

Kingston Single Malt Society

www.kingstonsinglemaltsociety.com

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

APRIL 16th, 2012

VOLUME 5; NUMBER 10



COST OF THE MALTS

I know members are always interested in the cost of the single malts we taste. Plus the \$75 Special Occasion Permit and the 16% levy charged by the LCBO for all alcohol served at the dinner.

- **CLYNELISH 14 YEAR OLD SINGLE MALT SCOTCH WHISKY** LCBO 250357 | 750 mL bottle **Price: \$ 79.95**
Spirits, Whisky/Whiskey, Single Malt Scotch 45.94% Alcohol/Vol.

- **1993 BEN NEVIS HIGHLAND SCOTCH (SIGNATORY) VINTAGES 242214** | 700 mL bottle **Price: \$ 87.95**
Spirits, Whisky/Whiskey, Single Malt Scotch 46.0% Alcohol/Vol.

- **18YO TOMATIN HIGHLAND SINGLE MALT (PHILLIPS PROD) VINTAGES 203794** | 750 mL bottle **Price: \$ 109.95**
Spirits 46.0% Alcohol/Vol.

MARCH - KSMS Financial Statement

(Money from 51 March attendees @ \$60)	= \$3060.00
March dinner 51 persons = \$45.00/ea	= \$2295.00
Special Occasion Permit @ LCBO	= \$75.00
Cost of Glasses (13 dozen)	= \$121.48
(Money remaining for buying Single Malt)	= \$568.52
Cost of Single Malts:	= \$897.32
Cost of Pours per Person = \$13.00	
KSMS Monthly operational balance	= (-\$328.80)
Cost per person 48 attendees (All inclusive)	= \$66.45

This evening's menu in the company of Single Malts from the HIGHLANDS

Soup: Tomato Roasted Red Pepper Bisque
1st Nosing: **CLYNELISH 14 YEARS OLD**
(introduced by: Elsabe Falkson)

Salad: Mixed Baby Greens

Dressing: Raspberry Vinaigrette

2nd Nosing: **1993 BEN NEVIS**
(introduced by: Rob Arnoth)

Entree: Chicken Saltimboca
(Stuffed with Prosciutto, Sage & Mozzarella)

Vegetables: Seasonal

Potato, Rice and Pasta Choice: Wild Rice

3rd Nosing: **TOMATIN 18 YEARS OLD**
(introduced by: Tom Bedford)

Dessert: Apple Blossoms

Win Me Tonight!!

OLD

PULTENEY 21 YEARS OLD

VINTAGES 661371 | 700 mL bottle Price: \$ 179.95
Spirits, Scotch Whisky
46.0% Alcohol/Vol.

COST of Tickets:

\$3 each, two tickets for \$5,
or 20 tickets for \$20. The
winner must successfully
answer the skill testing
question: What country
does single malt come
from?



Results of *Glenmorangie Signet* Raffle
Congratulations to our winner Sylvain Bouffard.
Our runner-up Allen Stewart took home the
Jamieson 3-pack while Bill Gorham won a 2012
KSMS calendar.

During the course of the raffle a total of \$665 was raised. Thank you everyone!

Upcoming Dinner Dates

- May 28th, 2012 – Speyside - VIMY
 - June 18th, 2012 - BBQ (Final Exam) - VIMY
 - July 23rd, 2012 – International - FFOM
 - August 30th, 2012 - 5th Annual Premium Night - FFOM
 - September 17th, 2012 – Campbeltown - FFOM
 - October 22nd, 2012 - Lowland - VIMY
 - November 19th, 2012 - Island / Highland - FFOM
 - December 10th, 2012 - Christmas Dinner - Renaissance
 - January 21st, 2013 - Arran - Robbie Burns - FFOM
 - February 25th, 2013 - Islay - FFOM
 - March 18th, 2013 - St.Patrick's (Irish) - Renaissance
 - April 15th, 2013 – Highlands - FFOM
 - May 13th, 2013 – Speyside - FFOM
 - June 24th, 2013 - BBQ (Final Exam) - VIMY
 - July 22nd, 2013 - International - VIMY
 - Thurs. August 29th, 2013 - 6th Annual Premium - FFOM
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Membership and Dinner prices for 2011-2012

Membership Fee:	\$40 (singles)
	\$60 (couples)
One Time Initiation Fee:	\$15
Standard Dinner Fee:	\$60 (member)
	\$70 (non-member)
Dinner only - No Single Malt:	\$50 (member)
	\$60 (non-member)
Robbie Burns Dinner Fee:	\$70 (member)
	\$80 (non-member)
	(includes donation to RMC Pipes & Drums with Highland Dancers)
June BBQ Dinner Fee:	\$70 (member)
	\$80 (non-member)

Jim Murray's Whisky Bible Awards 2012

October 28, 2011 by Billy

Close on the heels of the [Diageo Special Releases](#) (no, we don't have any Port Ellen left) came the surprise announcement of the winners of this years awards in Jim Murray's Whisky Bible. The big one that everyone always wants to know about is the top whisky – Jim's Best Whisky in the World. This year's winner came as a bit of a surprise at first – ~~it wasn't an Ardbeg~~ it's **Old Pulteney 21 year old**.

Now, that's not meant as a slur against our friends up in Wick, far from it. We've been fans of theirs for a while, with one of my first tastings at TWE Vinopolis (in the dark days before I came to work here) being a trip through their whiskies led by distillery manager Malcolm Waring, and more recently having a great time wandering around Wick as part of my tour of the Inver House distilleries. However, they're not a distillery who has been much in the limelight, something which is now bound to change -a change

that I'm rather pleased about, as they certainly deserve it. Well done folks.

Old Pulteney 21 Year Old Anyways, within minutes of the announcement hitting the internet we (and pretty much everyone else) had sold out of the 21 year old and we are now waiting for more to come in – **we'll post an update here on the blog once we have more stock available.**

In the meantime here's mine & Tim's tasting notes for the Old Pulteney 21, a 46% un-chillfiltered whisky made up of a combination of fino sherry and bourbon matured spirit:

Billy's Notes:

Nose: Apple, butterscotch, Malted Milk biscuits, bananas and a little bit of lime. When I tried it with Joel of Caskstrength.net he both jumped around and talked about Shreddies. Slightly scarily.
Taste: A sweet start, moving on to marzipan and then sour fruit, green apple and cinnamon. There's also vanilla, dry wood and some of the bananas from the nose, as well as some floury, pastry notes and some butter.

Finish: An interesting one with this, with coconut (shell and flesh), a whiff of menthol and a bit of gooseberry just before it fades.

Comment: Apple pie and breakfast cereal. A great whisky but not one that I'd have expected to pick up Jim Murray's award. To be honest I prefer the maritime edge of the 12 year old...



Tim's Notes:

Nose: Chocolate cake, developing strong mocha notes; dark gingerbread – all pointing to a heavier wood influence than the 12yo, and particularly the 17yo.
Palate: Medium-full. Milk chocolate; quite woody, initially, possibly even a little cardboardy. Pancakes and flapjacks, plus the ubiquitous Pulteney saltiness. Becomes citrusy with water, but I felt it didn't

swim too well. Better at full strength.

Finish: Decent length, with the wood, mocha and brine still evident.

Comment: Very enjoyable, but the 17yo remains my favourite of the range.

Anyways, we should have copies of Jim's book appearing on the website shortly [**Update:** it's in], but in the meantime there's a complete list of the award winners behind the fold and a page of all the ones we have in stock on the website.

OVERALL WINNERS

- 2012 World Whisky of the Year** – Old Pulteney 21 Years old
- Second Finest Whisky in the World** – George T. Stag
- Third Finest World Whisky in the World** – Parker's Heritage Collection Wheated Mash Bill Bourbon Aged 10 Years

SCOTCH WHISKY

- Scotch Whisky of the Year** – Old Pulteney 21 Years Old
- Single Malt of the Year (Multiple Casks)** – Old Pulteney 21 Years Old
- Single Malt of the Year (Single Cask)** – Scott's Selection Highland Park 1981
- Best Scotch New Brand** – Clan Gold Blended
- Scotch Blend of the Year** – Ballantine's 17 Years Old
- Scotch Grain of the Year** – Clan Denny Cambus 47 Years Old

Scotch Vatted Malt of the Year – Johnnie Walker Green Label 15 Years Old

SINGLE MALT SCOTCH

No Age Statement (Multiple Casks) – Glenmorangie Sonnalta PX
No Age Statement (Runner Up) – Laphroaig Quarter Cask
10 Years & Under (Multiple Casks) – Ardbeg 10 Years Old
10 Years & Under (Single Cask) – SMWS 126.2 Aged 10 Years (Hazelburn)
11-15 Years (Multiple Casks) – The Macallan Fine Oak 12 Years Old
11-15 Years (Single Cask) – Berry's Own Selection Clynelish 1997
16-21 Years (Multiple Casks) – Old Pulteney 21 Years Old
16-21 Years (Single Cask) – The GlenDronach Single Cask 1992
22-27 Years (Multiple Casks) – Highland Park Aged 25 Years
22-27 Years (Single Cask) – Malts of Scotland Port Ellen 1983
28-34 Years (Multiple Casks) – Benromach Years Old 30
28-34 Years (Single Cask) – Scott's Selection Highland Park 1981
35-40 Years (Multiple Casks) – Balvenie Aged 40 Years Batch 2
35-40 Years (Single Cask) – Peerless Glen Grant 40 Years Old
41 Years & Over (Multiple Casks) – Highland Park 50 Years Old
41 Years & Over (Single Cask) – Gordon & MacPhail Glenlivet 1954

BLENDED SCOTCH

No Age Statement (Standard) – Ballantine's Finest
No Age Statement (Premium) – Royal Salute 62 Gun Salute
5-12 Years – Johnnie Walker Black Label 12 Years Old
13-18 Years – Ballantine's 17 Years Old
19 – 25 Years – William Grant's 25 Years Old
26 – 50 Years – The Last Drop 50 Years Old

IRISH WHISKEY

Irish Whiskey of the Year – Powers John's Lane Release Aged 12 Years
Irish Single Malt of the Year – Sainsbury's Dún Léire Aged 8 Years
Irish Blend of the Year – Jameson Rarest 2007 Vintage Reserve

AMERICAN WHISKEY

Bourbon of the Year – George T. Stag (143 proof)
Rye of the Year – Thomas H. Handy Sazerac (126.9 proof)

BOURBON

No Age Statement (Multiple Barrels) – George T. Stag (143 proof)
No Age Statement (Single Barrel) – Four Roses Single Barrel
9 Years & Under – Virgin Bourbon 7 Years Old (101 Proof)
10-17 Years – Parker's Heritage Collection Wheated Mash Bill Aged 10 Years (124.2 proof)
18 Years & Over (Single Barrel) – Elijah Craig 18 Years Old Single Barrel
18 Years & Over (Multiple Barrel) – Evan Williams 23 Year Old

RYE

No Age Statement – Thomas Handy Sazerac (126.9 proof)
11 Years & Over – High West Rocky Mountain 21 Year Old

CANADIAN WHISKY

Canadian Whisky of the Year – Crown Royal Special Reserve

JAPANESE WHISKY

Japanese Whisky of the Year – Hibiki Aged 21 Years

EUROPEAN WHISKY

European Whisky of the Year (Multiple) – Mackmyra Moment "Urberg"
European Whisky of the Year (Single) – Penderyn Bourbon Matured Single Cask

WORLD WHISKIES

Indian Whisky of the Year – Amrut Two Continents 2nd Edition
New World Whisky of the Year – Kavalan Solist Fino Single Cask

Quite a list, with some great whiskies on there. No doubt some of you will be finding Jim's book in your stockings this Christmas (in which case apologies for leaking the list like this. Forget everything you've just read).

Our congratulations to Malcolm Waring and everyone else at Pulteney distillery. We look forward to this underrated malt receiving more of the recognition it deserves.

Of course, you know what the best whisky really is ...

<http://www.whiskyadvocateblog.com/>
February 15th, 2012 - John Hansell



It's the one *you* like the most, regardless of what anyone else thinks or says.

I'd like to follow up our annual awards posts with some perspective. The awards are, of course, just a guide—a tool for you to use on your whisky journey. The same goes for our Buying Guide.

I've written about this in the past, but there's many times I have opened a bottle of whisky over the years and didn't think it was great.

Good maybe, but not great. Perhaps it was a bit too young, or too woody, or too sherried. Often I "tweaked" it, by blending it with another whiskey (usually from the same distillery) to make it the way I want it to taste.

For example, I recently tasted an older single cask bottling of Glengoyne which was aged in an ex-bourbon barrel. It was bit woody, so I blended some younger sherried Glengoyne whisky with it (which I thought was a bit too sherried) and the new blend tastes great. (I aquired both bottles over a period of time without being able to taste them first.) I basically took two "mid-80s" whiskies (for me, that is) and made a 90+ blend out of it. And I'm sure there are plenty of people who would have been quite content with those whiskies just the way they were bottled.

The point I'm trying to make is this: what *you* think about a given whisky is what matters most. Try as many whiskies as you can and buy the ones you like. Use our reviews and ratings as tools along the path. But remember, it's *your* path.

P.S. I'll be taking some vacation but plan to post again here when I return the week after next. In the meantime, happy dramming!

Glenmorangie Finealta

By David on March 7, 2012 - www.scotchblog.ca



While we haven't had much of a winter here in Toronto this year, Sunday gave us a cold, brisk wind and proper wintery temperatures. What better day to drink a warming dram that was built on Glenmorangie's recreation of its turn-of-century base whisky?

Finealta translates from Gaelic to mean elegant and this Private Edition rises to that challenge. There is no question that this is a Glenmorangie dram and it proves to meet, if not exceed, The Original.

Nose: Floral, honeyed clover with peach and citrus give way to a strong orange creamsicle with hints of almond and a wisp of smoke giving a warm welcome.

Palate: Thick, but not viscous, with a sweet maltiness. The sweet orange flavour flows throughout with

a gentle smoke and hints of pepper and heat. This dram is smooth and very approachable making it one that is easy to drink.

Finish: The finish here is full of surprises. The dominating characteristic of mandarin oranges gives way to light cherry notes fading into dark chocolate and sherry at the end. Pleasantly, the finish lasts longer than expected increasing the enjoyment from the glass.

Overall: Building on the Original Glenmorangie, the Finealta adds layers of complexity and maturity to the brand. If you can get your hands on a bottle there is no doubt in my mind that you will not regret it.

Barfly: When labels can be just plain wrong

Jeff Burkhart 02/26/2012 - www.marinji.com

THE GREAT MARTIAL artist Morihei Ueshiba was once asked how it was that he never made a mistake. He responded that he made mistakes all the time, but he just recovered from them faster than other people. Oscar Wilde echoed a similar sentiment by writing: "Experience is simply the name we give our mistakes."

I remembered both the minute I looked at the back of the Scotch bottle I held in my hands. I read, "Produced in the Orkney islands."

That was interesting. I had just poured it for a person who had requested an "unusual" Highland Scotch whisky. When I pulled the bottle of Highland Park off the shelf I was reasonably sure that it would qualify. I was unfamiliar with the product but familiar with many Scotches, and certainly recognized "Highland" as one of the five main Scotch producing regions of Scotland. The others being the Lowlands, Islay, the Islands and Campbeltown.

In the bar business, you are often expected to have a working knowledge of all the food items on the menu, most of the wines on the list (sometimes up to 400 different wines) and all of the bottles behind the back bar. That is why "expert" is too often bandied about. There is so much to learn, and so much of it changes, that expert can be too broad of a definition. Even though I have been qualified as an "expert" on spirits by the courts of California and have written extensively on the subject, I prefer to think of myself as a student, a student who still has much to learn.

"That's from Orkney," said my customer. "Not the Highlands."

"What?" I said, scanning the bottle.

"Highland Park is an area in the high park section of Orkney."

While the terms "expert" and "author" raced through my head, I did what any student would do. I checked it out. He was absolutely right.

The Orkney Islands are north of the main islands of Great Britain and have been inhabited for over 5,500 years. First settled permanently by the Vikings, the islands became a vital trading link for the northern tribes. Later the islands came under control of Christian I (King of Denmark and Norway) who promised them as collateral for the dowry of his daughter Margaret, who was married to James III of Scotland. The dowry was never paid and the islands became the property of Scotland. Even today the islanders relish their separate identity.

"We are Orcadian first, and Scottish second" many people would tell me during the course of my fieldwork," historian Angela McClanahan wrote in 2004.

The Orcadians, however, did readily accept Scotch whisky and have produced it since the 1700s, beginning operations at the height of the conflict between the clans of Scotland and the British Crown.

Highland Park was founded in 1798 by Magnus Eunson and part of the distillery's longevity might have to do with the fact that it is the most northern whisky distillery in Scotland, half a mile farther north than the one at Scapa. Which makes it the farthest distillery from the seat of the British Crown and the heart of that conflict.

Orcadian Scotch shares more taste similarities with the softer Highland styles (if any Scotch can truly be called softer) than it does with either the peaty Islay Scotches (pronounced "eye-la") or the many "island" Scotches. Technically speaking, Orkney falls under the classification of "island" which also includes the islands of Arran, Skye, Mull and Jura, which range from the eastern coast of Britain all the way north.

Confusingly, "island" it is not "Islay," which is a separate island (and a separate region) just southwest of the island of Jura. Islay is well known for its big peaty whiskies best exemplified by the brands Laphroaig and Lagavulin. Adding to the confusion, Jura, while technically an "island" Scotch, typically produces whisky with a big peat character more similar to most Islay Scotch.

Confusing huh?

Four things happened as a result of my exchange:

- I learned a little bit more about a subject that I knew quite a bit about already.
- I realized that there are many people that know more than I; Ueshiba, Wilde, as well as some guy from northern Marin.
- I have re-upped my membership to my martial arts class as well as my subscriptions to the Whiskey Advocate and the Folio Society.
- One smarty-pants earned himself a free dram of Scotch.

When I send out the dinner notices, I attach/include the menu. An alternative will be made available if a specific health related dietary need is identified by the individual.

I then order dinner, according to the numbers that I have (e.g, 40 salmon, 6 chicken). The kitchen staff

prepares dinner according to these numbers. The kitchen is very accommodating and usually are able to honour requests that are made in advance. The option of asking for an alternate meal at the time of serving requires staff to start cooking something else at the last minute. I can no longer honour last minute requests due to the impact this has on the staff and ask that you respect your original order. Thank you!

Reservation policy

- Our contract with the Officer's Mess Kitchen requires that we provide seven (7) business days notice for them to guarantee accommodation for our requested numbers. Each month an invitation will be sent out to all members of the Society in the first week of the respective month in which the dinner will be held. 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. After that members will be placed on a waitlist.

- For these individuals the process will be as follows, using the March 21st 2011 dinner date as an example:

- Dinner invitations will be sent out Saturday February 26th, 2011. Please respond to me (rdifazio@cogeco.ca). 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 at (613-634-0397).

- Accommodation at the dinner will be guaranteed for a member who responds by Friday March 4th, 2011 midnight.

Cancellation policy

- Using the same example as above, anyone who cancels anytime prior to Wednesday March 9th, 2011 midnight will be removed from the list.

- Anyone canceling between Wednesday March 9th, 2011 midnight and Monday March 21st, 2011 will be expected to pay for the cost of the dinner and scotch (\$60). It is the responsibility of the member who cancels their reservation to find a replacement. If I can substitute an individual from the wait-list, then the member will not be asked to pay for their cancellation.

- Anyone who fails to attend the Monday March 21st, 2011 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 Wednesday March 9th, 2011 midnight and Monday March 21st, 2011, your name will be placed on a wait-list and be accommodated on a first-come first-serve basis.

Please drink responsibly.

Just a note because we care.

Please understand that for the purpose of each event you are advised to drink responsibly and refrain from excessive consumption. The dinners hosted by the Kingston Single Malt Society are sampling events. By agreeing to pay and thereby attend the dinner you agree to release from legal responsibility and hold harmless Kingston Single Malt Society, its President Roberto Di Fazio, and any other volunteers from liability or claims arising from these events.

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



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