

# Kingston Single Malt Society

www.kingstonsinglemaltsociety.com

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

NOVEMBER 21<sup>st</sup>, 2011

VOLUME 5; NUMBER 5



The **HIGHLANDS** (Scottish Gaelic: *A' Ghàidhealtachd*) is a historic region of Scotland. The area is sometimes referred to as the "Scottish Highlands". It was culturally distinguishable from the Lowlands from the later Middle Ages into the modern period, when Lowland Scots<sup>[1]</sup> replaced Scottish Gaelic throughout most of the Lowlands. The term is also used for the area north and west of the Highland Boundary Fault, although the exact boundaries are not clearly defined, particularly to the east. The Great Glen divides the Grampian Mountains to the southeast from the Northwest Highlands. The Scottish Gaelic name of *A' Ghàidhealtachd* literally means 'the place of the Gaels' and traditionally, from a Gaelic-speaking point of view, includes both the Western Isles and the Highlands.

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

Soup: Cream of Leek & Potato  
1<sup>st</sup> Nosing: **LEDAIG 10 YEARS OLD**  
(introduced by: Conrad Falkson)

Salad: Romaine & Strawberry Salad with house  
vinaigrette with almonds

2<sup>nd</sup> Nosing: **GLENMORANGIE NECTAR D'OR**  
(introduced by: Lana Di Fazio)

Entree: Beef Wellington  
Vegetables: Seasonal

Potatoes: Seasoned Oven Roasted  
3<sup>rd</sup> Nosing: **GLENMORANGIE SONNALTA PX**  
(introduced by: Christine Wasson)

Dessert: Crème Brûlée  
4<sup>th</sup> Nosing: **GLENMORANGIE 18 YEARS OLD**  
(introduced by: Sylvain Bouffard)

## 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.

- **LEDAIG 10 YEARS OLD ISLE OF MULL SINGLE MALT VINTAGES 242586** | 700 mL bottle **Price: \$ 66.95**  
Spirits, Whisky/Whiskey, Single Malt Scotch 46.3% Alcohol/Vol.

- **GLENMORANGIE NECTAR D'OR SCOTCH WHISKY LCBO 241984** | 750 mL bottle **Price: \$ 92.95**  
Spirits, Whisky/Whiskey, Blended Malt Scotch 46.0% Alcohol/Vol.

- **MHCS GLENMORANGIE SONNALTA PX VINTAGES 212589** | 700 mL bottle **Price: \$ 99.95** Spirits,  
Whisky/Whiskey, Blended Scotch 46.0% Alcohol/Vol.

- **GLENMORANGIE 18 YEARS OLD LCBO 68098** | 750 mL bottle **Price: \$ 124.95** Spirits, Scotch Whisky 43.0% Alcohol/Vol.

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## OCTOBER - KSMS Financial Statement

(Money from 57 October attendees @ \$60)	= \$3420.00
October dinner 57 persons = \$34.37/ea	= \$1959.34
Special Occasion Permit @ LCBO	= \$75.00
(Money remaining for buying Single Malt)	= \$1385.66
Cost of Single Malts:	= \$1162.32
KSMS Monthly operational balance	= \$223.34
Cost per person 57 attendees (All inclusive)	= \$56.08

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# Win Me Tonight!!

## Ardbeg Corryvreckann

Price: \$179.95; 750mL; 57.1%  
Alcohol/Vol

Starting September 19<sup>th</sup>, 2011 tickets can be purchased for a chance to win this bottle. Tickets will be \$3 each, two tickets for \$5, or \$20 for an arm-length. Tickets will be on sale at each dinner until the January 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2012 Robbie Burns dinner when the bottle will be raffled. The winner must successfully answer the skill testing question: What country does single malt come from?



### Upcoming Dinner Dates

December 12, 2011 - Fort Henry  
January 23, 2012 - Robbie Burns Night - VIMY  
February 20, 2012 - Highland - FFOM  
March 19, 2012 - St. Patrick's - Kingston Yacht Club  
April 16, 2012 - Island - VIMY  
May 28, 2012 - Islay - VIMY  
June 18, 2012 - BBQ (Final Exam) - VIMY  
July 23, 2012 - International - FFOM  
August 30<sup>th</sup>, 2012 - 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Premium Night - 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 \$5 donation per attendee to RMC Pipes & Drums with Highland Dancers)	
June BBQ Dinner Fee:	\$70 (member) \$80 (non-member)

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### **More new whiskies coming on the market**

John Hansell - October 3rd, 2011

(This is from a U.S. perspective...)

The Family Casks from Glenfarclas are finally coming to the U.S. (I'm not certain of the actual list of whiskies and timing.)

Bunnahabhain 18 year old is being phased out and replaced by a vintage offering in 2012.

The Mackinlay (a.k.a. the re-creation of the whisky discovered in the Antarctic from the Shackleton expedition in 1907) is finally being introduced to the U.S. (A very nice whisky, btw.)

Johnny Walker Double Black is also just now being introduced to the U.S. market this

month. More smoke than the regular JW Black Label, and dangerously drinkable. (I brought my bottle to a friend's house on Friday night and by the time I brought it home 3/4 of it was gone. Everyone liked it.)

On the American whiskey front, the newest Parker's Heritage Collection is out. This one's a 10 year old rye-formula bourbon finished in cognac barrels. (Another dangerously drinkable whiskey!) It's the same cognac brand (and from the same producer) that was part of Jim Beam's Distillers' Masterpiece cognac-finished whiskey introduced over a decade ago. (Beam was ahead of their time with those Distillers' Masterpiece releases.)

Also noteworthy, but available only at Heaven Hill's Bourbon Heritage Center in Bardstown, is a single barrel, 20

year old bottling of Elijah Craig that was produced to celebrate the 20th Anniversary of the Kentucky Bourbon Festival. Why do I mention this very limited, logistically-challenged bourbon? I tried it and it's excellent! If you know someone heading that way, have them purchase a bottle for you.

There's a low-cost, very smooth Canadian whisky just released called "Rich & Rare Reserve" from Sazerac (Buffalo Trace's parent company). My guess it's from the same stock of Canadian whiskies that produced the recent releases of Caribou Crossing Single Barrel and Royal Canadian Small Batch, but just less expensive. It comes in a cool-looking 375 ml flask-shaped bottle.

On the liqueur front, following the successful introduction of Red Stag Black Cherry, Jim Beam is introducing two new flavors: Red Stag Honey Tea and Red Stag Spiced.

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### **Wick malt named world's best whisky**

Old Pulteney single malt is bottled in Wick

A single malt distilled in one of Scotland's most remote distilleries has been named the world's best whisky by a leading expert. Old Pulteney was crowned World Whisky of the Year in Jim Murray's 2012 Whisky Bible.

The 21-year-old single malt scored a record-equalling 97.5 points out of 100.

The whisky is matured in American oak casks and bottled at the Pulteney distillery in Wick, Caithness.

Whisky expert Mr Murray tasted more than 1,200 new drams before deciding on the winner.

He said: "The 21-year-old Old Pulteney absolutely exploded from the glass with vitality, charisma and class. "Pulteney doesn't have the financial muscle of the major whisky barons to market its malts on the global stage.

"I hope that this award helps one of Scotland's great unsung distilleries to become discovered around the world." Pulteney has a chequered past in the Caithness town.

New temperance laws saw the parish of Wick vote to end the public sale of alcohol in 1922, a ban that stayed in place for 25 years.

Faced with falling demand, Pulteney closed in 1930 - but reopened in 1951 after prohibition was overturned in a further vote.

A Pulteney spokesman said: "We are absolutely delighted to have won this award. It is a tribute to the traditional craftsmanship we have honed over the centuries and also to the unique character that the town lends to our whisky."

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### **Scotch whisky and decanter break records**



## ***The Macallan 64 Year Old in Lalique: Cire Perdue***

A 64-year-old single malt Scotch whisky in a unique crystal decanter has sold for a record price of almost £300,000 at an auction in New York.

The decanter, crafted by famous French designer Lalique, holds 1.5l of the rare The Macallan whisky.

All the proceeds will be given to the clean-water group charity: water.

The Macallan, founded in 1824, is produced at a distillery near Easter Elchies House in north east Scotland's Speyside whisky region.

The Lalique decanter was created using the "cire perdue" or "lost wax" method.

Before the auction, the whisky was taken on a 12-city "tour du monde" to build up interest and raise funds for charity: water, an organisation that provides access to clean, safe drinking water for people in developing nations.

At the auction at Sotheby's in New York, The Macallan 64 Year Old in Lalique: Cire Perdue sold for

\$460,000 (£288,000), to an unnamed woman buyer.

David Cox, director of fine and rare whiskies for The Macallan, said: "We have had a phenomenal response to this very special and rare decanter.

"We are absolutely thrilled with the result of last night's auction which has smashed the world record for the most expensive whisky ever sold. "It was wonderful to experience the culmination of this incredible project, which has made its

way around the world to raise a staggering \$600,000 (£373,000) for charity."

The Macallan is one of the world's most-admired single malt whiskies.

It was traditionally known for maturation in Spanish oak, sherry seasoned casks.



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## ***Whisky all the better for the woman's touch***

IT'S unusual to hear women saying they enjoy whisky, but Kirsty Dagnan's entire career is based on Scotland's iconic dram.

Her appreciation of the drink saw her appointed senior site manager of the Glen Ord Group when she was just 27 – making her Diageo's youngest distillery manager yet.

Kirsty's role covers the Glen Ord Distillery and Visitor Centre, Glen Ord Maltings, Teaninich Distillery and North Engineering Centre.

And, as the distillery is undergoing a £3.2million expansion programme driven by the growing global popularity of Scotch whisky, it's certainly exciting times for Kirsty.

She said she always had a passion for whisky and, while studying for a BSc (hons) in forensic and analytical

chemistry, she decided to follow her dream of becoming a distillery manager.

"When I told my family, their response was, 'Are you not doing the wrong course?'" she said.

"If you work hard and are determined, you can achieve anything."

After finishing university six years ago, Kirsty's determination to succeed saw her joining Diageo on its graduate scheme.

The scheme involved three one-year placements and her first was working on a variety of projects at Port Dundas Distillery in Glasgow before moving to Speyside to work at Linkwood Distillery as a site operations manager.

For her final placement, she travelled to Amsterdam for a year to work in logistics.

"I have always had a passion for whisky but wanted to work in a variety of areas to gain experience before making the move," Kirsty said.

"After Amsterdam, I got my first permanent role working as business leader for white spirits and sweetened products at Diageo's packaging plant at Leven in Fife, and I was in this role for two years before applying for the position of senior site manager in malt distilling at Glen Ord."

Glen Ord Distillery produces spirit for one of Diageo's single malt brands, The Singleton of Glen Ord, which is the fastest-growing single malt Scotch in Asia – and consistency is crucial.

"My job is to make sure we produce the best possible spirit every single day," Kirsty said.

"The visitor centre at Glen Ord is also extremely popular and last year we welcomed over 18,000 visitors. I have a great team of people who are all responsible for the success of the distilleries, maltings, engineering and the visitor centre.

"I love my job and I feel very lucky to manage great distilleries which produce great whiskies. I also love working with a fantastic team, making products that we can all be very proud of."

For youngsters keen to succeed in the world of work, Kirsty explained that hard work and determination were the key factors.

"Don't give up on getting your dream job," she said. "If you work hard and are determined, you can achieve anything."

"I am very proud of what I have achieved in my career to date. I have worked hard and have had a lot of support and guidance along the way.

"Diageo is a great company for encouraging career development and there are lots of opportunities to progress. I've also been lucky to have lots of great help and support from my colleagues."

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## ***Top 10 Overpriced Scotch Whiskies***

by Oliver Klimek on July 22, 2011

This is an entirely subjective collection of whisky pricing monstrosities that I have come across in the past months. I only included original distillery bottlings, so the ridiculous [Isabella's Islay](#) does not make it onto the list. Also omitted are 50+ year old luxury bottlings like the Dalmore Trinitas as here it becomes very difficult to find comparable bottles that would allow you to judge how justified or unjustified the price tag is.

There may be even worse offenders out there, it wouldn't surprise me at all. Don't hesitate to share them.

**10. Tullibardine Pure Pot Spirit** - A 0.5 litre bottle of this newmake costs €35. This is about the same price level as the 13 year old Tullibardine wood finishes. [Of course this is legally not a whisky, but it would become such if allowed to age for 3 or more years.]

**9. Highland Park Earl Haakon** - The successor of Earl and Lord Magnus, at 18 years of age it costs €180.

**8. Macallan Fine Oak 25 yo** - €400 is not exactly cheap for a 25 yo single malt.

**7. Glenfiddich 40 yo** - A bottle will set you back €1800. Currently you can get a 33 year old original single cask bottling for less than a third of this price.

**6. Bruichladdich Octomore** - A bottle of this 5 year old peat monster costs €100.

**5. Oban Managers' Choice 9 yo** - A single cask bottling with a single digit age for €340.

**4. Kilchoman 100% Islay Distillery Only** - At the tender age of 3 years this cask strength bottling is priced at a whopping €170.

**3. Glenmorangie Pride** - The price tag for this 29 yo bottling is €2750. And the "limitation" to 1000 bottles does not make it particularly rare.

**2. Johnnie Walker Blue Label Anniversary** - A limited cask strength version of the Johnnie Walker Blue Label blend for €1700. The regular version sells for less than 10% of this price.

**1. Ardbeg Double Barrel** - Two bottles of 1974 vintage single casks are enhanced by a set of finely crafted accessories, bringing up the price to more than €10000. A 1974 original single cask bottle normally costs around €1000, and even these can't be called bargains.

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### 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 September 19<sup>th</sup> 2011 dinner date as an example:  
- Dinner invitations will be sent out Saturday August 27<sup>th</sup>, 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 (613-634-0397).  
- Accommodation at the dinner will be guaranteed for all members who respond by Friday September 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2011 @ 6pm.

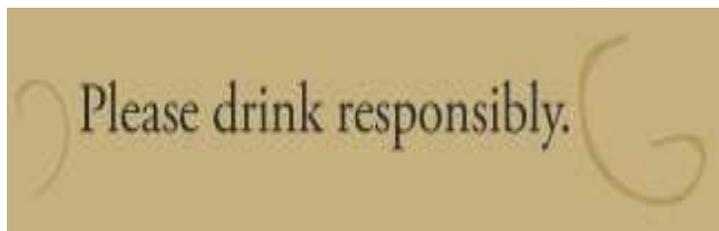
### Cancellation policy

- Using the same example as above, anyone who cancels anytime prior to Wednesday September 7<sup>th</sup>, 2011 @ 6pm will be removed from the list.

- Anyone canceling between Wednesday September 7<sup>th</sup>, 2011 @ 6pm and Monday September 19<sup>th</sup>, 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 (or their guest's) reservation to find a replacement. If I am asked to find a substitute and one is available, then the member will be asked to pay for 50% of their dinner cost.

- Anyone who fails to attend the Monday September 19<sup>th</sup>, 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 September 7<sup>th</sup>, 2011 @ 6pm and Monday September 19<sup>th</sup>, 2011, their name will be placed on a wait-list and be accommodated on a first-come first-serve basis.



### **Just a note because we care.**

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

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



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