

Missy Bar

PART OF THE MILL INN COULTER
*Purchase this menu for £6 or be sent one electronically for
free. Ask a member of staff.*

Campbeltown

GLEN SCOTIA 12 YO 46% £4.00

The 12 year old core bottling from the Glen Scotia distillery, there are now just two other distilleries in Campbeltown. Glen Scotia has actually halted production, though they continue to mature their whisky. Nose: Dark and pungent, charcoal. Slightly phenolic, hint of tar. Oily, touch of dry ropes. Palate: Supple, full, rich peat, sweet, tangy fruit, wood. Finish: Long, spice, blossom, herbal.

HAZELBURN 8 YO 46% £4.00

Part of a limited outturn of 5,100 bottles. This eight year-old is much sought. Hazelburn is distilled at the Springbank distillery and named for a nearby silent distillery. It is unpeated and triple distilled. The nose is sweet and fresh. There are notes of orchard fruits and cut hay, a little chocolate and something floral. The palate is sweet and crisp with notes of fresh barley and a floral character. Slightly nutty. The finish is gentle and quite long with a fresh character.

KILKERRAN 3RD RELEASE 46% £4.00

The third release from the Mitchell's Glengyle distillery in Campbeltown. This one was bottled in June 2011, and it has a wonderful honeyed, chocolaty flavour. Nose: Fruity with notes of apples, pears and rich briny peat smoke, alongside sticking plasters and barley malt. Palate: Spicy and rich with notes of cedar, ginger, sweet pipe tobacco and malt, with more than a hint of oily, medicinal smoke. Finish: Good length with tart citrus, pepper and pine resin.

KILKERRAN WORK IN PROGRESS 5TH RELEASE - BOURBON WOOD 46% £4.00

2013 has seen two releases from the Glengyle distillery's 'Work In Progress' range, one matured in Sherry casks and this delicious Bourbon wood offering. The aim as to work towards a core expression, a Kilkerran 12 year Old.

KILKERRAN WORK IN PROGRESS 5TH RELEASE SHERRY WOOD 46% £4.00

Since 2009 a 'Work In Progress' expression has been released every year as Glengyle, which was reconstructed this century, works towards a Kilkerran 12 Year Old. In 2013 however, we've been spoilt with two releases - one matured in bourbon casks as well as this excellent Sherry wood offering.

LONGROW 2001 RUNDLETS & KILDERKINS 11 YO 51.7% £5.00

Colour: Deep amber. Nose: Smoke is easy to identify from the beginning and is soon joined with medicinal notes and subtle burning embers. On returning to nose, sweetness such as toffee apple is more pronounced. Palate: Both peat and smoke are

detected yet it is simultaneously sweet, particularly toffee and fudge. This is followed with the taste of liquorice. Rich and oily from its maturation in small casks, it gives an impression of being older than its 11 years. Finish: Long, smooth and sweet. Slow and lingering hint of peat with peat reaching a crescendo with a strong peaty aftertaste.

SPRINGBANK 10 YO 46% £4.00

The 10 year old from the Springbank distillery in Campbeltown, a mixture of both bourbon and sherry matured whisky. The nose is big-bodied with oaked aridity. The peat is present and quite pungent with an earthen rootiness. Notes of exotic fruits and a hint of salinity. The palate is full-bodied with a good helping of cereal sweetness. There is a richness to the peat, with a dark nuttiness and whirling smoke. The finish is long and crisp with a coastal tang and a trailing peat with oaked dryness.

Highlands

ABERFELDY 12 YO 40% £3.50

The red squirrel which graces the label of this 12 year old bottling is a reference to the colony of rare squirrels which reside in the woodlands surrounding the Aberfeldy distillery. Nose: Creamy. Some sherried fruit with a trailing hint of smoke. Palate: Sweet, malty, a gentle peat but nonetheless the mouth feel is very clean. Finish: Malt, a faint hint of citrus.

ARDMORE 46 % £4.00

non chill filtered traditional cask Colour: Burnished Gold Nose At bottle strength the influence of the two styles of maturation casks compliment each other producing a full bodied smooth aroma. The maturity that shows through comes from the America barrels and the spicy creamy nose from the old style smaller casks. A touch of water allows the full complexity of the Highland Peated Malt to appear. The rich softness linked with smooth, slightly dry aroma is combined with just enough earthy peat smoke to avoid being overpowering. Palate: At bottle strength the full rich flavours burst and fill the mouth with a creamy peat tang and a touch of vanilla's soft gentleness. If a touch of water is added then the flavours increase with the addition of a sweet ripe fruit start followed by the tang of peat. Nose: Full, succulent and quite long. The full bodied smoothness can be best appreciated at bottling strength but with a touch of water the full complexity can be recognized.

AS WE GET IT CASK STRENGTH £4.50

An 8 year old cask strength from a secret Highland distillery. This was bottled by Ian Macleod "as they got it", without chill-filtration or reducing the strength. Nose: Medium bodied, barley honey. Spirity, oak. Hints of smoke, peat. Palate: Medium, smooth, Caramel, oak, peels. Finish: Good length, becomes dry.

AUCHROISK 10 YO - FLORA AND FAUNA 43% £4.00

This single malt lies at the heart of the Auchroisk range, it being the only official bottling. Released in the Flora and

Fauna series in 2001, having previously been marketed as The Singleton of Auchroisk. Nose: Light, with a playful zestiness. Crème anglaise, a delectable nuttiness creeps in. Palate: Quite sweet with a pleasant softness. Finish: Soft, dry cereal notes.

BEN NEVIS 10 YO 46% £4.00

1996 saw the release of the entry level Ben Nevis single malt, this 10 year old exudes some beautiful coffee, chocolate and toffee peat notes, a firm representative of the Western Highland style. Nose: Fresh and quite dry. A supple greenness with soft leafy notes with a rich fruitiness. Hints of orange and Seville marmalade with a light vinous character and nutty undertones. Palate: Gentle dryness. Toffee. Looming omnipresent are solid peat notes with a bitter sweetness. Finish: Silken, toffee and caramel notes balanced with a touch of mochaccino and dark chocolate on the tail.

BALBLAIR - 2002 46% £4.00

The first release of Balblair 2002 is sparkling gold in colour. On the nose there are the signature Balblair aromas; floral and fragrant with zesty fruits such as oranges and lemons. The American oak, ex-bourbon barrels used in maturation impart toffee and vanilla notes. On the palate it is full bodied, yet sweet and spicy in character, with hints of oranges, lemons, green apples, toffee and vanilla. There is a typical long finish as the floral and fruit notes develop and combine with the initial spice and sweetness from the American oak casks. Vintage: 2002

BALLECHIN ERDRADOUR #3 PORT CASK MATURED (THE DISCOVERY SERIES) 46% £4.00

The third part of the Ballechin series, this was matured in a port hogshead for the duration of its life, bottled in May 2008 as part of a release of 6,000 bottles.

BLAIR ATHOL 12 YO 43% £4.00

A Flora and Fauna release from the Blair Athol distillery, this 12 year old exudes sherry and Christmas pudding notes with spice. Blair Athol does not receive the acclaim it so thoroughly deserves. Nose: Nutty with sherried notes. Gentle peat. Crisp. Palate: Good body, malty and sweet. Citrus and the peels thereof. Finish: Peat smoke, syrup. Good sweetness, bittersweet, drying.

CLYNELISH 14 YO 46% £4.00

This is a superb example of what Clynelish can produce even at younger age. The balance is sublime and the mouth feel is perfectly rounded. A great 14 year old Highland malt, quite coastal too. Nose: Zesty, mandarin, tangerine. Smoky. Palate: Quite light, great clarity. Orange, soft acidity. Dry oak. Mixed fruits, vanilla, leather. Finish: Quite long, bitter sweetness developing, spicy oak.

CU BOCAN 46% £4.00 or £40.00 for the bottle.

Cu Bocan - or ghost dog when translated from the traditional Gaelic- stalks the peat moorland close to the Tomatin Distillery. This whisky shares its name with the ghostly spectre. It has been lightly peated before maturing in a mixture of bourbon, sherry and virgin oak casks. Official Tasting Notes Nose: Coconuts and cream with some botanic notes, parsley and coriander. The smoke emerges after a minute followed by

a mix of lime, grapefruit and tangerines with rich almond and aniseed. Palate: Initially feather light, followed by a honeyed smoke. The rich spice of cloves, cinnamon and star anise create an enigmatic elegance. Finish: Light with a hint of sweet smoke.

CU DHUB 40% £3.00

Pronounced 'Kaddoo', Cu Dhub Black is a slightly honeyed, thick, smoky offering from the Speyside distillery. The nose is well-rounded and smooth. Notes of gentle peat and wafting smoke. Hints of dark nuttiness and espresso beans. A touch of honey with vanilla fudge and a little whisper of something medicinal. The palate is quite thick and sweet. Notes of fudge and aniseed, a touch of something nutty with cappuccino and gentle smoke. The finish is quite long with toffee sweetness and developing oak.

DALMORE 12 YO 40% £4.50

Launched in late 2008 to replace the previous 12 year old, this single malt from the Dalmore distillery is a toasty, coffee-rich dram with beautifully spice notes and a thick mouthfeel. Very rich for a 12 year old. Nose: A warm coffee house in Seattle; roasting beans, the oily nuttiness in a fine espresso, there are little notes of malt and cereal and butter from the pastry counter with rich orange from the fruit bowl on the counter. Palate: Notes of Seville marmalade and triple sec with winter spices and fruitcake. Zesty cocoa and milk chocolate. Finish: Medium, oranges.

DALMORE 15YO 40% £5.00

The Dalmore 15 year old was first launched in 2007. Matured in matusalem, apostoles and amoroso sherry casks, it proffers all those winter spice, orange zest and chocolate notes characteristic of Dalmore. Nose: A chocolate orange. Potpourri, perfumed. Fruitcake, sherry. Palate: Medium, lovely delivery. Zesty orange, Blue Curaçao, chocolate. Winter spice, stem ginger in syrup. Hints of anise and a little hickory. Finish: Malty barley and smoky espresso.

DALMORE 18 YO 43% £7.50

Dalmore's stunning 18 year old Highland malt is as rich, fruity and spicy as you could ever want from a Dalmore. Kudos to Richard Paterson for creating another veritable chocolate orange of a whisky - a surefire hit, and great for the colder months. It is aged for 14 years in American oak, followed by three years in Matusalem sherry butts, before a final year in sherry butts. Nose: Fruity and spicy with notes of vanilla, orange zest and potpourri, marmalade and sweet milk chocolate. A touch of leather and sultana. Palate: A delicious fireside dram with notes of chocolate raisins, juicy citrus, stewed fruits, old sherry and pepper. Finish: A long, fruity finish ending on almond, buttery toffee apples and cocoa.

DALMORE CIGAR MALT RESERVE 44% £6.50

Dalmore Cigar Malt was discontinued in mid-2009, causing uproar among all right-thinking, cigar-smoking whisky fans. This dram used to sit above the 12, and below the 15 in terms of both the price-point, and the age-profiles of the whisky that went into the blend, but the new version is a little different. The whiskies that make up the reworked cigar malt are slightly older, which has pushed up the price somewhat. But it's a great whisky, whether you drink with its intended purpose in mind or not. And if you do enjoy cigars, you'll want to know

that the stick that provided the flavour benchmark for pairing is the hefty Partagas Serie D No. 4. Nose: Caramel, shortbread, biscuits, coffee and chocolates. Simple, clean and moreish. Palate: Yet more toffee, caramel edging towards the burnt cinder-toffee side of things. Flamed orange-zest, and perfectly integrated sherry. Finish: Reasonably simple, Christingles (orange Zest and clove with a touch of cinnamon), more mid-palate than palate-coating. Overall: Definitely meets the criteria of pairing with a 'BIG' cigar.

DALMORE KING ALEXANDER **40% £12.00**

A sextuple-wood bottling from Dalmore. This auspiciously-named dram was matured in wine, Madeira, Sherry, Marsala, Kentucky bourbon and Port casks. King Alexander III is a rich, fruity Highland single malt. Nose: Malty and utterly Dalmore. Seville orange zest, Parfait Amour, malty cereal, barley and chocolate. Creamy vanilla fudge, tropical fruit with a vaguely vinous quality. Palate: Medium, rounded. Winter berries, spice, zesty orange. Liqueurs emerge; Gran Marnier, kirsch and Frangelico. Finish: Peppery with well-integrated oak and the claret makes a last minute appearance.

DALWHINNIE 15 YO 43% £4.50

A great malt which Jim Murray awarded 95 points in his Whisky Bible, this is excellent value for money. The flavours are simple, but flawless, a clean, crisp 15 year old from the Dalwhinnie distillery, also part of Diageo's Classic Malts range. Nose: Aromatic, toffee, fruit salad, lush nectarine, custard. Floral, apple blossom, honeysuckle. Apple peels, pear, touch of smoke. Palate: Malty. Walnuts steeped in manuka honey with vanilla sponge. Gentle smoke weaves its way through the cereal with a touch of spice. Finish: Long, malty, walnut, almond.

DALWHINNIE 1995 OLOROSO **FINISH – DISTILLERS EDITION** **43% £5.50 or £59 for the bottle.**

The 1995 vintage of Dalwhinnie Distillers Edition, finished in first fill Oloroso sherry casks before bottling. The result is very rich, thick and fruity. Nose: Fruity and quite gentle, with pear juice, cocoa, espresso, thick malt and a little hoppy bitterness. Palate: Tangy and fruity, apple, honeydew melon, dates and walnuts in syrup, a good mix of spices too. Finish: Good length with cereal sweetness and chocolate milk.

DEANSTON 12 YO 46.3% £4.50

The new, relaunched 12 year old, this single malt has been bottled at a slightly higher proof, negating the necessity for chill-filtration and as such retaining more of its original charm. A lovely dram from the Deanston distillery. Tasting Note by The Chaps at Master of Malt. Nose: Light, cereals, zesty orange marmalade. Barley. Palate: Soft, nutty, caramel. Touch of salinity. Oak. Finish: Soft, quite abrupt, caramel.

DRUMGUISH 40% £3.50

Drumguish is a single malt from the Speyside distillery, which was founded in Speyside in 1956. Nose: Walnuts, honey, barley. Pepper. Smoke, herbal, leather, cigar boxes, a little

fudge. Palate: Rich, soft, fudge, touch of rum. Finish: Cereals, toasted oak, vanilla spice, caramel.

EDRADOUR 10 YO 40% £3.50

Edradour boasts its status as Scotland's smallest distillery and at the heart of the range, this 10 year old Eastern Highlander is a rather unique single malt, a decidedly rum-like dram with a thick mouthfeel. Medium, great complexity. Thoroughly fruity, sherry, sweetness, alluring vanilla. Palate: Cloying, seductive murkiness. Rum, barley, toasted almonds. Some may find themselves lost in the mêlée, not quite enough method to the madness. Finish: Any confusion is arrested: spiced fruitcake with crème anglaise. Overall: An unusual malt.

FETERCAIRN FIOR 42% £4.00

A handsome, smartly packaged Fettercairn. Fior is Gaelic for "true", and the whisky has an astonishingly rich flavour of cocoa, espresso, spices, fruit and almond. We love it. It was released in Summer 2010 as part of the distillery's rebranding process, which is positioning them into the premium market.

GLEN GAROICH 12 YO 48% £4.00

Released in 2010, Glen Garioch's new 12 year old is matured in both bourbon and sherry casks, and it has loads of character, as well as being bottled at the sensible strength of 48% On the nose there are heathery floral notes balanced with the richness of poached pears and the sweetness of malted barley. On the palate there is a layer of creme brulee and sweet ripe banana followed by a oakiness with pear fruitiness.

GLENCADAM 10 YO 46% £4.00

"The Rather Delicate Highland Single Malt", states the label. Colour: white wine. Nose: well, this is a typical ultra-clean, ultra-fresh half-fruity, half-grainy young whisky, with faint whiffs of coal smoke and a slight waxiness (more paraffin). A lot of apple juice topped with a little limejuice. Not mindboggling but most pleasant so far. Mouth: as clean, crisp and fresh as on the nose, with an excellent body. Uncomplicated but assertive. Lemon, strawberries and tangerines with some candy sugar and a little honey. Good stuff. Finish: rather long, on the same notes. This is no dissonant malt whisky! Comments: like them clean and fruity but not immature? This one is for you.

GLENGOYNE 10 YO 40% £3.00

A soft, sweet 10 year old single malt from the Glengoyne distillery and a winner of a Gold Medal at the 2007 San Francisco World Spirits Competition. Nose: Slightly herbal, big bourbon influence which has brought a wonderful "high note". White milk bottle sweets, more creamy than fruity. Palate: Barley rich, more bourbon influence. Clean and dry. Finish: Long, barley rich, touch of hoi sin.

GLENMORANGIE 10 YO 40% £3.00

Original is the core bottling in the Glenmorangie range, released to replace the old 10 year old. This really is a classic malt, so creamy and fruity. Nose: Very fruity and thick. Rich notes of lemon, nectarine and apple. Spices. Palate: Fresh and

GLENMORANGIE 12 YO - QUINTA RUBAN 46% £4.00

Quinta Ruban is Glenmorangie's port finish. To craft this single malt they specially selected Port pipes from the Douro valley in Portugal. The nose is full of winter berries and a touch of port. A good oak and a little cereal hanging in the substratum. The palate is sweet and thick. The port note is chewy and rich with notes of barley sugar and cereal and lots of juicy fruit and berries, a tad cloying. The finish is long and fruity and quite sweet.

GLENMORANGIE 12 YO – NECTAR D'OR 46% £4.50

Nectar D'Or is probably a reference to the golden nectar that was previously held in the casks used to finish the whisky. This is a sauternes finished single malt from the Glenmorangie distillery, a fruity, vinous release from the Highland distillery. The nose is full of dessert wines, a little fruitiness with a good barley sweetness. The palate is quite full with more dessert wine notes, but with cereal notes and barley, a touch of malty spice and berry fruits with good oaky tannins and little herbal notes. The finish is long with a good oaked note and more noble rot.

GLENMORANGIE 12 YO – LASANTA 46% £4.00

An Oloroso sherry finished whisky from Glenmorangie, the word 'Lasanta' derives from the Gaelic for Warmth and Passion. The nose is creamy and of caramel, crème anglaise and chocolate raisins, quite dry with notes of mixed sweet spices. The mouth feel is very thick as you chew through honeyed raisins. There is a little sweet beeswax, melted vanilla ice cream as the sherry weaves gently through the palate, a very buttery expression. Much more of that honey in the creamy finish, it has a slight oaky dryness and a dusting of cocoa powder. balanced, vanilla. Boiled sweets, very creamy, tiramisu, toffee. Finish: Quite long, gentle, malty and very fruity.

OBAN 14 YO 43% £4.00

A bustling seaside resort has grown up around the distillery in the two centuries since it was first built in the fishing town of Oban. The West Highland malt is still produced in the same unhurried, traditional fashion and this 14 year old is a classic dram from the distillery. The nose is rich and smoky. The medicinal notes are quite evident with notes of the sea; seaweed, tarry ropes. There are notes of cut hay and wood smoke rising with a gentle estery sweetness. The palate is thick and full. Notes of citrus with smooth sweetness. The smoke wafts with notes of seaweed. The oak is quite rich with grist and cereal and malt. The finish is of good length with fruit and dry oak.

OLD PULTNEY 40% £3.00

Matured in ex-bourbon casks for 12 years, this Old Pultney malt was a Double Gold winner at the 2006 San Francisco World Spirits Competition. Nose: Crisp and clean. Great balance reveals notes of herbs and grist. Parsley, almond. Palate: Balanced with medium body. Musty, nutty, sultana, toffee, spices. Oak. Finish: Medium, oak, spices.

ROYAL LOCHNAGAR 12 YO 40% £3.50

This 12 year old was distillery at the Lochnagar distillery, once visited by Queen Victoria when she was staying at nearby

Balmoral. Appearance: Pale amber. Nose: A relatively closed nose. Planed wood, light toffee, boat varnish. Linseed oil behind, even putty, and later a lychee-like acidity. With water the acidity comes up (acid drops), and the nose sweetens. Still a pleasant fresh woodiness or leatheriness, the varnish now supported by artists turpentine. Warm sand. After a while, coffee dregs with brown sugar. Not an obvious nose, however. Body: Medium. Palate: Pleasantly acidic; such initial sweetness as there is quickly subsumed by acidity. Finish: Dry to bitter; medium-length, with an attractive lingering sandalwood aftertaste. Enjoy with parma ham, calves liver or goats cheese.

STRONACHIE 12 YO 43% £4.00

A 12 year old single malt from an unnamed distillery, Stronachie is bottled by Dewar Rattray, and it commemorates an old, long lost distillery of the same name. Nose: Heather honey, malt. Grassy, fruity and dry with hints of almond. Palate: Creamy and spicy with notes of malt, a touch of smoke, more almond, then toffee and fruit. Finish: Medium with nutty notes.

STRONACHIE 18 YO 46% £5.00

The 18-year-old expression comprises a vatting of six 18-year-old hogsheads and two 19-year-old Sherry butts. The result is a whisky with a full, complex, floral nose of toasted malt, stewed fruits, sweet sherry, honey, nuts and wood smoke. The palate is sweet, with more sherry and honey, ripe apples, fudge and soft spices. The medium-length finish features a hint of peat, roasted malt and pleasing tannins.

TEANINICH 10 YO 43% £4.00

A full and densely flavoured malt with aromas of lemon, peat smoke, marmalade and toffee apple. Robust and complex on the palate before a slightly spicy finish.

TOMATIN 15 YO 43% £4.00

This 15 year old was released in August 2009. It has a light, supple flavour profile, but with what Tomatin distillers describe as a "significant influence from the North American oak". Nose: Gentle, balanced with orchard fruits, oak, blossom, orange too, creamy vanilla, toffee. Palate: Creamy and soft with a prominence of fruit and malt. Balanced, some toffee, caramel, citrus. Finish: A long, soft finish.

TOMATIN 18 YO 46% £4.50

An 18 year old from the Tomatin distillery, finished in Spanish oak Oloroso sherry butts. The nose is quite punchy and of good body. There are notes of chewy grape and sultana with winter spice; cloves and cinnamon. There are notes of vanilla fudge and a most supple of smokes, weaving gracefully in cut grasses and apple peels. The palate is quite sweet and full. There are notes of barley sugar and honeycomb. Hints of chocolate orange and cocoa dusted liberally on a toasty oak. The finish is long and powerful with a dry, chewy oak and a touch of pepper.

TOMATIN LEGACY 43% £4.00 or £40.00 for the bottle.

Tomatin distillery's new no-age-statement release uses virgin oak as well as bourbon casks. It provides a new entry level to the Tomatin range but the use of different casks make this a unique expression. Nose: Lemon, panatella and pine forest.

Slightly green with vanilla. Palate: Cracked pepper and sweet barley with pineapple cube sweets. Waves of warming oak beneath. Finish: Sweet but peppered. Overall: A clean and certainly affordable single malt whisky.

**TOMATIN CASK TYPE - EX
BOURBON HAND BOTTLED 56.9%
£175 FOR THE BOTTLE**

Hand written and signed by the distillery manager – Cask no. 1793, bottle number 113, bottling date 13.9.2013
No tasting notes.

**TOMATIN CASK TYPE - EX
SHERRY - HAND BOTTLED 57.7%
£175 FOR THE BOTTLE**

Hand written and signed by the distillery manager – Cask no. 2034, bottle number 209, bottling date 14.9.2013
No tasting notes.

**TOMATIN 1982 CASK 92 57% £350
for the bottle.**

This is an incredibly rare Tomatin, in fact there are just 560 bottles. This was distilled in 1982, and it was aged in cask 92, a refill sherry puncheon. Nose: Fruity, but heavy, deep and dark. Touch of solvent adding complexity, and some saw dusty spices: nutmeg, lavender, cola. Water brings out the sherry cask characters and makes it juicier; dates, raisins, prune juice and ginger. Palate: Deep and tingly – hot, spicy and woody, with a faint bitterness not unlike Worcestershire sauce combined with oak chip. Water added some juicy roundness and teased out the sweetness, but it still remains quite hot. Finish: Quite dry with a bit of vinegary tingle. Remained quite hot with water, which was obtruding other sensations.

**TOMATIN 1973 Cask 25602 44%
£530 for the bottle.**

A rare single cask bottling of Tomatiin from cask 25602 (a refill American oak cask) and limited to 184 bottles. Nose: A veritable fruit salad. Pear drops, wild cherries, cranberries, malt, vanilla and beeswax. Palate: Light, soft, subtle fruity flavours coat the middle of the tongue. These are followed by delicate hints of lemon curd, coconut flakes and heather honey sweetness that linger on and on. Finish: Smooth, sensual and creamy.

Islands

**THE ARRAN MALT 10 YO 46%
£4.00**

Officially launched in 2006, this 10 year old lies at the heart of the Isle of Arran range and exudes all the honeyed richness we have come to associate with the island distillery. Nose: Herbal, biscuity, hedgerow greenness and dried grass, like a long English summer's afternoon. Palate: Sweet. Quite malty, digestive biscuits, followed by green fruits and Cox's apple peel. Finish: Slightly bitter, maltiness.

HIGHLAND PARK 12 YO 40% £3.00

The nose is fresh, clean and very aromatic. Floral notes abound the senses with a light grassiness. Notes of creamy manuka honey and a touch of juicy citrus with cream and a well-balanced sweetness. The palate is quite full with a pleasant subtlety to the depths. Lurking somewhere in the substratum a grilled orange lies. Notes of granary toast and green tea with jasmine. A touch of sweetness. The finish is quite long with peppered spicy and wood shavings

JURA 10 YO 40% £3.00

A core bottling from the Isle of Jura's only distillery. This 10 year old has exhibits the distillery's classic oily, briny characteristics. The nose has a freshness with notes of damp hay and soft, malty cereal notes. A touch of peat with gentle oak and arak with blossom tones. The palate is thick and full with more cereal, this time a barley fudge sweetness creeps in with creamy smoothness and a touch of aniseed. The finish is long with peppery winter spice.

LEDAIG 10 YO 46.3% £4.00

A 10 year old from the Tobermory distillery on Mull, a Gold Medal winner at the 2008 International Wine and Spirits Competition. The nose is quite light and well-balanced. There is a very soft peat with a gentle smoke. Notes of barley and malt extract with walnut and pine oil and a hint of iodine with notes of dried fruit and nuts. The palate is medium-bodied and quite rich. There are notes of spice and smoke gathering above the charred oak. The peat is quiet and dry with a touch of black pepper and earth. The finish is of medium-length and slightly smoky with spice.

SCAPA 2001 43% £4.00

COLOUR Dark straw. Body Light to medium. Finish Long and creamy. Cask Type 1st Fill Bourbon Barrels. Style Light and balanced Island malt. AROMA without water Light and fruity with green apples, white grapes and sweet vanilla. A subtle smokiness develops. TASTE without water Chili spices initially with grapefruit, a slight nuttiness and a lingering creamy milk chocolate edge. AROMA with water Becomes fruitier with pears, apples and citrus aromas. A trace of cigar ash and vanilla. TASTE with water Sweet vanilla and mild spices initially with tropical fruits and charred oak flavours developing.

SCAPA 16 YO 40% £4.50

This 16 year old from Orkney's Scapa was relaunched in 2008. The nose is quite thick and rich with notes of honeycomb and toffee. There are some notes of dried peels and notes of marmalade with a malty texture. The palate is full-bodied with a silken delivery. Notes of heather roots and cut grasses, honeyed oak notes with winter spices; cinnamon and cloves. There are some acacia honey notes. The finish is long and developing with notes of dry oak and a gentle, weaving smoke.

TALISKER 10 YO 45.8% £4.00

A classic Island dram from the Isle of Skye. Always highly rated, this was an Editor's Choice at Whisky Magazine. Lots of spice and fresh, tangy peat. Nose: Thick, pungent smoke. Notes of kippers, seaweed, apple peels. Fresh and fragrant. Palate: Full bodied with huge plumes of smoke and volcanic, peppery peat. Intense. Finish: Long finish, barley, malt.

TALISKER 2001 AMOROSO FINISH – DISTILLERS EDITION 45.8% £6.50 or £86 for the bottle.

This is the award-winning 2001 vintage Talisker from the popular Distillers Edition range. It sees the peppery, peaty dram from Skye finished in top-quality Amoroso sherry casks before bottling. This brings all kinds of additional richness and complexity. Nose: Smoke and spice on the nose with hints of bitter Seville orange marmalade and cracked black pepper. Quite an oily nose. Palate: Thick, rich fruit notes on the palate. A mix of marmalade and wood smoke meld with allspice linseed oil, cracked black pepper and hints of dried herbs. Finish: Long spicy finish with black pepper and butterscotch. Overall: Full-bodied and wonderful rich.

TOBERMORY 10 YO 46.3% £4.00

A gentle, affable 10 year old single malt from the Tobermory distillery on the Isle of Mull. Now at the higher strength of 46.3%... The nose is quite light and fresh. There are notes of barley sugars and toasted cereals, hints of winter spice and a soft oak with notes of salty melted butter and ground ginger. The palate is quite sweet and light. There are notes of acacia honey and a soft oak, the smoke and peppers thereof rise gently with a touch of dried fruit and peel with a cinnamon note. The finish is long and herbal with a touch of pepper.

Islay

ARDBEG 10 YO 46% £4.00

When Ardbeg 10 was released it was the first expression from the distillery not to be chill-filtered. It's a true classic from Islay, and a must have for any fan of single malt whisky. Nose: A ridge of vanilla leads to mountain of peat capped with citrus fruits and circled by clouds of sea spray. Palate: Sweet vanilla counterbalanced with lemon and lime followed by that surging Ardbeg smoke that we all know and love. Finish: Long and glorious; sea salted caramel and beach bonfire smoke. Overall: Precise balance, big smoke and non-chill filtered. This is why this is such a famous dram.

BOWMORE 12 YO 40% £3.00

The heart of the Bowmore range, the 12 year old exhibits some beautiful coastal notes with a gentle peat, it is the balance that the floral element presents that makes this a great entry bottling for Bowmore. Nose: Very floral, lots of peat and smoky heather. Ash, hay, coastal, zesty orange. Palate: Lovely and rounded, perfumed smoke, coastal element develops. Dark Peat. Blossom, oily sweetness. Finish: Very smoky, long. Sea spray, dry grass, ash and citrus.

BRUICHLADDICH THE LADDIE TEN 10 YO 46% £4.00

This is a very special whisky, for me this is one of the best (if not the best) whiskies in the massively competitive £30 price area, it is absolutely superb. Although it's only 10 years old it is the quality of its production which makes this punch well above it's weight. You get an immediate sense of where this was matured with a hit of sea water/weed and a grainy, sort of digestive biscuit like body, along with citrus fruits, spices and oak. It's so fresh and crisp yet has a remarkable complexity.

BUNNAHABHAIN 12 YO 46.3% £4.00

This entry level Bunnahabhain bottling comes in a redesigned bottle. This 12 year old is lightly peated for an Islay single malt and consequently is a light, fresh dram. Now at the higher strength of 46.3% - for more complexity and flavour. Tasting Note by The Chaps at Master of Malt Nose: Fresh, sweet. Seaweed, malt. Palate: Soft, supple. Sherry, nutty. A little sweetness, malty, juicy sultana. Slightly coastal. Finish: Sherried, mochaccino, herbal, balanced salty tang.

BUNNAHABHAIN 8 YEAR OLD / HEAVILY PEATED / THE MACPHAIL'S COLLECTION 43% £4.20

A heavily peated 8 year old Bunnahabhain, bottled by Gordon & MacPhail as part of 'The MacPhail's Collection'. The MacPhail's Collection is a small and exclusive range of fine single malts bottled from distilleries located throughout the main whisky producing regions of Scotland.

CAOL ILA 12 YO 43% £4.00

This 12 year old is the entry level bottling from the Caol Ila distillery, launched in June of 2002 this expression is light and fresh with that distinctive Caol Ila smoke. Tasting Note by The Chaps at Master of Malt Nose: Fresh, herbal. Rubbed peppermint leaves, stemmy, damp grass, smoky. Oily, cigar leaves, smoked ham, hickory. Palate: Good body, oily, tar, elegant smoke. Hints of boiled sweets. Finish: Long, peppery, spicy warmth, smoke.

CAOL ILA 1994 GORDON & MACPHAIL PRIVATE COLLECTION SASSICAIA WOOD FINISH 45% £5.50

Gordon & MacPhail Private Collection Caol Ila 1994 Sassicaia Wood Finish This Caol from Gordon & MacPhail was distilled on 30 September 1994 and bottled in November 2012. It is a limited expression of November 2012. Tasting Notes Nose G&M - Baked fruits with toffee apples and plain chocolate. Sweet cured meat aromas with a subtle hint hazelnut. With water sweet vanilla and fresh strawberries with a subtle lingering menthol edge. Taste G&M - Peppery initially with green apples, cloves and coriander flavours developing. A lingering cigar ash edge. Finish G&M - Long, sweet and smoky.

KILCHOMAN 46% £4.00

Nose: Very earthy peat, fresh sea air, aromatic ground coffee and almond milk. Palate: Peat that sits for a long while then gives way to warm sugar cookies and fresh cut grass. Body: Light, but don't be fooled. It's flavour and aroma suggests a much stronger presence. Finish: That earthy peat. This is a very young whiskey which is made up of mostly Kilchoman's 3 year old batch, some 4 and some 5. I've heard many people suggest that the older a whiskey is, the better it is. I have never believed that myself, but if you do, Kilchoman Machir Bay may just influence your opinion.

LAGAVULIN 16 YO 43% £4.00

Nose Massive peat. Ultra-intense iodine carries a shade more spice than of old. The fruity-sherry notes are clean, vanilla is

much deeper. Beautifully layered. Palate Peat so thick you could stand a spoon in it. Chewy iodine bolstered by sherry and big oak. Finish A little spice lightens the grip of the peat and vanilla. Dries off with malt, dried dates...and iodine. A true classic in every sense that offers breathtaking depth.

LAPHROAIG 10 YO 40% £3.50

Really smoky and iodine rich. This has to be one of Scotland's most characterful drams. Laphroaig are known for their medicinal malts, and the classic 10 year old is no exception. Tasted by us with Laphroaig's Distillery Manager, John Campbell Nose: This opens on big, smoky muscular peat notes. with water; try it, it opens up the palate massively, providing a dazzling array of additional flavours.

WAVES 46% £4.00

A 2008 release from the Bruichladdich distillery and a light single malt. The name Waves suggests the notes of crisp, fresh fruits and a touch of light spice with a touch of typical 'Laddie coastal tones. Nose: Light, fresh. Perfumed, stemmy, floral. Dry grass, apples, slightly coastal. Palate: Medium body, balanced. Dried seaweed, sweet barley, toffee, vanilla, honey freshly sliced oranges, fruit salad, a touch of smoke - a lot going on! Finish: Long, fruity and spiced. There are spices, and liquorice, as well as a big dose of salt. This whisky has become slightly sweeter in recent years, and it beautifully on the nose, amidst the classic iodine/sticking plasters and cool wood smoke we love. Palate: Seaweed-led, with a hint of vanilla ice cream and more than a whiff of notes from the First Aid box (TCP, plasters etc). The oak is big, and muscles its way into the fore as you hold this whisky over your tongue. An upsurge of spices develop – cardamom/black pepper/chilli. Finish: Big and drying, as the savoury, tarry notes build up with an iodine complexity. Overall: The only malt from Laphroaig's range that John Campbell recommends

Lowlands

AUCHENTOSHAN 12 YO 40% £3.50

A more recent release from the Auchentoshan distillery, replacing the previous staple 10 year old, this 12 year old bottling exhibits the new, slightly Imperial aesthetics Auchentoshan have rebranded themselves with. Nose: Cereals, exotic fruits. Palate: Tannins, a little sweet barley, vanilla. Finish: Dry and very long, a little sweetness from the barley.

BLADNOCH 9 YO 46% £4.00

This is a 2002 vintage of the Lowland whisky of Bladnoch. The distillery reopened in 2000 after a number of years of mothballing. Nose: Barley sugar, fields of hay and vanilla pods with a hint of allspice. Palate: Acacia honey accompanied with boiled sweets with a smooth creamy body. Finish: Reasonably long with notes of beeswax and cream. Overall: A great showing from the Lowland Bladnoch distillery.

GLENKINCHIE 12 YO 43% £4.00

This 12 year old is the new entry level bottling from Glenkinchie, released in 2007 to replace the 10 year old. The nose is quite light, yet fragrant. Notes of fresh cereal and grist, some barley sweetness and a nutty note. Acacia honey creeps in with gentle warmth. The palate is very fruity with notes of

Madeira and sweet stewed fruits. A hint of calvados and tannic oak lining the mouth. There is a freshness and roundness to this dram. The finish is of medium length with notes of cereal and a fresh greenness.

GLENKINCHIE THE DISTILLERS EDITION 43% £4.00 or £88 for the bottle.

A special limited edition from hand selected casks, double-matured in elegant amontillado cask wood chosen to compliment the whisky's sophisticated balance between sweet and dry, This distillers edition reveals a facinating, complex and malty depth in Glenkinchie's Intriguing Lowland Character. Distilled in 1996 and bottled in 2010.

LOCH LOMOND 40% £3.00

The entry level bottling for the Loch Lomond distillery, which by the way has no association with the still of the same name. The nose is quite light with notes of leather and wood shavings and musty old attic with some cereal notes and a creaminess. The palate is quite full with notes of stemmy hay and musty cellar, hints of toasted granary bread with cereal notes, barley sweetness and a biscuity quality. The finish is quite long and full of cereal notes.

Speyside

ABERLOUR 10 YO 40% £3.00

Matured in a combination of ex-bourbon and sherry casks, this 10 year old from Aberlour remains a perennial favourite, typical of the modern Speyside style and thoroughly approachable. Such is its popularity that this bottling has been exported to over fifty countries. Tasting Note by Nose: Sweet and full. Sherried raisins, hints of toffee and a pleasant nuttiness. Palate: Quite full-bodied, spicy rich fruitcake, toffee notes and a creamy malty-feel and the vaguest whisper of something akin to synthetic banana. Finish: Caramel and honey, the malt still evident and the sweet spices still linger. Overall: Lovely and rich.

AN CNOC 12 YO 40% £3.00

Knockdu renamed their whiskies anCnoc to avoid confusion with the nearby Knockando distillery. This 12 year old exhibits a gentle, non-sherried Speyside style of whisky. Nose: Aromatic, quite robust. Honeysuckle, fresh flowers, cereals, barley. Palate: Medium, good sweetness. Madeira, winter spices, mocha, Crème de Cacao, herbal hints and toasted granary bread. Finish: Medium length, great interplay between oak and barley.

BALVENIE 12 YO DOUBLE WOOD 40% £3.50

Aged in ex-bourbon casks before being finished in sherry casks, Double Wood is an excellent example of what the Balvenie distillery can craft, even at 12 years. Nose: Gristy, supple nuttiness, grapey. Palate: Sweet with good body. The bourbon characters develop; gentle spice with a little vanilla, a balancing peat lurking quietly in the substrata. Finish: Dry, spicy, beautifully warming.

BENRIACH 12 YO 40% £4.00

Winner of a Bronze Medal at the 2005 International Wine and Spirits Competition, this 12-year old from the BenRiach distillery bettered itself the following year, taking home a Silver. Nose: Floral, grassy, heather honey. Vanilla sweetness. Hint of fresh peat. Palate: Silken delivery offers white peach and spicy toffee apple. Floral, honey. Finish: Refined, little spice. Melted chocolate.

BENROMACH TRADITIONAL 40% £3.00

An entry level bottling for the Benromach range, though nonetheless we have a superbly balanced whisky, 80% of which has been bourbon-matured and the remaining 20% matured in sherry casks. Nose: Pine oils, fresh. Sweetness, nutty, smoky. Stem ginger, bog myrtle, acacia honey. Palate: Floral, grassy. Heather and hedgerow berries. Buttery, spicy. Finish: Quite sweet, tannic. Citrus notes, a tad more stem ginger, zesty.

BENROMACH PEAT SMOKE 53PPM 46% £4.00

AROMA without water: Cured meats with toasted malt and sweet vanilla. Fruity elements develop hints of pear, dried apricot and citrus zest. TASTE without water Bonfire embers initially with liquorice, cinnamon and vanilla. Creamy milk chocolate with a touch of orange peel. AROMA with water: Delicate smoke with orange and pear. Traces of nutmeg and vanilla. TASTE with water Peppery at first with roasted pine nuts and liquorice. Fresh grapefruit with lavender and a more subtle smokiness.

BENROMACH 2002 CASK STRENGTH 59.9% £4.50

Matured in first fill Bourbon barrels, bottled at cask strength and unchillfiltered this whisky displays an initial burst of black cracked pepper with creamy white chocolate flavours and hints of lime zest. Pale gold. Body Medium Finish Long and fruity. Cask Type 1st Fill Bourbon Barrels. Style Warming, smooth and complex. AROMA without water Fresh with touch of smoke and cured bacon aromas. Sweet vanilla with hints of pear and kiwi fruit. TASTE without water Black cracked pepper with creamy white chocolate flavours and hints of lime zest. AROMA with water Fresh and fruity with green pear and pineapple influences. Sweet vanilla and a subtle hint of smoke. TASTE with water Initially peppery with sweet fruity flavours, milk chocolate and citrus. A subtle peaty edge lingers.

BENROMACH ORGANIC 43% £4.50

AROMA without water Light & delicate fruity aromas - hints of soft, fresh fruits. A subtle smoky edge develops. TASTE without water Mouth warming with a distinctive peaty note present, hints of charred oak and a sweet, cream toffee finish. AROMA with water Fresh aromas with a floral, perfumed note. Some green fruitiness arrives with a touch of cut grass. The sweet, toffee aromas continue. TASTE with water The smokiness is now more evident but surrounded by a smooth vanilla sweetness. Some roasted malt and oak notes linger in the background.

BENROMACH 10 YEAR OLD 43% £4.00

80% Bourbon barrels, 20% Sherry hogsheads. Final year in first fill Oloroso casks. Benromach 10 Years Old is a multi-award winning Single Malt Scotch Whisky hand-crafted at Speyside's smallest working distillery. Initially matured in a mix of Bourbon and Sherry casks, the whisky is transferred to European oak Oloroso Sherry casks for a final period of maturation. The result is a beautifully balanced dram, displaying a rich Sherry character, summer fruit flavours, malt creaminess and a light peat smoke influence. AROMA without water Rich Sherry influence with fruit & nut chocolate and delicate spice - cinnamon. Fresh green apples, with a malty, digestive biscuit note and light peat smoke in the background. TASTE without water Delicious forest fruits - raspberries and brambles, Sherry, malt creaminess with a stronger peat influence. AROMA with water Charred oak influence and malt. Slightly nutty with exotic fruits - pineapple and kiwi. TASTE with water Mouth coating with toasted malt. Lingering sweet Sherry and delicate peat smoke.

CARDHU 12 YO 40% £3.50

A well-balanced, gentle single malt from Speyside. Cardhu 12 is a very well put together malt. Nose: Good body, decent sweetness, richness. Streaks of smoke, apple peels, bruised pears. Palate: Smooth, rounded, gentle sweetness, soft peat. A little smoke whispers sweet nothings. Finish: Long, dry smoke, malty touch of peat.

CRAGGANMORE 12 YO 40% £3.50

A sherried 12 year old single malt from Diageo's Classic Malts range, this bottling from the Cragganmore distillery represents Speyside and proffers a rich, slightly floral whisky with barley notes. Nose: Aromatic, floral. Heather, fruit salad, creamy texture. Smoked almonds, stemmy hay. Palate: Rich, honey, stone fruits, chestnuts, walnuts, almonds. Berries. Finish: Smoky, good length, delicate peppery spice.

CRAGGANMORE 1998 PORT WOOD FINISH – DISTILLERS EDITION 40% £5.50

Diageo's Distillers Edition range is a series of Classic Malts, specially finished in wine casks. This Cragganmore is a fine example, distilled in 1998 and finished in port pipes before bottling. Nose: Dried strawberries and hints of soft sherry. Apple peel, a little ground almond and gingerbread. Palate: Thick, creamy, warming palate entry with notes of rich spices and cooked fruit. All kinds of berry preserves. Finish: Black pepper and pear drops.

DAILUAINE 16 YO 43% £4.50

A Flora and Fauna official release from the Dailuaine distillery, a 16 year old single malt which has been sherry matured for thick fruitcake notes with winter spice, a great digestive. Nose: Cereals, barley sugars, sherry. Fruitcake, oily, nutty. Palate: Medium body, clean. Malt, estery fruit. Sherry. Nutty. Finish: Nutty, almonds, oily, smoke, oak.

GLENBURGIE 10 YO 40% £3.50

A 10 year old from Glenburgie, matured in refill sherry hogsheads and first fill sherry butts. The nose is quite full and rich with notes of sherried sultanas and dried mixed peel. Notes

of oak with chewy tannins and a slightly phenolic, sulphury note of bitumen. The palate is quite sweet with winter berries and mixed fruit and nuts, with a little malt loaf thrown in for good measure. The finish is gentle and supple with a little toasted malt loaf.

GLEN ELGIN 12 YO 43% £4.00

A very soft 12 year old Speyside dram, distilled at the Glen Elgin distillery. Nose: Cereals. Rich. Malt. Smoky espresso, honeycomb. Palate: Soft, malty. Honey, lightly salted butter on toasted sultana loaf. Hints of tiramisu. Finish: Good length, barley, toasted oats.

GLEN GRANT 10 YO 40% £3.00

A gentle, delicate 10 year old single malt, a great beginner's whisky from the Glen Grant distillery. Nose: Medium. Vanilla, toffee apple. Herbal, hint of smoke. Palate: Firm. Sweetness, fruity, vanilla. Gentle peat, malty. Finish: Dry, supple peat, toffee.

GLEN GRANT 16 YO 43% £5.00

Gruppo Campari, who own the Glen Grant distillery (they bought it from Chivas Brothers in 2005), launched the Glen Grant 16 Year Old in 2009. It has been praised by many as the best in their current standard range. The nose bursts with stone fruit. Peach, grapes, but also pears on syrup. Slightly creamy with a whiff on crème brûlée, vanilla custard and a handful of oak. Silky soft and honeysweet. Some nuts too. This is quite good! It is wonderfully creamy and feisty on the palate. Loads of pears, light peppers, a basketful of nuts. Full body and very warm. This is classy in all its straightforwardness. The finish is

long and warm on liquorice. This is a serious step up from the 10 Year Old that merits the price tag. Available for around

GLEN MORAY 10 YO 40% £3.00

Colour Gold Nose Very light acetones (like smelling someone using nail polish remover in the next room or smelling a pear drop on its way to your mouth), gently warmed peaches, Custard Creams, Kola Kubes, yellow wine gums, and just a pinch of nutmeg on the end. Spice, spice, and more spice without being hot: poached pears with ginger, cooked apples with abundant nutmeg, a little ground grey pepper, and a little garam masala around the edges Finish: Moderate with lingering cooked fruits and nutmeg. In conclusion: A very easy drinker.

GLEN SPEY 12 YO 43% £4.00

A 12 year old from Glen Spey, released as part of Diageo's Flora and Fauna series. Nose: Light, fragrant, Fresh, green, dried grass. Resinous, beeswax, honey sweetness. Palate: Soft, smooth, dried grass, fruity, calvados. Malty and nutty. Finish: Gentle, medium length, oaky warmth, nutty.

THE GLENDRONACH 12 YO 43% £4.00

A 12 year old from the Speyside distillery, Glendronach, a very heavily sherried single malt. Nose: Rich, cereals. Barley, creamy, hazelnut. Oak. Palate: Fruits, peels, buttery. Pain au chocolat, marmalade on toast, nutty. Finish: Good length, buttery cereal, toffee.

GLENFARCLAS 10 YO 40% £3.50

The producers recommend this as an aperitif whisky. It certainly offers more complexity than you'd expect from a 10 year old dram. A lovely, delicate whisky from Glenfarclas. Nose: Lots of sherry, juicy. Honey, touch of toffee, creamy. Malty, barley. Palate: Winter spice. Fruitcake, toffee, hint of smoke. Finish: Long, spicy, fruity, oak.

GLENFARCLAS 15 YO 46% £5.50

An incredible dram from Glenfarclas, we can't say enough about it. It's a juicy, Christmas cake of a whisky, absolutely huge! This 15 year old matured in sherry wood, a superb malt which earned 95 points from Jim Murray. A lot of the whisky in this is clearly much older than 15 years, this is a really sherried dram and we love it. Nose: Intense, powerful sherry. Cream sherry, certainly – Pedro Ximenez? almost... a touch of peppermint? An almost rancio quality to this. Smells older than 15 Palate: Raisins, more sherry, orange peel, walnuts, dates. Finish: Incredibly long, complex, more of the Walnuts again.

GLENFARCLAS 21 YO 46% £7.50

A heavily sherried 21 year old from the Glenfarclas distillery. This offers loads of depth, a really thick dram and great value for money too. Nose: Apple, orange, less sherry than the 15yo. Peppermint again?! Palate: Incredibly smooth. Barley-rich, just a textbook smoothness and rounded character that leaves you gasping for another sip... Finish: Long, barley-rich, awesomely smooth, very little oak influence. Overall: Very, very pleasant. Could teach Roger Moore a thing or two about smoothness.

GLENFARCLAS 25 YO 46% £11.50

If you like sherried whisky, you will love this super 25 year old from Glenfarclas. It oozes noble blood and devastating class. Nose: Touch of menthol. Sherry again, less pronounced, but the complexity is greater. Palate: Very simple, incredibly clean central palate, but amazingly tangy. Really zingy top notes. Finish: Very, very long and complex finish, Oak-rich, cocoa, buttery. Overall: Very good, very complex, nicely tangy.

GLENFARCLAS 30 YO 43% £15.50

A heavily sherried 30 year old from Glenfarclas, this was a winner at the International Spirits Challenge. Nose: Rich, dark. Smoky, sherry. Sugared peels, zesty. Rubbery. Palate: Thick. Creamy sherry, buttery, spicy, malt loaf. Herbal, fresh. Finish: Long, full, rubbery on the tail.

GLENFARCLAS 40 YO 43% £32.00 a nip

Glenfarclas' stunning new 40 year old whisky launched during the Spirit of Speyside Whisky Festival, and not only is it absolutely astonishing, it is also amazing value for money! It offers all of the sherried Glenfarclas character and exceptional maturity too, having been distilled in the 1960s. Nose: Very complex and rich. Calves leather, cedar wood cigar boxes and cocoa kicking things off. Then we're onto waves of sweet sherry and chocolate orange, marmalade and butterscotch. Hints of molasses develop and just a whisper of pepper. Palate:

GLENFARCLAS 105 60% £5.50

Glenfarclas 105 is a superb cask strength whisky, really bold and punchy. In 2004, the Malt Maniacs rated this the best "Bang for your buck" whisky. Nose: Great depth, sherry. Creamy and nutty. Honey on toast, touch of smoky coffee. Palate: Silken, spicy and peppery oak. Almond, praline,

hazelnut, dried peels, fruity. Touch of Armagnac, hint of rancio perhaps? Finish: Long, peppery and nutty.

GLENFIDDICH 12 YO 40% £3.50

This classic Speyside from Glenfiddich was the Winner of a Gold Medal at the 2007 International Wine and Spirit Competition, aged for 12 years in American and European Oak casks. Nose: Grain. Slightly floral, mineralic. Spirity, orchard fruit, malty, honey. Citrus develops. Palate: Light, floral, spices. Very smooth. Finish: Sweet, touch of oak and general fruit, oily. Overall: Stereotypical Speyside. Consistent - a good benchmark.

GLENFIDDICH 15 YO 51% £5.00

A 15 year old matured in American bourbon, Portuguese sherry and virgin oak. The whisky was then married in a Solera vat. This is a great staple 15 year old from the Glenfiddich distillery. Nose: Sherry, citrus - orange in particular, dry wood. Slight suggestion of smoke? Palate: Medium, sherry, raisins. Fruitcake, spices, sweetness. Finish: Candied fruits, raisins, spices, Christmas pudding, oak takes over.

GLENFIDDICH 18 YO 40% £5.00

This 18 year old from Glenfiddich's core range was matured in a mix of Oloroso sherry and bourbon casks. Nose: Loads of fruit. Zesty grapefruit, apples. Dry wood. Palate: Candied fruits, spicy, toffee, ginger, sherry, syrupy. Finish: Peels, spices, sherry, sweet ginger, touch of salted toffee. Overall: More interesting, one-dimensional, but a very enjoyable dimension it is.

GLENFIDDICH RICH OAK 14 YO 40% £4.00

A recent release edition from Glenfiddich, this was aged for 14 years before a finish in new American and Spanish oak casks. They say the American oak adds spice, vanilla and fruit, and the Spanish oak brings elegant fruit, spice and complexity. Nose: Lots of oak influence. Very fruity, nutmeg, cinnamon, bourbon, fruits, dates. Palate: Bourbon sweetness, with lots of general fruitiness, sublimely smooth. Finish: Nutty and of good length, toasty, hints of char, fruity.

GLENFIDDICH 12 YO 40% Miniature £4.10

This classic Speyside from Glenfiddich was the Winner of a Gold Medal at the 2007 International Wine and Spirit Competition, aged for 12 years in American and European Oak casks. Nose: Grain. Slightly floral, mineralic. Spirity, orchard fruit, malty, honey. Citrus develops. Palate: Light, floral, spices. Very smooth. Finish: Sweet, touch of oak and general fruit, oily. Overall: Stereotypical Speyside. Consistent - a good benchmark.

THE GLENLIVET 12 YO 40% £3.50

Nose shows Red Delicious apple and oxidized red delicious apple core, green apple, oak barrel, light bourbon, cinnamon, calvados, fresh hay, a bit of sherry, and the aromas of a wine maturation warehouse. It is pleasantly sweet. On the palate it is

smooth, moving to warmth, with flavors of malt and nutmeg and a wisp of smoke. Slight sherry influence. Slightly dusty and tired. In the finish, smoky apple, oak fire, and burning paper.

THE GLENLIVET 18 YO 43% £5.00

This excellent 18 year old single malt from Glenlivet is a classic Speyside dram, it also won two golds at the International Wine and Spirit Competition. The nose is quite big and well-rounded. There are notes of chewy sultanas and sherried peels, barley sugars and toasty cereals with petals and apple blossom. A touch of fudge and gentle wisps of smoke. The palate is full and rich with notes of chewy, tannic oak. Manuka honey and walnut with Cox's apples and orange peels. Cut herbs; fennel and spearmint. The finish is long and dry with a spicy oak note.

GLENLIVET VINTAGE CAR unboxed £8.00

GLENLOSSIE 10 YO 43% £4.00

The 10 year old bottling from the Glenlossie distillery in Speyside. The nose is full of cereal and grist. Notes of peels and malt with wood shavings and hay. The palate is of good body with a decent sweetness and plenty of fruit with barley sugar and peppery oak. The finish is long with gristy tannins.

THE GLENROTHES 1998 43% £4.00

The latest core expression from the Glenrothes catalogue, this 1998 vintage follows on from the previous 1994. The first bottling made with Gordon Motion as the Glenrothes Malt Master. Nose: Very spicy and creamy with oodles of sweet vanilla, gingerbread biscuits, golden syrup, hints of citrus and malt. Palate: A creamy, malt-driven palate with sweet winter spices, particularly cinnamon. Rhubarb crumble with hot custard and hints of black pepper. Finish: Good length with more vanilla and a suggestion of nutmeg on the tail.

INCHGOWER 14 YO 43% £4.00

The Flora and Fauna series is a sadly discontinued range of whiskies, each with an illustration of an animal on the bottle. This Inchgower is very rare. The nose is quite light and delicate. There is a zesty tang with notes of sugary citrus, hints of stemmy hay and a gentle breeze pushing barley in a Summer field. Tones of blossom and apple peel with cocoa. The palate is fresh with hay and petals, notes of arak and well-balanced tannins. There are some spicy notes with crystallized stem ginger. The finish is of medium length with spice and a tangy citrus note.

KNOCKANDO 12 YO 43% £4.00

A delicate, sweet 12 year old single malt, unchallenging, yet rather charming. It was because of the Knockando distillery that Knockdhu began bottling their whiskies under the name anCnoc - for they deemed their names too similar and wanted to avoid confusion. The nose is quite gentle and very fragrant. Notes of waxy manuka honey, hints of malty barley and roots with a touch of stemmy cut hay. There is a very supple, chewy

peat lying quietly in the background. The palate is quite full with notes of heather roots and damp earth, notes of honeyed sweetness with Jamaica ginger cake, a touch of rum with malty peat. The finish is quite long with winter spice and crystallized stem ginger with cereal notes.

LEINBURN 12 YO 43% £4.00

Nose Malty and young with hint of syrup. Not knitted yet. Wheat chaff. Palate Quite sweet, lighttropical fruit. Quite simple and clean, Malted milk (ovaltine). Finish Dry,short.

LINKWOOD 12 YO 43% £4.00

The Flora and Fauna series released 12 year old from the Speyside distillery, Linkwood. Whisky Magazine awarded this an "Editor's Choice". Nose: Quite green, thick. Herbal, nutty, oily. Almond. Palate: Medium, oily. Honey, pine oil. Malt, almond. Finish: Quite long, dry, touch of anise.

LINKWOOD 15 YO 43% £5.50

Dark spice and strawberries abound this 15 year old from the Linkwood distillery. The nose is quite full with balanced oaked tannins and smoked ham. A touch of Fraise des Bois liqueur and notes of musty port. The palate is full and firm with notes of arak, dark toffee, vanilla spice and buttery oak. The finish is quite long and oaked with a touch of spice.

LONGMORN 16 YO 48% £4.50

Nose: Fresh poundcake. Slight tang or bite. Palate: Oak, honey. Well-balanced sweetness. Boatshed on a summer day. Slight warm wax. Blackcurrant. Finish: Full, long. Bit of peat.

THE MACALLAN 10 YO SHERRY OAK 40% £3.00

A 10 year old from the Macallan matured in sherry casks. Macallan uses only Golden Promise barley, and actually use up 90% of the annual crop of Golden Promise in Scotland! The nose is quite light and clean. There are notes of rubbed petals and apple blossom and hot pastries. Marmalade emerges with notes of sherried peels and barley sugars, vanilla fudge provides sweetness. The palate is of medium-body and well-rounded. There are notes of walnut and salty melted butter. Hints of fudge and crème anglaise. The finish is of medium-length and quite oaky.

THE MACALLAN GOLD 40% £3.60

This is the new no-age-statement Single Malt Scotch Whisky from the famous Speyside distillery of Macallan. Macallan's new range has done away with age-statements and instead focuses on the colour of the whisky. The concept being that the older the whisky is the darker it will be... Regardless of how true this really is, it's certainly a great whisky packed with assertive vanilla and citrus flavours. Nose: This burnished gold spirit presents a lemon citrus nose, the orange peel and an interlacing sweetness that softens but doesn't eliminate the zest. A quiet note of vanilla is followed by dark chocolate - more assertive, yet not overly so - with a lingering floral and light oak notes. Palate: Citrus and boiled sweets rule the palate, along with hints of ginger and cinnamon, while soft oak tones reveal toasted apples. Finish: The finish is medium sweet, malty and slightly dry.

THE MACALLAN FINE OAK 10 YO 40% £3.00

This 10 year old from Macallan was matured in a mix of bourbon and sherry casks. The nose is quite clean and crisp. There are some gristy cereal notes with rubbed petals and a pastry note. A milky note emerges with a little marmalade. The palate is quite smooth and of medium-body. Notes of oily nuts

and barley with some bourbon notes. There are hints malt extract and caramel sweetness. The finish is of medium length with chewy oak.

MANNOCHMORE 12 YO 43% £4.00

The Mannochmore edition from the Flora and Fauna range. The series is a great showcase of mid-aged malts, this offers loads of character. Color is memorable. Light like sunshine or infant urine. Gentle nose. Brief finish. Hints of popcorn, licorice, larva and old spice.

MILTON DUFF 10 YO 40% £3.00

A Gordon and MacPhail bottling of Miltonduff aged for 10 years in sherry casks. Tasting Note by The Chaps at Master of Malt. The nose is of medium body, notes of malmsey, sherried peels, fruit salad, honeyed cigar box notes and tablet. There are hints of oaked tannins rising gently. The palate is quite full and well-balanced. Notes of toffee and Seville marmalade, shades of buttery fudge and spicy oak with peppery warmth. The finish is of good length with soft wood tapering out.

MORTLACH 15 YO 43% £4.00

Matured in first fill and refill sherry casks before bottling by Gordon and MacPhail. The nose is rich with cereal sweetness and warm barley. Apple blossom rises without effort and notes of malmsey and stewed fruits and Christmas punch emerge with spice and muffin. The palate is quite full and quite sweet. The cereal notes return with a syrupy texture. Shades of sherried sultanas and notes of freshly cut fruit salad, hints of toasty oak with obligatory vanilla spice and peppery warmth. The finish is long with the fruit and spice rising readily from the oak.

SINGLETON OF DUFFTOWN 12 YO 40% £3.50

A straightforward, nutty and malty single malt from Speyside, the Singleton of Dufftown was released to replace the Singleton of Auchroisk. It's aged in a high proportion of European oak casks. Nose: Malty with cereal/barley sweetness, hints of cut grass. Finish: Oaky, rich with good length, some fruit lingers. Sugared orange peels and herbal notes, wood shavings and pine oil, rubbed spearmint leaves and winter spice. There are notes of malted barley and cereal sweetness. The palate is of medium-body and quite smooth. There are well-balanced notes of cereal sweetness and arak, malt extract and aniseed with hints of something herbaceous and a touch of smoke. The finish is quite long with lots of barley. buttery toast, wood shavings, hay and walnut. Palate: Orange zest spiciness perks up a malty core of nuts, oak and toffee.

SPEYBURN 10 YO 40% £3.00

This 10 year old single malt was a gold medal winner at the 2006 San Francisco World Spirits Competition. A classic from the Speyburn distillery. The nose is quite citrusy and zesty.

STRATHISLA 12 YO 43% £4.00

A creamy, thick 12 year old single malt from the Speyside distillery, Strathisla. The nose is rich and of good body. Some notes of wood oils and resins, rubbed petals, winter spice and cereal sweetness. There are notes of marmalade and hints of bourbon with a thick creaminess. The palate is thick and full. There are notes of thick cream and honeyed raisins. Sultana

notes emerge with a little Madeira and mixed peels. The oak develops into the finish, which is fruity and spirit.

STRATHMILL 12 YO 43% £4.00

A rare bottling from the now discontinued, and beautifully packaged, Flora and Fauna range. This 12 year old was distilled at the Speyside based Strathmill distillery. The nose is quite soft yet very fruity. A hint of grassy greenness with a nuttiness, there are notes of cut herbs and apples, hints of cut hay. The palate is silken smooth in delivery. Notes of winter spice and vanilla custard, there is a nutty oiliness which carries everything gentle. The finish is soft and slightly herbal with a peppered delivery.

TOMINTOUL 10 YO 40% £3.00

Nestling in the beautiful Cromdale Hills in the Speyside-Glenlivet region, close to the source of the River Avon, lies Tomintoul Distillery. The 10 Year Old expression makes the perfect aperitif. It exudes an attractive lightness and it is fresh and clean and malty -truly a gentle dram. Colour: Pale amber
Nose: Soft, gentle, delicate. Some sweetness and toffee
Palate: Light, gentle and soft
Finish: Long

World

AMRUT FUSION 50% £3.50

Jim Murray's Third Finest Whisky in the World for 2010, Amrut Fusion is distilled from barley from Scotland and India, making this a true fusion of countries. Nose: Rich, barley, fruity. Big on citrus, spices, creamy sweetness. A hint of peat. Palate: Oaky, rich, gentle peat, coffee, dark chocolate. Fruity. Finish: Long, spiced, marmalade, sweetness.

BUSHMILLS BLACK BUSH IRISH WHISKEY 40% £3.00

Black Bush is a great blend from Bushmills, made up mostly of malt whiskey aged for 11 years in sherry casks before blending. Nose: Barley, grape, lemon. Palate: Very fruity, milky. Finish: Barley, biscuity, astringent.

BUSHMILLS SINGLE MALT IRISH WHISKY 10 YO 40% £3.50

A superb 10 year old Irish single malt and winner of Best Irish Single Malt Whiskey at the 2007 World Whiskies Awards. Bushmills are always scored highly in Jim Murray's Whisky Bible, with the 10 year old being awarded 90 points! Nose: Banana skins. Palate: Medium, very fruity, chocolate pudding. Finish: Floral, tannic. Overall: Add a drop of water and it tastes just like nectarine chunks in low fat yoghurt!

BUSHMILLS IRISH WHISKEY TRIPLE DISTILLED 40% £3.00

Every drop of Bushmills Malt is carefully distilled three times for exceptional purity and smoothness, using the pure water from St Columb's Rill, which flows over ancient basalt rock to the Old Bushmills Distillery. The unpeated malt barley allows the pure taste of Malt to shine through. Bushmills Malt is then left to mature in a combination of both Oloroso sherry and American bourbon seasoned oak casks, for a minimum of ten

years. The result of this "two woods" maturation is a rich smooth Single Malt, with overtones of vanilla, honey and sherry. As distillation, maturation and bottling are carried out at the Old Bushmills Distillery, the quality and heritage of this distinctive Single Malt from Ireland is unparalleled. Tasting Notes Overtones of vanilla, honey and sherry.

CANADIAN CLUB 40% £2.50

The renowned Canadian whisky, married in white oak barrels. Canadian Club was founded by whisky mogul Hiram Walker. The nose is of medium-body with notes of barley sugar and aniseed, notes of cut grass and fennel, a hint of straw and a vegetal freshness. The palate is quite sweet and gentle. There are notes of winter spice and dark sugars, a touch of rum. The finish is of medium-sweetness and of medium-length.

CONNEMARA 40% £3.00

Connemara produce a peated Irish single malt, named for the area in Ireland. The nose is well-smoked and peated, heather freshness and floral notes with a honeyed sweetness and a little wood. The palate is full and smooth with notes of malt ad peat,

ENGLISH WHISKY CO CHAPTER 9 3YO PEATED 46% £4.00

This is English whisky with a difference! This is the first ever peated English single malt, and it tastes incredible. Its power and balance bely its years. This was distilled in May 2007 and bottled in May 2010. Nose: Oily and quite robust. Smoky bacon. Hints of sticking plasters, some toffee. A sort of Caol Ila nose, nice gristy sweetness. A touch tropical with a little papaya and coconut ice, then a hint of nougat. Palate: Sweet and very rounded, almost a hint of white chocolate. Very interesting smoke, has a lovely heat to it, reminds us of striking up a match, so thick and creamy, and very, very malty. Notes of vanilla, and butterscotch angel delight. Finish: Nutmeg, cardamom, very good length, and much more fire power that belies its 46% abv. Hints of creamy iced coffee, then hints of agave. honeyed smoke and barley sweetness. The finish is long and pungent with honey and peat smoke.

ENGLISH WHISKY CO CHAPTER 6 3yo UNPEATED 46% £4.00

The very first English whisky, distilled in Norfolk from locally grown barley. Nose: Light and smooth. Fresh and fragrant, sweet, soft & slightly spicy. Fresh cut grassy notes, along with gentle vanilla. Fruity with hints of lime, banana and pear. A gentle waft of marzipan. Nose softens with water and is quite nutty (hazelnuts, cashews, almonds). Palate: Quite full-bodied. Tingling and textured on the palate. Fresh wood, vanilla, again fruity and nutty, malty, cereal character comes through. Slightly citrus. Very clean.

GREEN SPOT 40% £5.50

Nose: Clearly sherried. Orange peel and candied ginger. Tangy and somewhat herbal. Green pear and cotton candy. Honey-lemon throat lozenges. After a rest in the glass, there is a fibrous fruitiness, like the skin of a red delicious apple. Even further in is a faint whiff of the nutty coconut I associate with bourbon-matured pot still whiskey. Palate: Unctuous body – mouth coating. Minimal burn. Spicy ginger, apple cider, and nondescript grain. Finish: Medium length, the honey and lemon lozenge remains behind as the spicy notes fade. No trace of bitterness. Simple and refreshing. With Water: A splash of water reveals bright, fresh green banana on the nose, really

washes out the palate, and adds a little peanut butter note to the finish. I wouldn't recommend the water for how it affects the body. At 40% ABV, it hardly needs further dilution. Overall: While it has the same mouth-filling unctuousness as Redbreast, the sherry notes seem to cover up the nutty/oily notes I associate with single pot still whiskey. There seems to be a lot of depth here, but it's hidden by a layer of simplicity. One must really search for the complexity. Still, it is tasty and unique: nobody else makes a sherry-matured Irish single pot still.

THE HAKUSHU 12 YO SINGLE MALT WHISKY 43% £6.50

A 12 year old from Suntory's Hakushu distillery, labelled 'Pure Malt'. The Hakushu distillery sits in the forests not far from the Japanese Alps. The nose is light and crisp with fresh notes of cut hay and sweet mixed peels, a little hazelnut and barley malt. The palate is crisp and clean with notes of cut fruits, gentle barley malt and smoke. A floral character with citrus zest. The finish is sweet and spicy.

SUNTORY HIBIKI JAPANESE WHISKY 12 YO 43.5% £6.50

An exquisite 12 year old blended Japanese whisky. Hibiki includes malt whisky from Yamazaki and Hakushu, as well as grain whisky from Chita. The whisky is partly matured in plum liqueur barrels.

JAMESON IRISH WHISKEY 40% £3.50

Produced at the Midleton Distillery, Jameson is Ireland's quintessential Irish blend, a classic. Jim Murray even awarded it an incredible 95 points! The nose is full and floral with a smooth sweetness. Marmalade and fudge, Madeira and a little cut grass note. The palate is thick and of good body with notes of orchard fruits, both fresh and cooked with a little vanilla cream. The finish is of medium-length with spice and honey.

MAKER'S MARK 45% (not for sale)

Maker's Mark one litre tribute bottle with red, white and blue wax seal. Presented by Eamon Courtney, these tribute bottles came out shortly after September 11th. Maker's Mark maintain that they distill their bourbon to the lowest proof of any US whiskey distillery. This proffers a bourbon that retains a rich flavour. Developed by Bill Samuels Sr, he replaced rye with red winter wheat to reduce the burning sensation. The nose is quite fruity and rich. There are lovely notes of spiced honey and mixed peels, a little malmsey and a touch of cut fruit with toasty oak providing a backbone. The palate is rich and full. There are notes of rye and spice, barley malt, a little nut oil with butterscotch and vanilla. The finish is quite sweet with butterscotch and dry oak spice.

MIDLETON BARRY CROCKETT LEGACY 46% £12.50

Released in 2011, Midleton's Barry Crockett edition was named after the distillery's master distiller, and it is aged in both bourbon and new American oak barrels! Very interesting indeed and a limited release of around 2,500 bottles per year. Nose: Soft, sweet notes of barley, floral honey, rosemary, citrus, cut hay, Summer meadows and toffee apples. Palate: Sweet tobacco

leaves and ceda, sugared peels, toffee, honey softness, vanilla and boiled sweets. Finish: Very creamy and vanilla-rich, cinnamon and a little pear drop on the tail

NEW ZEALAND DUNDIN DOUBLEWOOD 10YO 40% £5.50

Colour: Rich golden honey. Nose: Delicate fruit and floral notes over a delicious hint of toffee and sweet offerings. A beautiful explosion of creamy malt and subtle vanillas up front, building across the palate revealing notes of dried fruit and soft nuts. A sweet balanced sense of alcohol leading to a big, warm finish.

PENDERYN 46% £4.00

The Penderyn Sherrywood in this bottle has been aged in ex-bourbon barrels and ex-Oloroso sherry casks to bring out its rich fruity flavour. At a generous 46% ABV, it has the classic Penderyn freshness, while aromas of dark fruit and rich toffee mingle with green apples and hazelnuts to create a deeper mystery. On the palate rich sweetness gives way to refreshing dryness, yet sweet notes of toffee and sultana persist in the long finish pungent whiskey with loads of flavour and complexity - really good stuff! Nose: Fruity and tangy. Notes of zesty citrus, cut hay, guava, beeswax, manuka honey and tropical fruits. Palate: Creamy and smooth, notes of cooked fruits, fried banana, orange groves, nutmeg, butterscotch and caramel lattes. Finish: Custard, peppermint and grapefruit.

SOUTH ISLAND 18YO 40% £5.50

This fine single malt was distilled at the old distillery in Dunedin on New Zealand's South Island. It was distilled in 1993 and matured for 18 years in American oak bourbon barrels. Nose: Spicy, buttery aromas. Hints of dried herbs and butterscotch. Caramel and apple peel. Palate: Tropical fruit and peppercorns. Orange rind and herbs. Hints of malt. Finish: Toasted barley and almond. Pepper.

POWERS 12 YO IRISH WHISKEY 48% £4.50

Nose: This baby has a wonderful nose: Porridge, Sweet cereals with a hint of nutmeg, then vanilla and buttered sweet brioche. Can you say Yumm!?! Palate: The palate is spicy and peppery on entry then gets sweeter with sugared cereals, vanilla and some creamy espresso, then some more fruit. *Finish*: Medium length with bitter espresso wood and burnt buttered toast. A true cracker, spicy sweet, and very more-ish.

RED BREAST 15 YO 46% £5.50

A beautiful pure pot still whiskey (or "single pot still" as it's now officially known). Redbreast 15 is a rich, thick, sweet,

TYRCONNELL IRISH WHISKEY 40% £3.50

A single malt Irish whiskey from the Cooley distillery, Tyrconnell is incredibly creamy and smooth. The nose is sweet and crisp with orchard fruits and a malty character. Oaked dryness and an oily note. The palate is full and sweet with barley malt and hot buttered granary toast with honey. The finish is dry and grassy with a little spice.

WOODFORD

RESERVE

DISTILLER'S SELECT 43.2% £4.00

Color: Sharp, brilliant dark honey amber. Nose: Strong, powerful vanilla overlays a rich fruit medley, with mint, sweet Cocoa and a dash of black pepper spice Taste: Rich, rounded and smooth, with complex hints of mint, tobacco, leather, and fruit. Toffee and spice notes abound. Finish: Smooth, long, spicy and warming, but with a noticeable absence of heat.

THE YAMAZAKI 12 YO 43% £6.50

This 12 year old from Yamazaki first came onto the market in 1984 and was the first seriously marketed Japanese single malt whisky. The nose is of good body with plenty of nut oils and zest, a pleasant floral character with a little tropical fruit and a rooty note. The palate is smooth and soft with good sweetness and winter spice. A lovely citrus note develops with more tropical fruit notes and a little rum. The finish is medium with fruit and zest.

Old / Rare

**BILL MCLAREN'S FAMOUS XV 15
YO 40% £185.00 for the bottle**

The Famous Grouse has supported Scottish Rugby for decades and they asked Bill McLaren, a renowned sports commentator from Scotland who was known as the 'Voice of Rugby', to name his favourite players in what became a famous world rugby XV selection. This special limited edition was aged for over 15 years and celebrates Bill's select XV. 70cl / 40% Vol. Excellent label: Level high neck. With original box.

**GLENGOYNE 1967 43% £950.00 for
the bottle**

Bottling Status Discontinued Vintage 1967 Bottling Date Aug 1992 No of Bottles 2500 bottles.

**HIGHLAND PARK 1964 43%
£1500.00 for the bottle**

No tasting notes

**LARGIEMEANOCH 12 YO 54.2%
£3000.00 for the bottle.**

Largiemeanoch-12 year-old-1967 Distilled 1967. Cask numbers 2655/6/7. Distilled in Islay and bottled for The Howgate Wine Co. Ltd., Cumberland Street, Edinburgh. 26 2/3 fl. ozs./75.7 cl. Stopper cork, lacking seal. Single malt, 95 degrees proof/54.2% volume

**MILLBURN 1972 46% £23.50 a nip
£400 for the bottle**

A 1972 vintage from Gordon and MacPhail, matured in refill sherry butts. The Millburn distillery is now closed, so any whisky is decidedly rare. The nose is fresh and floral. Notes of marzipan and pine oil, hints of fresh cut herbs and fraises des bois. The palate is quite full and fruity. Notes of fruit salad, piña colada and dry oily wood smoke. A syrupy note with a

touch of gammon and wood shavings. The finish is long and gently smoked with a little peppery heat.

LADYBURN 1973 50.4% £680 for the bottle

Nose Powerfully earthy-fruity perfumes. Fruitskins. Fruitboxes at a market. Palate Smooth and syrupy. Sweet. Peachy, orangey. Finish Assertive. Dry. Peach stones. Rind-like. Woody.

GLEN FLAGLER 8 YO £850 for the bottle (Moffat)

Silent since 1975 this Distillery from the Lowlands has issued very few bottlings, rare and collectable. The site of the Glen Flagler Distillery consisted of 32 warehouses, blending and bottling plants, a cooperage as well as the largest commercial maltings at the time in Europe - the Moffat maltings. Associated British Malsters purchased these maltings in 1978. There were five continuous stills at Glen Flagler which produced neutral spirit and Garnheath grain whisky. The two pairs of pot stills produced their own malts - Glen Flagler and Killyloch. The water source came from Lilly Loch. The distilleries were mothballed in 1985 and were subsequently dismantled. Glen Flagler is an elegant and fruity malt with a complex taste. It has a subtle hint of smokiness and a note of vanilla, giving a long clean finish. peach, some apricots, quince, heather honey and fruits from the Orchards. Impression: An excellent example of old peaty and smoky Glen Garioch, smokier, subtler and peatier than the 1978 released in 2009, with pleasant aromatic notes.

MILLBURN 1972 GORDON & MACPHAIL 46% £180 for the bottle

A 1972 vintage from Gordon and MacPhail, matured in refill sherry butts. The Millburn distillery is now closed, so any whisky is decidedly rare. The nose is fresh and floral. Notes of marzipan and pine oil, hints of fresh cut herbs and fraises des bois. The palate is quite full and fruity. Notes of fruit salad, piña colada and dry oily wood smoke. A syrupy note with a touch of gammon and wood shavings. The finish is long and gently smoked with a little peppery heat.

GIRVAN FIRST BATCH DISTILLATION 1964 48% £350.00 for the bottle

A single grain whisky from the Girvan grain distillery, distilled in 1964 and a rather rare release. Nose: Vanilla and hazel nuts nutmeg. Finish: Long with notes of almonds, mixed spice and orangey bourbon. Overall: A fabulous whisky from William Grant's Girvan distillery.

GLEN GARIOCH 1978 57.8% £420.00 for the bottle

Colour: Gold Nose: Smoky, slightly peaty, bold, mellow, rich, on vanilla, quince, some heather honey and slightly fruity. Most pleasant. Taste: Smoky to very smoky, peaty, tarry, aromatic, waxy, slightly ashy, on heather, some quince, peach and diverse fruits from the orchards. Complex to very complex. Diluted, it becomes slightly fragrant and subtler, with some drier peat smoke. The finish is long, rich, thick, smoky, peaty, aromatic, slightly tarry and ashy, with syrupy fruity notes of

**PORT ELLEN 31 YO 1979/2011
52.1%, DOUGLAS LAING OLD AND
RARE, REFILL HOGSHEAD, 253
BOTTLES MADE £550 for the bottle**

Some slight 'greenish' notes on the nose with some cocoa, coffee grounds and then after some moments some welcome peat smoke. Very clean, a flash of kippers and brown toast (we're almost headed towards Patum Peperium on white toast here but pull up just short – and in time). Then after some time languishing in the glass a striking moment of 7-Up (which can be interpreted as quite sweet). The peat smoke, while present, is very gentle and the coffee grounds make a reappearance. So far so good and quite jolly too! With time in the glass the peat smoke grows, not to Kilchoman levels but it does increase. The taste is quite gentle at the fore with a little fizziness and some citrus and the peat smoke ; the wash away pretty much everything else ...hold on here comes the coffee grounds. Quite sensational. The finish is chewy peat smoke with some coffee caramel in the back ground. The finish continues for a long while and holds tight to the afore mentioned descriptors. Some delightful chocolate malt makes a late appearance. This Malt is really good and very well balanced.

**RARE OLD PORT ELLEN 1979
GORDON & MACPHAIL 46%
£600.00 for the bottle**

COLOUR Pale Gold Body Rich and complex. Finish Medium - add water with care. Cask Type Refill Sherry Butts. Style A balanced Islay. AROMA without water: Smoky and liquorice influences with fruity undertones and hints of pear. A fresh sea breeze aroma. TASTE without water. Sweet, with peat smoke elements emerging followed by hints of aniseed. Some hints of kippers linger. AROMA with water. Butterscotch and pear, with slight medicinal notes reminiscent of a wooden fish box. TASTE with water: Dry ash flavours balanced with salty brine notes.

**RARE OLD ST MAGDALENE
DISTILLERY 1975 43% £600.00 for
the bottle**

Distilled at the now silent St Magdalene distillery in 1975 and aged for thirty years in refill sherry hogsheads before bottling in 2005 by Gordon and MacPhail. There are notes of green fruits and apple peels, a little dark sugar and some notes of creamy chocolate with a little eucalyptus oil. Hints of granary toast emerge with melted butter. The palate is again quite full with notes of malt extract, juicy barely and cereal sweetness. There are notes of orange marmalade and heather roots with a developing dry oaken note. The finish is quite long and dry with a touch of bitterness on the tail.

**TALISKER 45.8% 30 YO 2011
£285.00 for the bottle / £21.00 a nip**

A restrained and elegant Talisker 30, this really was one of the best of 2011's Special Releases. Its three decades of maturation have produced an elegant and sophisticated whisky. Nose: Very reserved, and slow. Fruit acidity, red apple skins and dried fruits, with sweeter notes of rum toffee, chocolate brownies. Followed by sooty smoke with alluring, aromatic spices: frankincense, clove, cedar. Palate: Slow but consistent, with autumn berries and dried fruit. Cherry stones. Cooling at

first, then becoming hot and lively. Finish: Long, with roasted Manager for outstanding quality. This is a limited edition of 1614 bottles which is sure to prove extremely popular among collectors and connoisseurs. Date distilled – 17 May 1967. Matured in – oak hogsheads. Date bottled – 02 October 2007. Colour – bronze. Aroma – beeswax, stewed apples, raisin. Orange peel; hint of marzipan. Taste – complex and exceptionally smooth, with some liquorice creamy. Finish – long; coats the palate and lingers.

Blended

A blended whisky (or whiskey) is the product of blending different types of whiskies and often also neutral and near-neutral spirits, colouring, and flavorings. It is generally the product of mixing one or more higher quality straight or single malt whiskies with neutral spirits and water. Scotland, Ireland, Canada, and the United States are common countries of origin for blends. Some examples of blended whisky include Dewar's, Johnnie Walker Antiquary and Chivas Regal.

BALLANTINE'S ORIGINAL 17 YO 43% £4.50

Nose: smooth start with pancake aromas, vanilla and creamy milk chocolate. Soft fruity aromas (lemon / lime), almonds and cinnamon. Hints of smoke. Cedar wood and a touch of leather. Mouth: honeyed and spicy start, slightly peppery and gingery. Elegant peat smoke again. Oak and toffee notes. Developing on fruit cake. Not complex but well balanced. Finish: circling around the same core of chocolate, delicate smoke and spices. Indeed an enjoyable dram and a big step up from Ballantines Finest.

ANTIQUARY 12 YO 40% £3.00

A rounded, smooth blend, the Antiquary 12 year old is a great whisky which Jim Murray awarded an incredible 92 points to in his 2013 Whisky Bible. The nose is light and well-balanced. There are notes of malted barley and honey, a touch of spice and fresh fruit salad. The palate is of medium-body with notes of calvados and barley, a touch of honey and mixed peels and notes of oak. The finish is quite long with oak and caramel.

CHIVAS REGAL 12 YO 40% £3.00

Chivas Regal 12 year old is a very popular blend, particularly in America. It is of 10 referenced in popular music, it was actually reputed to be a favourite drink of Jim Morrison. Nose: Quite light, feinty. Cigar box. Fruity, spice, honey, herbal.

CUTTY SARK 40% £3.00

A very popular blend, particularly on the American market, started by Berry Bros & Rudd and named for the tea clipper Cutty Sark, said to be the fastest of its time. Nose: Light, gentle. Cut herbs, floral, custard, hay. Palate: Rounded, mixed peels, lots of barley. Finish: Good length, warming, malt.

JOHNNIE WALKER RED LABEL 40% £3.00

Red Label is a classic blended whisky, first created in 1909. and full. There are notes of heather roots, cut herbs, a touch of

This blend from Johnnie Walker was rated 87.5 points, which shows this is great value for money. The nose is quite pungent fresh fruits and honey. The palate is quite full and rich. There are notes of malted barley and potpourri, a touch of winter spice and fruitcake. The finish is quite long and pungent, there is a good smoke note with a touch of oak.

JOHNNIE WALKER 12 YO BLACK LABEL 40% £3.50

Palate: Full, rounded, fruity, nutty, vanilla, barley. Finish: Medium, touch of honey and fruit. A 12 year old blended whisky, one of the world's most famous blends. Johnnie Walker Black is a blend of around 40 whiskies, very well put together. The nose is quite full. There are notes of winter spice and treacle, hints of white pepper and a little citrus. The palate is quite rich and full. There are notes of wood smoke and dry spice, hints of barley and cereal with creamy toffee and a distinct herbal note. The finish is quite fruity and long with a note of sultanas and mixed peels.

JOHNNIE WALKER DOUBLE BLACK 40% £42.00 for the bottle / £4.50 a nip

A very special 2011 edition of Johnnie Walker's classic blend, Black Label. Double Black was originally released to the travel retail market, and it combines the rich, malty flavour of Black Label with slightly peatier whisky and casks that were more heavily charred. The result is a toasty, smoky whisky with Johnnie Walker's usual rich, Nose: Slightly smoky and almost medicinal on the nose, it offers up hints of vanilla, a little tar, a touch of barbecue sauce, citrus and malt. Palate: Good body and very creamy with a sublimely malty core. It offers up a surprising level of peat smoke which works really well. Creamy sweetness, hints of soft wood smoke, salty butter, custard and cereal grains. Finish: Good length with notes of malt, boiled sweets, black pepper and cool smoke.

JOHNNIE WALKER GOLD RESERVE 40% £87.00 for the bottle / £6.50 a nip

Nose: Honey and heather with thick caramel notes and a subtle nutmeg spice. Dried meadow flowers and a hint of fresh banana. Palate: Smooth and succulent with a honeyed sweetness that's typical of Johnnie Walker. There's more to this though, the floral elements are quite prominent and there's a spiced sweet vanilla note too. Finish: Long, sweet and toffee-like. Overall: A typically easy drinking blend from Johnnie Walker, this will not disappoint fans of the style.

JOHNNIE WALKER 18 YO PLATINUM 40% £8.00 a nip

Nose: Sweet rich and deep notes with maraschino cherries, toffee caramel, vanilla, baked rhubarb crumble and a very thin whiff of smoke. Palate: The richness continues onto the palate, which is sweet and warming, with creamy malt, oats and cereal. A spicy vanilla cinnamon dusting too with the gentle smoke again developing. Finish: Dark chocolate with caramalised peel. Overall: Another pleasing blend from Johnnie Walker, this is quite different from the gold label.

JOHNNIE WALKER BLUE LABEL

40% £15 or £197.50 for the bottle

Nose: Fragrant with good body. Notes of oak, crisp spice, dried fruit, pastries. Berry fruits, aniseed, hints of cedar, a touch of spice and citrus. Palate: Supple and balanced. Good toffee and hints of very wistful smoke. Chocolate, hints of grass and a good hit of malt. Finish: Floral, oaky, good length, urged on by a plume of very well-kept, highland style smoke. Dried fruit, spice, honey. Overall: One of the ultimate premium blends, Blue Label is a legend in its own right and will continue to be.

JOHNNIE WALKER KING JOHN V

43% £550.00 for the bottle

A special extension of the Johnnie Walker range, King George V celebrates the first Royal Warrant granted to John Walker and Sons Ltd to supply Scotch whisky to the British Royal Household in 1934, and is apparently designed to recreate how JW might have tasted back in the day. Some Port Ellen has been used, alongside Cardhu, Lochnagar and some very old grain whisky. Appearance: Clear, dark golden with bright golden highlights. Aroma: Fruity Christmas cake soaked in

PADDY OLD IRISH WHISKEY 40% £3.00

A triple distilled blended Irish Whiskey produced in Cork. Paddy's was first produced in 1779. The nose is oily and fresh. There are floral notes and cereal grains. Plenty of fruit. The palate is sweet and of medium-body with toffee and cereals, a rosewater note with a little butterscotch and vanilla. The finish is spicy and dry with a little black pepper and oak.

SHEEP DIP 40% £3.00

A great whisky made from 16 malt whiskies aged from 8 to 21 years. Jim Murray describes Sheep Dip as "young and sprightly". Nose: Fragrant with notes of the coast, tangy, malty, honey, toffee. Youthful. Palate: Rich, warming, malty, young and spirited. Finish: Punchy, tangy. sherry with linseed oil, nuts, vanilla and daffodil floral aromas. Taste: Huge yet graceful with generous sweet fruit, vanilla, caramel and honey balanced by dry lightly smoky oak and spice. Aftertaste: Long surprisingly smoky salty, spicy finish. Producer's Tasting Notes Nose: Profound smoky initial aroma followed by sweet, fresh fruit (apples, pears, bananas) malt characteristics; developing into rich dried fruit/spicy complexity (raisins, figs, cinnamon). Palate: Smooth with a rich, fruity sweetness. Warming with subtle flavours of sandalwood and smoke. Taste: Powerful, complex, rich and smooth. Finish: Mouthwarming and lingering rich peaty finish. With water: Releases new flavours, more fresh fruitiness and more smoke on the palate.

MACKINLAY'S SHACKLETON DISCOVERY WHISKY BLEND REPLICA 47.3% £186.00 for the bottle.

Mackinlay's Rare Old Highland Malt is a limited edition bottling in which Richard Patterson has recreated the actual Mackinlay's whisky taken on the ill-fated Shackleton Antarctic expedition to the South pole in 1907 and found in 2007 beneath the expeditions Antarctic hut It is presented in a replica bottle and wooden case – just as Shackleton left it. The blend contains malts from Speyside, Islands and Highlands including

Glen Mhor from 1983, the year the distillery closed. 50,000 bottles have been produced and with each bottle sold £5 is donated to the Antarctica Heritage Trust. Tasting Notes Nose W&M: Soft, elegant & refined. Delicate aromas of crushed apple, pear and fresh pineapple arouse the senses. The spirit is exciting and vibrant with attractive notes of oak shavings that release hints of buttery vanilla, creamy caramel and nutmeg. A whisper of marmalade, cinnamon and even a tease of smoke, ginger and muscovado sugar completes this spectrum of delight. Taste W&M: With a generous strength of 47.3% this gives the spirit plenty of impact on the palate but in a mild warming manner. Harmonious and exhilarating. Whispers of gentle bonfire smoke slowly give way to spicy rich toffee, treacle and pecan nuts. These enticing flavours linger lovingly on the palate but are soon combined by a sensual, complex array of creme brulee, orange rind and freshly baked bread. It is a remarkable tapestry of tantalising taste sensations which truly rewards the palate.

Connoisseur's

Choice

In the mid-1960s Gordon & MacPhail took the unprecedented step of launching a range of single malts under the brand name 'Connoisseurs Choice'. Until this time, many of the whiskies the range featured would not have been available as single malt. Today, Connoisseurs Choice retains this exclusive nature with a range of rare and sought after single malts from distilleries throughout Scotland. Little money has been spent on the packaging and the bottling of these exceptional whiskies, these bottles have been designed for one purpose, to be drunk.

CONNOISSEURS CHOICE

BENRINNES 1996 – 1997 46% £4.00

This Benrinnes was matured in oak casks and bottled by Duncan Taylor. It's a clean and well-structured whisky with pronounced fruit notes. Nose: Grassy with quite some new oak, vanilla, green tea and flowers. Palate: Modern, fruitier, with some coconut and tinned pineapples. Also a little bubblegum. Punchy but not heavy. There's oak, coconut oil, sweet ginger, cinnamon and green apples. Finish: Rather long, clean and elegant. More vanilla and a little lemon. Overall: Not one of the fat Benrinnes, but a very well made and cleanly structured whisky.

CONNOISSEURS CHOICE

DUFFTOWN DISTILLED 1998 43%

£4.00

AROMA without water Fresh with malty notes, hints of butter/vanilla emerge. Some minty notes also. TASTE without water Creamy and sweet - butterscotch. A subtle hint of pepper and a touch of dark chocolate. AROMA with water Floral with a hint of perfume. Some honey notes and hints of dry grass. TASTE with water An initial burst of spice - mouth warming. Sweet with hints of dark brown sugar.

CONNOISSEURS CHOICE

TORMORE 1996 - 43% £4.00

Distilled at the Tormore distillery in 1996 and aged for 11 years before bottling in 2007 for Gordon and MacPhail. The nose is of medium-body with a spirity feel. There are notes of cut fruits and the salad made thereof, notes of orange blossom and rose water, hints of crisp barley sugar and toasty cereals. The palate is of medium body with superb balance. There are notes of fruit salad and crispy spices; cloves, cardamom, cinnamon and ground ginger. Notes of dried peels and a soft oak with lemon marmalade and vanilla fudge. The finish is of reasonable length with dried fruit and fruitcake.

CONNOISSEURS CHOICE

SPEYBURN 1989 – 46% £4.50

Colour: Pale gold. WITHOUT WATER: Nose: Initially fresh, floral and fruity (pears). A hint of mint and butterscotch is also present. Palate: Soft fruits - melon and pears. A spiciness (chillies), sweet and creamy. WITH WATER: Nose: Toasted malt and fresh. Citrus fruit (limes), vanilla and light butterscotch sweetness. Palate: Mouth watering. A very sweet toffee note and almonds. The presence of citrus fruit remains. Body: Medium. Finish: Long. Cask Type(s): Refill Sherry hogsheads. Whisky Style: Delicate and well balanced.

CONNOISSEURS CHOICE

MANNOCHMORE 1991 - 46% £4.00

The Speyside distillery of Mannochmore was mothballed in 1985 and this bottle was distilled just after the distillery reopened in 1991 and was bottled by Gordon & MacPhail in 2011. Nose: Clover honey and sweet malt form an enticing aroma followed by gentle notes of hay. Palate: The palate is ever so slightly smoky with hints of green apples and conference pears. Finish: The finish is long with notes of apple tart and spice. Overall: This is a rich yet delicate single malt which displays the distillery's character excellently. This Connoisseurs Choice Glen Elgin 1996 was distilled in October 1996 and bottled in October 2010. We assume it is 14 years old. It was matured in refill sherry casks. It is a fruity Speysider with hints of citrus and nuts.

CONNOISSEURS CHOICE GLEN

ELGIN 1996 46% - £4.00

Nose G&M: Sherry influences are present. A light hint of esters and citrus fruit - lemons. With water - Becomes even more fruity. Sherry influences still come to fore, with a vanilla note now apparent. Taste G&M: Initially mouth warming and spicy - pepper. Citrus fruits and hazelnuts. With water - Really creamy with a delicate spice. Very fruity and sweet. Finish G&M: Long and dry.

CONNOISSEURS CHOICE -

DUFFTOWN 2002 46% - £4.00

This was distilled at the Dufftown distillery in Speyside in 2002. It was then aged in first-fill bourbon barrels before bottling in 2012 for Gordon and MacPhail's Connoisseurs Choice range. Nose: Hints of vanilla sweetness and a little malt. Allspice, cedar and herbs. Palate: Peppermint melds with tropical fruit, allspice and chocolate-coated Brazil nuts. Finish: Malty, spiced finish. Very creamy. Overall: An easy-going, creamy single malt from Dufftown.

Flights

A whisky flight is a great way to sample five of the best whiskies for less money.

FLIGHT AROUND THE WORLD £20.00

The flight around the world is our most popular flight. 5 exceptional whiskies from around the world, starting in America, then on to Ireland, New Zealand, India and lastly Japan. The whiskies we've chosen are: Woodford Reserve Distiller's Select 43.2% USA, Connemara 40% Ireland, Dundin Doublewood 10 yo 40% New Zealand, Amrut Fusion 50% India and the number one whisky in Japan, The Yamazaki 12 yo 50%.

FLIGHT AROUND THE ISLANDS £16.00

The flight around the Islands is a good all-rounder. If you want to try a whisky with a bit of salt, smoke, peat or barley then this is the flight for you. The whiskies we've chosen are: The Arran Malt 10yo 46%, Highland Park 12yo 40%, Jura 10yo 40%, Tobermory 10 yo 46.3% and Talisker 10yo 45.8%.

ISLAY FLIGHT £16.00

Not for the feign-hearted, this flights for the more experienced whisky drinker. The Isly flight offers you a chance to sample 5 of, some will argue, Scotland's best whiskies. Bunnahabhain 12 yo 46.3%, Ardbeg 10 yo 46%, Laphroig 10 yo 40%, Kilchoman 46%, and Bruichladdich The Laddie Ten 10 yo 46%.

HIGHLAND FLIGHT £16.00

The Highland flight is a chance to try some new and increasingly popular whiskies from the Highlands. The whiskies in this flight are: Fetercairn Fior 42%, Glenmorangie 10 yo, Tomatin Legacy 43%, Old Pultney 40% and Balblair Elements 46%

t-shirts

WOMENS SHORT SLEEVE T-SHIRT £12.50

These t-shirts are in black with a small 'WhiskyBar' logo on the front right breast and a large 'WhiskyBar' logo on the back. They come in 3 sizes: S, M and L. To see one, ask a member of staff.



MENS/WOMENS LONG SLEEVE T-SHIRT £15.50

These long sleeve t-shirts are in black with a small 'WhiskyBar' logo on the front right breast and a large 'WhiskyBar' logo on the back. They come in 4 sizes: M, L, XL and 2XL. To see one, ask a member of staff.



THE SIX SINGLE MALT REGIONS OF SCOTLAND EXPLAINED

Like wines - and many other drinks - the single malts of Scotland are grouped by region. As with wines, these regions offer a guideline rather than a rule. Within Bordeaux, a particular Pomerol, for example, might have a richness more reminiscent of Burgundy; similar comparisons can be made in Scotland. The regions in Scotland, the Lowlands, the Highlands, Campbeltown and the island of Islay have their origins in the regulation of licences and duties, but they do also embrace certain characteristics.

Lowlands

The Lowlands produces gentle, light whiskies, often very dry and devoid of peat. Lowland whiskies are commonly referenced as feminine drams, 'the Lowland Ladies'. Most of the whisky regions of Scotland, and indeed the world, there can be some crossover. For example, it is quite possible to produce a heavily peated whisky outside of Islay or the Highlands, simply distilling peated barley can facilitate that. The Lowlands is different in this respect, where the method of production differs; Lowland whiskies are triple distilled. Though this does occur elsewhere - of course, Springbank triple distilled Hazelburn - it is best known and most commonly practised further south. The region is bordered by the Highland Line to the north and sits neatly atop England. There is no peat used and there is not a great deal of local peat. There is little salinity in the whisky, for the operating Lowland distilleries are all sited inland. Auchentoshan is quite possibly the best known. The Rosebank and St Magdalene distilleries have produced delightful whiskies.

Highlands

As a very vague rule of thumb, the Highlands region is one of big-bodied whiskies, often peated and smoky, often very powerful. The Highlands is such a large, diverse region that is difficult to categorize their whiskies accurately. Technically

speaking, the Islands has not been officially recognised as a region of its own and, as such, is included in the Highlands appellation. For the sake of precise classification, we shall choose to note the separation. It is worth looking at the subcategories within the Highlands, typically broken down into the cardinal compass points. The Northern Highlands is an area of big-bodied, cereal rich, sweet and mouth-filling whiskies. Noteworthy examples are The Dalmore from Alness in Ross-shire, whose single malts are rich and sherried with honeyed sweetness and, of course, Glenmorangie, whose full-bodied whiskies are among the world's best-selling. The Southern Highlands produces lighter, fruitier and drier whiskies. Edradour and Aberfeldy are good examples. The Eastern Highlands proffers full-bodied, dry, well-fruited single malts. Glen Garioch whiskies are wonderful examples; their twenty-one year-old is a personal favourite with its beautiful fruit and smoke. The Western Highlands locale is one of full-bodied, powerful single malts, peated and smoky. Oban is a wonderful example and Dalwhinnie consistently amazes.

Speyside

Speyside whiskies are among Scotland's lightest, sweetest single malts. Age often brings a bit more body and the profusion of heavily sherried whiskies from the region exhibit superb power. Though a comparatively small appellation, Speyside has, by some distance, the vast majority of Scotch whisky distilleries. Indeed there are eighty-four working distilleries, including the world's best-sellers: The Glenlivet, Glenfiddich, Glen Grant and The Macallan. The Speyside style has altered over time, a traditional Speyside single malt would be more akin to a Highland whisky, with a definite robustness and a marked peat. More recent expressions are lighter, sweeter whiskies; honeyed and fine. Lacking the peat of Islay or the Highlands, the ozone and salinity of coastal malts or the dry, perfume of the Lowlands; Speyside whiskies are sweet and subtle. There is however, no hard and fast rule as to the characteristics of Speyside whisky, for more than half of Scotland's distilleries are to be found in this sub-region of the Highlands. Older variants, particularly from those powerhouse distilleries: Macallan and Glenfarclas are often well-sherried, thick drams. There is a tendency to steer away from heavily finished whiskies, indeed most are matured in either ex-bourbon or ex-sherry casks. A heavily sherried Speyside single malt to be the perfect companion to a medium-bodied cigar, and a particularly well-aged expression can be the utmost of postprandial swigs. Some of the light, youthful Speyside whiskies, perhaps from Allt-à-Bhainne or Glen Elgin, are charming and delightful. There is a low mineral content in the waters of Speyside, lying on the Grampians, with their granite content proffering soft waters. As a rule, the whiskies are either very low or totally devoid of peat, there is not a great abundance of it locally, though it has been used with some successful results in the cases of BenRiach and Tomintoul's Ballantruan respectively.

Islay

Islay (pronounced 'eye-luh') whiskies are among Scotland's most powerful, thunderous drams. Often with plenty of peat and smoke, brine and medicinal flavours, of all the whisky

regions of Scotland, Islay has attained a truly iconic status. When compared to the various drink producing regions of the world, be it the Grande Champagne designation of Cognac or the first growths of Bordeaux, or that distant island, Madeira, there is something magical about the illustrious Scottish Isle, some 35 miles from the coast of Northern Island. There are some nine distilleries on the Isle. To the North there lies Bunnahabhain and Caol Ila, to the west of Loch Indaal sits Bruichladdich and further west, the newly founded Kilchoman - Scotland's most westerly distillery. To the centre of the isle sits the mighty Bowmore, but it is from the southern coast, not far from Port Ellen and the newly opened distillery of the same name, that the most pungent whisky emanates, produced by the trio of leviathan Ileach distilleries; Ardbeg, Lagavulin and of course Laphroaig. There is a defined power to the whisky, peat being the obvious attribute, certainly the best associated. Smoke is both a flavour of its own, but is intrinsically linked with peat. The peat flavour is imparted during the barley malted process, the smoke used to dry out the barley is produced by burning peat. There is a marked reduction in peaty power to the far north; the malts of Bruichladdich and Bunnahabhain are comparatively soft. In Bruichladdich's case it is due to the relative shelter from the elements that the Rhinns proffers. For Bunnahabhain it is the unpeated malt and the water source, the Margadale springs, cutting their course in stoic avoidance of the peat beds of Islay. Islay single malts also have a refined salinity; there is a profusion of seaweedy, kelp-rich whiskies. This can be quite easily attributed to the terroir. The Islay distilleries possess a relative close proximity with the sea, all of which save for Kilchoman, the only inlander. The sea spray is said to whip across the warehouses, the salty air penetrates the barrels and flavours the maturing whisky. Of late, Islay whiskies have become increasingly sought after.

Campbeltown

Campbeltown whiskies are a curious mix. Characteristics include a defined dryness with a pungency, smoke and a solid salinity. Imagine a cross between the Lowlands and the Western Highlands with a pinch of salt thrown in for good measure. There was a time when Campbeltown was the most prolific of all of Scotland's whisky regions. Around a century ago there were as many as twenty-eight distilleries in the geographically smallest of Scottish appellations. Today there are but three: the newly founded Mitchell's Glengyle, though it will be a few more years 'til any Glengyle single malt whisky is bottled, Glen Scotia and Springbank, a distillery which produces three very different whiskies using different levels of peat and still combination. Campbeltown sits on the Mull of Kintyre peninsula protruding from the western coast, 'mist rolling in from the sea'. It is the proximity to the coast that gives the whisky its salty tang. Campbeltown single malts are often superb aperitifs.

Islands

A diverse whisky region, the proximity to the sea often proffers slightly salty, sometimes smoky whiskies. Balance is a recurring theme; sweetness and pungency in perfect harmony. A decidedly eclectic assortment of whiskies is to be found on the Islands. It is hard to categorise them, indeed the fact they

are a category of their own is most probably for geographic ease rather than for discerning between styles. There is often, however, a marked salinity, particularly in whiskies from Isle of Jura, with their oily nature and gentle peat. The Isle of Skye is beaten by the elements, the sole distillery, Talisker, uses a peated malt and the smoky, pungent drams it produces are quite similar in style to the punchy whiskies of the coast. Mull is slightly more unfamiliar, its sole distillery, Tobermory produces soft whisky with menthol freshness and plenty of sweetness. Orkney is a dark, weathered isle, there is often a salty character, but, certainly in Highland Park's case, there is sublime balance. Arran is a newcomer to the scene, and its sole distillery and namesake is producing whiskies that have recently come of age. There is plenty of barley sweetness, no peat and a good fruity character.

