

Kingston Single Malt Society

www.kingstonsinglemaltsociety.com

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

AUGUST 29th, 2013

VOLUME 7; NUMBER 2



Welcome to our 6th Annual Premium Night

MENU

Welcoming Nosing: UTOPIA 10th ANNIVERSARY

(introduced by: Lana Di Fazio)

CHOCOLATE COVERED STRAWBERRY,
HICKORY SMOKE & CHERRY PEARLS

1st Nosing: SPEYBURN 25 YEAR OLD

(introduced by: Philip Henderson)

FRESH OYSTER CASINO,
CRISPY PROSCIUTTO, ARUGULA & GRUYERE

2nd Nosing: DALMORE CASTLE LEOD

(introduced by: Anthony Johnson)

SMOKED SALMON & CLAREMELL ON THE RIDEAU
FETA
WITH CILNATRO & CHIVE COULIS

3rd Nosing: MacPHAILL'S GLENROTHES 30 YEAR OLD

(introduced by: Conrad Falkson)

BEEF TARTAR,
ROSTI, BLUE CHEESE, GREEN ONION AIOLI

4th Nosing: KNOCKANDO 25 YEAR OLD

(introduced by: Sylvain Bouffard)

PAN SEARED SCALLOP,
SMOKY SWEETCORN CHIPOTLE SORBET
PORK BELLY CONFIT
& FRIED QUAIL EGG

5th Nosing: HIGHLAND PARK 25

(introduced by: Paul Charbonneau)

TRIO OF ORANGE SUPREMES,
CANDIED, CARBONATED & GINGER GLAZED

6th Nosing: MACALLAN FINE OAK 21 YEAR OLD

(introduced by: Bill Gorham)

PAN SEARED BISON MEDALLION,
SASKATOON BERRY COULIS,
CRISPY CAULIFLOWER, SUGAR CURED BEETS,
TOMATOES, CHARRED CORN & CHARD

7th Nosing: TALISKER 25 YEAR OLD

(introduced by: Ken Goodland)

ICE CREAM SANDWICH,
CHOCOLATE WALNUT BROWNIE,
BUTTERSCOTCH AND PEANUT BUTTER ICE CREAMS

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.

UTOPIA 10th ANNIVERSARY VINTAGES 104711 | 710 mL bottle
Price: \$ 114.95 Beer, Lager, Lager/Pilsner, 28.0% Alcohol/Vol.

SPEYBURN 25 YEAR OLD INVER HOUSE DISTILLERS LIMITED VINTAGES 21920 | 700 mL bottle Price: \$ 143.29 Spirits, Whisky/Whiskey, Single Malt Scotch 46.0% Alcohol/Vol.

DALMORE CASTLE LEOD 1995 VINTAGES 836591 | 750 mL bottle Price: \$232.95 Spirits, 46.0% Alcohol/Vol.

MacPHAILL's COLLECTION FROM GLENROTHES 30 YEARS OLD DISTILLERY VINTAGES 113587 | 750 mL bottle Price: \$ 240.95 Spirits, Whisky/Whiskey, Single Malt Scotch 43.0% Alcohol/Vol.

KNOCKANDO 25 YEAR OLD VINTAGES 113587 | 750 mL bottle Price: \$ 225.95 Spirits, Whisky/Whiskey, Single Malt Scotch 43.0% Alcohol/Vol.

HIGHLAND PARK 25 YEARS OLD ORKNEY ISLANDS SINGLE MALT VINTAGES 500249 | 750 mL bottle Price: \$ 324.95 Spirits, Scotch Whisky 48.1% Alcohol/Vol.

THE MACALLAN FINE OAK 21 YEARS OLD HIGHLAND SINGLE MALT VINTAGES 620211 | 750 mL bottle Price \$ 379.95 Spirits, Whisky/Whiskey, Single Malt Scotch 43.0% Alcohol/Vol

TALISKER 25 YEAR OLD LCBO 144311 | 700 mL bottle Price: \$ 429.95 Spirits, Scotch Whisky 54.8% Alcohol/Vol.

Upcoming Dinner Dates

September 23rd, 2013 - Campbeltown/Lowland - VIMY

October 28th, 2013 - Speyside - VIMY

November 18th, 2013 - Islands - VIMY

December 9th, 2013 - Christmas Dinner - River Mill

January 27th, 2014 - Arran - Robbie Burns - VIMY

February 10th, 2014 - Islay- VIMY

March 17th, 2014 - St.Patrick's (Irish) - VIMY

April 28th, 2014 - Speyside - VIMY

May 26th, 2014 - Highlands - VIMY

June 16th, 2014 - BBQ (Final Exam) - VIMY

July 21st, 2014 - International - VIMY

Thurs. Aug 28th, 2014 - 7th Annual Premium - River Mill

September 15th, 2014 - VIMY
October 20th, 2014 - VIMY
November 17th, 2014 - VIMY
December 8th, 2014 - Christmas Dinner - River Mill

Membership and Dinner prices for 2013-2014

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)

Speyburn 25 Year Old Launched

www.dramming-news.com - October 30, 2012 - by Oliver

The new

Speyburn 25 Year Old unveiled.

Speyburn Distillery, the producer of Speyburn Single Malt Scotch Whisky, is pleased to announce that the successor of the World Whiskies Awards 2012 Gold-Medal-winning Speyburn 25 Year Old will soon be available in markets around the world featuring exciting new packaging. The relaunch of the much-admired premium expression of Speyburn follows a successful year for the Scottish brand.

The oldest and most exclusive Speyburn yet has been a hidden gem and a favourite for whisky aficionados for years. It didn't come as a surprise when earlier in 2012 the coveted Speyburn 25 Year Old 'Solera' was named by the World Whiskies Awards panel as the best in its category. Now, the new and reinvented premium expression from the iconic Speyside distillery has arrived. It's simply called Speyburn 25 Year Old.

The Whisky

The whisky for this all-new Speyburn came from American oak Fino sherry and exbourbon casks of the highest quality. The spirit matured entirely on site at Speyburn Distillery, on the banks of Granty Burn. The whisky is bottled at premium strength of 46% ABV. It is unchill-filtered and shows its natural colour.

Speyburn 25 Year Old has a vibrant and bright aroma, rich with lime honey and lemon peel notes, accentuated by fragrant tropical fruit. The taste is rounded and smooth. Sweet to begin with, it opens up with toffee, creamy vanilla and pink grapefruit flavours and drifts gently towards a long and warming finish.

The Packaging

Speyburn 25 Year Old is presented in the new Speyburn bottle encased in a silver wooden box. Two engraved collapsible metal tasting cups are also included making it the perfect gift for an outdoors enthusiast. Each pack is signed personally by the Distillery Manager Robert Anderson. Recommended retail price: £240

Valhalla Collection

In Norse mythology, Valhalla is a huge hall located in Asgard, one of the Nine Worlds, ruled over by the god Odin. Chosen by Odin, half of those that die in combat travel to Valhalla, led by valkyries, while the other half go to the goddess Freyja's field Fólkvangr.

In Valhalla, the dead join the masses of those who have died in combat known as Einherjar, as well as various legendary Germanic heroes and kings, as they prepare to aid Odin during the events of Ragnarök. Before the hall stands the golden tree Glasir, and the hall's ceiling is thatched with golden shields. Various creatures live around Valhalla, such as the stag Eikþyrnir and the goat Heiðrún, both described as standing atop Valhalla and consuming the foliage of the tree Læraðr.

Thor represents the first coming for Highland Park's stunning Valhalla Collection; a range of four unique whiskies, released annually, taking inspiration from the legendary Nordic gods of old. Not for the faint hearted, only those brave enough to accept the challenge of Thor shall be rewarded with the ultimate experience; a whisky of divine power.

Highland Park Loki

<http://whiskyforeveryone.blogspot.co.uk/2013/03/new-release-highland-park-loki.html#more>
Each year, there are a few eagerly anticipated whisky releases that generate lots of interest and get consumers and whisky fans all excitable. Highland Park *Loki* seems to be one such release. People have been searching for clues and snippets of information for months about this second single malt from Highland Park's *Valhalla Collection*, following the universal acclaim gained by last year's first release named *Thor*.



Highland Park is the most northerly whisky distillery in Scotland and is found close to Kirkwall on the Orkney islands. It has grown to be one of the best selling and most highly awarded single malt whisky ranges in the world. It is currently owned by the Edrington Group and has an annual production capacity of 2.5 million litres. Highland Park is also one of the oldest whisky distilleries in Scotland and was established in 1798 by Magnus Eunson, who was known as the 'whisky priest' because he was allegedly a priest by day and an illegal distiller by night, hiding his whisky in the crypt under Kirkwall cathedral so as to escape the prying eyes of local Customs & Excise men.

The Orkney islands have a rich Norse heritage dating back to ancient times and Highland Park consistently use this as a thread through their limited edition whisky ranges. The new expression takes its name from the troublesome and mischievous Norse god Loki, who is the brother to Thor, and was known for his

devious nature. This whisky is designed to reflect that character and is housed in the same extravagant wooden packaging as *Thor*, which represents the head of a Viking long ship. *Loki* and *Thor* will be followed by two further releases which will complete the Valhalla Collection in 2014 and 2015 respectively.

Highland Park *Loki* is bottled at 15 years of age and with an alcoholic strength of 48.7% ABV. It has been matured predominantly in ex-Spanish oak sherry casks, but also in casks which have previously held heavily peated whisky. It is available at specialist whisky retailers, the Highland Park distillery shop and www.highlandpark.co.uk. A bottle should cost around £130.

Our tasting notes: The colour is a dark golden yellow with a hint of amber and the nose has an initial lovely mix of fruit, spice and smoke - think especially of candied orange and lemon, cinnamon bark, cedarwood plus earthy, tobacco-like smoke. Underneath are further aromas of raisins, toffee, honey, ginger cake, dried pineapple and hints of menthol, aniseed and ginseng. Very promising indeed.

On the palate, this whisky feels viscous and rich with plenty of expressive flavours fighting for attention. There is a hit of immediate and earthy, slightly musty smoke (this is reminiscent of old cigar smoke) and as this fades the vibrant citrus notes begin to take over. There is a lovely mix of orange (this made us think of thick cut marmalade), freshly chopped lemon zest, honey and vanilla. There is also some later notes which come through - think of rum and raisin milk chocolate, toasted almonds and golden syrup. As the whisky settles in the mouth the lovely dried pineapple note from the nose comes through to add further depth, as does the earthy spiciness (think of ginger and ginseng especially) and these notes increase as it progresses in to the finish.

The finish is long and very pleasant with initial spicy and smoky notes (think of the ginger and earthy smoke in particular) fading to be replaced by the sweeter and more citrus-like elements. The orange and dried pineapple are prominent and leave their lasting impression in the mouth. A late, but small hit of aniseed and cinnamon wrap things up.

What's the verdict? Once you cut through the marketing hype of this new Highland Park *Loki*, what is revealed is a very classy whisky that continues the high level of quality established by *Thor*. It makes you want to try the two further releases in the Valhalla Collection. Sadly, we will have to wait another one and two years respectively to do that.

Loki does seem a little smokier than most other Highland Park's that we have sampled to date, and this must be partly due to the part-maturation in casks that had previously held heavily peated whisky. As a result it offers something different to Highland Park fans and to the brand's ever expanding portfolio of single malts.

It is a lovely whisky, but if push came to shove we would have to choose *Thor* as our favourite of the two. Just like in the Nordic legends, *Loki* was never and could never be as good as *Thor* ... but that never stopped him trying.

"paying" for something you won't be able to enjoy. It's like buying a Lamborghini and driving it to drop your kid off at school - you're not going to let it loose in a 25 MPH school zone with your kid in the back seat.

So, which blend should you use? Use one that you enjoy drinking neat or on the rocks because you will still taste it in the mixed drink itself. It's like cooking with wine, cook with a wine you'd enjoy drinking anyway.

As for a Manhattan, it's:

2 oz whiskey (usually rye)

1/2 oz sweet vermouth

A few dashes of Angostura bitters

Enjoy!



TOP MARKS

However, it's not just *Loki* that's been receiving plaudits around the globe, our 25 year old has just been awarded the **first ever 100-point score**, along with the Chairman's Trophy for Best of Category, by the judges at the Ultimate Spirits Challenge in New York.

An astonishing result, but it didn't stop there as four of our other expressions achieved 95 points and above in the prestigious trophy sweepstakes with one, our 30 year old, receiving the **Extraordinary, Ultimate Recommendation**, scoring a



notable 97 points.

Keeping the 12 year old (96 points), 18 year old (95 points) and 15 year old (95 points) company was Highland Park *Thor* (94 points), with the judges classing it as 'Highly Recommended'. The big man would be proud!

\$115 bottle of beer expected to sell out in hours

By: **Josh Rubin** Staff Reporter, Published on Thu Feb 28 2013 - Toronto Star
http://www.thestar.com/life/food_wine/2013/02/28/115_bottle_of_beer_expected_to_sell_out_in_hours.print.html

8:30 a.m.

Friday is when the LCBO's call centre will start taking orders for Samuel Adams Utopias, a beer that sells for \$115 a bottle. Such is the hype and lore about the blend that it is expected to disappear in a flash.



Best Scotch for a Mixed Drink

scotchaddict.com - March 18, 2013 by Jim

My brother in law loves to order Manhattans. A Manhattan is basically whiskey, sweet vermouth, and bitters. The whiskey can be any kind of whiskey - rye (Canadian) is most popular but you can use bourbon (Kentucky), a blended whiskey, or whatever strikes your fancy. What I've often asked is what is the best scotch (or whiskey) to use in a mixed drink such as that one?

My natural answer is try to find the most inexpensive one you can find!

That, however, is flippant. You can really use anything you want but my inclination is to go with a blend,

rather than a single malt. Single malts are generally more expensive and the reason they're more expensive is because they are single malts. They show the character of a distillery, of its constituent parts, and that gets lost when you mix it with other ingredients. You won't go wrong using a single malt in a Manhattan, you will simply be



One of the rarest, strongest beers in the world has touched down in Ontario — but it will cost you.

Samuel Adams Utopias, which goes on sale via the LCBO's telephone order centre (800 668-5226) at 8:30 Friday morning, will set you back a whopping \$114.95 per bottle. It's a bargain at the price, vows Sam Adams founder and U.S. craft brewing legend Jim Koch.

"I'll tell you Ontario is one of the best places in the world to get this. The LCBO's markups are a little strange," said Koch, in town Thursday for a media tasting. In some U.S. stores, the Utopias has been selling for almost \$300.

The strong, uncarbonated brew (it checks in at a hefty 28 per cent alcohol) is a blend of several types of beer which have been aging in barrels which previously held different spirits and wines, including bourbon, port and rum.

The oldest beer that's part of the blend is 21 years old, and was part of Koch's first batch of Samuel Adams Triple Bock, arguably the world's first "extreme" beer when it was launched in the early 1990s, at a relatively modest 17 per cent alcohol.

The resulting Utopias is strong, dark and complex, more like a cross between a good port and a whisky than anything resembling a standard beer.

While it's the third time the LCBO has brought Utopias into Ontario, Koch insists this batch — which marks the 10th anniversary of the first Utopias release — is different. For one thing, there's the rum barrels, which weren't used in previous editions. For another, the brews which make up Utopias have been maturing.

"All the beers we use in it are now a year older. It's never going to be exactly the same from year to year," said Koch.

In late 2010, the LCBO put roughly 70 bottles of Utopias on sale via a lottery. Well over 1,000 people entered the lottery. In late 2011, the LCBO got another 250 bottles which it sold over the phone — they were gone in about three hours.

Getting in a slightly bigger order was a chance the head of the LCBO's beer division leapt at.

"It's exciting to get this. I think that our consumers expect and demand unique, small-batch beers like this now," said Leanne Rhee.

Koch said he designed Utopias and Triple Bock as a way to expand people's perception of what beer could be.

"I wanted people to realize that beer belonged with the very finest wines and spirits," said Koch.

Toronto StarLife / Food & Wine

\$115 Sam Adams Utopias beer sell out in hours at LCBO

By: Josh Rubin Staff Reporter, Published on Fri Mar 01 2013

As expected LCBO's 400 bottles of much-hyped craft beer Samuel Adams Utopias sold out in hours. No disputes in the aisles, though, as it wasn't sold in stores but over the phone

Ontario drinkers apparently have a taste for pricey beer - or at least a sleek bottle.

Despite a hefty \$114.95 price tag, 400 bottles of Samuel Adams Utopias sold out today, just two and a half hours after being put up for sale by the LCBO. Sales had opened via the LCBO's telephone ordering system at 8:30 a.m. Friday; by 11 a.m., they'd all been snapped up.

Is Older Scotch Always Better Scotch?

scotchaddict.com - April 8, 2013 by Jim

When you walk into your local liquor store in search of your favorite spirit, what do you notice at the top of the shelves? Usually it's the pricier stuff at the top and the pricier stuff is often the "oldest" stuff. An 18 year old scotch is always more expensive than its 15 or 12 year old brother. A 30 year old is often even pricier. The

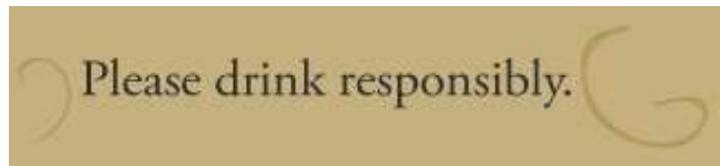
older the age statement, the more expensive the scotch.

The real question, however, is — is older is always better?

My gut feeling, and it's definitely a gut feeling, is that older can be better but that's not always the case. My favorite story about aging whisky was when my wife and I went to The Macallan distillery. We took the tour and then opted for the [Most Precious version](#), which involved enjoying several drams of nearly their entire line of scotch. My wife isn't a fan of whisky so she took a tiny sip of each and made her usual face. She enjoys the smell, she just finds the taste overpowering. That is... until she tried the 30 Year Fine Oak. At a retail price of around \$900, I'm not surprised she was a fan.

The oldest scotch I'd ever had is that 30 Year Fine Oak during the distillery tour (I've had it a couple times since on special occasions) but I routinely have 12, 15, and 18 year old scotches from the same distillery. I've always found that the 18 year old is usually smoother and has less bite to it as compared to the younger versions. In some cases, I like that bite (for example, I prefer the Glenlivet 12 because the heat from the alcohol and the spiciness on the finish complement each other), but in others I don't. It's a matter of preference.

Next, is there such a thing as too old? [Kara Newman of Slate tried some 50 year old Glenfiddich](#) and was wondering that very thing. She asked a few knowledgeable folks and the answer is that yes, it can be too old. Ultimately, it comes down to preference. The longer it's in the barrel, the more the barrel imparts on the spirit. Can it do too much? Of course. I enjoyed that she asked several experts in different spirits, not just whiskies, but I wasn't surprised by the answer. Older isn't always better but it often is. Now is it worth it to buy the older bottle? That's up to you. You can buy over four bottles of Macallan 18 for just one bottle of Macallan 30 — which do you think is a better deal?



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

Roberto Di Fazio, President

827 Old Colony Road

Kingston, Ontario, K7P 1S1, Canada

613-634-0397

rdifazio@cogeco.ca

<http://www.kingstonsinglemaltsociety.com>

