

Whiskeria®

Georgia Cécile

Jazz music's brightest new star celebrates The Whisky Shop's 30th anniversary in style, in Paris



Winter 2022/23 | £4.50

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The
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HIGHLAND SINGLE MALT
SCOTCH WHISKY

THE HARMONY COLLECTION

—●—
INSPIRED BY
INTENSE ARABICA

The Harmony Collection is inspired by The Macallan's desire to live in harmony with nature. The second edition in this limited annual release series, Inspired By Intense Arabica, continues to explore the innovative art of using organic by-products in The Macallan's packaging.

The Macallan Harmony Collection Inspired By Intense Arabica celebrates the world of coffee and the incredible journey of the coffee bean. To create these exceptional single malt whiskies, The Macallan Whisky Maker Steven Bremner hosted a masterclass with five world renowned coffee experts at The Macallan Estate. Among them were Ethiopian coffee grower Kenean Asefa Dukamo, whose family farms the Arabica variety showcased by the whiskies; Scottish coffee roaster Lisa Lawson, acclaimed for her natural roasting techniques and craftsmanship; and award-winning American barista Andrea Allen, renowned for her coffee tasting skills. The other coffee masters involved were UK-based coffee artist Dhan Tamang, who crafted a range of beautiful art works for the coffees created to accompany the

whiskies and leading coffee historian Professor Jonathan Morris, who provided an insight into the history of coffee and its role in society.

Steven immersed himself in the art of coffee, learning about every stage, from field to cup, which enabled him to experience the full range of flavour profiles involved in the process. Drawing inspiration from the Arabica coffee bean from Ethiopia, renowned as the birthplace of coffee, Steven selected a harmonious combination of American and European oak casks to achieve the distinctive notes offered by the single malts. Inspired By Intense Arabica is reminiscent of a sweet yet strong espresso coffee, which pairs perfectly with coffee.

In homage to its coffee inspiration, this new expression is presented in a beautifully crafted, fully recyclable presentation box, which repurposes coffee bean husks, a by-product in the coffee-making process which would have otherwise been discarded.

No secrets here...

The Whisky Shop's Ian Bankier reflects on the 30 years his business has spent unlocking the mystery of whisky to customers across the UK and beyond!



➔ In this issue, we mark our 30th Anniversary with a central feature that looks back and looks forward and rightly recognises that in this fast-changing world, a 30-year innings is something to celebrate. Like a 30-year-old single malt, we have age and maturity on our side.

Also in this issue, Brian Wilson gives us a fascinating insight into the Gaelic names that were adopted by distillers in the 19th century when so many of the malt distilleries in Scotland were founded. When we began to expand The Whisky Shop chain south and into England, these names would present our new English customers with quite a challenge. A customer would pick up an unfamiliar bottle, read the label and one could see their eyes swimming. And, of course, when those same customers came back to us, they had the devil's job trying to remember the name of the whisky that they had spotted or tried with us before.

In our Newcastle store, opened in 2004, a returning customer, who was plainly struggling with the name he had in mind, triumphantly exclaimed that it was "Old Tom Kitchen." What he actually meant was *Auchentoshan!* And when we went deeper

south and into the heart of Essex, a customer in our Lakeside shop enquired, "*you don't have any of that Lap-frog by any chance?*" Our discerning staff member immediately recognised that what was in being asked was the famous Islay malt, "*Laphroaig!*"

Stretching the point somewhat, I can boast that in a very small way, over the last 30 years, The Whisky Shop has contributed to the diaspora of the Scots Gaelic language. We have brought to the public the *Bunnahabhains*, the *Caol Ila*, the *Teaninichs* and everything else in between. We have advised on translation and pronunciation. We even go as far as offering the perfect put-down for the irritating whisky snob - the ending of *Glenmorangie* is pronounced 'orange -y' and not 'orange -y'.

I would like to think that we have achieved a lot more in terms of introducing and educating our customers to the many facets of world whiskies. Over the 30-year period, a great many who enter our stores declare that they know very little about our products. Often, they are buying a gift for a friend or relative and they feel at a disadvantage. We seek to put that person at ease. Above all else, we are considerate and non-patronising,



Above all else, we are considerate and non-patronising, and we would hate to think that we would allow a customer to walk into a Glasgow bar and ask for a Lap-frog!

and we would hate to think that we would allow a customer to walk into a Glasgow bar and ask for a Lap-frog! Learning the Gaelic language is difficult, I dare say, but learning about and drinking whisky is easy!

Slàinte!

Ian P Bankier
Executive Chairman

THE WHISKY SHOP

Competition

Win!

A bottle of Courvoisier XO Royal Cognac

The Whisky Shop is delighted to offer readers of *Whiskeria* the chance to win a bottle of the fabulous Courvoisier XO Royal Cognac. This blend draws inspiration from historic Courvoisier tipples that have appeared on royal tables across Europe.

Expect aromas of gentle florals and rich chocolate truffles. The palate is creamy and brings notes of cinnamon, honey, and toasted hazelnuts before leading into the long and powerful finish. This outstanding dram is sure to add a little bit of luxury to your life.

To find out how to enter simply visit:
tws.cx/win

Competition closes 3rd February 2022.
T&Cs apply. Winners will be contacted directly.



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**THE
WHISKY
SHOP**

Whiskeria[®]

UNLOCKING
THE MYSTERY
OF WHISKY

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Contents Winter 2022/23

- 9 New Releases | Winter 2022/23
- 20 News | Whisky business
- 22 W Club | Dalwhinnie and Blair Athol
- 24 Auctions | Collection service
- 26 Time in History | Gaelic origins
- 30 Industry Insider | Maker's Mark
- 36 Distillery Visit | Waterford Distillery
- 44 Interview | Georgia Cécile
- 61 30TH Anniversary | Celebration and Reflection
- 72 Mixing It Up | Diplomático / Michter's / Nikka
- 86 Whisky People | Cail Bruich x The Macallan
- 93 The Whisky Shop | 'Tis the Season!
- 113 The Last Word | Birthday Playlist
- 114 Expert Tasting | Bowmore Masters' Selection Edition 2



9



22



26



44



30



36



61

Contributors

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Charles MacLean

Whiskeria's resident whisky guru, Charlie has been researching and writing books on the water of life since 1981. Charlie's bestsellers include award-winning *World Whisky and Scotch Whisky: A Liquid History* and his extensive knowledge on the subject led to him becoming the script advisor for Ken Loach's 2012 film *The Angels' Share*. In fact, Charlie's whisky expertise was so hot that he landed himself a part in the film – a feat he claims to be his biggest career highlight to date! Each edition we ask Charlie to try what's new on the shelves of *The Whisky Shop*, and we're sure you'll agree that his sensational tasting notes never disappoint.



New Releases



Brian Wilson

Formerly an MP, Brian held several posts during his political career, including Minister of Trade. Brian now lives on the Isle of Lewis where he pursues various business interests, notably in the energy sector. As chairman of Harris Tweed Hebrides, Brian is credited with leading the regeneration of the Harris Tweed industry. Brian's first love is writing, and in his spare time he continues to write books and opinion pieces for national newspapers – as well as delving into the fascinating history of whisky for each edition of *Whiskeria*.

A Time in History



Gavin D Smith

One of the world's most prolific and respected whisky writers, Gavin is regularly published in the top magazines within the whisky scene. He's written and co-authored more than 20 books on the subject, including *A-Z of Whisky*, *The Secret Still*, and *Goodness Nose*. Gavin has the envy-inducing task of scoping out the whisky industry's new and best-loved distilleries for *Whiskeria* readers, visiting a new distillery each edition. With his exquisite palate and whisky credentials, Gavin is undeniably the whisky lover for the job!



Distillery Visit



New Releases: Winter 2022/23



Reviewed by
Charles MacLean

Bruichladdich / Glen Scotia /
Craigellachie / Miltonduff /
Benriach / Aultmore / Royal Brackla /
Highland Park / Glenrothes

Illustrations: Hrafnhildur Hallsdóttir



New Releases

Loch Fyne Fynest 2005

70cl 61.1% VOL

17 Year Old £179

Islay Single Malt

Bright polished brass in colour; moderate beading. The nose-feel is mild, with light prickle. The top notes are faintly cereal and lactic - porridge with cream, Caboc (cream cheese rolled in oatmeal) - supported by a fruity note (apple puree), on a dusty base. A smooth texture and a sweet, malty taste, with shredded wheat in the aftertaste.

“A smooth texture with a sweet, malty taste, with shredded wheat in the aftertaste”



This single cask has been selected by the team at The Whisky Shop, bottled at natural strength and without chill-filtration, and released under their Loch Fyne Fynest label.

The distillery was purpose-built in 1881, using the then recently rediscovered material, concrete, but is very traditional in style, with an ancient cast-iron, rake and plough mash tun dating from its foundation, six Oregon pine washbacks and two pairs of stills. It had a mixed history until it was bought by a private concern led by Mark Reynier, a London wine merchant, with the support of local investors, for £6.5 million in 2000.

Among the original investors was the legendary James McEwan, a local man who had started at Bowmore Distillery as an

apprentice cooper in 1963 and ran the warehouses there until 1977, when he moved to Glasgow and spent the next seven years as a blender in Morrison Bowmore's head office. He returned to Bowmore as manager in 1984, just when malt whisky was beginning to take off, and was soon spending much of his time travelling the world, tirelessly promoting Bowmore, Islay and Scotland. Mark persuaded him to join Bruichladdich as Production Director. Under their management, the company's credo was:

“We believe that Islay whisky should be the ultimate expression of the island itself; an authenticity derived from where it is distilled and where it is matured... from

the philosophies of those who distil it. A sense of place, of terroir that speaks of the land, the water, the barley and the human soul that gave it life.”

He also introduced strong branding, numerous expressions and pawky promotion which led to a huge increase in Bruichladdich's reputation.

When I asked him why they released so many expressions, which were confusing consumers, frustrating retailers and infuriating collectors (who couldn't keep up), he simply replied: *“Because we can. And we're having fun.”*

There's no answer to this! But in spite of his loud protests, the distillery was sold to Remy Cointreau, the French drinks giant, in 2012—for £58 million.

Glen Scotia 2016

The Whisky Shop Exclusive 30th Anniversary Bottling

70cl 58.2% VOL

5 Year Old £79

Islay Single Malt

Pale amber with a distinct rose blush; moderate beading, good legs. At this high strength the nose has considerable prickle. The top notes are jammy (raspberry jam) backed by maritime notes of salt crystals and sand dunes on a base of balsawood. At reduced strength - recommended! - the taste is fresh, sweet and salty

Platinum Glen Scotia 30 Year Old

70cl 59.6% VOL

30 Year Old £810

Single Cask Campbeltown Single Malt

A deep umber hue, with magenta lights; European oak. Good beading. A mild nose-feel, dry overall. The first impression is of dried fruits (raisins, figs and crystallised angelica), with a suggestion of treacle toffee and a thread of coal-smoke. A smooth, mouth-filling texture and a lightly sweet taste, drying lightly and becoming smoky, leaving a lingering aftertaste of sack-cloth, faintly minty.



“Pale amber with a distinct rose blush; moderate beading, good legs.”

It is interesting to compare these expressions of Glen Scotia—both single casks bottled at natural strength and colour, without chill-filtration.

The first, a The Whisky Shop exclusive, has been released to celebrate the company’s 30th anniversary. The second is bottled as part of Hunter Laing’s Platinum Old & Rare range, about which the Laing family writes:

“There are some whiskies which are so remarkable that they deserve a little extra recognition. Hunter Laing’s Old & Rare name signifies a rare single cask malt that has been bottled at the peak of its flavour... circumstances have conspired to create a sublime drinking experience which once consumed, can never be repeated.”

The Glen Scotia 5-year-old has been matured in a first-fill ex-bourbon American Standard Barrel, then finished in a red wine cask. Both the age and the cask-type might be described as ‘traditional’: 5 years was a common bottling age in the 1960s and ‘70s—although ASBs only began to be used by the Scotch whisky industry after 1946, usually re-made into hogsheads. The whisky’s flavour is pure Glen Scotia. The Glen Scotia 30-year-old is one of the oldest expressions from the distillery. Iain McAlister, Master Distiller wrote of another 30-year-old bottling: *“The Glen Scotia 30 Year Old single malt is an exceptional new addition to our portfolio. The flavour profile is deep and distinguished, showcasing the complex flavours and maritime influence that Glen Scotia has become known for”,* and I would support this, adding an antique thread of smoke, especially apparent in the taste.

Having passed through several ownerships, Glen Scotia was mothballed in 1994, then operated for only a couple of months a year, until it was bought by Loch Lomond Distillers Ltd. in 1999 before passing to the current owners, the Loch Lomond Group in 2014. They have invested heavily in restoring and up-grading and Glen Scotia won a clutch of prizes in the 2022 World Whisky Awards.

“The first impression is of dried fruits (raisins, figs, and crystallised angelica), with a suggestion of treacle toffee and a thread of coal-smoke”

New Releases

Mossburn Royal Brackla 2008

70cl 52.6% VOL

14 Year Old £110

Single Cask Highland Single Malt

A rich amber colour, with copper lights; moderate beading, good legs. A mellow nose, with light prickle; dry overall. The first impression is of hard toffee, backed by a bosky note (bramble-thicket) and a suggestion of leather. A smooth texture and a savoury taste, with a trace of ginger and light pepper in the medium-length finish.

“The first impression is of hard toffee, backed by a bosky note (bramble-thicket) and a suggestion of leather.”



Royal Brackla enjoys the distinction of being the first whisky to have been granted a Royal Warrant—in other words to have been chosen for the use of the Royal Household.

Such grants are not made lightly: the product or service to which they apply must be of exceptional quality – literally, ‘Fit For A King’. Furthermore, the Warrants themselves are granted to an individual, ‘A Person of Quality’, for a fixed period of time and will only be renewed if the Royal Household continues to use the product and if the individual continues to be in Royal favour.

The individual who created *Royal Brackla* malt whisky was Captain William

Fraser of Brackla; the monarch who granted the Warrant was King William IV, in 1833. Both men had served in the armed forces from a young age – Fraser enrolled in the 42nd (Royal Highland) Regiment of Foot in 1783, aged fifteen, the King was entered as a midshipman in the Royal Navy aged twelve, in 1777.

Fraser’s regiment was stationed in India, and for the next twenty years he was almost continually involved in action against the French and her Indian allies. He was badly wounded twice, was appointed captain in 1803 and obtained a home posting in 1806 to a Veteran Battalion, stationed at Fort George, close to his birthplace.

Returning to Brackla, he took over the lease of 300 acres from his father and, in 1812, built his distillery, “to find a market for my grain, in the shape of spirit”. By the 1830s he was selling his whisky in London, and told an Excise Commission in 1833: “Probably I send more to England than any other Highland distiller...I had an order from His Majesty’s cellar-keeper in London three months ago, to send up a small cask of whisky to St James’ Palace...”

He thus became the first whisky distiller to be granted a Royal Warrant, on 15th August 1833, after which he described his make as ‘The King’s Own Whisky.’

Mossburn Miltoduff 2008

70cl 56.6% VOL

13 Year Old £102.50

Single Cask Speyside Single Malt

A rich amber colour, with copper lights; moderate beading, very good legs. A comparatively closed nose, with light prickle; dry overall. Fruity top notes on a base of hardwood sawdust, with a hint of pine sap. Smooth texture and a savoury taste, finishing tart, with desiccated coconut in the aftertaste.



"Smooth texture and a savoury taste, finishing tart, with desiccated coconut in the aftertaste"

Miltoduff Distillery was built in the grounds of Pluscarden Abbey, six miles south-west of Elgin. Originally a priory, endowed by King Alexander II in 1230, Pluscarden was famous for its ale – so good that it *"filled the monastery with unutterable bliss."* The excellence of the brew was attributed to the Black Burn, which had been blessed by a saintly abbot in the fifteenth century, and which supplies the distillery with cooling water to this day (process water comes from a spring).

Water quality was deemed crucial to the making of good whisky, so it is not surprising that the vicinity was popular with illicit distillers in the late eighteenth century—around fifty, it is claimed. Founded in 1824,

the distillery is on the site of the priory's meal mill, named Milton; the name was changed when the Duff family, Earls of Fife, acquired the site in the seventeenth century.

By the 1890s Miltoduff was producing over a million litres of alcohol per annum; this rose to 5.24 million LPA in 1974/75 when *"modernisation visited Miltoduff with a vengeance"* – now one of the largest distilleries in Scotland. The owner was the giant Canadian distiller, Hiram Walker, Gooderham and Worts Ltd, which had acquired the site in 1936 to provide fillings for its hugely successful brand Ballantine's, acquired by them the previous year.

The continuing global success of

Ballantine's has meant that Miltoduff has rarely been bottled by its owner. Hiram Walker was acquired by Allied Distillers in 1987 and it appeared briefly around 1990, as part of their Caledonian Malts range (along with Laphroaig, Tormore, Scapa and Glendronach)—Allied's response to United Distillers' successful Classic Malts series – and following the acquisition of most of Allied's whisky interests by Pernod Ricard in 2005 a limited edition 18-year-old cask strength bottling was released, and in 2017 a 15-year-old.

New Releases

Mossburn Benriach 2010

70cl 61.8% VOL

12 Year Old £96

Single Cask Speyside Single Malt

The colour of sun-faded mahogany; light beading, good legs. A dense, creamy, nose-feel, with light prickle. The first impression is of soft fudge with a hint of almond oil and dried mixed herbs, edging towards vanilla ice cream. A smooth texture and a sweet taste overall, with a shake of white pepper in the medium-length finish.



"A smooth texture, and a sweet taste overall, with a shake of white pepper in the medium-length finish."

Benriach Distillery was commissioned by John Duff in 1897, designed by the leading distillery architect of the day, Charles Doig of Elgin. Duff had built Glenlossie Distillery a quarter of a mile away (in 1876) and Longmorn Distillery close by in 1893, connected to Benriach by a railway line.

He had emigrated to South Africa in 1888, opening a distillery the Transvaal (which failed), then moved on to the USA where he founded yet another unsuccessful operation. Alas, his bad luck dogged him: a year after Benriach was commissioned (1898) he was again in financial difficulties, owing to the collapse of the major blending

house, Pattisons of Leith [see *Aultmore*, p.15], and sold the distillery to his partners at Longmorn, who mothballed it, except for its maltings.

It remained closed until 1965, by which time it was owned by The Glenlivet Distillers Ltd. The latter was acquired by Seagram of Canada in 1977 and Seagram's whisky interests passed to Chivas Brothers in 2001. They closed Benriach again, then sold it, in 2004, to a small consortium led by Billy Walker, an extremely able and experienced distiller, who went on to acquire Glendronach and Glenglassaugh Distilleries, then sold all three to the

American giant, Brown-Forman, owner of Jack Daniels for £285 million, then bought Glenallachie Distillery a month later, in July 2017.

This 11-year-old Benriach has been released by Mossburn Distillers. With its HQ in Jedburgh, Mossburn Distillers is the U.K. subsidiary of the Dutch wine and spirits company, Marussia Beverages BV. The first releases under the Mossburn label, a range of single cask single malts from around Scotland, appeared in 2017; the same year the company completed the outstanding renovation of Torabhaig Distillery on the Isle of Skye.

Mossburn Aultmore 2009

70cl 63.7% VOL

12 Year Old £112

Single Cask Speyside Single Malt

Pale gold in colour, from an American oak refill cask; light beading in spite of its strength. A mild nose, with some prickle; the top notes are fresh and fruity (white grapes, green apples, a hint of lemon), supported by dry, mineralic notes of chalk and slaked lime. The taste reflects the aroma: lightly sweet, with lemon zest acidity and a shortish, chalky finish.



“Pale gold in colour, from an American oak refill cask; light beading in spite of its strength.”

Aultmore Distillery was built in 1896 by the remarkable Alexander Edward of Forres who had inherited Benrinnes Distillery from his father and led the consortium that built Craigellachie Distillery [see *Craigellachie*, p.12]. The site chosen, known as the Foggie Moss, was five miles north of Keith - abundant in springs and rich in peat, it had long been a favourite haunt of smugglers. The distillery was designed by Charles Doig of Elgin, the leading distillery architect.

Within a year of commencing production (1897), Aultmore - the name translates from Gaelic as ‘the big river’, although there is no such river to be seen at the site—had doubled capacity, so popular

was its spirit with the blending houses. The following year Mr. Edward bought Oban Distillery and floated The Oban and Aultmore-Glenlivet Distilleries Ltd, with a share capital of £160,000, which was over-subscribed.

Among the directors were R.C. Greig and R.B. Gillespie Greig, of the well-known blending house, Wright & Greig, in Glasgow, whose leading brand was *Roderick Dhu*, and F.W. Brickmann, a whisky broker. The latter was heavily involved with Pattisons of Leith, which went dramatically bust in 1900 - Walter and Robert Pattison, the principals, were sent to prison; Brickmann was bankrupted.

Although Pattisons was a key customer of Oban and to a lesser degree Aultmore, the distilleries survived by reducing production. Aultmore was sold to John Dewar & Sons in 1923, so joined the Distillers Company (now Diageo) in ‘The Big Amalgamation’ of 1925, then to Bacardi in 1998, when that company acquired John Dewar & Sons.

The malt was not bottled as a single by its owners until 1996, although it had been ranked ‘Top Class’ by blenders from the outset. Bacardi released expressions at 12, 18 and 21 years old in 2015. This single cask bottling is from the independent bottler Mossburn Distillers.

New Releases

Darkness Glenrothes 20 Year Old

50cl 49.2% VOL
20 Year Old £165
Single Cask Speyside Single Malt

The hue of dull gold, with excellent beading and good legs. A mellow nose, with top notes of Cadbury's Fruit and Nut chocolate (with hazelnuts and raisins), backed by dusty black tea-leaves. A light texture and a sweetish taste, malty in mid-palate then savoury towards a lengthy, warming, finish. Hazelnuts return in the aftertaste.



"The hue of dull gold, with excellent beading and good legs."

A splendid expression of *Glenrothes* aged for two decades and finished in Oloroso sherry octaves. There are only 124 bottles of this malt, exclusively for members of The W Club.

Glen Rothes-Glenlivet Distillery commenced production on 28th December 1879, the night of the Tay Bridge disaster, memorably commemorated by William McGonagall, which opens:
*Beautiful Railway Bridge of the Silv'ry Tay!
Alas! I am very sorry to say
That Ninety lives have been taken way
On the last Sabbath day of 1879,
Which will be remember'd for a very long time.*

Robertson and Baxter, blenders and brokers in Glasgow, were appointed as agents.

On the suggestion of W.A. Robertson, the distillery was merged with Bunnahabhain in 1887 to form the Highland Distilleries Company (now Edrington). One hundred years later, Highland licensed The Glenrothes brand to Berry Brothers & Rudd, the long established London wine merchants who also owned 50% of Cutty Sark—the other 50% being owned by Robertson & Baxter. Berry Bros. released the first official Glenrothes bottling that year, at 12 years old.

In 2010, Edrington took 100% ownership of Cutty Sark and Berry Bros. In May 2018, Edrington sold Cutty Sark to the French distiller, La Martiniquais.

By the late nineteenth century, twenty-seven distilleries were using the suffix '-Glenlivet', owing to the fame of the original. In 1884, John Gordon Grant, owner of Glenlivet Distillery, raised an action to limit this usage, but before it came to court the owners of Glen Rothes—it only became 'Glenrothes' in 1994—Cragganmore, Mortlach, Glenfarclas, Linkwood, Glengrant, Glenlossie and Benrinnes agreed to Smith's distillery being 'The Glenlivet', while "they were permitted to add *Glenlivet* to their names". The other 'Glenlivet' distilleries followed suit. In the 1980s most distilleries dropped the suffix altogether (e.g. Macallan-Glenlivet).

Highland Park Cask Strength Batch 3

70cl 64.1% VOL

NAS £65

Island Single Malt

Autumn gold in colour; only moderate beading, in spite of its high strength (indicating youth). The is remarkably mellow for the strength, with only light prickle. The top notes are maritime (sea salt, old varnished wooden boat, cordage) and mineralic (chalk), backed by a faint note of green apples and a thread of smoke. A mouth-filling texture and a sweet, salty, faintly peaty, taste, with a spicy finish.



"A mouth-filling texture and a sweet, salty, faintly peaty taste, with a spicy finish."

Why bottle at cask strength? There are two reasons - one chemical, the other cosmetic. Whisky contains flavour-bearing compounds which are hydrophobic - they don't like water, become volatile and evaporate when water is added. If water is added prior to bottling, these compounds are lost to the atmosphere; if the liquid is diluted in the glass they add to the aroma and taste, so form part of the enjoyment of the dram.

At lower bottling strengths - below 46% ABV - whisky can become hazy when water is added, which is why many 'standard strength' (40%, 42% ABV) bottles are chill-filtered to prevent this. The haze is caused by 'lipids' and 'long-chain fatty-acid esters' in the liquid, which precipitate with dilution or when the temperature is lowered; to remove the haze the liquid is chilled to around plus or minus zero degrees C, then pressed through a bank of blotting-paper filters, which catch the lipids.

The process is sometimes referred to as 'polishing' and thereafter the whisky remains bright and clear both in the bottle and if ice or water is subsequently added to the glass. However, these fatty esters are mighty contributors to mouthfeel (texture) and aroma, which is why many brand owners now avoid chill-filtration and often proudly proclaim the fact on the label.

'Cask strength' - in the trade it is generally referred to as 'natural strength' - is not defined in law and some brand owners use the term simply to indicate 'high strength', meaning 'higher than the familiar 40% ABV/70 degrees Proof.' The latter was introduced by the Central Control Board (Liquor Traffic) in April 1916, along with various other measures, in the mistaken belief that, in the words of prime minister, David Lloyd George (an ardent tee-totaller): *"Drink is doing more damage than all the German submarines put together."*

Actually, this expression of Highland Park is surprisingly 'well behaved' for its high strength and drinks well straight.

New Releases

Craigellachie Octave 2008 13 Year Old #7535839

70cl 53.9% VOL

13 Year Old £120

Single Cask Speyside Single Malt

Deep amber in colour (from a Spanish oak octave cask, c.50 litres capacity). Good beading; good legs. A mellow nose-feel, dry overall, the top notes are of fruit loaf, with sultanas, dates and kitchen spices. Beneath this a suggestion of espresso coffee and dark chocolate. A smooth texture and a sweet taste to start, drying to a long, spicy finish.



Until 2014, Craigellachie was not widely available as a single malt, but that year the owner of the distillery, John Dewar & Sons, released expressions at 13, 17, 19 (duty free only) and 23 years old to widespread acclaim. This expression is an excellent example of the make and has been matured in an active Spanish oak octave cask. The distillery was the brainchild of a remarkable young man, Alexander Edward, in partnership of 'Restless' Peter Mackie, the owner of Lagavulin Distillery and the famous White Horse brand of blended Scotch. The rich, oily spirit—the distillery's worm-tubs account for this—immediately became the core malt in the White Horse blend.

The son of a local farmer and distiller, Alexander Edward had acquired the lease of Benrinnes Distillery from his father in 1888, when he was twenty-three years old.

Building at Craigellachie commenced in 1890, under the direction of Charles Doig of Elgin, the leading distillery designer of the day, and the distillery went into production a year later.

The site was chosen on account of its proximity to the Strathspey Railway line, connecting Craigellachie—a hamlet at the time—to Elgin in the north and Aviemore in the south, while a branch line led to Dufftown. In effect, the village grew up around the distillery and was largely built by Mr. Edward, who, realising the potential for tourism in the heart of Speyside, built a number of 'new villas' in the village, which could be rented out to summer visitors.

In 1895—he was still under thirty years old—he went on to build the famous Craigellachie Hotel (known locally as 'The Craig') which would transform the village from a railway hub into a tourist destination, especially for sportsmen.

"a suggestion of espresso coffee and dark chocolate"

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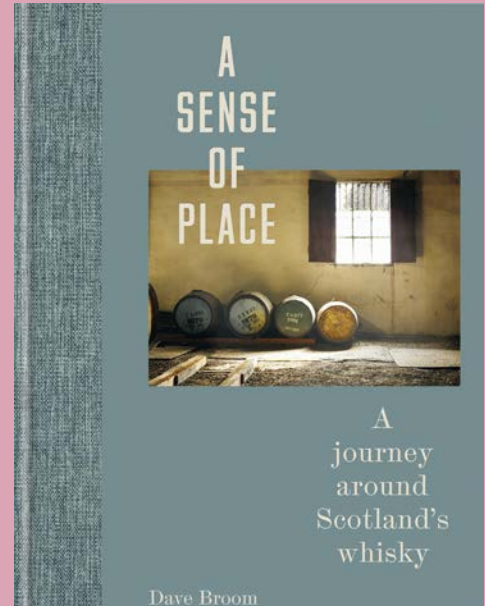


1 House of Hazelwood Launches New Autumn Collection

The second collection released by House of Hazelwood is here. This Autumn Collection is split into two smaller collections - The Charles Gordon Collection, and The Legacy Collection.

House of Hazelwood Marketing Director Jonathan Gibson said, "Our Autumn Collection speaks not only to the breadth and depth of the inventory that we are privileged to work with but also to the character of those family-members who built the stocks over the course of generations. These are truly remarkable liquids; the consequence of remarkable thinking, of brave decision-making and the luxury of time that private family ownership brings."

Find out more at www.houseofhazelwood.com



2 A Sense of Place Release

Dave Broom's latest book has been released! The new book takes a tour of Scotland's distilleries and gives a glimpse of the communities that create the drams that we love so much. Featuring photography by Christina Kernohan, this is the perfect gift for the whisky aficionado in your life this Christmas! A Sense of Place by Dave Broom is published by Mitchell Beazley (£40).





3 The Macallan Celebrates 60 Years of James Bond

2022 marks 60 years since James Bond first appeared on the silver screen. To celebrate the anniversary, The Macallan have launched their James Bond 60th Anniversary Release – a very fitting collaboration, as The Macallan is Mr Bond’s whisky of choice!

The collection features six limited edition bottles, each of which boasts a design to represent one of the six decades that James Bond has been on our screens. This rare series can be found at The Macallan Online Boutique.

4 Oldest Ever Scotch Whisky Sells at Auction for £300,000

The Macallan The Reach has broken the world record for the sale on the oldest whisky in the world. The previous record was set last October by Gordon & MacPhail’s Generations 80 Year Old which sold for £142,000. After a week-long auction, the expression was sold for a whopping £300,000.

The Macallan The Reach is a totally triumphant piece of craftsmanship. The whisky was drawn from a single sherry cask that had been distilled in 1940. The decanter is held by a bronze sculpture of three hands that represent figures from The Macallan’s illustrious history. The expression is presented in a cabinet that is crafted with wood from an elm tree that was believed to be growing on the grounds of The Macallan estate in 1940.



On the road again

Introducing David McFall, our van driver who collects bottles for auction across the UK. Having joined the team in February this year after a long career with the police, Davie gives us the run down about The Whisky Shop Auctions' collection service.

ILLUSTRATION: KATIE SMITH



What does a day on the job look like?

I'll come to the warehouse on a Friday afternoon. I'll pick up the van and set it up for the run. I'll bring some copies of Whiskeria to hand out, too. If there's any whiskies to be delivered while we're on the route, I'll put them in the van. Other members of the team will set up the routes and I'll then look through them to make sure that they're okay.

The following morning, I'm up at 7:30am and I'm away. I go away the Saturday morning and come back on Tuesday. The work obviously depends on traffic a lot of the time, but I'll finish around about 6pm every night.

The last day of the route, I come back up to the warehouse and the great team there help me empty the van. And that's it!

Do you get to enjoy any scenic routes?

The last one I did up north was very nice. I was up around Invergordon and Brora. I like going through the dales and the north of England—it's nice around about there. Easy driving, too!

I've seen so many different places. On the last run, I was in the centre of London. The driving was fine, but the parking was a problem! It was brilliant, though. It's such a different experience driving down south.

What do you enjoy the most about the job?

The feeling of independence. There's a great team in Auctions who make sure everything on my route goes as smoothly as possible, so I've got very little to worry about whilst I'm out and about. It's brilliant. I love it.

I get a wee blether here and there with the people I meet, too. They're all so interested in whisky and when they buy, they're often trying to buy two or three bottles so that they can taste a dram if they want to. Some of the customers are brilliant as they'll give you a wee taster in a sample bottle to go. I've got to taste a few whiskies that I'd otherwise never get the chance to try.

Why do you think the collection service is so popular with customers?

It's free, for a start, so I think they really appreciate it. Secondly, the convenience. Thirdly, I think they like to see the whisky go straight into the van that will be heading to the warehouse. They get some peace of mind as they can see the start of the journey.

What's the most interesting bottle that you've ever picked up?

I brought down a 35-year-old bottle of Springbank from Perth a few months ago—not something I'm likely to taste! Routinely, there's interesting bottles of The Macallan, too – again, not ones I'll be tasting on a daily basis! Often, the van will have a fairly substantial value.

Do you ever get worried about transporting such precious cargo?

I was in the police for thirty years, so I'm very particular about maximising the security of the van overnight. When you're going out in the morning, the first thing you do is make sure the van is still there! Then I make sure everything is still as it was inside.

Do you collect whisky yourself?

I do. Just a moderate collection of about 20 bottles! I've got a fairly significant number of Glengoyne's of different ages.

How did you get into whisky?

I remember in my early years having a pint and being given a whisky after and I liked it. Blended whisky was my first introduction.

For the last ten years or so, I've been going to tasting events with a group called 'The Whisky Connoisseurs' – ironically, there's not a connoisseur in the group!

What is your favourite whisky?

I like sherry finished whiskies and port finished whiskies. My favourite whisky of all is probably the Glengoyne 18 Year Old or the Glengoyne 21 Year Old. I love the depth of flavour.



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THE WHISKY SHOP
AUCTIONS



Highland hopping



From now until March 2023, W Clubbers will receive a 20% discount on visits to Diageo's Scottish Brand Homes. A total of eleven distilleries that are home to some of the most iconic whiskies in the world. In celebration of this, Luke, our W Club Manager, took a trip up to two of these distilleries; Dalwhinnie and Blair Athol.

PHOTOGRAPHY: DECLAN CORCORAN

Knowledge Bar Brand Homes



List of Brand Homes included in Diageo's partner offer

- Talisker
- Cardhu
- Glenkinchie
- Blair Athol
- Dalwhinnie
- Oban
- Lagavulin
- Clynelish
- Glen Ord
- Royal Lochnagar
- Caol Ila

Very few things beat getting up close and personal with an excellent whisky in its natural environment, and, as such, the main driver behind our growing W Club Partner Offer list is to make it easier for our members to explore the world of whisk(e)y, both in Scotland, but also further afield.

Out of all the distilleries we could have visited on the new Partner Offer list we chose to visit Dalwhinnie and Blair Athol. We did so for two reasons. Firstly, they are often overlooked compared to some of the more famous distilleries on our list. And secondly, they are accessible off the A9 for anyone who is based in Scotland or is visiting from elsewhere in the world.

The drive up the A9 itself is special. As we headed north, we passed through the autumnal reds and browns of the deciduous trees, more common the further south you are. But then they slowly give way to the tall, dark-green, needles of the evergreen forests. Shortly after this, the road joins up with the Highland Main Line, before emerging onto the pastel colours of the Highland heaths and bogs.

It is among this low-growing Highland vegetation that we find Dalwhinnie. We were informed on our arrival that Dalwhinnie is the highest distillery in Scotland, and we are also told that the village of Dalwhinnie records the lowest average temperature of inhabited region

in Scotland. We haven't verified this latter assertion; but once you've been in the area for five minutes, you won't question it either.

As you arrive at Dalwhinnie, eagle-eyed whisky fans will notice the large wooden worm tubs outside the front of the distillery. Dalwhinnie take advantage of the temperature in the area by using it to cool the spirit vapours as they come off the stills. We won't get too into the technicality of how a worm tub condenser works, but effectively once heat is applied to the wash in the still—which separates the alcohol from the rest of the liquid—these vapours need to cool down so they can re-condense and be captured. To achieve this the arm of the still runs into a spiralling copper tube that exits the distillery building and runs through a large wooden vat of water that uses the cold temperature of the Highlands to cool the vapours. Worm tubs like this are traditional but nowadays are rare. Interestingly however, is that the use of this method of condenser, and how cold Dalwhinnie gets at times, means that the folks at the distillery claim it can alter the viscosity of the spirit produced in the summer versus the winter.

It's far from the only quirky aspect of the distillery. Starting with the fact that this distillery, although unmistakably in the Highlands, was originally named the 'Speyside Distillery.' Very little about the wind-swept heaths feels very Speyside. But to be fair it's only 17 miles from



the nearest Speyside distillery, not far from the source of the Spey and, after all, all Speyside distilleries are in the Highlands.

We enjoyed our trip to the Dalwhinnie distillery. The distillery exclusive cask is a beautiful dram, and we got treated to an excellent pairing of whisky and chocolate, with some chocolates from the famous Highland Chocolatier, Iain Burnett, which is always a treat!

After Dalwhinnie we headed back down the A9 to the town of Pitlochry, shrouded in beautiful forestry, and to the Blair Athol Distillery. The distillery is located close to the centre of this attractive town, alongside its water source Allt Dour Burn. The Blair Athol distillery gets its famous otter logo from said burn, as they were once plentiful along the stretch of the river where the distillery is located. The folks in Pitlochry have been distilling on this site for 100 years longer than our friends at Dalwhinnie; having opened in 1798 versus 1898. And the building is visually striking, covered in beautiful green and red vines, a real contrast to the whitewashed walls and black trimmings of Dalwhinnie.

We were impressed by Miki, who showed us around. It's no secret that all distillery tours focus on tourists and catering to guests who might be unfamiliar with Scotch – Dalwhinnie was no exception in this regard – however, Blair Athol was a bit more in this extreme. For example, we got to stroll right into the dunnage warehouse

at Dalwhinnie versus viewing the warehouse through a glass window at Blair Athol. Perhaps this is down to the greater non-whisky related footfall Pitlochry receives versus Dalwhinnie, or because the overwhelming majority of the output from Blair Athol goes into blends, compared to the volume of Dalwhinnie that is bottled under that brand as a single malt. Having said that, this should not put off some more experienced whisky heads. It's still worth a visit, even if just for the very impressive Mash-Tun Bar that is literally a refitted mash tun. An aesthetically impressive bar with a solid offering; we only wished we'd more time to sit at it!

Why not visit some more famous distilleries such as Caol Ila, Lagavulin, Oban or Talisker? The list is long, and our partner offers grow regularly. Don't miss out, join the W Club! Or why not give a membership for Christmas?

Knowledge Bar Whisky Me



W Club Members can enjoy a 20% on an annual subscription on **Whisky Me**. We at the W Club like to talk about "Unlocking the Mystery of Whisky" and our friends at Whisky Me are whisky explorers just like you.

Join the on a **Traditional, Discover or Adventure plan** and interrogate **new whisky each month**. A nice accompaniment to your W Club membership.

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What's in a name?



Brian Wilson shines a light on Gaelic's connection to the Scotch whisky industry.

ILLUSTRATION: KATIE SMITH

Knowledge Bar

Gaelic



Many of Scotland's place names have Gaelic origins and these extend far beyond what are now its last bastions as a language of everyday use. **Milngavie**, for example, makes more sense as **Muileann Ghaidh** or "hay mill". And the dear green place is **Glaschu**, or "green hollow".

There are some words that keep cropping up in Scottish place names. Anything beginning with "**Auch**", from **Auchentoshan** to **Auchtermuchty**, started life as **Achadh** or "field". And "**Kin**" from **Kinloss** to **Kintyre**, is a corruption of **Ceann** or "Head".

"**Glen**" is, of course, "**Gleann**" or valley, as in **Glenshee** or **Gleann Sithe**—the Glen of Peace. Sometimes a single letter completely changes the name. The **Isle of Muck** is **Eilean na Muc** which is a shortened of **Muc-mhara** or "whales".

There are many other influences on Scottish place names and some Gaelic ones are themselves variations of old Norse ones which were Gaelicised before being Anglicised. Nothing is ever simple!

➔ My first acquaintance with the whisky industry was through my mother's family who had worked in Bunnahabhain distillery on Islay from the day it opened in 1881. The village was created in two rows of cottages—imaginatively named Top Row and Bottom Row—to house the workers, with grander residences for the distillery hierarchy.

The founding fathers had a fair stab at giving the new village a suitable Gaelic name—*Bun na h-Abhainne* means simply "the mouth of the river." However, the place we went to on holiday each year had yet another name, which always seemed a bit puzzling. Either the Ordnance Survey or the Royal Mail had decided at some point in time that it was to be called "Bonahaven" which means, well... nothing actually.

It's a standard story of how place names throughout much of Scotland have been robbed of their original Gaelic meaning and phoneticised into meaninglessness. For most of its existence, Bunnahabhain distillery was the supplier of spirit to blended brands without its own identity as a single malt. When that changed, somewhere in the 1970s, I guess the marketing people at Highland Distillers must have had a discussion about what it should be called and, happily, they stuck with the near-Gaelic version.

This points to a wider truth which is that,

in general, the whisky industry has done more than most to respect Gaelic place names, take them to a wider world and recognise that any difficulty with pronunciation is more than compensated for by the stamp of authenticity. If anything, this consensus has become stronger in recent years with the proliferation of small distilleries while the bigger brands also value distinctive names that differentiate their products in a crowded market.

I've never really understood the opposition that exists in Scotland to bilingual signage. Surely a name that means something is more interesting than one which means nothing? There is no more commercially aware industry than Scotch whisky and I'm glad they have reached the same conclusion and ensured that Gaelic's connection with Scotch is not limited to "*uisge bheatha*" and "*Slaint mhath!*"

Long-established brands could scarcely be expected to re-Gaelicise their names where they had long since adopted the accepted adaptations. However, they are now more than willing to provide explanations that make sense of the labels and symbols. For example, the label tells us that Glenfiddich, on Speyside, is really Gleann Fhiodhaich meaning "*valley of the deer*" which explains the brand's stag logo. Auchentoshan, with a few miles of Glasgow, is Achadh an

BUNNAHABHAIN (BUN-UH-HAH-VEN)





In other words, the mystery of the name becomes a marketing tool.

Oisein or “*corner of the field*”, and so on.

The work of the Ordnance Survey which bequeathed us most of Scotland’s phoneticised place names pretty much coincided with the rise of the whisky industry in the 19th century. It followed the same pattern as in Ireland where place-naming was seen as much more political and part of a process of Anglicisation. There, the work of the Ordnance Survey was carried out between 1824 and 1846 when Irish was still the majority language, with a view to standardising place names for the purpose of mapping.

This work took the Ordnance Survey into every corner of Ireland and bequeathed to the country hundreds of towns and villages which now start as “Bally”. This is simply an adaptation of ‘*Baile na*’ or “*Place of*.” What follows in the anglicised versions often have a completely different meaning to the word it phoneticises. For example, “*money*” has nothing to do with “*monaidh*” (or moorland) as in Ballymoney. This really was cultural imperialism on a grand scale, whatever the intentions.

A high-profile Scottish example of phoneticisation resulting in a name which is turned into something completely different in meaning is Gleneagles. It may derive from Gleann na h-Eaglais or Glen of the Church or, according to some researchers, a Gaelic derivation that is even older. The certainty is that it has nothing at all to do with eagles—though the celebrated hotel has ignored this point of detail to make an eagle its symbol. Evolution of language or cultural appropriation? Take your pick.

An example of the bold use of Gaelic is Cù Bòcan which has been developed as a niche brand by Tomatin Distillery since 2005. Ninety-nine per cent of those who come in contact with it are likely to ask: “*What does that mean?*” The answer—literally Ghost Dog—takes you straight into the narrative, not only about reasons for the name but also the brand’s origins and the distinctive process that underpins it. In other words, the mystery of the name becomes a marketing tool. Would “Ghost Dog” have the same effect?

Having difficulty with pronunciation is certainly not a barrier to success. One good example of that is Laphroaig which is named after the area of Islay in which the distillery and its workers’ village were built, back in 1815. When the great 19th century chronicler of distilleries, Alfred Barnard, visited Islay he found Laphroaig to be “*of exceptional character... a thick and pungent spirit of a peculiar ‘peat reek’ flavour*”. Ever since, the world-wide popularity of this highly distinctive dram has proved that the absence of the letter ‘f’ from the Gaelic alphabet is

not a problem, even if The Whisky Shop staff are known to have been asked for a bottle of “Lap Frog.”

Iain Noble, a merchant banker who bought an estate in the Sleat district of Skye, proved to be one of Gaelic’s staunchest advocates in the latter part of the 20th century and certainly found nothing incompatible between the promotion of Gaelic and his commercial instincts. He used his power as a landowner to insist on the use of Gaelic road signs, founded the Gaelic college, Sabhal Mor Ostaig, and also established a range of whiskies with names like Té Bheag, Poit Dhubbh, and Prabhan na Linne, originally “*for the connoisseurs of the Gaelic speaking Hebridean islands of Scotland*”. They continue to trade successfully and Sleat now has its own distillery, Torabhaig, which again eschews the anglicisation which for other purposes turned the village into “Torvaig.” Why?

In fairness to the 19th century Ordnance Survey field workers, while bestowing place names which were interpretations of what they thought were hearing, they also put an astonishing amount of effort into talking to elderly people and amassing reams of information about the Gaelic names associated with physical characteristics. This side of their work is less well known and suggests that the motivation was more benign than it is sometimes given credit for. While imposing what they regarded as pronounceable anglicised names upon settlements, they also preserved a vast amount of authentic Gaelic information that would otherwise have been lost.

Since 2000, there has been a project called Ainmean Aite na h-Alba—Gaelic Place Names of Scotland—which draws heavily on that old Ordnance Survey work. It brings together government agencies and academics to standardise Gaelic names which can then be used on bilingual signage and in other fields requiring translation. Increasingly, businesses also avail themselves of this service as understanding spreads that authenticity is not just respectful of a minority language and culture but also makes good business sense.

The Scotch whisky industry can take a lot of credit for the part it has played—which explains why Laphroaig never changed to Lap Frog for the sake of simplicity and, mercifully, Bunnahabhain was never diluted to become Bonahaven.

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Kentucky's North Star

With a lifetime of experience under his belt from growing up around his family's distillery, Rob Samuel's gives us the inside scoop on the history of Maker's Mark, the distillery's focus on Plant First Initiatives, and The Whisky Shop Private Select Batch Five which will be hitting our shelves soon!

➡ Tell our readers about the history of Maker's Mark.

As a family, we had been making whiskey in Kentucky for 160 years prior to Maker's Mark. The legacy of American whiskey, including our family's legacy brand which was called T.W. Samuels, was very much frontier whiskey and that was the reason my grandparents chose to break tradition. In the mid-1940s, they sold our legacy family distillery and set out to reimagine what bourbon could be.

How did your grandparents pick the location for the Maker's Mark distillery?

They chose this beautiful rural setting to chase their dream because of nature. Today, our distillery is a National Historic Landmark. It sits on a 1,300-acre working farm and of the property we manage several hundred acres. We own the water source and all of the watershed.

It was quite visionary of my grandparents because even today, passionate whiskey lovers and consumers often talk about whiskey only through process. In the beginning, my grandparents really acknowledged that bourbon is nature and it's an agricultural product.

How did your grandparents build up the distillery?

[My grandfather] was a craftsman. If you've ever spent time with a craftsman or a craftswoman, they always obsess over whatever it is they're making, and that was true of him. As a business, this was a passion. He wanted to create a handmade, refined, more elevated expression of bourbon – essentially a bourbon for people that didn't like bourbon. Softer, richer, full of flavour, balanced, but fundamentally made by hand.

While he focused on the distillery, and on flavour exploration, it was my grandmother, Margie Samuels, who did everything else. Before distilleries ever formally hosted visitors, she was the one who said *"let's design the distillery much like you would your home."* She designed our little village of a distillery with the idea of swinging open the doors to let friends come visit and experience it. She has since been credited with inventing bourbon tourism because distilleries had never formally hosted visitors until her vision.

She's the one that actually designed the bottles and created the name. She wanted to celebrate the handmade values that were



It's the softer side of Maker's Mark that I treasure.

represented in every drop of the bourbon. She had this really extensive collection of English pewter. On their proudest pieces of pewter, the English craftsmen and craftswomen would always make their mark on those pieces to celebrate handmade. So [Margie] suggested that [Bill] should make his mark.

Maker's Mark is acknowledged today as the first craft distillery in America. It was a floundering brand for a long time because through the 60s and 70s and even into the early 1980s, consumers weren't open-minded to a more elevated, premium bourbon experience. That started to change when the Wall Street Journal told the story of this quirky little distillery in Marion



Industry Insider





County, Kentucky, that goes against the grain to make its mark. The Wall Street Journal said that Maker's Mark is a model of purposeful inefficiency which is exactly the way my grandparents thought about everything. Their goal was never to be the biggest, never to be the most efficient. You had a craftsman and his wife with this overriding commitment to a vision for a handmade bourbon. We honour that vision as our North Star every day.

I know there's a joke at the distillery that goes, "If we could make it any faster, we wouldn't." Could you tell our readers a bit more about that?

Of all the bourbon brands created after Prohibition was repealed in 1933, I think Maker's Mark might be the only bourbon that didn't borrow whisky to get started. Our founders started to distil in the early 1950s. They built their inventory, and they waited almost seven years for the first barrels to mature over time.

Nothing is more important than our people and the quality and our single source of supply which is fairly unique in whisky. We can look you in the eye and tell you that every single drop of whiskey that's ever been in a bottle of Maker's Mark has been made at our distillery and every drop of whiskey ever made at our distillery has never been anywhere other than a bottle of Maker's Mark.

What does your role with Maker's Mark entail?

I lead the team. They started in the beginning with twelve team members. Today, we have 280 team members, and everybody loves and believes in Maker's Mark to the same extent I do. The energy and the passion from all of our team members is just something to behold.

At what point did you know that you wanted to work in whiskey?

I spent the first eleven years of my career outside Kentucky, away from Maker's Mark, working for a different company to prove to myself that I actually loved the industry beyond just an affection for a family legacy. It was really important to me. I joined my father, who was President of Maker's Mark when I came back to Kentucky in 2006. It's been an honour to work with my dad. He retired twelve years ago but I still talk to him every day.



My grandparents really acknowledged that bourbon is nature and it's an agricultural product.

How has your relationship with Maker's Mark developed over the years?

I grew up working in the distillery. I did every single job—managing the stills, overseeing fermentation, hand-dipping bottles. I treasure those experiences and the memories I have with my grandparents and my father. The last conversation I had with my grandfather was the only time I actually ever heard him reflect on what he had created. It's so much easier to stay true to who you are when you have customers, but in the beginning, we had no customers for like 25 years. He shared with me how proud he was that he never wavered from his vision. That stays with me.

What would you say is your favourite thing about Maker's Mark?

It gives me joy that our brand can be a part of giving back to society in an important and meaningful way. I think we're only in the very beginning of the influence in the world that Maker's Mark can have.

We're having an event tonight at the distillery where we're bringing in ten of the most respected chefs from Kentucky and ten of the most famous bartenders from Kentucky. It's a ticketed event but we're underwriting all of the costs. All the proceeds are going to go to a foundation that supports the independent restaurant community and the servers who don't often have a safety net.

[My grandparents] were always adamant that Maker's Mark be a force for good in the world, that we get involved in the community and give back. It's the softer side of Maker's Mark that I treasure.

How important is it that brands try to be as sustainable as possible, especially in today's day and age?

I don't want to speak for the industry as much as for us, but Plant First Initiatives are at the centre of every single decision we make. It's humbling because our family has made whiskey for 200 years in Kentucky and when you take it back to trying to understand where flavour comes from, it all comes from nature. Our team are committed to stewarding our growth in a manner that allows us to lead from the front with Plant First Initiatives and higher purpose, but also with new whiskeys and flavours that will continue to pioneer in the same way Maker's did in the beginning.

The whisky industry is always changing and evolving. Does that inspire you to always test the limits of what Maker's Mark can be?

Yeah. Pushing boundaries but being intentional about it. Not innovating for the sake of innovating, not chasing trends. Pushing the boundaries in the way that is very much inspired by our founding legacy and vision.

The Whisky Shop Private Select Batch Five is coming soon. Can you tell our readers a bit about this expression?

The team have an expression that's born out of the founding cask strength flavour vision that defines Maker's Mark. It amps up the baking spices and vanilla intensity. Expect an undertone of nutmeg and chocolate that's dry but on the finish is

mouth-watering and creamy. There's great viscosity and a great mouthfeel. It has a bit of a longer finish but still no aggressiveness or bitterness.

What can we expect next from Maker's Mark?

In the next few years, we're going to launch a couple of new whiskeys from our distillery that I believe will be a big moment for the industry. You can expect Maker's Mark to continue to live higher purpose beyond our distillery, beyond Kentucky, in different cities of the world.

Our farm, I believe, will shape the future and the sustainability of our industry well beyond Maker's Mark through our American White Oak research. We want to prove at the biological level that regenerative farming can lead to flavour intensity while also minimising the impact on the environment. The vision we have for Star Hill Farm is to become the most culturally rich, endearing, and environmentally responsible place of any brand in the world. That's where we're pushing.

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Waterford Distillery



WATERFORD DISTILLERY

GRATTAN QUAY

WATERFORD

IRELAND

A relative newcomer to the whisky scene, Waterford Distillery was founded in 2015 by Mark Reynier. The distillery is a converted Guinness brewery – who would have thought?

Determined to stand out from the crowd, Waterford distillery works with a commitment to terroir and its impact on Waterford's outstanding whiskies.



Waterford distillery are the makers of Ireland's first organic-certified whisky, Waterford Organic Gaia. They have also produced the world's first biodynamic whisky, Waterford Luna 1.1.

With the huge impact they have made in just seven years, we cannot wait to see what comes next from this spectacular Irish distillery.



➔ Not many distillery visits start with a trip to a farm, but Waterford is a distillery unlike any other.

For example, where else do you find a whisky-making operation which works with 40 farmers per year, going on to process the barley they grow in individual batches, ultimately bottling each of them as a 'single farm' expression?

And which other distillery pays some of its growers a significant premium to farm biodynamically, burying cow horns filled with manure, and planting sunflowers among the barley? The answer is none.

So just what is happening at this distillery in Ireland's oldest city and seaport?

TEIREOIR

At the heart of everything is the concept of 'terroir,' or as the Waterford distillery team terms it 'teireoir', emphasising the Irishness of the venture, which explains why a pre-distillery farm visit to biodynamic barley grower Trevor Harris in County Kildare is on the agenda.

The significance of terroir is widely accepted in viticulture, and essentially embraces the notion that topography, soil and climate can result in two wines having different flavour profiles, even if they were made from the same grape variety and cultivated within sight of each other.

The mastermind behind Waterford distillery is Mark Reynier, a man whose approach to whisky-making is heavily influenced by his previous lengthy involvement in the wine trade.

Prior to establishing Waterford distillery, Reynier also spent 20 years in the Scotch whisky industry, resurrecting the silent Bruichladdich distillery on the Hebridean island of Islay and turning it into one of the most exciting and dynamic whisky-making

ventures around. There, he began to explore the significance of terroir in whisky.

When Bruichladdich was sold to Remy Cointreau in 2012, Reynier looked around for a new venue in which to take his wine-influenced whisky-making philosophy to the next level. He found it in a former Guinness brewery, located at Grattan Quay on the banks of the River Suir in Waterford, south-east Ireland.

The site had been home to beer-making since the establishment of Strangman's brewery in 1792 with Guinness acquiring it in 1954, latterly making Guinness Flavour Essence to be added to the 'black stuff' when brewed overseas.

Guinness owners Diageo spent €40 million largely rebuilding the brewery during 2005, only to close it eight years later. Mark Reynier and his associates, trading as Renegade Spirits, were able to acquire it for the knock-down price of €7.2 million in 2014, spending a further €2.4 million converting the facility to produce whisky.

WATERFORD WHISKY

A pair of stills sourced from Inverleven distillery at Dumbarton on the River Clyde during Reynier's Bruichladdich days were refurbished and installed in what he calls 'The Facilitator,' though 2021 saw these venerable and well-travelled vessels replaced with identical copies.

In typically ebullient fashion, Mark Reynier declared at the outset, "*Our vision is to create the world's most profound whisky,*" using the spelling more usually associated with Scotch to distance the spirit being made at Waterford distillery from the genre of 'Irish whiskey.' This is whisky made in Ireland using Irish barley, rather than Irish whiskey.

From the start, it was obvious that conventional practices would not be



Balance and complexity are key. The whisky needs to make you smile when you taste it.



Distillery Visit



followed, with Reynier recruiting farmers to grow barley for him via grain brokers and suppliers Minch Malt. The integrity of each individual annual crop of barley is sacrosanct, and the grain is stored in one of 50 'bins' in what Reynier calls the 'Cathedral of Barley' building in Kilkenny prior to malting.

At Waterford distillery, a week is devoted specifically to the distillation of each batch, and after maturation, the whisky in question is bottled in the Single Farm Origin series. That model has served the distillery well, earning praise from aficionados, and the variety of spirit character on display makes it difficult to argue that terroir is little more than a fanciful notion.

However, Reynier always had something else in mind beyond this initial venture, and that was the creation of a Waterford Cuvée, inspired by the wine chateaux of France. Reynier declares that *"This unprecedented spectrum of flavours must now reach its crescendo: we have celebrated and explored the singles, now we produce our more immersive concept album."*

"For layered together in this cerebral fusion of flavours, these component Waterford whiskies come together, culminating in our ultimate experience: textured, complex, and compelling. The Cuvée is a synthesis of Single Farm Origins, an enigmatic gestalt, a milestone in our journey. The definitive Waterford Whisky. Our lodestar."

HEAD DISTILLER NED

The man charged with the task of creating whisky to justify Reynier's hyperbole is Head Distiller Ned Gahan, a Waterford



Our vision is to create the world's most profound whisky.

native who worked for Guinness prior to their brewery's closure and was subsequently hired by Reynier to help make his vision become reality.

When asked how he learnt the craft of whisky-making, Gahan points out that, *"Two-thirds of making whisky is brewing anyway. I learnt the rest by doing it and by seeing others do it. I went to Bruichladdich on Islay and Glen Grant on Speyside and talked to the guys actually carrying out the distilling."*

His role involves not only overseeing distillation and assembling the Waterford whiskies, but also buying casks and all aspects of maturation. *"We have a huge number of variables going forward,"* he states. *"Flavour is always first. Balance and complexity are key. The whisky needs to make you smile when you taste it. That's it for me."*

The first Cuvée bottling is around four and a half years old, and Gahan is already working on the second, which will be between six and seven years of age and is due to be released in spring 2023. He also creates four seasonal 'Micro- Cuvéés,' limited to just 1,000

bottles per season, as well as a number of Single Farm Origin bottlings, Organic and Biodynamic whiskies, and more. In terms of the component whiskies that comprise the Cuvéés, Gahan says that *"Overall, over 100 different farms have been used to date, and we work with around 40 per year. We've had five farms from the very start."*

He adds that, *"Of this year's 2,500 tonnes of grain, 30 per cent is organic, biodynamic or heritage, and that figure will only grow. Biodynamic barley is four to five times more expensive than conventional barley as the yields are much lower."* This explains why Waterford distillery has an annual malt bill of €2m, while making less than 1m litres of spirit per year.

Traceability and transparency are crucial to Waterford distillery's philosophy, and each and every bottle of Waterford Whisky carries a téiroir code, which when entered at the distillery website, leads to the most extraordinary details about the whisky and its origins. The data even includes the average amount of sunlight that fell on the crop during its period of growth and ripening.

"The farmers take a great pride in being involved with Waterford," says Gahan. *"They are given a dozen bottles when they are released and quite often, they put a bottle in their local bar and when they go in for a drink they'll say to the barman, 'I'll have a drop of my own!'"*

In terms of maturation, each farm's spirit is filled into 50 per cent ex-bourbon, 20 per cent American virgin oak, 15 per cent fresh premium wine and 15 per cent casks which include rum, Sauternes, and sherry.

HEAD BREWER NEIL

Working alongside Ned Gahan, and also a former Guinness employee who spent time in what was Waterford brewery is Head Brewer and Production Manager Neil Conway. He highlights the fact that long fermentations – between 120 and 170 hours – are practiced, noting that, *"We like the secondary fermentation that produces. It lowers the pH of the wash and promotes fruitier, estery aromas."*

Distillation is also a leisurely process at Waterford, with the spirit still running at 400 litres per hour, when it could process three times that amount in the same period. *"We like a 'rolling boil' to give more copper contact,"* says Conway, *"and this liberates the floral, fruity notes and gives good oiliness to the spirit. We take a tight middle cut, which provides a degree of lightness and elegance."*

Conway notes that taking 100 tonnes of barley from an individual farm produces 75 tonnes of malt, which yields 350,000 litres of wash. This is enough for 20 distillations, creating around 40,000 litres of new make spirit.

That spirit is transferred by road tanker to Waterford distillery's warehousing complex



Knowledge Bar
Waterford The Cuvée

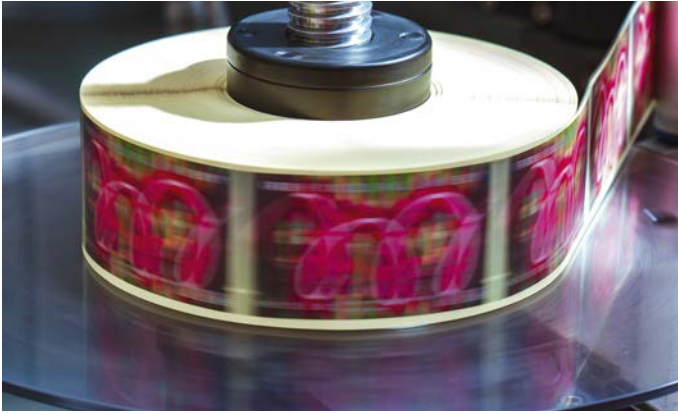


Waterford The Cuvée
 Irish Single Malt Whisky
 50% ABV | £72

Tasting note: Aromas of stewed apples, malt loaf, and barley sugar are present on the nose. The palate brings orange zest, lemon peel, and olive. The finish is very smooth and full of barley.



Distillery Visit



Waterford The Cuvee in production at the distillery's Ballygarran warehouse



Traceability and transparency are crucial to Waterford's philosophy, each and every bottle of Waterford Whisky carries a *téiroir* code [...]

a few miles away and close to the sea. After five years of distillation, the warehouses now contain some 40,000 casks of maturing whisky.

THE FARMER - TREVOR HARRIS

Trevor Harris farms at Coilltroim in County Kildare and grows around 30 acres of barley biodynamically per year, as well as other crops, while also rearing cattle and sheep. Having grown cereal organically, he began to trial biodiverse methods before Waterford distillery started sourcing barley. He was one of the first to sign up with Mark Reynier, who told him *"You grow barley with biodiversity, and I'll buy it."*

Harris explains that *"With biodiversity, I'm nurturing and trying to improve the soil. Chemical growers just use it as a growing medium. We use horn manure which aids the building of a healthy, resilient soil. This can help mitigate the climate extremes we are now facing. I'm looking for a plant that has to work hard for its living, that's hardy and less susceptible to disease."*

He explains that *"We use mineral silica, filled into hollowed out cow horns which are buried in a pit from spring to autumn. We store the manure in a glass jar, add rainwater and spray it on the fields. It improves*

the photosynthesis of the plant.

"The sun and moon are energy influences, and we look on the farm as a living organism and work with nature, not battle it. We have the wildlife as allies. We let hedges grow and we plant clover and sunflowers among the barley. Sunflowers are very good for dealing with fungus. If I have active soil, the barley gives more flavour. The knock-on effect of a 'living' soil is better flavour in the whisky."

WATERFORD RELEASES

In addition to the Single Farm Origin series and Cuvée releases, a third Waterford collection is named Arcadian Barley, and is sub-divided into Organic, Biodynamic, Heritage and Peated Barley.

To date, there have been three releases of Organic Gaia, and the first biodynamic bottling – named Luna 1.1 – appeared in 2021. An expression distilled from the Hunter variety of heritage barley, widely used from 1959 until the early 1970s, was launched in Winter 2022/23, and two peated variants Ballybanon and Fenniscourt – with differing phenolic levels and maturation profiles – are also now available.

All Waterford whiskies are beautifully presented in heavy, stoppered glass bottles that will definitely not find their way into recycling bins.

SEE FOR YOURSELF

A personal visit to 'The Facilitator' on Grattan Quay is strongly recommended as the welcome will certainly be warm, and the information imparted unlike that to be found on any other distillery tour. If you can't make it to south-east Ireland, then webcams and a virtual distillery experience can be found at www.waterfordwhisky.ie.

Time spent with the passionate Waterford distillery team, exploring beyond the usual parameters of single malt whisky and sampling across the range of existing releases and maturing spirit leaves you thinking that when Mark Reynier declared his intention to create *"the world's most profound whisky,"* maybe that was no idle boast.

HOT
CLUB
DE
PARIS
GEORGIA
CÉCILE

PHOTOGRAPHY: CHRISTINA KERNOHAN
ART DIRECTION: A VISUAL AGENCY
STYLING: ALISON FLORA CARMICHAEL
HAIR & MAKE-UP: EMMA SMALL
ASSISTANT: HUGO HOFSTEN
LOCATION: THE WHISKY SHOP PARIS



Interview



Recently named UK Jazz Artist of the Year, Georgia Cécile is taking the music industry by storm. Scotland's jazz supernova celebrates The Whisky Shop's 30th Anniversary with us at our boutique store in Paris.

➤ **Did you always know that you wanted to be a singer?**

From a young age, I always knew that I enjoyed singing and I felt good whenever I sang. Music has always been a big part of my life. I have a big family where everyone plays musical instruments. On the weekends, we would get together and have parties and we were all encouraged to sing or play something.

I was encouraged to take an academic route. I actually studied law for a year when I left school just because I felt that all the adults in my life were saying, *"if you study something like law, you'll have more options for your career."* Music was more something that I would do on the side for fun. It wasn't until I was a lot older that I realised it could be a career, and something that I could actually make money from. I could get paid to do something that I really liked.

If a child or a young person shows an interest or talent, that's usually a sign that it's something that they should pursue. Without the arts, we as a society can't function. We need the arts. If everyone was a banker or a lawyer or a doctor, the world would be a very dull place. The arts bring so much joy to society.

Were you a part of any groups or clubs that helped you focus on your talent growing up?

I would sing in church choir and school shows. My friends and I had a band together and we would put on wee shows at the weekends. Being in a group of musicians, especially in jazz, is for me, way more rewarding than doing it on my own. I love playing in a group and collaborating with other people. I think that's where we find our best work. Being in choirs and performing in school shows gave me that foundation.

Was it the group element of jazz music that drew you in to that style of performing?

That's certainly one of the reasons. My grandfather was a jazz piano player and had a big, eclectic taste. I was always listening to him play and I was immersed in that kind of music from a young age.

I found it on my own as well as I was getting older. I realised I was getting curious about jazz. The jazz singers who really drew me in were Sarah Vaughan, Nina Simone, Frank Sinatra, and Nancy Wilson. I spent a lot of time thinking *oh, that's really interesting. Those melodies, those sounds are quite sophisticated.* They took me further and inspired me to learn more about music than more simple pop songs that didn't really challenge my mind.

Interview





As long as
the music you're
making is authentic
to you, then you're
doing a good job.

Interview





I want my music
to bring people joy.
I want to be able
to move people
with my music.



Interview



Without the arts, we as a society can't function.

What is it like being a jazz performer in a world mostly dominated by pop music?

As an artist, you want to create music that you love and lifts you and hope that it will resonate with others. We don't sit down and think *okay, we're gonna write this sort of song*. We don't really give ourselves a genre label from the onset. We just create something that is honest and authentic to us and that feels right and good. It comes from somewhere else. I don't know where these ideas come from, but they come from within and then you put that out into the world. Then, before you know it, other people label it for you. As long as the music you're making is authentic to you, then you're doing a good job.

How do you go about the writing process when you're putting together a new song?

For my debut album that I released in 2021, I co-wrote the songs with my piano player, Euan Stevenson. I would maybe start off with a melody idea or an idea for lyrics, or Euan would come to the table with a groove idea for the piano or some chords that he'd come up with. We'll just sit down and organically he'll play, and I'll start to sing and then, before you know it, we've got a song. Then we go back and refine ideas where we'll think *that could be better or let's change this lyric here*. Working with someone gives you that process whereas on your own it's probably easier to just say *"okay, that'll do."* Having that honesty with someone when there's no ego involved means you can create something that's beautiful and distilled.

When does inspiration strike?

I've got a little notebook and every day I'll just jot down some things that are inspiring to me or some ideas I've had. Often, I'll get a thought in the shower, and I'll have to quickly run out the shower to record it on my phone.

What has been your favourite performance that you've done so far?

That's easy. It was the Royal Albert Hall where I opened for Gregory Porter at four of his shows. It was incredible. It's probably one of the most amazing venues in the world. Every singer wants to perform there. I got the opportunity to do that and open for one of my heroes. That was a dream come true.

What was it like working with Gregory Porter?

His voice is like liquid gold. He's got this aura when he walks into a room, he radiates this special energy but he's also very down-to-earth, very humble, and very sweet. He was really supportive.

Who has been your biggest influence throughout your career?

It's so hard to pin down one person. As a vocalist, I've learned way more from Nancy Wilson than I have from anyone else. As an entertainer, someone like Frank Sinatra as his showbiz techniques and his command of a room are amazing. Or someone like Stevie Wonder, who just brings pure joy and uses his performances to make other people feel good. That's what I want to do with my music.

I've also learned a lot about music from my partner, Fraser, who is a piano player. He's taught me so much about the importance of melody. He's also introduced me to a lot of songs and singers that I now love. I think there's a lot of different influences. Even my Auntie Ann influenced me. She was an amazing jazz vocalist —not professionally, but she just had this amazing voice. Even from a young age, I remember listening to her tone and her warm, rich vibrato and thinking *oh my God, I want to sound like that*.

A lot of major jazz icons have rich, long-lasting legacies. How would you want to be remembered 100 years from now?

Well, if people are still remembering me in 100 years, then I've done a good job! I just want to make a contribution to the music industry, as well as to everyday people. I want my music to bring people joy. I want to be able to move people with my music. I want to make music that is timeless so that when people do listen back in five, twenty, fifty years, it still sounds relevant and there's still something in there that can be taken away and people can resonate with.

I also want to be remembered as a powerful woman. Jazz is a male-dominated industry so I'd like to be remembered as a woman in the jazz world who did excellent work and was a serious artist.

We've just been shooting in Paris for The Whisky Shop's 30th anniversary issue of Whiskeria. There are strong jazz ties in Paris. Could you tell our readers a little bit more about that?

In the 1920s and 30s, Paris was really popular for all kinds of artists. A lot of artists moved there – it was a real melting pot of visual arts and music. Throughout the 40s and 50s, a lot of big jazz artists like Miles Davis wanted to move there. A lot of underground jazz clubs were formed. It's always been a home for the artist. Paris has always been associated with art and jazz is an art music more than, say, pop music. So that's why they all felt quite at home there.

The shoot was your first time in Paris. How did you find it?

I loved it. I felt like it was a homecoming for me. I felt like the beauty of the place was so overwhelming. Everywhere you looked, there was beauty – the buildings, the architecture, the landscape. It was very much style over function. As an artist, you're always looking for beauty to be inspired by. That's why we always go to the mountains or the river. We go to these places because they inspire us to write beautiful music so I can understand why a lot of artists went to Paris.

Right: Having a ball on the banks of the Seine, opposite the Eiffel Tower



Interview

Knowledge Bar
Georgia Cécile


You can find out more about Georgia's upcoming releases at georgiacecile.com.

Alternatively, you can find her [@georgia.cecile](https://www.instagram.com/georgia.cecile) on Instagram or [@georgia_cecile](https://twitter.com/georgia_cecile) on Twitter.

You can listen to Georgia's debut album, **Only the Lover Sings**, on Spotify by scanning the QR code below.



Everywhere you looked, there was beauty – the buildings, the architecture, the landscape.

Another thing that ties into the jazz scene is whisky. The Rat Pack and Frank Sinatra were very into their whisky. Could you tell us more about this?

Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin, and other incredible jazz artists were always on stage with a glass of whisky in their hand. It sort of became a signature prop. It had an association with coolness and charisma. It would take away the stiff seriousness of a show because it would let the audience know they were relaxed and having a good time. I think that's what they were trying to do.

Before that, a lot of performances were quite stiff and formal. They were some of the first to create an informal, relaxed camaraderie with the audience. The audience then felt part of this bigger party that was going on all because of this little prop.

Even now, you'll still see jazz musicians with a drink in their hand on stage. I think that just lets the audience know there's a unity and that they're all together in this celebration. It's not one and then a brick wall and then another—they're all in this one room and are sharing this moment together. That's the power that something like that can have.

Do you think it makes the performer a little bit more relatable?

Yes. It makes the artist look like a normal person with normal habits. When audiences can relate to you as a human being, you get a lot more intimacy as the night goes on.

Do you have anything you do to put an audience at ease?

I always have a wee joke up my sleeve. I make eye contact with people. I get people singing along sometimes. I like to make them feel at ease and involved. Showing your human side and that you don't take yourself too seriously always relaxes people.

Do you ever deal with nerves? How do you handle them?

When I perform, I don't make it about me. I try and think *okay, they've paid money to come and see me so I'm going to give them a good time*. I'll always try and take the focus off me and onto the audience and make it about them.

No one's there to see you mess up. Everyone's there to see you do a great job.

You tasted some drams at our boutique in Paris. Do you remember the first whisky that you ever tried?

Jack Daniel's and Coke was always a popular drink when I was at university.

I remember a few years ago when I was about to do a show and I had a bad cold, my mum told me to have a hot toddy and I remember it being warming and really helping me feel better.

My way of getting to know really nice whisky for the first time was when I went to the Islay Jazz Festival in 2018. That was quite a significant experience and introduction to whisky for me. I got to try all these amazing kinds of whisky and started to actually appreciate that it was an experience and why people love it so much.

What kind of flavours do you enjoy in a whisky?

I really like a whisky with a smoky aftertaste that's quite deep and warming. Maybe something a little bit chocolatey.

How do you feel about being on the cover of Whiskeria that celebrates The Whisky Shop's 30th anniversary?

It's a real honour. Being invited to be part of such a big celebration with a legendary company like The Whisky Shop is such an honour for me as a Scottish woman. As we've touched on, the associations with jazz and whisky are historic. It's nice that I can be part of the celebration. Getting to see the beautiful shop in Paris – which is just stunning – was just a total pleasure and a privilege for me. I'm so grateful to be a part of it all.

What can our readers expect to see from you next?

I have a duet album that I recorded with my partner, Fraser Urquhart. It's all our favourite jazz songs that we have loved over the past four or five years. It's just piano and vocals, very stripped back. That'll be out soon.

I'll be releasing new original music in the New Year. I'll be performing plenty of shows in the UK and Europe and hopefully America. I look forward to seeing you all at a show real soon!



Interview

Knowledge Bar

Whisky tasting



Georgia enjoyed a few drams from The Whisky Shop Paris' private tasting room.

Talisker 11 Year Old Special Release 2022

70cl | 55.1% ABV | £110

Launched as part of Diageo's 2022 Special Releases, this spectacular eleven-year-old dram was matured in a combination of first fill ex-bourbon, refill, and wine-seasoned casks. A wonderfully sweet and smoky dram.

Glen Scotia 18 Year Old

70cl | 43% ABV | £92

This refined and understated dram matured for 18 years in refill bourbon casks and refill American oak hogsheads before enjoying a year-long finish in first-fill Oloroso sherry casks. Fruity and elegant, this is a whisky that is not to be missed!

Aberfeldy 21 Year Old

70cl | 40% ABV | £145

An impressive addition to Aberfeldy's core range. This terrific Highland single malt is bursting with fresh flavours of coconut, honey, and apple.

The Macallan

15 Year Old Double Cask

70cl | 43% ABV | £142

Matured in a combination of American and European oak casks, this 15-year-old expression is rich, decadent, and totally sumptuous. A triumphant single malt.

"I quite like that. The aftertaste is very sweet. I'm getting a little smoke from this."

Talisker
11 Year Old
Special Release 2022





"Oh! That's more powerful. It's vibrant. I'm getting some chocolate. It's not as fruity as the other ones. It's a bit deeper and darker and richer."

The Macallan
15 Year Old Double Cask



"This one is a bit more fruity. I'm getting apple. That's nice. A little softer than the other one. A little lighter."

Glen Scotia
18 Year Old



"My parents used to take us to a caravan in Aberfeldy! This one has some apple in it, too. There's some liquorice or something similar there, too."

Aberfeldy
21 Year Old





Knowledge Bar

The Whisky Shop



THE WHISKY SHOP PARIS

7 PL. DE LA MADELEINE

75008 PARIS,

FRANCE

Our Paris boutique is the first and only branch of The Whisky Shop outside of the UK, opened by Imogen Choinet Bankier in 2016. For over six years, The Whisky Shop Paris has gone from strength to strength and has been unlocking the mystery of whisky for Parisians as well as thousands of international customers from around the world.

In store, there are whisky masterclasses and private tasting events throughout the year to let customers truly immerse themselves in the world of whisky. Situated next to a number of luxury fashion brand stores, be sure to stop by on your next trip to Paris!

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30

W

92 — 22

On our 30th Anniversary year,
a party from The Whisky Shop
take time out to reflect at
The Ivy Restaurant in Glasgow.



50th Anniversary



We celebrate and reflect

PHOTOGRAPHY: ARMANDO FERRARI
ART DIRECTION: A VISUAL AGENCY
LOCATION: THE IVY, GLASGOW



Knowledge Bar

The Ivy



The Ivy on Buchanan Street in Glasgow is the perfect place to enjoy a sophisticated dining experience, no matter the time of day. Breakfast, lunch, or dinner, this beautiful restaurant in Glasgow's city centre will help you find your new favourite meal.

If you're looking to enjoy a bit of private dining for a special occasion, it doesn't get much better than the immaculate Morgan Room. Elegant with a distinctive quirky charm, this private dining room can be booked for breakfast, lunch, afternoon tea, and dinner.



50th Anniversary



Darren Leitch, National Retail Manager, who joined The Whisky Shop as a student in 1997 and is our most experienced and skilful shop salesperson with an encyclopaedic knowledge of specialist brands and limited releases.



Donald Darroch, who manages our Glasgow store. His friendly, approachable manner helps our customers to unlock the mystery of whisky every day.



Lynsey Edmunds, who has managed our store in Waverley Market, Edinburgh, since 2011 and has recently designed and launched her own brand of Scottish tablet.



Neil Jamieson, who works closely with the top brand owners in procuring limited edition releases for customers around the world. He has intimate knowledge of every release that has occurred in the past 15 years and is probably one of the world's best judges of value.



Sarah Tsang, who joined us in our Glasgow Head Office at the beginning of this year after working in our prestigious Piccadilly store. Sarah's outstanding knowledge of rare and collectable drams has allowed her to build strong relationships with international customers looking to buy high-value whiskies.



Imogen Choinet Bankier, who is Directrice of The Whisky Shop Paris and also a member of the UK management team. Following a successful career as a British Olympic badminton player, she has worked with The Whisky Shop for over ten years.



Luke Crowley-Holland, who is our W Club Manager. Luke brings his experience as a mixologist and Irish whiskey specialist. You would be hard-pressed to find someone with more enthusiasm for the whisky industry.

50th Anniversary



What was the rationale for opening the store in Paris?

IMOGEN: When I joined in 2015, we had effectively established a retail estate across the UK. And we had taken a further step by opening a flagship store in Piccadilly at the bottom of Bond Street, where all the luxury fashion and jewellery brands are. Our working theory was that prestige whiskies deserved to be given luxury treatment. When Piccadilly opened, it was a big success. Manchester then opened and was a success too.

The build on this idea was to expand into Europe and to create this luxury space for spirits outside of duty free. We looked at Milan, Berlin, and Copenhagen. But it had to be Paris – the capital of luxury!

Our store is in an area that is considered the epicurean centre of Paris where you've got a mix of international tourists, local Parisians, and international people who are living in Paris.

Why is whisky such an important staple in luxury retail?

IMOGEN: It's a real thing with real stories and real history. I think it's quite rare to find something with genuine scarcity and genuine stories that come from real places, real families, real distilleries – I think people find that captivating.

In Paris, to be Scottish and have a product of Scotland – what could be better? There's no real need to sell whisky. *Whisky sells itself.* There's so much to say about whisky. The last five to ten years especially, it feels like there's been a real crescendo in the demand for whisky.

*

Darren, what changes have you seen from the late noughties and early 2000s to where we are now?

DARREN: I joined in 1997 and in February 1998 I was sent to Inverness when we opened our fourth shop there. I can hardly describe how different things were back then. I didn't even have an email address! When we first went online, it was just to send out pricelists.

Almost everything we sold in the shops was Scottish. World whiskies hardly existed and single malts were quite basic, although some energy was beginning to appear. We were a tourist outlet and carried a lot of "Scottish" gift items as well as single malts.



If someone comes in and says, "I don't know about whisky" we say, "neither do we!"

– DONALD
Glasgow Store Manager





To be Scottish and have a product of Scotland – what could be better?

– IMOGEN
Directrice Whisky Shop Paris



The industry is constantly changing. That's what I love about it and that's why I've been here for so long.

– LYNSEY
Edinburgh Store Manager

50th Anniversary



It's about trying to expand their knowledge and introducing them to whisky that they can drink and collect. The main thing is building up a friendship

— SARAH
Private Client Specialist



For all my time, there have always been collectors of rare whiskies, but over the last five to ten years, we have seen exceptional growth in the sector.

— NEIL
Whisky Specialist



The W Club has found fresh momentum and is currently growing fast. No pressure on me then!

— LUKE
W Club Manager

How did it develop from there?

DARREN: When our ownership changed in 2004, we became a standalone whisky business and that became our single focus. The look and feel of the shops changed and we began to create our own unique products. The most successful one was our Treasures range of whiskies from the barrel. And we began to expand the retail estate and take the concept down to England. We were pioneers back then!

*

Our motto is “unlocking the mystery of whisky” – how did that evolve?

DARREN: It’s something that we’ve always done without really thinking about it. But we came to realise how fundamental it is to the service we bring to our customers. Whisky is confusing and market research has shown that it is one of the very few products where the shopper feels threatened. The lack of knowledge and understanding that a customer feels continues today, because the sector is ever more complicated, leaving so much room for us to guide people to finding their favourite dram.

LUKE: And another important part of this is to try and make our customers feel part of something. Through The W Club we provide tasting experiences, partner offers and knowledge. And, of course, a free edition of Whiskeria through the letterbox!

DONALD: The most important thing is to make them feel at ease right away. If someone comes in and says, “*I don’t know about whisky*” we say, “*neither do we!*” Immediately, the person is at ease and does not feel patronised. But, in truth, we don’t know it all. What we do know, we try and make it as simple as possible. We’ll always explain it in the best possible way for the customer.

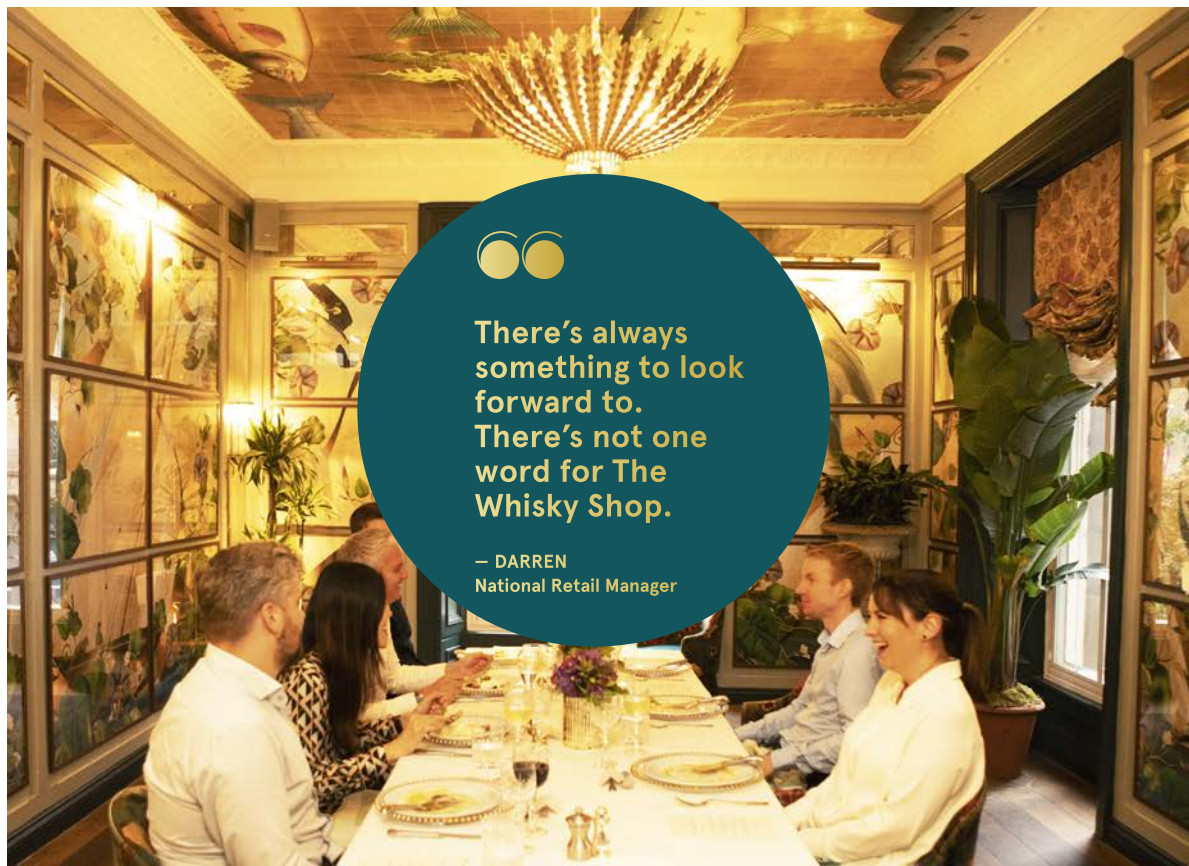
You need to ask about what their experience with whisky is like and if it has been bad, why has it been bad? (For me, it was drinking whisky from a young age and drinking it in the wrong way). Because of this, I know how to show people where to start and how to drink whisky properly.

Is it important for customers to sample tastings in store?

DONALD: Definitely! If you can’t taste, you will never know.

*

50th Anniversary



There's always something to look forward to. There's not one word for The Whisky Shop.

— DARREN
National Retail Manager



What are the tastings like in the Paris stores? Are they an integral part of the Paris store?

IMOGEN: In Paris, we do masterclasses where we organise tastings around a certain theme like “Discover Scotland” or “Tour of the World.” We organise private tastings, too, for people who want to come in with a group. We also do corporate events in our salon on our first floor. It’s great to open lots of bottles and talk to lots of customers. It gets people in that wouldn’t normally open our door but because they’ve been invited to an event or a tasting, they do.

Edinburgh, by a distance, is the biggest tourist city in Scotland. Lynsey, what changes and trends have you seen in the time that you’ve been at the store?

LYNSEY: If you take out the Covid years, year on year the visitor numbers in Edinburgh have been increasing and we see this in store, especially around the Edinburgh Festival. Buyers are becoming more sophisticated and want to find something that is not available in the supermarkets or in airports. That’s where we are strong, because we have a steady stream of novel and individual items that we can offer.

Also, there has been a huge swing towards people buying as investments, especially in the last five years. Again, this is another area where we are strong. The industry is constantly changing. That’s what I love about it and that’s why I’ve been here for so long. There’s always something new going on. It’s never static.

Is there a difference in recommending whiskies to locals as opposed to recommending to tourists?

LYNSEY: To be honest, it’s the same. Sometimes language barriers can cause issues, but we always muddle through! It’s always good to get a marker of what people might like. You need to try and get those little bits of knowledge out. If you’ve got nothing to go on when recommending a whisky, it can be really hard so a little clue will work wonders!

Neil and Sarah, your world is all about limited releases and high value whiskies. This activity seems to have appeared very suddenly, for everyone is talking about investing in whisky. Tell us about it.

NEIL: I started off as Website Manager in Inverness 15 years ago where our whole online business was run out of the back office of the shop! This was a perfect learning environment where I gained valuable knowledge and experience in all things whisky.

As this part of the business grew it was re-located to our Head Office in Glasgow and I came along with it. For all my time, there have always been collectors of rare whiskies, but over the last 5-10 years, we have seen exceptional growth in the sector. This has been driven by exceptional demand domestically as well as across key international markets. We specialise in customers who are driven by exceptional liquid quality and/or collectability.

SARAH: My main job is communication with international customers and trying to understand what they need and also understand what their interests are as well as their knowledge level about investments. It’s about educating them as well as fulfilling their needs. It’s about trying to expand their knowledge and introducing them to whisky that they can drink and collect. The main thing is building up a friendship, because if I only treat them as customers, we won’t go on to have a long-term relationship. I want to learn about their life and their network.

Would you say that rare and collectable whiskies are good value for money?

NEIL: Yes, but I’d say it’s good to be cautious. At one point in time, not that long ago, you could buy almost any whisky and be almost certain that it was going to appreciate in value. Now, I think it’s more important to be selective if you’re looking to whisky as an investment. Buying remotely from non-established sources can be dangerous.

And can you sample?

NEIL: We do in-store tastings, particularly in our prestige shops like Piccadilly. If you’re really into trying top-drawer whiskies, then that is the best place in our business to do that. As a home of rare and collectable bottles, it doesn’t get any more prestigious than our Piccadilly shop.

SARAH: Many people think that Asian customers only look for collectables, but this isn’t the case. At the very beginning, these customers may not have enough

knowledge or accessible information about whisky. When I introduce more information to them and show them different areas of whisky, they are keen to try this. This is what we want to see!

We want customers to open their bottles and try whisky. As a whisky drinker, I want to know the feedback.

After 30 years, where does it all go from here?

DARREN: The whisky category is still growing, and we will expand with it. Every day, there are new releases from the main brands and then there are the whiskies from all the new distillers that have started up in recent years.

IMOGEN: In France there has been a mini boom of new distillers and they all get a following. This is definitely one to watch.

NEIL: The rare and collectable sector should continue to grow, but I would advise customers to be careful with some of the offerings from dubious agencies. Unfortunately, there are a number of rogue traders out there.

LUKE: The W Club has found fresh momentum and is currently growing fast. No pressure on me then!

LYNSEY: We are in the course of opening a new luxury store in Edinburgh at Multrees Walk, beside the new St James Centre. This brings luxury home to Scotland and the store will be on a par with Piccadilly and Paris.

Everyone, give our readers three words that sums up The Whisky Shop.

IMOGEN: Welcoming. Interesting. Passionate.

SARAH: Family. Caring. Developing.

NEIL: Luxurious. Progressive. Fun.

DONALD: Customer-focused and welcoming.

LUKE: Tell me more.

LYNSEY: Door’s always open.

DARREN: It’s hard to find just three words. I’ve been here since I was a teenager, so I’ve got to grow with the business. You get to see come to work here and flourish. There’s always something to look forward to. There’s not one word for The Whisky Shop.

Mixing it up

Everyone's invited

→ Whether you're a cocktail novice or an experienced mixologist, **Speciality Brand's** Ambassador **Michael Pendergast** has created a range of drinks that are bound to impress at your festive party

PHOTOGRAPHY: CHRISTINA KERNOHAN
ART DIRECTION: A VISUAL AGENCY
STYLIST: EMMA DUNCAN





Mixing it up





1. Efervescencia

A simple yet delicious twist on a classic Old Fashioned. This drink balances complex bitter notes against the sweetness and aroma of maple syrup and some exceptional rum. Easy to make, dangerously easy to drink.

INGREDIENTS	
Diplomático Reserva Exclusiva Rum	35mL
Maple syrup	5mL
Angostura bitters	5 dashes

GLASS	
	Rocks

GARNISH	
	Cinnamon stick and lemon zest

METHOD	
	Stir all ingredients in a mixing glass until chilled / Strain into rocks glass with an ice cube / Zest the lemon over the top and add cinnamon stick to garnish

BUY HERE:



Mixing it up

2. Ron Espumosa

A deep and complex take on a Tokyo highball serve, this Venezuelan rum-led drink should see you nicely from a nimble winter commute to your first sight of relief on the couch.

INGREDIENTS	Diplomático Reserva Exclusiva Rum	35mL
	Cocchi Vermouth Di Torino	15mL
	London Essence	
	White Peach & Jasmine Soda	75mL
	Sparkling sake	25mL

GLASS	Highball
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GARNISH	Bay leaf and jasmine flowering tea bulb to garnish
---------	--

METHOD	Build Diplomático and Cocchi in the glass with ice / Top with soda and sake / Garnish with bay leaf and flowering tea bulb.
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BUY HERE:	 
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Mixing it up

3. Rhubarbra Striesand

Light and fruity Japanese whisky pairs amazingly well with the vegetal sweetness and bite of rhubarb. Tastes much more complex than it is to make, in fact the only thing easier than that is drinking it.

INGREDIENTS	Nikka Days	35ml
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	Cocchi Extra Dry Vermouth	15ml
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	Splash of rhubarb soda	
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GLASS	Highball
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GARNISH	Seasonal flower to garnish
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METHOD	<p>Pour the Nikka and Cocchi into highball glass over ice and stir /</p> <p>Top up with rhubarb soda and stir again /</p> <p>Add flower to garnish</p>
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BUY HERE:	 
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Mixing it up





4. This Little Piggy

Big, bold, and beautiful bourbon hemmed in with some dry sherry and a punch of raspberry. If it wasn't cliché I would say this is the old British den mother of a biker gang... but I won't say that because it's obviously a drink.

INGREDIENTS	Michter's US*1 Small Batch Kentucky Straight Bourbon 40mL Cocchi Vermouth di Torino 15mL Amontillado sherry 10mL Bristol Raspberry Shrub 7.5mL
GLASS	Coupe
GARNISH	Parmesan tuille with truffle honey
METHOD	Stir all ingredients over ice in mixing glass / Strain into chilled coupe glass / Garnish with parmesan tuille

BUY HERE:



Mixing it up



5. My Old Pal

“Spicy, sweet, bitter, and slightly caffeinated.” No this isn’t a Tinder profile, it’s the description of this banging drink.

INGREDIENTS	Michter’s US*1 Single Barrel	
	Kentucky Straight Rye Whiskey	30mL
	Cocchi Vermouth di Torino	15mL
	Cocchi Extra Dry Vermouth	15mL
	Cold Brew Liqueur	15mL
	Campari	15mL

GLASS	Coupe
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GARNISH	Mint chocolate shard to garnish
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METHOD	Stir all ingredients over ice in mixing glass / Strain into a chilled coupe glass / Garnish with chocolate shard
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BUY HERE:	
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Mixing it up



6. Oyuwari

This is a deep and punchy whisky twist on a common serve for Shochu and Awamori in Japan. This will turn a grey and rainy winter night in into you writing haikus about cherry blossoms in a hot spring somewhere.

INGREDIENTS		
Nikka from the Barrel		50mL
Cocchi Extra Dry Vermouth		10mL
Monin Sakura Syrup		10mL
Aged balsamic vinegar		1 dash
Loose leaf oolong tea		125mL

GLASS | Japanese teacup

GARNISH | Nutmeg

METHOD | Mix the Nikka, Cocchi, balsamic vinegar, and syrup 24 hours before service / Prepare tea and let brew for two minutes / Pour the premix into teacup then top with steeped tea / Grate nutmeg over the top

BUY HERE:



OUR EXCEPTIONAL

AMERICAN WHISKEYS



Starry, starry night

What happens when Glasgow's Michelin-starred Cail Bruich teams up with The Macallan to create a unique after dinner experience? We sent two people with huge love for The Macallan along—The Pot Still's fount of whisky knowledge Frank Murphy, and our very own photographer Christina Kernohan, who has also shot for the brand—to find out.

PHOTOGRAPHY: CHRISTINA KERNOHAN

Knowledge Bar

Cail Bruich



Based in the heart of **Glasgow's West End**, **Cail Bruich** is the ultimate fine dining experience. **Head chef, Lorna McNee, is the only female chef in Scotland to hold a Michelin star.** Inspired by Scotland's regularly evolving produce, Lorna and her team have created a menu that works in perfect harmony with each season. Elegant and totally unique, Cail Bruich is a must-visit Scottish restaurant.

Booking for Hogmanay will open on Tuesday 1st November. The next booking release for early 2023 will be opening on Thursday 1st December.

➔ Cail Bruich's star shines bright. Amongst a constellation of Glasgow venues with ever-changing names and themes, this family-owned restaurant has steadily gained a loyal clientele and ascended to Michelin star status by taking an unwavering attitude towards sourcing seasonal British ingredients and creating exceptional, inventive tasting menus.

We've invited a legend [at least in Scottish whisky circles]—Frank Murphy of Glasgow whisky pub The Pot Still—to sample the entire Cail Bruich experience. The Pot Still is an institution, and perhaps *the* place to drink whisky in Scotland's largest city, in no small part down to Frank and his team's knowledge and passion. We've also gone a little *poacher-turned-gamekeeper* and asked one of our photographers, Christina Kernohan, to be part of this conversation. Having just completed a huge commission for The Macallan, as well as Dave Broom's new book 'A Sense of Place' she has a unique insight into Scotch whisky provenance. With Christina doubling up, it falls to *Whiskeria* art director Emlyn Firth to ask the questions (and take the occasional snap).

Our primary 'work' for the evening is to experience and comment on Cail Bruich's collaboration with The Macallan, an after-dinner experience that is wheeled out, complete with light-up Easter Elchies house, petits fours, tea ceremony, and a selection of The Macallan's finest drams.

Of course, in order to have an after-dinner experience, one first has to have dinner. And we are treated to course after incredible course—'snacks' including a cheese puff tartlet; A raw Orkney scallop; caviar with Isle of Skye langoustine; chive milk bread mushroom tart; Peterhead monkfish, ham hough; Aberdeen Angus beef; Cashel blue and cloutie dumpling; and a beguiling, geometric mystery dessert named Piña Colada.

Over dinner, Frank excitedly muses over his smoked butter as his mind wanders back to experimentation in making whisky "Could you smoke malted barley? Would there be a tangible benefit?"

And so the discussion continues, between restaurant and [later] the pub, Frank, Christina, and Emlyn, about context, flavour, and of course, The Macallan.



Whisky People



I like the idea of putting things together that maybe shouldn't go together, and that was something we came across tonight—that idea of different textures, the balancing of flavours.

CONTEXT...

FM: We can't necessarily do cocktails in The Pot Still, but I like the idea of putting things together that maybe shouldn't go together, and that was something we came across tonight—that idea of different textures, the balancing of flavours. The food that we had was a cocktail, just a bit more stratified.

Cail Bruich are bringing together in one tasting menu things that you might not choose in isolation...

FM: Yes. If you say to someone *'would you like a raw scallop?'*, they might refuse, but if you say it's part of a tasting menu they might give it a shot.

That's the similarity isn't it—the experience of The Pot Still is people behind the bar giving you guidance, with a little bit of storytelling, provenance and context thrown in...

FM: Yep. Someone taking you by the hand and saying *'trust me on this one, this is going to be good. If not there's more, but try this one first.'*

Is a restaurant that different a context to a pub for whisky?

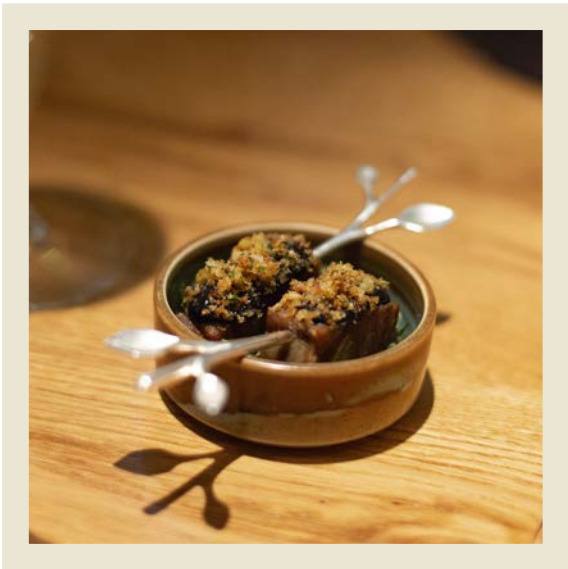
FM: Yeah. I've had The Macallan 12 umpteen times before, but for the last thing we had tonight, the way it was presented, the care taken over it, the sense of occasion, the Easter Elchies house and the madeleines, that was a religious experience!

So that was memorable dram, for someone who's had a lot of drams?

FM: Yes its similar to that sense of occasion of being on a distillery tour with friends—being given this fantastic weighted glass, the tea that had just the right amount of bitterness to cut through all the richness and flavours of the madeleines and the petits fours. Somebody presented that to us an event, rather than just a dram.

CK: I think its the care, and their sense of provenance as they talk to you—they know where all their meat and vegetables have come from, they don't let anything onto the menu that isn't good enough, and so they're only providing you with wine and whisky that's good enough too, as experiences that go alongside that.

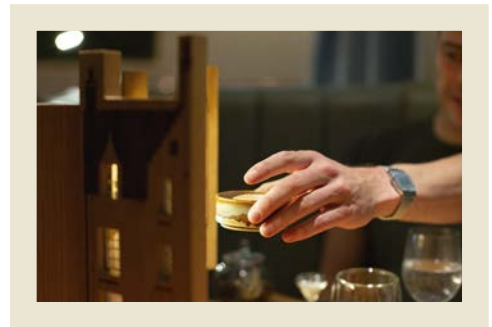
The waiters and sommeliers tonight really



Whisky People



They are great at flavour. To have that tea ceremony at the end of quite a lot of courses and flavours, it was refreshing, it was a lift to have that balance, with the whisky.



guided us through the provenance of the food and wine and the stories of why they chose certain dishes or suppliers and wineries, and in a similar way, someone behind the bar at The Pot Still gives you virtual distillery tour...

FM: Between all our team we've visited most of the distilleries in Scotland you can take a tour of, and a fair few you can't, and that helps us tell a story, putting someone in that place.

— FLAVOUR...

CK: Its all about complementing and balancing flavours too, or juxtaposing them.

We were seeing that with the food—little citrus gel bursts in with the langoustines; the mushroom dish that was really sweet—there was Madeira and something else cutting through it.

FM: The 'Pina Colada' dish, we were trying to work out if it was the lattice that was fruity, but it wasn't, it was the flowers that had the tiniest essence of something. And that was the only one they gave no explanation for—and that moves you to figure it out for yourself.

CK: That's the fun of it! I always want more fun elements like that, little surprises.

FM: The potato nest I had—it was like the best crisp ever. Though I've no idea how much it would cost for a bag of them!

Its interesting — your memories of the meal are very visual. You've been describing very vivid shapes and colours as well as tastes.

CK: There's a very visual element to how you taste things—you taste with your eyes as well!

FM: The presentation was second to none, but also it gives you a pause to take it in, admire it and consider it how it might taste before it goes in your mouth

CK: The amount of care that goes into each dish elevates it too. There was a style of serving that was more minimal and architectural — it was delicate with flavours but also delicate in how it was displayed and presented. And the tea ceremony. Phoenix Honeysuckle orchid? Wow.

FM: They could of gone for something big, like Lapsang Souchong, but they went for a

tea that had enough flavour that you could taste it but just dry enough to cut through what else you had in front of you which was quite sweet and rich.

It was the same with the red wine that was selected to go with the venison course—it was't too 'meaty', it was something light that went along with it but still cut through.

CK: They are great at flavour. To have that tea ceremony at the end of quite a lot of courses and flavours, it was refreshing, it was a lift to have that balance, with the whisky.

— THE MACALLAN...

You've both had professional experiences of The Macallan, and the distillery, in different capacities. Christina as a photographer and Frank as a whisky specialist.

FM: We were invited to go up on the opening tour and give them feedback, which was a fascinating process. The design of the place, for example—they could butterfly the distillery and create double the capacity. Building the potential into a business, wow.

CK: I photographed the campaign for Macallan's The Reach, photographing all the makers involved over the course of several months. I photographed the talented sculptor, Saskia Robinson, artists at the bronze foundry, the bespoke cabinet maker, glass blowers, the Master Distiller, and more. The images were used globally for the campaign and feature in a leather bound volume that sits alongside each bottle sold. It was an incredible project to tell the story of, at the time, the oldest whisky ever released.

Can you compare the experience of being at The Macallan distillery to receiving this light-up, scale model of Easter Elchies House on our table?

FM: I like the fact its still Easter Elchies House, because that's what people still associate with that distillery.

CK: Yes I like that too, I'm happier its that rather than the modern undulating spaceship of the new distillery, because that's where they came from, that's the logo too. I love the theatre of it.

It was very well paced and thought out. Also the fact they chose Jing as their tea partner for their similarities to The

Macallan—they have a small family-owned plot, and they have shared values.

FM: Most people who visited the distillery won't get to visit Easter Elchies House, but they'll know that part of the estate is important

CK: if you're not from Scotland and you come here, and you have this well presented trolley as an extra course, it positions The Macallan as an even more premium product.

The M Decanter — each dram is priced at £360—was on the trolley too. Cail Bruich is only one of three places to have it, the others being The Balmoral and Gleneagles.

FM: I've never seen one in the wild. Never even saw one in the distillery. You wouldn't necessarily expect to find one in Great Western Road in Glasgow. I actually thought a Michelin star restaurant might be very formal, starched tablecloths etc...

CK: Yes it was much more relaxed [than those places]. I could compare it to The Kitchin, but this isn't scraping the crumbs away with a special knife. Its also one sitting a night, though. Its that whole experience of sitting down for 4 or 5 hours that makes it special.

Knowledge Bar

The Macallan



Having spent almost 200 years at the top of their game, The Macallan are constantly searching for new and interesting collaborations. From expressions created with the Roca brothers (of El Celler de Can Roca fame) to their work with Bentley, The Macallan find like-minded individuals or teams who are constantly striving for excellence to work alongside. Therefore, this collaboration with Cail Bruich should come as no surprise.

Both The Macallan and Cail Bruich work with a huge focus on creating the best quality products possible. Their collaboration is one that allows guests to enjoy the best of Scotland's produce – food and drink – at one of the country's finest restaurants.



WHEN
**HEATHER
HONEY**

MEETS

**PEAT
SMOKE**

**A WILD
HARMONY**

IS MADE



**HIGHLAND
PARK**
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ISSUE

Winter 2022/23

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THE WHISKY SHOP

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INTERESTING

92 — 30 — 22



'Tis the Season!

Ring in the festive season with The Whisky Shop! Our fabulous selection of whiskies, gins, and spirits are bound to get you into the Christmas spirit.

Winter Warmers

Good-to-Go Gifting

Hogmanay

Sensational Spirits

THE WHISKY SHOP

Winter Warmers

Keep yourself toasty this winter with these wonderfully warming drams!

① Talisker 18 Year Old

70cl | 45.8% VOL | £175

Thick toffee / Tropical fruits / Baking spices

- A sumptuous and well-rounded single malt
- Rich and warming
- Hailing from Skye's oldest distillery

② Mortlach 25 Year Old Distillery Labels

70cl | 46% VOL | £200

Dried fruits / Candied orange peel / Toasted oak

- Aged for 25 years in first fill and refill sherry casks
- A cracking addition to Gordon & MacPhail's Distillery Labels series
- A delicious single malt from the Beast of Dufftown

①



②



③



③ Bushmills 21 Year Old

70cl | 40% VOL | £190 Espresso / Pecans / Honey

- From Bushmills, which claims to be the world's oldest licensed distillery
- Enjoyed a two-year-long finish in Madeira wine casks
- Winner of Gold at the International Spirits Challenge 2022

⑤ Yamazaki 12 Year Old

70cl | 43% VOL | £157 Mizunara oak / Ginger / Cinnamon

- Japan's number one single malt
- From Yamazaki, Japan's oldest distillery
- An impressive Christmas gift!

④ Tamdhu Batch Strength 7

70cl | 57.5% VOL | £89.99 Spiced oak / Fresh meringues / Hazelnuts

- A striking limited release from Tamdhu
- Sherry cask matured goodness
- Bursting with sweet and spicy notes

⑥ Loch Fyne Chocolate and Orange Liqueur

50cl | 43% VOL | £30 Chocolate / Orange / Coffee

- A must-have for cocktail parties!
- The perfect festive flavour
- A great alternative for whisky fans looking to try something new

④



⑤



⑥



THE WHISKY SHOP

Good to Go Gifts

The perfect pre-packed gifts that are sure to impress your loved ones this Christmas.

① Silent Pool Gin Glass Pack

50cl | 43% VOL | £35

Spicy cassia bark / Citrus / Florals

- Equipped with a beautiful Silent Pool branded Copa style glass
- An award-winning English gin
- Serve with ice, tonic, and a twist of orange peel

② Glengoyne 3x20cl Gift Pack

3 x 20cl | Various | £47

- Three of Glengoyne's staple single malts
- Created with Highland malt, bottled in Glasgow
- The perfect way to treat a loved one (or yourself!)

①



②



④



③



③ Scotland in a Box

12 x 3cl | Various | £71

- Take a trip around Scotland with this smashing gift set
- Perfect for festivities
- Presented in a distinctive trunk-style case - adventure awaits!

④ Johnnie Walker Gold Gift Set

70cl + 2 x 5cl | Various | £54

- Good as gold!
- Encased in a luxurious gold gift tin
- Introduce a loved one to Johnnie Walker this Yuletide

⑤ Glenfarclas 15 Year Old Gift Pack (Glenfarclas 105 & 25 Year Old 5cl)

70cl + 2x5cl | Various | £75

- Get a taste of some of Speyside's finest malts
- Contains a 70cl 15 Year Old as well as a 5cl 25 Year Old and a cracking 5cl Cask Strength sample
- Explore the flavours of the Highlands

⑥ House of Suntory Japanese Craft Spirits Gift Set

3 x 20cl | Various | £45

- Everything you could want and more!
- Cocktail staples from House of Suntory
- A gift for the moment

⑦ Edinburgh Gin Merry Mulled Gin 2x Stainless Steel Gift Set

50cl | 20% | £27

- It doesn't get much more festive than this!
- Contains two branded Edinburgh gin stainless steel mugs, a spice pouch, and recipe card
- Perfectly packaged in a stylish presentation box

⑤



⑥



⑦



THE WHISKY SHOP

Hogmanay

Toast the New Year
with these outstanding
Scottish drams!

① Arran Amarone Cask Finish

70cl | 50% | £54

Red berries / Rose water / Milk chocolate

- A unique and flavoursome single malt
- Finished in Amarone casks from Veneto
- Free from both artificial colouring and chill filtration

② Lagavulin 16 Year Old

70cl | 43% | £89

Sea salt / Bonfire smoke / Baking spices

- Hailing from the ruggedly beautiful Lagavulin Distillery on Islay
- An intensely smoky single malt
- Lagavulin's flagship expression

①



②



③



③ The Dalmore 12 Year Old Sherry Cask Select

70cl | 43% | £71

Sherry / Baking spices / Vanilla

- A titan of the Highlands!
- A former winner of The Whisky Shop Malt of The Year
- Bursting with warming, festive flavours

⑤ The Macallan 12 Year Old Double Cask

70cl | 43% | £80

Toffee apple / Honey / Spiced oak

- Plenty of sherry influence present here
- Drawn from Speyside's smallest stills
- A classic!

④ Arran Sherry Cask The Bodega

70cl | 55.8% | £61

Toasted oak / Baking spices / Raisins

- A sherry matured delight
- A staple of the Arran core range
- Reminiscent of the earliest Arran single malts

⑥ Glendronach 12 Year Old

70cl | 43% | £56

Hazelnuts / Raisins / Stewed fruits

- Won Gold at the International Wine & Spirits Competition 2019
- Matured in a combination of Pedro Ximenez and Oloroso sherry casks
- A spectacular Speyside dram

④



⑤



⑥



THE WHISKY SHOP

Sensational Spirits

Looking to wow party guests with some exceptional cocktails? Add these stunning spirits to your drinks cabinet and let them do the talking!

① Santa Teresa 1796 Solera Rum

70cl | 40% | £53

Fresh vanilla pod / Toffee / Cocoa

- A unique rum hailing from Venezuela
- This stand-out tippie has been created using the solera process
- Try this in your favourite rum-based cocktail and prepare to be wowed!

② Butterfly Cannon Blue

70cl | 40% | £36

Citrus / Prickly pear / Clementine

- Fruity, vibrant, and endlessly refreshing
- This eye-catching tippie changes colour when a mixer is added to it!
- The star of the show at any party!

①



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③ Isle of Harris Gin

70cl | 45% | £45

Garden herbs / Lime / Fresh pine

- Presented in a striking, rippled glass bottle
- A must-have, critically acclaimed Scottish gin
- Brimming with delightful maritime flavours

⑤ Roku Gin with Floral Bag

70cl | 43% | £36

Sweet tea / White pepper / Lemon

- Treat yourself, or others!
- Presented in a beautiful floral bag, this gin is sure to impress
- Elegant, refined, and zesty

④ Hotel Chocolat Salted Caramel Velvetised Chocolate Cream

50cl | 12% | £22

Caramel / Milk chocolate / Sea salt

- The ultimate dessert dram.
- Sweet-toothed drinkers, rejoice!
- A little bit of luxury bottled

⑥ Courvoisier VSOP Fine Cognac

70cl | 40% | £45

Dried fruits / Demerara sugar / Cinnamon

- Cognac from the iconic Courvoisier
- Winner of Gold at The Luxury Masters 2019
- Enjoy with ice to get the most out of this smashing expression

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THE WHISKY SHOP

Customer Favourites

Light / Floral

① Bunnahabhain 12 Year Old

70cl | 46.3% VOL | £53

Dried fruit / Honey / Chestnut

Bunnahabhain's whiskies are quite distinct from other single malts of the Islay region, in that the majority are produced with unpeated malted barley. Toast the versatility of Islay with this superb 12-year-old expression that showcases Bunnahabhain's 'fruit and nut' signature style.



"It's not just the name that's a bit of a mouthful - this classic takes you on a wondrous journey of flavour! Sherry, light peat, and coastal salt lead on the palate, with an overall fruit and nut character. The perfect all-rounder." -
— Chris, Norwich

①



② Loch Lomond 14 Year Old

70cl | 46% VOL | £64

Green apple / Grapefruit / Vanilla

A 14-year-old single malt from the Loch Lomond Distillery, made using unpeated spirit. This liquid matured in refill American oak casks and lightly toasted French oak from the Limousin region for up to twelve months.

③ Balblair 15 Year Old

70cl | 46% VOL | £82

Apple / Dates / Caramel

An older sibling to Balblair 12 Year Old, this whisky perfectly balances unique distillery character with smoothness of age, thanks to a flavour profile of tropical fruits and a texture of melted chocolate. Gorgeous.

②



③



**④ Auchroisk
10 Year Old**

70cl | 43% VOL | £57

Orange zest / Cut grass / Roasted nuts

A special whisky due to being the only official bottling of Auchroisk Distillery. This 10-year-old expression is part of Diageo's Flora & Fauna series—an ode to superb single malts from lesser-known distilleries which normally provide liquid for blends.

**⑤ Balblair
12 Year Old**

70cl | 46% VOL | £52

Sultanas / Honey / Apple

Matured in American oak, ex-bourbon and double-fired American oak casks, this 12-year-old whisky has an elegant complexity and warmth - the defining expression of Balblair Distillery.

**⑥ Fettercairn
12 Year Old**

70cl | 40% VOL | £53

Nectarine / Ginger / Pear

Hailing from the village of the same name, this whisky is a masterclass in fruity Highland flavour - perfectly embodying Fettercairn's exotic fruit-driven character. It has been matured in American oak ex-bourbon for its full 12 years in cask. Simply delicious.

④



⑥



THE WHISKY SHOP

Customer Favourites

Rich / Sweet

① Glenrothes 18 Year Old

70cl | 43% | £110

Sweet vanilla / Wood oil / Ginger biscuits

An exceptional 18-year-old Speyside single malt. Released as part of The Glenrothes' Soleo Collection, this expression has been exclusively matured in sherry-seasoned oak casks.



"A rich and well-rounded whisky, which has plenty sweet winter fruits on the nose and palate. Warm vanilla and fresh ginger linger long after this one is finished, with a hint of pepper—a tasty dram!"

Imogen, Paris Shop



② Loch Lomond 18 Year Old

70cl | 46% VOL | £92

Apple / Honey / Tobacco

Matured in the finest oak barrels chosen by former Master Cooper Tommy Wallace, time has allowed this 18-year-old Highland malt to take on the sweeter character of the wood, while a subtle hint of peat and smoke ensures a balanced finish.

③ Blair Athol 12 Year Old

70cl | 43% VOL | £56

Walnut / Cinnamon / Fruitcake

Established in 1798, Blair Athol is one of Scotland's oldest working distilleries and is famed for producing the signature malt for Bell's blend. A delicious dram, this is one of only a few official bottlings ever released from the distillery.

④ Old Pulteney 15 Year Old

70cl | 46% VOL | £77

Honey / Salted caramel / Fruitcake

An incredibly balanced single malt that has spent time in American oak ex-bourbon casks and finished in Spanish oak. Spice and sweetness combine with the refreshing coastal notes expected from this seaside distillery to create a delicious dram.



5 Arran 10 Year Old

70cl | 46% VOL | £46

Apple / Cinnamon / Digestive biscuits

An award-winning whisky that captures the fresh and unique style of this island distillery. A worthy addition to your whisky cabinet, this expression offers a fantastic introduction to the flavours from Arran.

6 Benrinnes 15 Year Old

70cl | 43% VOL | £68

Toffee apple / Sherry / Malted biscuit

This 15-year-old Speyside single malt is partially triple distilled at Benrinnes Distillery, resulting in a sultry expression that packs in plenty of body and character. It is another bottling from Diageo's Flora & Fauna series, highlighting the versatility of distilleries producing liquid for blends.

7 The Dalmore 15 Year Old

70cl | 40% VOL | £91

Terry's Chocolate Orange / Fruitcake / Sherry

An older sibling to The Dalmore 12 Year Old, this expression has been matured for 15 years in a trio of ex-sherry casks, as well as ex-bourbon barrels. It offers all of the sweetness and spice expected of The Dalmore.

8 anCnoc 12 Year Old

70cl | 40% VOL | £39

Banana / Butterscotch / Custard

Produced at Knockdhu Distillery in the Highlands and matured in a combination of second-fill American oak, ex-bourbon and ex-sherry casks, this is an award-winning expression that should sit proudly on your spirits shelf.

9 The Dalmore 12 Year Old

70cl | 40% VOL | £62

Cocoa / Marmalade / Milk chocolate

This single malt is a Highland triumph: full-bodied, thick and sweet. A popular dram, known for its long and spicy finish, and a beautifully rich expression for its 12 years of age.

10 Benriach The Twelve

70cl | 46% VOL | £51

Honey / Maraschino cherries / Cocoa

Part of the refreshed core line-up from Benriach, this new recipe brings intensified notes of baked fruits and a rich smoothness, thanks to time spent in a combination of sherry casks, bourbon barrels and Port pipes under the expert care of Master Blender Rachel Barrie.



THE WHISKY SHOP

Customer Favourites

Rich / Sweet

① Mortlach 16 Year Old Distiller's Dram

70cl | 43.4% VOL | £112 **Gingerbread / Orange peel / Sultanas**

An older sibling to Mortlach 12 Year Old, this dram offers plenty of sweet and sticky Christmas spice thanks to maturation in sherry casks. A combination of first-fill and refill sherry casks gives this 16-year-old a wider range of sherry flavour, from dried fruits to juicy berries.



"A whisky that has it all! Bottled at cask strength, this dram is packed with notes of fruit, oak, and spice, with a subtle smoky finish. Delicious."

— Lee, Trentham

①



② Glenfiddich Project XX

70cl | 47% VOL | £56 **Cinnamon / Almond / Pear drops**

The result of one of the most ambitious malt experiments undertaken by Glenfiddich, bringing together 20 whisky experts from around the world and combining each of their selected Glenfiddich casks. The result is something spectacular.

③ Mortlach 12 Year Old The Wee Witchie

70cl | 43.4% VOL | £62 **Toffee / Marmalade / Raisins**

Known as 'the Beast of Dufftown', Mortlach's spirit is distilled 2.81 times in a complicated process referred to simply as 'The Way'. Named after a tiny still that distils a portion of Mortlach's whisky, this 12-year-old is a perfect example of the distillery's intense character.

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④ Oban Distillers Edition

70cl | 43% VOL | £82

Milk chocolate / Sea salt / Christmas cake

A distillery renowned for its innovation, each expression of Oban Distillers Edition undergoes double maturation in casks that have previously held a fortified wine. This edition has been finished in a Montilla Fino cask – a rare type of finish and a complete treat!

⑤ Glen Scotia Victoriana

70cl | 54.2% VOL | £80

Crème brûlée / Cocoa / Caramel

Inspired by the whiskies produced at Glen Scotia Distillery in the Victorian times, this expression has been relaunched at a slightly higher strength and bottled straight from cask to better reflect how historic expressions of this era would have tasted. Delicious!

⑥ The GlenDronach 12 Year Old

70cl | 43% VOL | £56

Marmalade / Sherry / Raisins

An award-winning expression from the distillery famous for its richly sherried offering – this 12-year-old is a firm favourite amongst our customers. Matured in both Pedro Ximénez and Oloroso sherry casks, this expression offers an indulgent portfolio of flavours.

⑦ Benromach 10 Year Old

70cl | 43% VOL | £44

Green apple / Toffee / Black cherry

Produced at the family-owned distillery in Forres and aged for a decade in first-fill bourbon and sherry casks, Benromach's 10-year-old is a dram that is unmistakably Speyside in flavour. It is the proud winner of multiple gold awards.



THE WHISKY SHOP

Customer Favourites

Smoky

1 Bunnahabhain Toiteach A Dha

70cl | 46% VOL | £54

Dried fruit / Peat / Black pepper

Made with Bunnahabhain Mòine, Bunnahabhain's peated spirit, this expression is the follow-up to the original Toiteach single malt. It uses a higher proportion of sherry casks than its predecessor. "Toiteach" translates to "smoky two" in Gaelic, so it is no surprise that this dram is bursting with sumptuous, peaty flavours.



"A light yet complex single malt, distilled against the beautiful backdrop of Ailsa Craig. Savour sweet smoke, candied citrus, and light peat on the palate, before an explosive taste of truffle in the finish."

— Lee, Trentham



2 Torabhaig Allt Gleann Legacy

70cl | 46% VOL | £58

Sea salt / Peat smoke / Lemon peel

The second release in Torabhaig's Legacy series is an impressively peaty malt. The series consists of small batch bottling all drawn from 30 casks or less.



"On the aromas, it has quite a sweet and creamy vanilla top note, hints of custard, gentle maritime notes of seashells, damp sand, and coastal air swirl around it with light peat and sweetened mint emerging as it opens over time. Peppery spices straight away on the palate makes this the perfect winter warmer. It has some dry peat, sun scorched grass, then briny ash and a sea salt tang as it finishes."

— Darren, National Retail Manager



2

③ Jura 18 Year Old

70cl | 44% VOL | £79 **Dark chocolate / Coffee / Blackcurrant jam**

Matured for 18 years in American white oak ex-bourbon barrels and enriched by Premier Grand Cru Classé red wine barriques, this expertly crafted single malt is a unique island whisky that has truly come of age.

④ Balvenie The Week of Peat 14 Year Old

70cl | 48.9% VOL | £75 **Peat smoke / Citrus flavours / Light floral notes**

The second release in The Balvenie Stories series, this expression was created by Distillery Manager Ian Millar who was inspired by a trip to Islay. For one week each year, Balvenie distil peated malt, introducing fragrant notes of smoke to the distillery's classic Speyside character.

⑤ Ailsa Bay 1.2

70cl | 48.9% VOL | £63 **Vanilla / Shortbread / Campfire ember**

Ailsa Bay 1.2 has undergone the distillery's signature micro-maturation process - rapid maturation in ex-bourbon casks before ageing in virgin American oak casks for several years - achieving a single malt that's even sweeter and smokier than its predecessor. Beautiful.

⑥ Talisker Port Ruighe

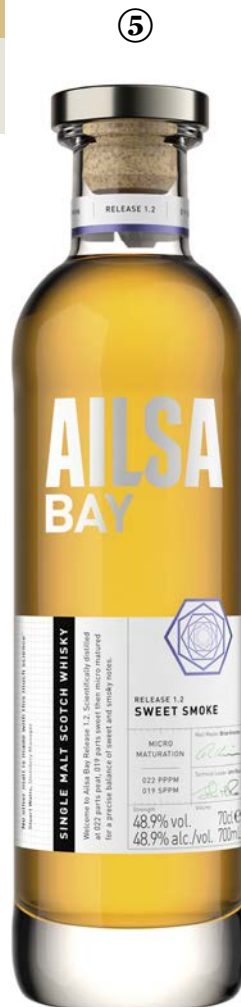
70cl | 45.8% VOL | £59 **Cocoa / Plum / Spicy pepper**

Rich and fruity, Talisker have taken their Isle of Skye malt and finished it in ruby port casks to achieve this delicious dram. 'Port Ruighe' (pronounced 'Portree') is the Gaelic spelling of the once bustling trading port on Skye.

⑦ Caol Ila Distillers Edition

70cl | 43% VOL | £80 **Malted biscuit / Peat smoke / Cinnamon**

A sweeter expression from the Islay distillery due to time spent in Moscatel casks at the end of its maturation process. The result is a delicious layer of sweetness and dried fruits on top of classic Caol Ila peat smoke.



THE WHISKY SHOP

Customer Favourites

International

① Green Spot

70cl | 40% VOL | £50

Vanilla / Papaya / Chocolate

Produced at Midleton Distillery in Ireland and comprised of pot still whiskeys aged between seven and ten years old, this whiskey was once only available to buy at one grocery store in Dublin. It is now a whiskey held to high acclaim across the world - and rightly so!



"If you're looking for a delightful introduction to Irish whiskey, grab a glass of this! Light yet rich on the nose, with honey, apples, and sherry. A sweet, malty creaminess emerges on the palate, joined by pears and apricots, with notes of cinnamon and mint in the finish. An Irish classic."

—Tom, Bath

①



② Bushmills 16 Year Old

70cl | 40% VOL | £94

Almond / Currant jam / Dark chocolate

Triple distilled at Northern Ireland's Bushmills Distillery, this 16-year-old Irish single malt has been matured in Oloroso sherry casks and bourbon-seasoned casks for just over 15 years, before being finished in Port pipes for nine months to impart sweet, jammy flavours.

③ Hibiki Japanese Harmony

70cl | 43% VOL | £84

Vanilla / Sandalwood / Black pepper

A blended whisky from House of Suntory that brings to life the harmony of Japanese nature and craftsmanship. Grain whisky from Chita combines with malt whisky from Yamazaki and Hakushu to create a delicate and well-balanced expression that is both subtle and complex.

②



④ Writers' Tears Copper Pot

70cl | 40% VOL | £43 **Apple / Ginger / Dark chocolate**

A delectable recreation of a fabled whiskey favoured in 19th century Ireland by literary greats such as Joyce, Beckett and Bernard Shaw. A marriage of one cask, two grains and three distillations, the original soon became known as the 'Champagne of Irish Whiskey'. Today's recreation follows the same production process before being aged in American oak bourbon casks.

⑤ Maker's 46

70cl | 47% VOL | £47 **Nutmeg / Mulled wine / Caramel**

Filled into a barrel partly made of seared French oak staves, this stunning Kentucky bourbon packs plenty of spice and is named after the final recipe chosen by its creators - recipe number 46.

⑥ Roe & Co

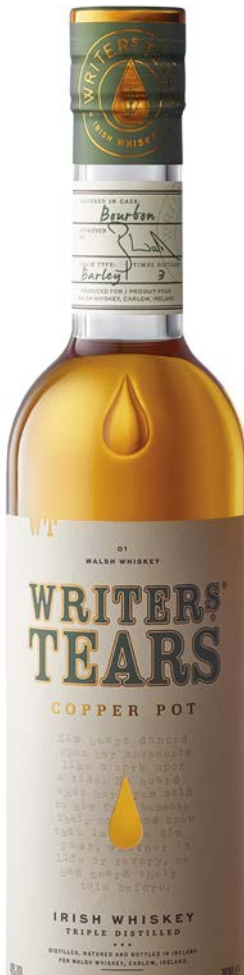
70cl | 45% VOL | £39 **Pear drops / Allspice / Vanilla**

Developed by Diageo Master Blender Caroline Martin, this is a whiskey that can be enjoyed neat or hold its own in a cocktail. A tasty blend of malt and grain from various distilleries across Ireland, this expression has been matured predominantly in first-fill bourbon casks.

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THE WHISKY SHOP

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Life begins at thirty!

To celebrate 30 years of The Whisky Shop, we've put together 30 of our favourite songs with whisky in the title. A cracking set of tunes that are bound to put you in the mood for a tipple.

1. Whiskey in the Jar by Thin Lizzy
2. Whiskey Man by The Who
3. Smoke & Strong Whiskey by Christy Moore
4. Tennessee Whiskey by Chris Stapleton
5. Little Stream of Whiskey by Doc Watson
6. Whiskey Whiskey by Joshua Burnside
7. Whiskey Lullaby by Brad Paisley and Alison Krauss
8. Whiskey If You Were a Woman by Highway 101
9. If the River Was Whiskey by Spin Doctors
10. Whiskey Man by Molly Hatchet
11. Whiskey on the Rocks by AC/DC
12. Whiskey, Whiskey, Whiskey by John Mayer
13. Lace and Whiskey by Alice Cooper
14. Hemingway's Whiskey by Kenny Chesney
15. Whiskey, Whiskey by Kris Kristofferson
16. Take Your Whiskey Home by Van Halen
17. Whiskey River by Willie Nelson
18. Alabama Song (Whisky Bar) by The Doors
19. Whisky Night by REO Speedwagon
20. Cheap Whiskey by Jay Feelbender
21. Whisky Saga by The Fratellis
22. Maple Whisky by James Spaite
23. Whisky Bent and Hell Bound by Hank Williams Jr.
24. Speyside Whisky Song by Robin Laing
25. Whisky by Almond Soy
26. Whisky Rock-A-Roller by Lynyrd Skynyrd
27. Red Wine and Whisky by Katrina & The Waves
28. Honey Whiskey by Nothing But Thieves
29. Three Whiskeys and the Truth by Little Big Town
30. Well Whiskey by Bright Eyes

Don't see your favourite whisky related song on the list? Get in touch and let us know what your favourite whisky song is on Twitter @WhiskeriaMag

Want to listen along to this playlist? Scan the QR code to listen on Spotify now!



Expert Tasting:

Bowmore Masters' Selection Edition 2



Charles MacLean gets into the driver's seat with Bowmore's latest collaboration with Aston Martin.

➔ This expression of Bowmore is a continuation of the company's collaboration with Aston Martin, explored in relation to Bowmore ARC 52 in the last edition of Whiskeria as being largely to do with designing a "ground-breaking form [elsewhere described as a 'futuristic vessel']... to create the perfect balance between form and function," to quote Bowmore's print advert.

The first release in the Aston Martin series appeared in 2020, associating the legendary Black Bowmore with the equally iconic DB5 1964. This was followed in July last year by re-packaging their 10, 15 and 18-year-old expressions in global travel retail with images of Aston Martins. The 10-year-old was paired with the LM10, which debuted at Le Mans in 1932, expressing "cutting-edge technology that reduced weight and accelerated speed.

The 15YO featured the Aston Martin Atom V8, 'disruptive and elegant'," and the 18YO the DBR Mark IV 1959 to express "shared values of attention to detail and complexity."

Now we have the Bowmore Masters' Selection Edition 2. The brand's website explains the concept for this expression:

"Our two Masters come from contrasting worlds. To one time is definitive and slow paced, requiring patience and craft to create optimal

character. The other, time is about speed and intensity, optimising and engineering every detail to enhance performance.

"The Bowmore Aston Martin Masters' Selection 22YO celebrates the coming together of a shared vision and the inherent SYNCHRONICITY and UNITY between the Masters, forging a strong bond which bridges their distinctive worlds, united by passion and creativity".

It continues: *"United through common ground, where creation and inspiration takes place, where they are equals as masters of their own art. Here the Masters share experiences, ideas and thoughts as they explore each other's worlds, listening and learning from the inherent mastery they champion, taking inspiration from one another to shape new, timeless beautiful creations.*

"Their collective mastery, passion and creativity in turn inspires this single malt with the power to unite people, bring them together to share their passions and overcome any differences to create unity".

Talk about hyperbole! The copywriter was clearly having fun, perhaps assisted by a bottle of the amber nectar...Bowmore Distillery is owned by Beam Suntory, as readers may know. I wonder whether the writer was

American or Japanese...

Manuel González, marketing director of Global Travel Retail at Beam Suntory, commented: *"Following the success of the first series, we know that our customers love this exciting collaboration which unites our exceptional travel retail whiskies with the incredible talent of Aston Martin's design team and gives them a reason to engage and discover everything that is magical about Bowmore.*

"Our partnership with Aston Martin is a prime example of how we are investing in the premiumisation of our GTR portfolio through a combination of exciting innovations and special limited editions."

The 22-year-old malt is bottled at natural strength, without chill-filtration of colour adjustment, from a mix of American oak ex-bourbon re-made hogsheads and European oak sherry-seasoned butts, with a top dressing of whisky finished in tawny port pipes. Surprisingly for Bowmore, I detected no peat-smoke until a drop of water was added.



Bowmore Masters' Selection Edition 2

70cl	51.5% VOL
22 Year Old	£390
Single Islay Malt	

Amber hued, with good beading and slow, thick legs. The nose is mellow and complex, combining sweet notes (vanilla fudge, sultanas), floral notes (clover flowers) and dry notes of tobacco and oak, on a lightly maritime base. The taste starts sweet, with salt in mid-palate, finishing dry and spicy. A hint of peat at reduced strength.





FETTERCAIRN

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This 18 Year Old release has been crafted using a handpicked selection of first fill and refill ex-Bourbon American white oak casks and then finished in 100% Scottish Oak, producing a beautiful richness and depth in harmony with our tropical distillery house character from the unique copper cooling ring distillation process.

fettercairnwhisky.com

drinkaware.co.uk

