Bourbon: [Evan Williams Single Barrel](#)
For evenings when you crave sweetness, corn, oak, and complex spices as you marvel at the reddening skies.
4. A My-Oh-My Rye: [High West Rendezvous Rye](#)
An arrestingly powerful hit of spice and cinnamon for sipping or mixing.
5. A Dram with Universal Appeal: [Highland Park 12 year old](#)
A can't-go-wrong whisky guaranteed to put a keen smile on every face.
6. The Power of the Pot Still: [Green Spot](#)
A thick, oily-textured revelation bursting with ripeness for contemplative drinking.
7. A Guileful Persuader: [Glenmorangie Nectar D'Or](#)
Enable recent converts to understand the influence of the finishing cask (while making them eternally grateful).
8. A Japanese Grand Master: [Yamazaki 18 year old](#)
You must be swift and decisive, for like the cherry blossoms, their presence in our lives can be ephemeral.
9. A Smokin' Good Islay: [Lagavulin 16 year old](#)
Surrender your senses to the ardent call of peat-sweet smoke, rooted in the liquid from this elemental island.
10. A Trophy Whisky: [Glenfarclas 40 year old](#)
The one that cost a little more than you care to remember; an indulgent reward.

9 Highly Rated Single Malt Scotches Under \$100

AUGUST 23, 2017 - SUSANNAH SKIVER BARTON - <http://whiskyadvocate.com>



Locating the best bang for your buck in single malt scotch can require some serious searching. It's no secret that scotch prices have crept up in the last few years and many releases are small in quantity. And while tasting through thousands of bottles to find the best values isn't an entirely unappealing endeavor, we realize not everyone has the time, or the budget, to do so. Here then are 9 splurge-worthy whiskies that top of our list of favorites and sell for under \$100—some considerably less! Best of all, these whiskies are available on many store shelves—you may even have one in your liquor cabinet already. They deliver on aroma, flavor, and finish, offering superb quality for less money than you would spend on a night out.

TRY ONE OF THESE 90+ POINT SCOTCHES FOR LESS THAN \$100
[Glenfarclas 17 year old—90 points, \\$99](#)

The sherry-centric house style of Glenfarclas is at its best here: fruity, oaky, sweet, and dense, a dram our reviewer described as “seductive...a femme fatale of a malt.” Let yourself be lured in—you won't regret it. (And if you're traveling through the UK or Europe and want to try another excellent Glenfarclas, pick up a bottle of the 15 year old, which rivals its older sibling for satisfying, lush drinkability.)

[Craigellachie 13 year old—90 points, \\$53](#)

Chewy, robust, and a bit old-fashioned in just the right way, Craigellachie is a meaty malt that leaves a strong impression. Enjoy bold fruit flavors and a “lift of (good) sulfur”—a welcome bit of character imparted by the [distillery’s use of worm tub condensers](#).

[Loch Lomond 18 year old—90 points, \\$99](#)

Fun fact: In the Tintin comics, Captain Haddock’s preferred brand of whisky is Loch Lomond. Even if you aren’t a foul-mouthed, bearded cartoon sailor, you’ll find plenty to enjoy in this sweet, fruity, and spicy whisky that has just the right touch of peat smoke.

[anCnoc Cutter—90 points, \\$65](#)

Do you have doubts that a distillery that normally makes unpeated whisky can pull off a heavily peated single malt? Let Cutter allay them. At 20.5 [ppm](#), it’s ashy and medicinal, but rounded out with citrus and sweet vanilla. If you like that profile, try the other expressions in anCnoc’s peated range, like [Rutter](#) and [Flaughter](#).

[Glen Moray 15 year old—90 points, \\$55](#)

Or upgrade to [Glen Moray 18 year old—90 points, \\$90](#). [Glen Moray rolled out a new line of age-statement whiskies last winter](#), and they’ve proven to be quite the incredible value. The 15 year old is aged in bourbon and sherry casks, showing off both sweetness and spiciness. Trade up to the 18 year old if you want more fruit, malt, oak and toffee flavors: It’ll still come in under a Benjamin.

[Glenmorangie Bacalta—91 points, \\$100](#)

Okay, it’s at \$100, not under it—but depending on where you shop, you may find it for even less. Glenmorangie’s 2017 Private Edition release highlights fruit and sweetness, thanks to its two-year finish in Malmsey Madeira casks. If you can’t find Bacalta after its limited stocks have sold out, just about any whisky in Glenmorangie’s core range will match it for tastiness and value.

[Oban Little Bay—92 points, \\$75](#)

Get ready for a kaleidoscope of flavors. Little Bay spins from malt and salt to dark chocolate, citrus fruits, and berries, before whirling into baking spices, oak and a long finish. This is an ideal whisky to linger over.

[Lagavulin 16 year old—92 points, \\$90](#)

Peatheads the world over love Lagavulin for its sweet, subtle character and enduringly affordable price point. At a time when some NAS malts of more dubious quality are going for much more money, Lagavulin remains consistent, classic, and true to itself: a whisky you can always count on.

Sylvain and I were talking at a point last night and we discussed the option of trying to find good whiskies at less than \$100. I could give you a list of 20 whiskies for under \$100 (Thanks Sylvain Bouffard & Doug Perkins). Here are 16, some are only available in Quebec.

- Benriach Curiositas
- Kilchoman Machir Bay
- Longrow Peated
- Old Pulteney Navigator or 12 year old
- Clynlish 14
- Laphroaig Quarter Cask
- Auchentoshen triple wood
- Craigellachie 13
- Bruichladdish Rockside Farm or Blue Bottle
- Glenglassaugh Evolution
- Johnny Waker Green
- Eddu (From France like a lowland)
- Kilkerran 12
- Hazelburn

15 BEST SINGLE MALT SCOTCHES UNDER \$100

POSTED IN [VICES](#) BY [MIKE WALDRON](#) - <http://hiconsumption.com>

I’ve never met a scotch fan I didn’t like. As drinkers of the dram, they appreciate the age-old tradition of distilling a fine single malt and exercise patience in the tasting process. Scotch is easily one of the most unique spirits around thanks to the cool, damp climate of its birth country. Unlike [American bourbons](#) and whiskeys, Scotch is allowed particularly long maturation, which results in a profile unlike anything you’ve ever tried before; enjoyment that’s years in the making. Every bottle, every glass, every sip, therefore, acts as a time capsule into the years, decades, and half centuries prior. With each pour, we’re toasting the [labor of revered men](#) from long ago, and with each savory sip, we effectively transport ourselves back in time.

According to an ancient Greek proverb, “A society grows when old men plant trees whose shade they know they shall never sit in.” Rightly so, a [great scotch](#) is crafted by men who know one day they won’t be around to enjoy the spirit. Instead, they distil the drink for the enjoyment of their fellow drinkers, their countrymen, their brethren who have yet to be born. In this selfless act, the spirit of the distillery lives on through the drinker and frankly, we’re all the more enlightened by the act.

Such a timeless experience is highly adaptable to the drinker. Though it may only last a few moments, a [well-aged scotch](#) celebrates milestones in our lives. We toast marriages, graduations, career movements, the lives of those both old and young. Each glass that graces our pursed lips both tells a story and simultaneously hatches a new one, immortalizing the experience long after the glass empties. And in celebration of this timeless affair, we wanted to introduce you to what we consider the best single malt scotch whiskies for under \$100 that served us well without breaking the bank. Cheers.

SPEYSIDE

While geographically small, the Speyside region of Scotland houses over half of the country’s malt distilleries. Receiving its nomenclature from the [lush and fertile valley](#) of the River Spey, the region is known for producing flavor profiles full of honey, vanilla, and fresh fruit such as apples or pears. Its whisky is both refined and elegant, aged often in sherry casks to over decades resulting in more dried fruit and the sweet spice flavor profiles.

THE GLENLIVET 18 YR.

Once you’ve won multiple gold medals at the International Wine and Spirits Competition there’s little reason for experimentation. And rightly so. The Glenlivet pours as a classic Speyside with a flavor profile full with notes of tannic oak, honey and walnut with subtle apple and orange pairings making their way forward with every additional sip. It’s got a spicy oak finish and overall boasts quite the significant but well-rounded banquet. There’s little room for debate here, it’s simply an all-around brilliant scotch. [PURCHASE: \\$70](#)

GLENFIDDICH 18 YR.

Nothing like a drinking a Scotch that’s old enough to vote in the upcoming election. And this batch, in particular, will certainly tame any anxiety you may be feeling towards this November. It was matured in a mix of Oloroso sherry and bourbon casks yielding a flavor profile that’s heavy on the fruity side. We’re talking grapefruit mixed with baked toffee apples on the nose, candied fruit, cinnamon, and toffee on the palate and finishes with salted toffee. It’s a quintessential Speyside that deserves serious recognition for its adherence and perfection of tradition. [PURCHASE: \\$72](#)

TOMATIN 18 YR. SHERRY CASK

Thanks to the sherry cask, this 18-year single malt hosts a body more reminiscent of winter than the previous two. Featuring notes of clove and cinnamon with a vanilla and fudge background, the palate is quite sweet and full, to say the least. Tasters will detect hints of honey and barley sugar alongside toasted oak with chocolate, orange, and cocoa to round everything up. Prepare yourself for a long and powerful finish as well with emphasis on tannic oak and a modicum of pepper. [PURCHASE: \\$78](#)

THE BALVENIE 15 YR.

Boasting a fragrant aroma of vanilla, honeyed sweetness, and hints of heather, this 15-year-old single malt is drawn from a traditional oak whiskey cask of a single distillation. Each barrel is chosen strictly based on the essential characteristics of Balvenie and each bottling only yields about 350 hand-numbered bottles, making each batch a unique and non-duplicated experience. It pours a pale amber color and features a rich and complex palate with delicate spice notes peppered in between its sweeter elements. [PURCHASE: \\$81](#)

HIGHLANDS

The highlands are certainly one of the [most scenic regions](#) of the country, and ironically the largest. It’s the land of [rugged mountain](#) peaks and heather-covered moorland that no doubt served as the inspiration for the country’s countless artists and authors of the years. As a general rule of thumb, they embody significant peat and smoke, often quite powerful. However since the region is in fact so large, there are several subsets of the region within the Highlands, broken down into the four compass points. But that’s a post for another day.

OBAN 14 YR.

The Oban distillery is located on Scotland’s west coast, close to the Islay region, which is quite evident in the profile of this single malt. The distillery itself is over two centuries old but the methods of distillation have not changed. Thanks to its location, the nose is rich and smokey with the obvious medical characteristics of the sea such as seaweed and tarry ropes. You’ll also pick up on wood smoke in congruence with the Highland’s typical estery sweetness that transfers to the palate. The aged oak leaves a lasting impression and finishes dry with a touch of citrus fruit. [PURCHASE: \\$55](#)

HIGHLAND PARK 15 YR.

With a name like Highland Park, it's difficult to mistake where this single malt originates. Known as the northernmost distillery in Scotland in Orkney, it's named after the distillery's location on 'High Park' in relation to the lower-lying surrounding area. The whisky hosts a complex floral nose of citrus fruits and flowers, a nice addition to the hints of camphor the subtle peat character. It's initially sweet but transitions into a dry smokiness that finishes rich and leaves you wanting more; a quality scotch that's hard to beat for the price point. [PURCHASE: \\$74](#)

THE MACALLAN 12 YR.

Though many seasoned scotch fans may scoff at a 12-year vintage, this Highland spirit is nothing to discredit. Often considered one of the purest Highlands scotches around, The Macallan is a solid choice for drinkers both new and old. Nose and palate both allude to sweet cream and vanilla thanks to the Spanish sherry casks in which the vintage is aged. Notes of fresh apple blossom, golden syrup and a touch of tropical fruit all encompass themselves within this superbly balanced 12-year. It features a medium body and firm mouthfeel with notes of hot pastries and marmalade. How could you not want to give this a try? [PURCHASE: \\$76](#)

OLD PULTENEY 17 YR.

No need for a port wine, Old Pulteney distils a premier after-dinner drink thanks to its maturation in Pedro Ximenez and Oloroso Spanish sherry casks. Naturally this adds quite a bit of depth and complexity to the spirit, pouring a red amber and rich hue. Traces of apples and pears grace the nose with subtle hints of butterscotch. The palate follows nicely with subtle vanilla and floral notes that pair with its full-bodied mouthful quite well. Each sip leaves a long lasting, memorable finish that keeps you eager to take that next pull. [PURCHASE: \\$78](#)

ABERLOUR 18 YR.

Prior to 2008, unless you lived in the French market, Aberlour was out of reach. Luckily for us, this rich and subtly spicy Highland scotch is now available for all. The nose is creamy, alluding to melted vanilla ice cream in combination with fruity and honeyed additions as well. Fresh apples and oranges grace the palate prior to tasting the sherry and vanilla from the cask. Just one pour and you'll be immediately persuaded to try another. It's a familiar scotch that's sure to please any fan of the Highland region. [PURCHASE: \\$96](#)

LOWLANDS

Located south of the Highland region are the country's Lowlands, known for its rolling hills best suited for growing grain for the area's whisky. Much like the soft and tame landscape, Lowland scotch is known for its lighter body and color than the drink's Highland counterpart and little to nonexistent peaty profile on the palate. Rather, Lowland scotch is respected for its fresh, light, and floral characteristics.

GLENKINCHIE 12 YR.

Here's the new entry level vintage from Glenkinchie, who replaced their 10-year with this option back in 2007. This will be a quite lighter offering than the Three Wood (below) with a light yet slightly fragrant nose of cereal, some nutty characteristics, and barley. You wouldn't guess from the appearance but the palate is quite fruity with some surprising notes of Madeira and stewed fruits. Tannic oak lingers in the finish with additional notes of fresh grass. A fine, fresh, and well-rounded offering from the Lowland distillery. [PURCHASE: \\$43](#)

AUCHENTOSHAN THREE WOOD

I'll admit to a little bias here when claiming this Lowland scotch to be one of the best for the price. Namely because of its unique distillation process leading to one of the smoothest flavor profiles around. That's because it's matured in three different casks (Pedro Ximenez Sherry, bourbon, and Oloroso Sherry) hence the name 'Three Wood'. And if you're a scotch drinker you know this combination yields a [rum-like quality](#) of cooked fruit, sherry, toffee and an all-around rich flavor profile. Ripe dark forest fruit, chocolate, and more sherry continue to dominate the palate and the Three Wood finishes ultra smooth with lingering toffee notes and chewy wood. Simply amazing. [PURCHASE: \\$53](#)

BLADNOCH 11 YR.

Pouring a smooth amber color the Blanch hosts hints of sherry, a fruity fragrance, and a lemon nose that's both inviting the intriguing. There's also a lot happening on the palate almost immediately thanks to the sherry start. The 11-year then takes you through the rolling hills of Scotland's grassy lowlands with notes of cereal grain, finishing with those flowery, lemony notes that initially come through on the nose. The Bladnoch doesn't tease. It gives you exactly what you want and expect from a Lowland. And in a world of unpredictable, we're perfectly okay with that. [PURCHASE: \\$59](#)

ISLAY

Much like the notorious Islay region's landscape and weather, its scotch isn't for the faint of heart. Windswept, [stormy](#) and barren, the region produces malt whiskey with strong peaty and maritime aromas and flavors. They boast strong salty-iodine flavor profiles and drink much like a captured, distilled and aged winter storm. Needless to say, the scotch found here is bursting with flavor from heavy smokiness to peat to black pepper; deliciously unique and intimidating at the same time.

LAPHROAIG 10 YR.

Laphroaig is known throughout Scotland as one of the country's most medicinal malts. It's full of character and opens up big with strong and smokey peat notes. Careful attention pulls forth various spices and licorice as well as a notable dose of salt to boot. The palate leads with seaweed, complimented with hints of vanilla ice cream and heavy oak. With each additional sip, a combination of cardamom, black pepper, and chill accumulate on the palate, so much so that this is one of the few scotches that we recommend with a splash of water to really open it up. [PURCHASE: \\$40](#)

LAGAVULIN 16 YR.

Another one of my personal favorites, Lagavulin 16 Yr. is one of those heavily sought-after scotches that will remain timeless. Owing its massive peat smoke to the southern Islay region, Lagavulin is a go-to pour for any serious scotch drinker. But don't let the heavy smoke and peat deter you. It also offers a rich and thick palate with heavy malt and sherry coupled with a fruity sweetness that helps to balance out the heavy smoke and iodine aroma'd nose. There's a wonderful sweetness to this drink once you get through its rough exterior. Just don't be afraid to take a chance with this one. Sometimes the best things in life are worth the effort. [PURCHASE: \\$57](#)

ARBEG UIGEADIAL

The word "Uigeadial" derives from the Scotch Gaelic for "Dark and Mysterious Place." And what better name to give this smoke-show of an Islay? After winning Jim Murray's 2009 World Whiskey of the Year, Arbeg knew they were on to something. Each pour immediately displays its unique character with multifaceted notes of peat, dark sugar, [espresso beans](#) and tar. The palate leaves nothing to be desired with sweet ripe fruit, black forest honey, malt, and of course powerful peat and smokey flavors. There are immense medical flavorings here as well with a drawn-out, caramel, and peat smoke finish. [PURCHASE: \\$64](#)

Scientists discover why 'whisky tastes better with water'

18th August, 2017 by Amy Hopkins - - <http://www.thespiritsbusiness.com>

There are numerous ways to enjoy whisky – straight, on the rocks, with water, or mixed in a cocktail – but two Swedish scientists have recently published a paper supporting the idea that whisky tastes better with water.

Björn Karlsson and Ran Friedman, who work at Linnaeus University in Sweden, set out to discover how and why water dilution impacts the flavour of whisky favourably in their co-authored paper, 'Dilution of whisky – the molecular perspective'.

Karlsson and Friedman carried out computer simulations of water/ethanol mixtures, and discovered that water enhances the concentration of flavour compounds on the surface of whisky, releasing complex aromas.

"The taste of whisky is primarily linked to so-called amphipathic molecules, which are made up of hydrophobic and hydrophilic parts," explained Karlsson.

"One such molecule is guaiacol, a substance that develops when the grain is dried over peat smoke when making malt whisky, providing the smoky flavour to the whisky."

The scientists found that guaiacol was more likely to be present at the "liquid-air interface" of a whisky with concentrations of ethanol up to 45%.

"This suggests that, in a glass of whisky, guaiacol will therefore be found near the surface of the liquid, where it contributes to both the smell and taste of the spirit," said Friedman.

"Interestingly, a continued dilution down to 27% resulted in an increase of guaiacol at the liquid-air interface. An increased percentage, over 59%, had the opposite effect, that is to say, the ethanol interacted more strongly with the guaiacol, driving the molecule into the solution away from the surface."

The study therefore concluded that the taste and aroma of guaiacol – as well as other similar compounds in whisky – are

“enhanced when the spirit is diluted prior to bottling, and this taste may be more pronounced on further dilution in the glass”.

However, one question remains unanswered – since aroma and taste are “highly individual” experiences, Karlsson and Friedman claim it is not clear just how much water one should add to their dram.

Auchentoshan’s New Malt Order debuts whisky

5th July, 2017 by Annie Hayes - <http://www.thespiritsbusiness.com>

Beam Suntory-owned Scotch Auchentoshan has developed a limited edition single malt whisky in collaboration with 12 international bartenders, called The Bartenders’ Malt.

The Bartenders’ Malt has been created ‘by bartenders, for bartenders’ Created ‘by bartenders, for bartenders’, every element of The Bartenders’ Malt has been developed by The New Malt Order – a cocktail competition and collective [launched as part of Auchentoshan’s ‘Distilled Different’ campaign](#) – including cask selection, packaging design and branding.

The Bartenders’ Malt is said to offer dried apricots, milk, chocolate, honey and green tobacco leaf on the nose, with “delicate floral cherry blossom”, “buttery brioche” and “zesty notes of ginger” on the palate.

The inaugural New Malt Order competition launched in 2016 and invited entrants from five countries to create bitters using Auchentoshan new make spirit, which would then be added to their own signature Auchentoshan & Ale serve.



The shortlist was judged by an expert panel in each country, resulting in a collective of 12 individuals, who were invited to Glasgow for an immersive experience with Auchentoshan’s master blender that spanned technical insights, sensory experiments, personality pairings, and a blending session.

Each blend created by the 12 bartenders was then combined to create The Bartenders’ Malt, and the bottled features their individual signatures to reflect this.

Judith Giegerich, senior international brand manager malts for Beam Suntory, said: “Throughout this incredible journey, the New Malt Order bartenders have showcased exactly why they were selected to join Auchentoshan’s unique global collective. The Bartenders’ Malt is imprinted with their collective curiosity, authenticity and an

unmistakable passion for what they do.

“They have each made an indelible mark on our single malt to create not just a new liquid but a new interpretation of our brand. We’re proud to champion the talents of dynamic bartenders from around the world who refuse to be constrained by tradition and look forward to sharing The Bartenders’ Malt with the global bartending community.”

The Bartenders’ Malt is available at an RRP of £45, €40, and US\$52.50, and is available exclusively in the on-trade.

SCOTCH WHISKY: WHERE TO BEGIN

by [Stephanie Moreno](#) - July 27, 2017 - <https://blog.distiller.com/scotch-whisky-beginners/>

I love Scotch whisky. If I had to choose just one drink to have for the rest of my life, it would most certainly hail from Scotland—which one I’d choose is a whole ‘nother story, but I digress. I admit, Scotch whisky can feel overwhelming, especially when you are first starting out. If you are given a whisky like [Laphroaig](#) as your first sampling, you might presume that all Scotch whisky tastes like band-aids and motor oil (Laphroaig, you know I love you, but you are not for everyone!).

For us devout Scotch whisky fans, we know that there is a wide world of flavors and styles to appreciate. But if you are just getting into the category, where do you begin? Here, I’ve compiled my recommendations for you to try—generally widely available, but all worthy of the hunt. Average US retail prices included.

DON’T OVERLOOK THE BLENDS

Blended whiskies and blended malts are often shunned by whisky snobs. Don’t listen to them. Below are great representations of their respective categories. They are versatile and do well on the rocks or in highball cocktails. The perfect drink to have neat when the sun is still shining.

[MONKEY SHOULDER](#) (\$38)

A blended malt, not a blended whisky. Honey, malt and orange marmalade make this a good one to add to your to-try list. Definite crowd pleaser.

[JOHNNIE WALKER SELECT CASKS RYE CASK FINISH](#) (\$46)

A relatively new showing from Johnnie Walker. This is one to seek out, especially if you are making the jump across the pond from the bourbon and rye camp over to scotch.

[COMPASS BOX ASYLA](#) (\$52)

One of my all time favorite blends, Asyla has a larger than most (50%) malt-to-grain ratio and is aged in first-fill American oak. It highlights an elegant balance of bright citrus notes and vanilla.

SESSION WHISKIES

A session whisky refers to whiskies which are not meant to contemplate. They are ever so easy to drink. Just pour a dram, listen to music, chat with your friends, read a book, whatever.

[GLEN GRANT 12 YEAR](#) (\$47)

Soft sweet notes of floral honey and malty goodness. A distillery that doesn’t get near the attention it deserves. It is a recent addition to their portfolio and just had to be included on this list.

[GLENROTHES SELECT RESERVE](#) (\$49)

This Speyside distillery will typically release vintage dated whiskies—an unusual thing in the whisky world. This however, is a blending of several vintages and shows off lovely caramel and vanilla notes.

[THE BALVENIE DOUBLEWOOD 12 YEAR](#) (\$60)

This bottling was first introduced in 1993 and has become an icon of single malt whisky. Aged in refill bourbon barrels before finishing its final 9 months in sherry casks, it highlights flavors of toasted malt, vanilla and baking spices. This should be required drinking for everyone.

RICH, SWEET DRAMS

Have a bit of a sweet tooth? Looking for an after dinner dram to pair with your cigar? Look no further.

[ABERLOUR 12 YEAR DOUBLE CASK MATURED](#) (\$55)

Aberlour is known for using a fair amount of sherry casks for their whiskies, and this whisky is no exception. Spending time in both bourbon and sherry casks, it is a fruitcake of a whisky (but in the best possible way).

[THE MACALLAN 12 YEAR](#) (\$60)

This whisky has definitely converted a great many folks on to the wonders of scotch. Lusciously fruity with almonds and baking spices, this is one to sip and fall down the rabbit hole.

[GLENMORANGIE NECTAR D’OR](#) (\$74)

Aptly named “gold nectar”, this whisky is aged for its final two years in French Sauternes dessert wine casks. Rich honey, golden apricots, peaches and on and on. Just do it.

LIGHTLY PEATED WHISKIES

If you’re ready to dip your toes into the wonderful world of peat, these lightly peated whiskies are a great place to start. They provide enough peat to give you an introduction to the category, and show that Islay isn’t the only place to use peat.

[ARDMORE LEGACY](#) (\$44)

Representing the Highlands, Ardmore is an underrated distillery, so you may have to do a little hunting for this marque. Honey, heather and touches of salt with a light touch of smoke make this one a good entry level peated whisky.

[HIGHLAND PARK 12 YEAR](#) (\$55)

The peat used here is sourced from the Orkney Islands, where Highland Park resides. This whisky shows off its mix of vanilla, honey and citrus notes with the smoky peat flavors gently showing on the finish.

[SPRINGBANK 10 YEAR](#) (\$64)

Springbank is the only distillery in Scotland to do 100% of the whisky making process on-site, from malting to bottling and everything in between. This Campbeltown distillery is definitely one to keep on your radar. If you want to take the peat level up a notch, check out their Longrow heavily peated whiskies.

Glen Scotia intros 18-year-old single malt

31st August, 2017 by Annie Hayes - www.thespiritsbusiness.com

Campbeltown whisky distillery Glen Scotia has expanded its portfolio with the launch of Glen Scotia 18 Year Old.

The liquid that makes up the new release has been matured in oak casks for a minimum of 17 years before being married and finished in Oloroso sherry casks for 12 months and bottled.

The resulting whisky is said to “embody the signature aromas of Campbeltown”, with notes of vanilla oak, sea spray and spicy aromatic fruits.

“Glen Scotia distillery is one of only three surviving Campbeltown Scotch whisky distilleries and much of the original design has remained the same over that time, with the stillroom, dunnage

warehouse and fermenters all dating back to the 19th century,” said Glen Scotia’s master blender, Michael Henry.

“Glen Scotia 18 Year Old is bottled at 46% ABV, natural colour and is non-chill filtered ensuring the whisky’s rich smooth taste and distinctive flavours are preserved. On the nose you will detect the scent of sweet toffee, perfumed floral notes and an air of crisp saltiness.

“On the palate, it imparts notes of rich deep vanilla fruit flavours, with mild hints of apricot, pineapple and plump sultana. The finish is long and dry, with gentle warming spice. A true taste of Glen Scotia and Campbeltown.”

Priced at £85 for 700ml, Glen Scotia 18 Year Old is available to buy from independent whisky retailers, online and on the Glen Scotia website.

It will also be made available in global markets, including Taiwan, Germany, Belgium and Poland.

Glen Scotia releases 25yo single malt whisky

30th May, 2017 by Kristiane Sherry - <http://www.thespiritsbusiness.com>

Loch Lomond Group-owned Glen Scotia has launched a 25-year-old expression to mark the 2017 Campbeltown Whisky Festival.

Bottled at 48.8% abv and non-chill-filtered, the liquid was matured in American oak barrels before being married in first-fill ex-Bourbon casks for 12 months.

Unveiled during the festival on 24 May, the “maritime influenced” single malt was created to reflect the history of the distilling region, with the bottle carrying Campbeltown co-ordinates.

There were once over 30 distilleries on the Kintyre peninsula, but today only three remain operational.

“I created the 25 year old with the history of Campbeltown in mind,” said master blender Michael Henry.

“For many years, trade has come through this port town bringing fruits and spices from all over the world on its salty sea breezes. I wanted the liquid to reflect this.

“The signature nose has hints of vanilla oak, interwoven with subtle notes of sea spray and spicy aromatic fruits. On the palate, it boasts tangy orange and juicy red apples mixed with a caramel sweetness. Its finish is a long lingering taste of sea salt with a spicy note of ground ginger.”

Iain McAlister, Glen Scotia distillery manager, commented: “We’re extremely proud of our newly released 25-year-old malt and we’re confident that everyone who gives it a try is going to love it too. In recent years, our single malts have won some major industry awards and I can see our 25-year-old challenging the current leaders for a few more titles.

“While our 25-year-old maintains the unique character associated with Glen Scotia single malts, its gentle maturation in American oak and then finished in first-fill bourbon casks delivers an intense depth and a nose that will have drinkers almost feeling the Atlantic breeze blowing in over the Campbeltown coast.”

Whisky writer Charles MacLean, who led a tasting at the launch event, added: “I’m very impressed by Glen Scotia’s new 25-year-old. Even on the nose you can detect the age.

“It has all the characteristics that you’d expect from Glen Scotia but with a roundness to it. It is very nice indeed.”

Glen Scotia 25yo will retail at £250 for a 70cl bottle, available from whisky shops from June.

Last year, Loch Lomond Group released a trio of Glen Scotia single malts as part of a travel retail-exclusive collection.

Glenmorangie Distillery tour with Dr Bill Lumsden

21st August, 2017 by Annie Hayes - www.thespiritsbusiness.com

The tour begins at Glenmorangie’s main water source, the Tarlogie Springs. Situated in the Tarlogie Hills above the distillery, the spring is enough to satisfy its entire production needs. “When the distillery is running flat-out we can do 33 mashes a week, which equates to 330 metric



tonnes, giving us six million litres of alcohol,” says Bill. “To put that into perspective, some of the new so-called craft distilleries that are springing up will do 50,000 litres a year... The North British Distillery in Edinburgh, which produces grain whisky, can do about 150 million litres of spirit each year – so we are medium-to-small in the great scheme of things.”

To protect the water source from any potential impact that farming or property development could have, The Glenmorangie Company owns 1,000 acres of land surrounding the spring. The distillery also has two other back-up springs: the Kelpies, nearby, and “a third super-secret one”. “They’re all connected to the pipe that leads to

the distillery,” says Bill. “They all have the same character of water and we can turn them on and off as required.”

This is one of the distillery’s malt storage areas. Floor maltings closed at Glenmorangie in 1977, when the distillery doubled in size to four stills. The site doubled in size again in 1994 to eight stills, adding a further four stills in 2009 to reach 12 in total. When running at full capacity, the maltings could produce approximately 30 tonnes per week, Bill says – 300 tonnes short of its current requirements. Another issue that led to its subsequent closure was the “unbelievably inconsistent” quality from floor maltings. “The sales malts are mated to our own unique specification,” he adds. The barley Glenmorangie uses is 100% Scottish, and around 85% of it is harvested from within a 75-mile radius of the distillery. “It doesn’t need to be – the barley from England, from Germany, from France is perfectly good quality – but we just like the idea of keeping things local,” says Bill.

The next stop on the tour is the mill house – “on the face of it a relatively unexciting part of the process, but to a geek like me this is a



magnificent thing to see,” says Bill. The distillery houses a classic four-roll Porteus mill. The top set of rollers, which crack the malt kernel open, are set far apart, while the bottom set of rollers are adjusted depending on the barely variety. Milling a 10-tonne mash takes about two and a half hours. At the end of each day, mash men draw samples of the ground malt, or grist, and weigh out 100 grams. The sample is poured into a sift box and shaken 60 times, separating it into three portions: husk, grits, and fine flour. “Typically we’re looking for a 20:70:10 ratio,” says Bill, “it’s critically important that the distillery team stay on top of the particle size ratio”. Failing to do so will affect yield and slow down production. Once the grist has been through the mill, it’s stored in grist hoppers for a maximum of three to four hours.

We press on to the mash house – where the grist is loaded into the mashing machine. At the same time, preheated Tarlogie spring water comes out one of two heating tanks. “At this stage, we must ensure that the strike temperature – which is the temperature of the cool ground malt as it hits the hot spring water – equalises out at 63.5 degrees celcius,” says Bill. “One or two degrees either side will have an impact on the conversion of starch to sugar.” The entire process takes place upon what is referred to as a “false bottom” – a series of fine mesh plates. Sugary “wort” is drained out of the bottom into balancing vessel called the underback. From here, the wort goes through a heat exchanger, where it is cooled and then pumped into the washbacks for fermentation.

To ferment the wort, three different sets of water are run through the washback. “The first and second waters are combined – the second water goes on at a slightly higher temperature,” says Bill. “The third water takes the remaining 2% out... and goes back into the heating tanks to be used as the first water of the next mash. We’re wasting nothing.” The remaining draff is rich in protein, oil and fibre – and so is sold to local farmers to feed cattle and sheep.



The next stop is the still house. Here, the fermented wash is filled into wash stills, where an oily liquid called low wines is produced. “We have a completely balanced distillation, which basically means one washback will fill four wash stills, which in turn will fill four spirit stills – so we don’t get dummy runs or inconsistent strength of

spirit,” says Bill.

The distillery operates with 12 collecting bowls in the spirits safe, shown in the centre of the image. The first cut – or “heads” – of the distillation come into the still at around 74-75% alcohol. Distillery manager Kenny Macdonald then cuts to the heart of the distillation; manually separating the flow into the Intermediate Spirit Receiver. He then runs the stills very slowly until the strength goes down to 60% abv, before collecting the third cut, the “tails”. The heads and the tails are mixed together with the next batch of low wines, and the entire process starts again. “At the end of the spirit run the strength is always 68% abv,” says Bill. “If it ever varies from that, we know something has gone wrong in the production process.” All being well, the new make spirit is destined for the warehouse.

“Glenmorangie is arguably the archetypal single malt Scotch whisky matured in American oak, and historically we believe we were the first company in Scotland to use ex-Bourbon barrels,” says Bill. “We’ve got records going back to the late 1940s showing the company importing American oak Bourbon barrels. That kind of set a trend, and nowadays around 90% of all Scotch whisky is matured in American oak.” Glenmorangie’s policy, however,

goes one stage further, with each barrels manufactured to the distillery's specification. The whole process takes eight years from start to finish. "The cost of one of these standard barrels there is about four times the cost of a standard Bourbon barrel – but more than anything else I think this is the real difference with Glenmorangie.

So, how does the process work? "What we're looking for is so-called slow-growth or tight grained oak – between eight and 12 growth rings per inch," says Bill. "Any more than that and the wood becomes too brittle, any less and the wood becomes too heavy and dense and you don't extract as much flavour from it." Once the optimum trees have been identified, they are transported to sawmills in Tennessee and Arkansas and quarter-sawn into staves. "The normal practice for a stave like that is to dry it in an oven, which will take anything between two and six weeks, but the wood's still very immature, very green, and you get a lot of resinous characters," Bill explains. "Our wood is allowed to season naturally in the open



air for a minimum of two years, typically between two and three years. The wood matures, the tannins [are] broken down, the internal structure relaxes and it releases more of these nice vanilla and crème brûlée flavours."



The staves are then sent to the Brown-Forman cooperage in Louisville, Kentucky and coopered into 200-litre capacity barrels. "The standard practice for a Bourbon barrel is to give it a very heavy char – a so-called alligator char," explains Bill. "Our barrels are toasted using heat rather than naked flame for around three

hours, which penetrates much more deeply into the wood; it's a much more gentle process. It's then given a 30-second char." The heads are put on the barrels and filled with American whiskey for four years prior to being shipped back to Glenmorangie. Does it matter which whiskey is used? "Frankly from my perspective it doesn't matter, as long as it's got a first filling of spirit to take the woodiness out."



After 10 years' ageing, some whisky is bottled and the remainder is re-filled for a second time – no barrel is ever used more than twice for any Glenmorangie expression. The remaining 10 Year Old whisky is either set aside for older age statement releases or re-racked into an Oloroso sherry butt, a ruby Port pipe, or a French oak sauterne barrique, where it is

finished for around two years. This is how the brand's Lasanta, Quita Ruban and Nectar D'Or variants were developed.

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)

Reserved Seating

- Complimentary Reserved Seating will only be provided to groups of four (4) or greater, when requested.

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 18th, 2017 dinner date as an example:
 - Dinner invitations will be sent out Friday August 18th, 2017. 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 1st, 2017 @ 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 1st, 2017 @ 6pm will be removed from the list.
- Anyone canceling between Friday September 1st, 2017 @ 6pm and Monday September 18th, 2017 will be expected to pay for the cost of the dinner and scotch (\$60). It is the responsibility of the member who cancels their (or their guest's) reservation to find a replacement. If I am asked to find a substitute and one is found, then the member will be asked to pay for 50% of their dinner cost.
- Anyone who fails to attend the Monday September 18th, 2017 dinner without having cancelled and been successfully replaced will be expected to pay the full cost (\$60). A member will be responsible for their guest's cancellation (\$70).
- If a member asks to be included at the dinner between Friday September 1st, 2017 @ 6pm and Monday September 18th, 2017, 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.



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



Kingston Single Malt Society

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