

# Kingston Single Malt Society

www.kingstonsinglemaltsociety.com

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

DECEMBER 10<sup>th</sup>, 2012

VOLUME 6; NUMBER 6



## MENU

**Welcoming Dram:** ABERFELDY 12 YEAR OLD  
(introduced by: Sylvain Bouffard)

**2<sup>nd</sup> Nosing:** TULLIBARDINE COUME DEL MAS BANYULS FINISH

(introduced by: Conrad Falkson)

**Soup:** Butternut Squash & Apple

**3<sup>rd</sup> Nosing:** GLENCADAM 12 YEARS OLD PORTWOOD FINISH

(introduced by: Philip Henderson)

**Salad:** Arugula, Spinach, Poached Pears, Roasted Beets and Candied Hazelnuts

**4<sup>th</sup> Nosing:** TOMINTOUL 21 YEAR OLD  
(introduced by:)

**Choice of Entree:**

River Mill's Traditional Turkey Dinner  
OR

Wild, Sustainable B.C. Salmon on Creamy Lemongrass Polenta, Maple, Ginger Sauce

**Vegetables:** medley of root vegetables, celery root, sweet potatoes, local carrots and beet, we will also be using green zucchini and fennel

**5<sup>th</sup> Nosing:** GLENFIDDICH GRAN RESERVA 21 YEARS OLD  
(introduced by: Sylvain Bouffard)

**6<sup>th</sup> Nosing:** DRAMBUIE 15 Liqueur  
(introduced by: Ken Goodland)

**Choice of Dessert:**

- The River Mill's Christmas pudding  
(steamed English pudding composed of various dried fruits, brandy and barley wine, it is dense but very moist, its distinct flavour comes from its light seasonings it is then topped with a golden cream sauce)

OR

- Vanilla Creme Caramel

## 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.

- **ABERFELDY 12 YEAR OLD** LCBO 255281 | 750 mL bottle  
**Price: \$ 54.95** Spirits, Whisky/Whiskey, 40.0% Alcohol/Vol.

- **TULLIBARDINE COUME DEL MAS BANYULS FINISH**  
LCBO 265173 | 700 mL bottle **Price: \$ 78.85** Spirits 46.0% Alcohol/Vol.

- **GLENCADAM 12 YEARS OLD PORTWOOD FINISH**  
HIGHLAND SINGLE MALT VINTAGES 290627 | 700 mL bottle  
**Price: \$ 93.95** Spirits, Whisky/Whiskey, Single Malt Scotch 46.0% Alcohol/Vol.

- **TOMINTOUL 21 YEARS OLD SPEYSIDE GLENLIVET SINGLE MALT (ANGUS DUNDEE) VINTAGES 288225** | 700 mL bottle  
**Price: \$ 126.95** Spirits, Whisky/Whiskey, Single Malt Scotch 40.0% Alcohol/Vol.

- **GLENFIDDICH GRAN RESERVA 21 YEARS OLD**  
HIGHLAND SINGLE MALT VINTAGES 981381 | 750 mL bottle  
**Price: \$ 236.95** Spirits, Whisky/Whiskey, Single Malt Scotch 40.0% Alcohol/Vol.

- **DRAMBUIE 15** LCBO 286765 | 750 mL bottle **Price \$ 59.95** Spirits, Liqueur/Liquor, 43.0% Alcohol/Vol.

## Win Me Tonight!!



**Glenfiddich  
Distillers  
Edition**

**Price: \$74.95;  
750mL; 51.0%  
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?**

## Upcoming Dinner Dates

January 21<sup>st</sup>, 2013 - Arran - Robbie Burns - VIMY  
 February 25<sup>th</sup>, 2013 - Macallan Night - FFOM  
 March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2013 - St. Patrick's (Irish) - VIMY  
 April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2013 - Islay - VIMY  
 May 13<sup>th</sup>, 2013 - Highlands/Islands - FFOM  
 June 24<sup>th</sup>, 2013 - BBQ (Final Exam) - VIMY  
 July 22<sup>nd</sup> or 29<sup>th</sup>, 2013 - International - VIMY  
 Thurs. August 29<sup>th</sup>, 2013 - 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Premium - FFOM  
 September 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2013 -  
 October 21<sup>st</sup>, 2013 -  
 November 18<sup>th</sup>, 2013 -  
 December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2013 - Christmas Dinner -

## NOVEMBER - KSMS Financial Statement

(Money from 30 November attendees @ \$60) = \$1800.00  
 November dinner 30 persons = \$54.46/ea = \$1633.86  
 Special Occasion Permit @ LCBO = \$75.00  
 (Money remaining for buying Single Malt) = \$91.14  
 Cost of Single Malts: = \$339.65  
 Cost of Pours per Person = \$11.32  
 KSMS Monthly operational balance = (-\$248.51)  
 Cost per person 28 attendees (All inclusive) = \$68.28

## The Glenlivet XXV vs. The Glenlivet 21

August 18th, 2009 - <http://scotchaddict.com>

I'm a huge fan of Glenlivet, one of the reasons why I visited them only a week ago near Tomintoul, Scotland. The tour of their distillery was a lot of fun, more on that later, but my real treat of Glenlivet wasn't until I visited the World Duty Free store in Heathrow Airport. I visited the store, which you can't possibly miss, last year after a trip to England and picked up quite a few bottles of Scotch, many of which still sit on my shelves, and this time I wanted to get some more.

I started talking to one of the salespeople and we got to discussing The Glenlivet. I told him about how I had visited the distillery, something he wanted to do, and I told him I enjoyed the 18 when he asked if I was interested in trying out the XXV. I had been looking at their taster's try earlier and didn't really see anything I wanted to try (mostly younger maturities of brands I was already familiar with), so I was surprised when he opened up the cabinet and pulled out a bottle of the XXV.

### Glenlivet XXV

The [Glenlivet XXV](#) was silky smooth and spicy, reminiscent of their 18. You could tell it was finished in sherry casks because it had a definite sweetness. The tasting notes say it has raisins with a floral nose but I was lost in the nutty spiciness. Overall, it was a fantastic dram and what you would expect with a bottle priced at £175.00 retail. This would rank as the second most expensive dram I've ever sampled, second only to the Macallan



Fine Oak 30 year, priced at £321 at the Macallan Distillery.

I enjoy scotch but the thought of spending £143, or about \$236, on a single bottle was a bit much. I'm not against spending money for quality, but I don't think I have the ability to truly appreciate and enjoy scotch of that caliber. With that being

said, I think my money is better spent buying three or four bottles of more affordable scotch.

## Glenlivet Archive 21 Year

That's when I took a look at The [Glenlivet 21](#), which was a fraction of the price (£68.99 retail). The salesperson surprised me even more when he said that he has the 21 too, pulling it out from the secret compartment to let me try a bit. I enjoyed the 21 a lot, it



lacked the spicy finish of the XXV and the nose had a lot more fruit and cinnamon. I'm glad I tried it because otherwise I would never have bought it! £68.99 (it was much less in duty-free) is a lot to spend on a brand you like when you don't know what the scotch will be like, £68.99 is not a lot for a 21 year old scotch you know you'll enjoy.

The real lesson here is that you should try before you buy

and try it in duty free for free.

## A Closer Look At Whisky Inflation

by Oliver Klimek [www.dramming.com](http://www.dramming.com) - November 5, 2012

Lamenting about rising whisky prices has become a regular pastime in whisky blogging circles, and this place is no exception. So I think it is time to have a closer look at how much prices have actually increased over the last years. Whisky becoming more expensive has two reasons. Firstly there is the obvious price increase of standard bottlings over time, as can be expected because of the general inflation which is currently meandering around a rate of 2% per year. Increases of excise duty also have an effect on whisky prices, naturally.

The second type of whisky inflation is much trickier: Replacing old bottlings with new and different ones that don't allow you to do direct comparisons. A very recent example is the new Macallan Gold that is replacing the 10 year old Sherry and Fine Oak expressions. Psychologically such moves can have a definite impact, as can be seen in the discussions that usually evolve after such a new bottling has been released.

Quantitative comparisons are only possible with bottlings that have not changed over the years or only marginally, for instance with a change of ABV. Wouldn't it be nice to time-travel ten years into the past and see the whisky prices as they were back then? Too bad we can't really travel back and buy cheap whisky to take back home into the present.

But there is an internet equivalent of a time machine: The [Wayback Machine](#) of the Internet Archive. It has saved snapshots of millions of websites, refreshed at certain intervals, a herculean task indeed. Of course not all content changes of any site are documented, but for our purposes this is more than enough.

In the following table I have compared today's prices of The Whisky Exchange with their prices from late 2002 for a range of standard bottlings. The third column is the expected 2012 price calculated from the 2002 price with cumulated UK inflation (pretty exactly 25% over ten years) and the increase in UK excise duty (approximated to £2 for drinking strength and £3 for cask strength). The fourth and fifth columns indicate the difference of the actual 2012 price to the expected price in pounds sterling and percent.

	TWE 2002	TWE 2012	Infl./Excise	Diff £	Diff %
Aberlour 10	16,99	23,95	23,24	0,71	3,07
Aberlour A'bunadh	26,00	35,49	35,50	-0,01	-0,03
Ardbeg 10	21,98	35,95	29,48	6,48	21,97

Balvenie Doublewood	25,00	28,95	33,25	-4,3	-12,93
Balvenie 21 Port Wood	42,50	86,95	55,13	31,83	57,73
Benrinnes 15 F&F	29,75	40,49	39,19	1,3	3,32
Blair Athol 12 F&F	27,50	40,25	36,38	3,88	10,65
Bunnahabhain 12 *	21,98	33,95	29,48	4,48	15,18
Cardhu 12	24,99	30,75	33,24	-2,49	-7,48
Dalmore 12	23,50	35,95	31,38	4,58	14,58
Edradour 10	27,50	30,49	36,38	-5,89	-16,18
Glendronach 15	23,50	39,49	31,38	8,12	25,86
Glenfarclas 15	28,51	39,95	37,64	2,31	6,14
Glenfarclas 21	35,00	59,95	45,75	14,2	31,04
Glenfarclas 25	75,00	90,95	95,75	-4,8	-5,01
Glenfarclas 30	75,00	123,00	95,75	27,25	28,46
Glenfiddich 15	23,99	31,95	31,99	-0,04	-0,12
Glenfiddich 30	119,99	254,00	151,99	102,01	67,12
Glenlivet 12	21,00	25,45	28,25	-2,8	-9,91
Glenlivet 18	26,99	37,95	35,74	2,21	6,19
Glenmorangie 10	22,00	27,25	29,50	-2,25	-7,63
Glenmorangie 18	39,50	79,95	51,38	28,58	55,62
Highland Park 12	19,99	24,49	26,99	-2,5	-9,25
Highland Park 18	39,99	56,95	51,99	4,96	9,55
Lagavulin 16	35,99	44,95	46,99	-2,04	-4,34
Lagavulin DE	42,50	63,49	55,13	8,37	15,17
Laphroaig 10	18,99	29,95	25,74	4,21	16,37
Laphroaig 10 CS	29,99	49,95	40,49	9,46	23,37
Macallan 10 Sherry	19,99	28,25	26,99	1,26	4,68
Macallan 18 Sherry	48,99	97,94	63,24	34,7	54,88
Mortlach 16 F&F	28,99	44,75	38,24	6,51	17,03
Springbank 10	22,49	34,49	30,11	4,38	14,54
Strathisla 12	21,00	29,49	28,25	1,24	4,39
Talisker 10	26,00	32,49	34,50	-2,01	-5,83
Talisker DE	36,00	51,49	47,00	4,49	9,55
Chivas Regal 18	38,00	48,49	49,50	-1,01	-2,04
Johnnie Walker Gold Label	49,94	58,49	64,43	-5,94	-9,21
Johnnie Walker Blue Label	129,00	139,00	163,25	-24,25	-14,85

\* Bunnahabhain 12 was changed from 40 to 46.3% ABV in 2011.

As we can see, the picture is pretty mixed. Roughly half of the bottlings are more expensive now than could be expected after inflation and excise duty increase while the rest is actually cheaper than projected.

One trend is clearly visible though: Entry level bottlings have been rising less than special or older bottlings, often they are less expensive now than expected. Laphroaig and Ardbeg are significantly more expensive now while the Johnnie Walker blends have been quite modest in their price development. Blends are a cutthroat market, so big price increases are out of question.

Ownership changes can have different effects. Edradour has become relatively cheaper after the takeover by Signatory while Glendronach has become rather expensive now.

The biggest price hikes are seen for older expressions like Balvenie 21, Glenfiddich 30 or Macallan 18. These prices cannot be explained by rising fuel or grain costs. It is supply and demand that are the driving forces behind them. The industry has been testing just how expensive they can make their old bottles while still selling them while keeping the entry level bottles at reasonable prices in order not to deter the casual drinker.

This trend is in full swing now, and only if the speculative bubble on the secondary market will burst or deflate – and I am convinced it will, just when is the question... - we may see it easing up. As long as collectors or investors pay crazy prices at whisky auctions, the industry – logically – will continue to push the bar for the high end single malts.

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The proper way to drink fine whiskey: An anorak reality check  
August 31st, 2012 -John Hansell

It's Friday, 5 pm. I'm about to enjoy a coveted Old Rip Van Winkle 15 yr. old 107 proof bourbon, which I purchased in the 1990s. Not a bad way to start the holiday weekend, is it? Naturally, I'm going to savor this rare treat in a snifter (or nosing glass like Glencairn), at room temperature, with the careful addition of quality water, right?

Wrong! I just poured it into a plain small rocks glass and added ice to it, which you see pictured.

What? The Publisher & Editor of *Whisky Advocate*, a magazine devoted to enjoying fine whiskey and educating the consumer, drinking his treasured bourbon on the rocks? In a rocks glass??

Yes! If you're one of those people who think that the only way to drink good whiskey is neat (or with a little water), in a nosing glass, then it's time for you to take that extended pinky of your drinking hand and tuck it back in with the rest of your fingers.

There's a time and place for everything, and there's more than one way to drink fine whiskey. Sure, when I am reviewing whiskey for the magazine, I'm nosing and tasting in a proper nosing glass, at room temperature, adding water and repeating the process. But, there are other ways to enjoy the good stuff, and I'll give you some examples.

Whiskey on the rocks is okay sometimes

When I'm drinking whiskey at the beach, like this weekend, I will be adding ice to my whiskey. Why? We like leaving the windows open to let the sea breeze in, and the room temperature of the house is warmer than my house back in Pennsylvania. I add an ice cube to bring the temperature back down to where I like to drink it.

Knowing this, what I typically do is bring barrel proof (or higher-proof) whiskeys with me when I go there. Adding an ice cube kills two birds with one stone: it lowers both the temperature of the whiskey and the proof at the same time. Yes, in this instance, adding ice enhances my whiskey enjoyment and the whiskey tastes better than if I didn't add any ice.

Good whiskey makes for better cocktails

I learned this first from my fiddling around with tequila and gin cocktails. The better the spirit—and ingredients—the better the cocktail. For example, I use 100% blue agave *blanco* tequila (preferably with fresh lime juice and Gran Marnier liqueur) when making my margaritas, and it kicks ass. The same goes for whiskey cocktails. You want an unforgettable Manhattan? Make it with good bourbon, good vermouth, and quality bitters!

Different moods, different glasses

I keep a variety of glassware on hand. Which one I use depends on my mood and situation. There is no one perfect whisky glass (contrary to what glassware producers will lead you to believe). If I'm evaluating a whiskey, then I will

use a formal nosing glass. But if my whiskey is just part of an enjoyable experience, not the entire experience, and my attention is focused on other things—the company I'm with, the view in front of me, what I might also be eating at the time, or whether I'm smoking a cigar—then I might be more inclined to not be so damned picky about it.

In fact, one of my most memorable whiskey-drinking experiences didn't involve a glass at all! It was just the three of us, alone on a frozen lake in Ontario in February, ice fishing, passing around a bottle of good whiskey and telling



stories while we drowned our bait and entertained ourselves, because the fish weren't biting.

It's okay to have a fine whiskey with a quality cigar

Hey, if you don't like cigars, fine. And if you don't want me to smoke a cigar anywhere near you, fair enough. I won't. But, don't tell me that enjoying a cigar with a fine whiskey is a waste of good whiskey. It's not.

True, I won't be able to detect all the subtle nuances on the nose and palate of a whiskey like I would if I weren't smoking a cigar. But that loss is made up by the contribution of new aromas and flavors a cigar brings to the table, along with the fun and enjoyment of marrying the flavors between the two. Kicking back with a fine cigar and quality whiskey (say a bourbon or sherried single malt scotch) can be a very rewarding experience.

The point I'm trying to make here is this: one thing that makes whiskey so treasured is its versatility. Try to keep an open mind when it comes to enjoying it. Only then, Grasshopper, will you become a true anorak.

### Membership and Dinner prices for 2012-2013

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)

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.

### 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 Monday October 22<sup>nd</sup> 2012 dinner date as an example:
  - Dinner invitations will be sent out Friday September 28<sup>th</sup>, 2012. 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 October 5<sup>th</sup>, 2012 @ 6pm.

### Cancellation policy

- Using the same example as above, anyone who cancels anytime prior to Wednesday October 10<sup>th</sup>, 2012 @ 6pm will be removed from the list.
- Anyone canceling between Wednesday October 10<sup>th</sup>, 2012 @ 6pm and Monday October 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2012 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 October 22<sup>nd</sup> 2012 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 October 10<sup>th</sup>, 2012 @ 6pm and Monday October 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2012, their name will be placed on a wait-list and be accommodated on a first-come first-serve basis.

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



Kingston Single Malt Society

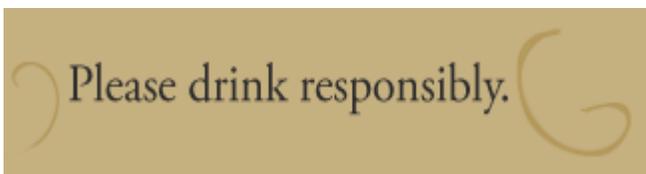
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Just a note because we care.

Please understand that for the purpose of each event you are advised to drink responsibly and refrain from excessive