

Reverie Whisky

Menu



We apologise if the whisky of your request is not available: some of them are quite hard to come by!

But keep a look out for guest appearances...

Enjoy!

The Reverie Team

Old Pulteney 17yo 46% Wick, Caithness

£5.40

Think Saturday sun at your Grandma's, sitting in the garden with a bowl of fruit salad with honeydew melon and pear, dried fruits, hot cross buns fresh from the oven with melting butter. Your Grandma passes you a bag of sweets and you pick out the best sugared citrus peels and toffee, honeycomb and fudge. Or she has just set you up with the education of a 17yo Old Pulteney!

How interesting... This 17 year old from the Pulteney Distillery was a Double Gold Winner at the 2006 San Francisco World Spirits Competition, matured in Spanish Oloroso and Pedro Ximenez casks.

Royal Lochnagar 12yo 40% Ballater, Aberdeenshire

£3.35

Complex nose with lots going on in the glass. Sherry, stewed fruit, malty vanilla notes and a trace of smoke. Slightly salty taste along with some green notes of freshly-sawn timber coats the mouth for a medium to long finish.

Speyside Malts

The Speyside area is a region with an extraordinary concentration of distilleries. It is named after the river Spey, which waters the area, together with the other important river, the Livet. The temperate climate and the many rivers made from this fertile area are an ideal region for the production of barley. The surrounding mountains were historically very important, as they were considered as a safety place for the moonshine distillers when the clandestine distillery was still important. More than half of Scotland's 89 operational malt whisky distilleries are located within the Speyside region of the north-east. For many aficionados, Speyside is *the* whisky region. It is to malt, as Cognac is to brandy. Speyside boomed during the late 19th century, when blended whiskies began to take the world by storm. The smooth, comparatively subtle character of many Speyside malts was ideally suited for blends destined to be assaulted by soda siphons in gentlemen's clubs and officers' messes around the British Empire. No fewer than 21 distilleries were built on Speyside during the 1890s alone. Today, Speyside remains home to many of the greatest names in Scotch whisky, such as Glenfiddich, Glenfarclas, Glen Grant, The Glenlivet and The Macallan. Stylistically, Speysides vary from the light, soft, floral nature of whiskies like Knockando and Cardhu to weighty, more complex and heavily sherried malts such as Mortlach and The Macallan.

Aberlour 10yo 43% Aberlour, Banffshire **£2.95**

A nose, balanced by spiciness and a touch of Jaffa oranges. The oak partly dries the palate with a spread of delicate honey caramel and quite dry sherry. The medium-long sweet finish includes toffee and spice and all things nice.

Auchroisk 10yo 43% Mulben, Banffshire **£3.65**

Very aromatic: lemon, malt, tangy orange and hints of smokiness. Firm on the palate; with appetising sweetish and full of flavours. A distinct anis liqueur flavour and a cookie-like dryness finish. Not obviously sherryish, but it still manages very big flavours indeed. Impressive!

Balvenie Double Wood 12yo 40% Dufftown, Banffshire **£3.00**

Initially matured in bourbon casks to soften the character, the Double Wood is transferred into sherry oak after approximately 10 years, which adds depth. The nose is of sweet fruit combined with Oloroso sherry. A smooth and mellow nutty sweetness, cinnamon spiciness and a delicately proportioned layer of sherry lingers for a long and warming finish. Try this with vanilla ice cream - PURE HEAVEN!

Ben Nevis 10yo 46% Loch Bridge, Fort William **£3.00**

Unlike the imagery of a monstrous mountain booming over you this whisky offers soft oils and citrus notes on the palate like the gentle streams of melting snow trickling down the mountainside. Combine this with the big oak maltiness makes this sweet enough to chew forever. A long finish and hints of bitter roast coffee snuggle your thawing hands post climb.

Blair Athol 12yo 43% Pitlochry, Perthshire **£3.35**

Ginger by colour, ginger by nose, although the added smokiness suggests that the gingerbread man was barbequed and not oven baked. Thick fruity syrup on the palate that develops to a prolonged explosion of his gumdrop buttons.

Clynelish 14yo 43% Brora, Sutherland **£3.65**

This malt exudes sheer class. On the nose, a fresh salad with diced carrots adds some complexity to a faint dry sweetness. Beautifully mouth-watering on the palate with fruit and grapes, and a brilliant sub-stratum of peat running throughout dries the mouth to allow a cocoa development.

Dalmore 12yo 40% Alness, Ross-shire **£3.70**

Deep, golden mahogany in colour with orange, marmalade and aromatic spice on the nose. The Oloroso sherry casks dominate the palate with hints of sweet vanilla pod and concentrated citrus. This is the perfect dram to tease the palate before dining.

Dalwhinnie 15yo 43% Dalwhinnie, Inverness-shire **£3.3.25**

A very aromatic nose with notes of heather and peat. Whinnie in delight as the smooth, soft flavours of heather, honey sweetness and vanilla cascade around the palate. You try to bat away the crumbs from your lap as your palate tricks you into imagery of consuming toast and marmalade on a perfect spring morning.

Deanston 12yo 46.3% Near Doune, Perthshire **£3.40**

The 46.3% expression offers a fresh, fruity nose with malt and honey, while the palate displays cloves, ginger, honey and malt. The finish is long, quite dry and pleasantly herbal.

Edradour 10yo 40% Pitlochry, Perthshire **£3.50**

This is a Holland & Barrett multi-vitamin complex wannabe designed to increase smile stamina for a happier being. Part 1 has a light honey and sherry character with hints of heather, cream and mint which offers cider apples, malt, almonds, vanilla and honey on the nose, along with a hint of smoke and sherry. Part 2: The palate is rich, creamy and malty, with a persistent nuttiness and quite a pronounced kick of sherry.

Glenfarclas 10yo 40% Ballindalloch, Banffshire £3.00

Gloriously smooth, yet with the depth and finish you would normally only expect of a much older dram. A wonderfully sherried whisky, and an excellent aperitif.

Glenfiddich 12yo 40% Dufftown, Banffshire £2.85

Possessing a delicate, floral, slightly fruity nose, this Glenfiddich is well mannered in the mouth, malty, elegant and soft. Rich fruit flavours dominate the palate, with a developing nuttiness and an elusive whiff of peat smoke in the fragrant finish.

How interesting... Glenfiddich started the whole single malt drinking trend, back in the 1960s.

Glen Grant 1993 16yo 40% Rothes, Morayshire £3.25

Fresh on the nose with citrus and tropical fruits, cedar wood and perfumed aromas of vanilla pods and spices. The palate is spicy with earthy, toasted flavours flattering some sweet, toffee/fudge hints. A delicate fruitiness and a smoky/peaty edge style make this an easy drinking dram.

Glenlivet 12yo 40% Ballindalloch, Banffshire £2.85

Lovely, honeyed, floral, fragrant nose with hints of apples and peaches, smoothing out to a long warming finish with notes of vanilla. Medium-bodied and malty on the palate with vanilla sweetness. Not as sweet, however, as the nose might suggest. The finish is pleasantly lengthy and sophisticated.

Glentauchers 1991 40% Keith, Banffshire £3.25

The nose is aromatic with plenty of sherry cask influenced by dried fruits like raisins, sultanas and prunes, hints of spice, especially cinnamon and caramel. The palate is rich, soft and smooth with a distinct and slightly bitter walnutty note and just the hint of some dark chocolate. The combination is lovely and complex and makes you wonder why more of this whisky is not made available.

Knockando 12yo 43% Knockando, Morayshire £3.60

It smells like someone dipped a well-loved pipe-smokers tobacco pouch into a dry savoury whisky. The taste is smooth, gentle and subtle, with continuing notes of anonymous' tobacco pouch. The finish is mild, warm, and gentle. Not terribly long-lasting, but is still around for as long as your satisfactory smile upon your whisky quenched face.

How interesting... The name comes from the Scottish Gaelic Cnoc-an-dhu, meaning "little black hill".

blankets your fuzzed state and calms your palate for a lingering spicy memorable finish.

Caol Ila Special Cask Strength No age 61.6% Port Askaig, Islay **£4.90**

The nose, well marked by peat and floral smells, is deliciously complex and announces a great whisky. In the mouth, the taste goes from earthy peat hints to nut notes, and then on to nice fruity touches. The finish is lingering and warm, and at a half way house between smoke and woody bitterness.

Lagavulin 16yo 43% Port Ellen, Islay **£4.05**

Peat, smoke, smooth, powerful and delicious. Do you need me to say more?!
“The peat is so thick you could stand a spoon in it,” Jim Murray, Whisky God.

Laphroaig 10yo 40% Port Ellen, Islay **£3.00**

A tsunami of peat is not enough to shroud the gentle oak and pear notes on the nose. The sea storm softens to gentle waves lapping on your taste buds, finally receding revealing the most hesitant of vanillas.

Laphroaig 1/4 Cask 48% Port Ellen, Islay **£3.35**

World cuisine influences its complexity: A fish starter of kippers smoked on the BBQ in Australia. Jump on a plane to Thailand for a creamy coconut curry for mains, and finish off with a Californian orange zesty cheesecake.

Foreign Malts

Milford 10yo 43%, New Zealand **£3.00**

A soft whisky on the nose with hints of vanilla, crème caramel and dried apricots. The palate is warmed by the herbal tea qualities with a sprinkle of nutmeg and a slice of citrus fruit. A slight woody finish makes this a well-made all rounder.

Penderyn 10yo 46%, Wales **£3.60**

Welsh whisky?! Yes, and it works! Lightly nutty on the nose with hints of sherbet and pine needles, cream and simmering fruit. The sweetness cascades down the throat like a trickling stream in the Penderyn hills with notes of vanilla, lemon and currents. Be a sceptic no more.

Yamazaki 12yo 43% Japan **£5.05**

Gold colour. A complex soup of oils gather on the nose of tea, sandalwood, cedar wood, olive oil, waxed paper and fresh almonds. Delightfully complex in the mouth, with malt, figs and sweet spices. The finish is long, elegant and fruity, with spicy oak and pepper. A whisky to have the Scots worried!

Highlands, established in 1786. Strathisla is not just the oldest distillery in the Highlands but also one of the most photogenic, with its trademark twin kiln pagodas and waterwheel.

Tamdhu No age 40% Knockando, Aberlour **£2.60**

A soft whiff of barley sweetness wets the palate for the juicy cereal notes, acacia honey and the drying hint of smoke. Warning: may provoke a feeling of home sickness when the nostalgic notes of your mother's best syrup sponge cake drizzled with custard provoke you to lick the glass dry.

Tomatin 12yo 40% Tomatin, Inverness-shire **£3.00**

A unique balanced combination of attractive flavours and creamy textures of apples, pears and malt, with a gentle hint of nuttiness enhanced by the subtle use of sherry wood. Gentle sweet notes of light toffee and vanilla custard, form the Thornton's toffee multipack sitting in your mouth as hints of nuts and sultanas crop up in the background. A finishing touch of light oak notes makes this is a dram that has something for everyone.

Tullibardine Vintage 1992 46.0% Blackford, Perthshire **£4.05**

Light in colour, this bottling comprises a combination of ex-Bourbon and ex-Sherry casks. Freshly-sawn timber, fudge, barley, sugar and a hint of Jaffa oranges on the nose. The palate is rich and medium-dry, with dried fruits and caramel. A soft finish with subtle spice and ginger dancing about in the background.

How interesting... Tullibardine is situated at Blackford near Gleneagles. The area is prized for the quality of its water, with the distillery sharing its water source with the bottled brand 'Highland Spring'.

Tobermory 10yo 40% Tobermory, Isle of Mull **£2.70**

The nose offers notes of barley sugars and toasted cereals, hints of winter spice and a soft oak with subtleties of salty melted butter and ground ginger. The palate is quite sweet and light; acacia honey and soft oak, the smoke and peppers rise gently with a touch of dried fruit and peel with a cinnamon note.

Islay Malts

The Isle of Islay, on the West coast of Scotland, near the Mull of Kintyre (where Campbeltown is situated) represents a special trend in the whisky world. Situated south of Isle of Jura, the island is very small, beautiful, and covered by fertile soils with a quarter of its surface covered by peat bogs. Combine this with the fact that Islay is sunnier than the average of Scotland, makes this island ideal for producing barley. A whisky produced on Islay is very easy to recognize. Such whiskies are generally smoky, due to the peat used for drying the malt.

The whisky produced by the four distilleries in the south of the Island (Ardbeg, Lagavulin, Laphroaig and Port Ellen -mothballed since 1983) is influenced by the envioning sea. Caol Ila and Bowmore produce a less peaty whisky, but with its own personality. The two last distilleries, Bunnahabhain and Bruichladdich decided to produce an elegant whisky without too much peaty hints. Bruichladdich started production again in May 2001, and produces a (very peaty) malt, called Port Charlotte, named after the city near the distillery.

It does not happen that often that such a small area produces such an extraordinary spirit.

Ardbeg 10yo 46% Port Ellen, Islay **£3.50**

Earthy, peaty, smoky, salty, and robust: sounds like Captain Planet's whisky team ready to do battle. Intense yet quite delicate on the palate, with burning peats and dried fruit, followed by sweeter notes of malt and a touch of liquorice. Extremely long and smoky in the finish which will last you to bed, with a fine balance of cereal sweetness and dry peat notes. Optimus Prime and no doubt about it!

Ardbeg Blasda No age 40% Port Ellen, Islay **£5.05**

An unusual freshness for an Ardbeg as there are even hints of cut grass and lemon juice. The palate boasts sweet peat and tinned peaches, moving to ripe

Springbank, Longrow and Hazelburn. The malt is dried for only 6 hours above a peat fire, then for 24 hours by warm air. The result is a less peaty malt than your normal Campbeltown. Springbank is one of just two distilleries that bottle their whiskies at the source, using the original water for the reduction to bottling strength (when they reduce at all), with Glenfiddich the only other.

Lowland Malts

The Lowlands area has many fertile soils, and lies South of an imaginary line that runs from Greenock on the West coast of Scotland to Dundee in the East. A mild climate and lots of rivers make the Lowlands an ideal area for production of whisky. Most of the Lowland malts produced in this region end up in blends, but there are still a few single malts available to try.

Malts from this region are light in colour and have quite a dry finish. The dryness comes from the malt itself, not from peat, as Lowland malts tend to be produced with unpeated malt. You may also find a certain sweet fruitiness to the flavour. Lowland malts are regarded as an excellent aperitif, generally mellower than whiskies from the neighbouring Highlands, and are very much appreciated by those new to malt whisky and experienced malt drinkers alike.

The proximity of England had beneficial consequences on this area when the Wash Act was pronounced in 1784. The beneficial effects were visible only for a short time, because England realised very quickly that scotch whisky was taking rapidly over the English gin. A new tax was created in 1796: the Scotch Distillery Act. A large part of the distilleries from that area have nowadays disappeared. At the end of the 19th century, about 20 distilleries were active in the area. Nowadays, just 3 of them are active: Glenkinchie, Auchentoshan and Bladnoch.

Auchentoshan 12yo 43% Dalmuir, Dunbartonshire **£3.00**

Goldilock's whisky of choice, Auchentoshan gets it just right luring her with the pleasant whiff of porridge and crushed banana. Other than that it's very flowery, with notes of buttercups and lilies. Hansel & Gretel also opt for this whisky due to the smooth and sweet palate with hints of tangerine, lime, apples, caramel and praline. The finish is fairy tale ginger and slightly drying with a pleasant lingering nuttiness.

Bladnoch 15yo 40% Bladnoch, Wigtownshire **£3.90**

Light on the nose but not weak at all at first sniff, extremely citrusy and quite

Guest Whiskies...

...For 1 bottle only!...

...Get them before they are gone!

Bruichladdich Rocks 7yo 46% Bruichladdich, Islay **£3.40**

“Rocks”, as in the rocks you picture while sipping a pina colada on a beach in the Caribbean. But it’s a whisky I hear you say? Yes, but the fresh fruit aroma whisks you away on holiday with an explosion of fruit cocktail bursting in the mouth of apples, pineapple and coconut developing to mulled wine and an even longer toffee and oak finish, to bring you back home to the Scottish Isles.

Ardbeg Supernova 2010 60.1% Port Ellen, Islay **£9.15**

Deeper, stronger and earthier than the award winning 2009. Less peaty on the nose than the 10yo but my Lord, does it hit you like a speeding train on the tongue! Hot chillies dipped in toffee right on the tip, but try and swallow without bringing a tear to your eye. A tear of joy did I hear you say? For how beautiful a whisky this is? Or for the pain it bullies the living daylights out of your taste buds? Intense and immense!

Bruichladdich Bourbon Cask 16yo 46%, Bruichladdich, Islay **£4.95**

After liaising with Jim Beam most of its life this whisky then bats for the other team with Buffalo Trace oak. The sweet syrupy texture evaporates up your nose, gearing the saliva glands for the explosion of fruit, vanilla and cream. Finish that off with a tingle of spice and light up that Cuban for that warm, moist cigar air.

Benromach Sassicaia Wood Finish No age 45%, Forres, Morayshire **£3.00**

“Sassicaia “Super Tuscan” Wine, will you take Benromach to be your lawful wedded whisky?”

-Yes, I do

“Will you enhance Benromach’s robust sherbet dip tingle of fruit and peat on the nose? Its sweet addiction to wild berries, to your dry sherry tainted wood?”

-Yes, I do

“Then I now pronounce you a well balanced, a bit different, but perfectly matched marriage.”

Benromach Traditional No age 40% Forres, Morayshire. **£2.85**

Young and lively but with a very clean peaty, vanilla and barley smoke nose compliments the smooth palate of malted milks and custard creams. Light vanillins with the gristly sweetness of tinned fruits fading for bitter oak in the finish.

Benromach 21yo 40% Forres, Morayshire **£5.40**

Matured in first fill and refill sherry casks, this 21 year old is a rich, toffeed single malt with full-body and spice. The scent of the sherry flickers in and out, and develops a gentle heat with subtle sultana sweetness on the palate.

Cardhu 12yo 40% Aberlour, Banffshire **£3.00**

Just about the cleanest, most uncluttered, pure sweet malt you will ever find, a touch of apple, perhaps, giving an extra dimension on the nose. Taste is pure and rich, just a thread of oak adding some dryness and depth with a vanilla and malt finish.

How interesting... Cardhu, which means 'black rock', is the only malt distillery pioneered by a woman and is now the spiritual home of Johnnie Walker.

Cragganmore 12yo 40% Ballindalloch, Banffshire **£3.25**

Complex with a rich mix of flowers, fruit (dried and caramelised), currant, honey, roast chestnut, meat and toffee to name a few! Palate is a slow start, then dark fruits mixed with light honey and cooked peach evolve in a rich, elegant, silky texture that fills the mouth with a gentle hint of smoke.

Glenburgie 10yo 40% Forres, Morayshire **£2.70**

A lesser known Speyside, this whisky is full of character as a mixture of citrus fruits and mulled fruit cleanse the nostrils, oak and floral hints wash the palate revealing a short pepperiness nipping the taste buds.

Glendronach 12yo 40% Forgue, Aberdeenshire **£3.25**

The youngest of the trio of Glendronach is matured in a combination of Spanish Pedro Ximenez and Oloroso sherry casks and offers a sweet nose of Christmas cake fresh from the oven. Smooth on the palate, with sherry, soft oak, fruit, almonds and spices. The finish is comparatively dry and nutty, ending with bitter chocolate.

Glen Elgin 12yo 43% Elgin, Morayshire **£3.70**

The nose is blistering, mouth watering fruit. The intensity of this malt is breathtaking. Salivating barley that tastes both crisp and lush followed by a big round of spice amid some squashed, over-ripe plums. The spice continues in the finish as does the intense malt flavour but is devalued dramatically by a bitter-toffee effect. Cracker!

How interesting... Edradour is Scotland's smallest distillery.

Glengoyne 10yo 40% Loch Lomond, Glasgow **£3.35**

This whisky is made for the fairground. Untainted by the smoky waltzers in the glass, a smooth warming taste of toffee apples settles the dodgems of malt, oak and sherry. The long finish outlives the dizziness enhancing the buttery vanilla notes.

Glenmorangie 10yo 40% Tain, Ross-shire **£2.85**

This is like a perfect bowl of cereal on a sunny morning. A blind test would conjure images of a bowl of Sugarpuffs as the nose offers butterscotch and toffee wrapping around cereal grain. Silky smooth in the mouth, the ratio of milk to cereal is spot on as more sweet toffee notes punch your tongue. Glenmorangie Original is nutty, with well-mannered spices coming through more in the long rounded finish.

How interesting... Original is the best-selling malt in Scotland.

Glen Ord 11yo 43% Muir of Ord, Ross-shire **£4.65**

Feeling peckish? Just like a fruit and nut cereal bar it fills a hole in your stomach: nutty, oily, and lightly fruited, with almonds and lemon juice on the nose. The aroma defies the eye as the palate detects a slightly peated medicinal edge that carries through to the finish.

Glenturret 10yo 40% Crieff, Perthshire **£3.25**

A bizarre malt perfect for liquor lovers. Pale gold, spicy, honey notes and citrus influences. Sweetness personifies the palate with some vanilla trying to calm things by offering a little balance ending with a quite long and surprisingly warming finish.

Oban 14yo 43% Oban, Argyl **£4.05**

This malt is packed with character that will warm the coldest of hearts. Battle the storm in the glass of fresh peat, smoke and spice. Deceptively delicate at first, then becoming lightly waxy, smoky and dry.

Old Pulteney 12yo 40% Wick, Caithness **£2.75**

Intricate, balanced and with a delicate mineral-salted spiciness. The nose presents pleasingly fresh malt and floral notes, with a touch of pine. The palate offers a fuller bodied, sweeter whisky than the nose might lead one to expect, with more malt, spices, fresh fruit and a suggestion of salt. The finish is medium in length, drying and decidedly nutty. A lovely, complex, anytime-of-the-day dram.

How interesting... Produced by Scotland's most northerly mainland distillery, in the fishing town of Wick.

Macallan Fine Oak 10yo 40% Aberlour, Banffshire **£2.70**

The nose satisfies the expectations, being complex with honey, heather and white fruits. On the palate these tones are nicely balanced with the malt and oak wood. Big, strong bodied, and lots of trans-Atlantic sherry character.

How interesting... The Fine Oak series was launched in 2004 and matured on three casks : first Spanish sherry casks, then American sherry-flavoured casks and finally American ex-bourbon casks.

Mannochmore 12yo 43% Elgin, Morayshire **£3.90**

Very delicate and fragrant nose reminiscent of a spring walk in the country admiring wild roses gleaming after a sprinkle of rain. A sweet tooth would be satisfied by hints of honeysuckle and marshmallow, and a rich palate of fresh, candied ginger, liquorice, vanilla and cookies. The finish is satisfying, lingering and luscious almond milk.

Miltonduff 10yo 40% Elgin, Morayshire **£2.70**

Wander through the fruit orchard and take a stroll through the wild heather hills and corn fields. Combine all these elements in a bowl of cereal with a spicy edge. Further notes of freshly cut glass sprinkle the palate leading to a balanced sweet, rounded finish.

Mortlach 16yo 43% Dufftown, Banffshire **£5.40**

Ever present notes of flowers with perhaps a suggestion of peppermint and black forest gateau. The palate is memorable for its challenging complexity, combining the flavours beautifully with a touch of sherry dancing on the tongue. The long finish makes it a great malt that is enigmatic.

Singleton of Dufftown 12yo 40% Mulben, Banffshire **£3.55**

Deep gold colour, light sweetness, then chewy and balanced by a light acidity, with a good spread of flavours mid-palate. Medium to long finish like butter trickling down one's throat, elegantly drying and crisp. The Singleton of Dufftown is a slightly more accessible malt for some people, without being dumbed down.

Speyburn 10yo 40% Rothes, Morayshire **£2.60**

Pleasant honey and lemon bouquet, medium body with a delicate, fruity character and a dry, warm peaty finish.

Strathisla 12yo 43% Keith, Banffshire **£3.00**

Rich and inviting Christmas cakey notes on the nose with sherry, stewed fruits, spices and lots of malt. Full-bodied and almost syrupy on the palate with more Christmas kindling and roasted nut toffee praline. The finish is medium in length, slightly smoky with oak and a final flash of ginger.

How interesting... Strathisla distillery is the oldest working distillery in the

Highland Malts

The Highland region for Malt whiskies is by far the largest by area stretching all the way from Perthshire to Sutherland and has nearly 28 stills in operation today. Anything North of the imaginary line between the Firth of Clyde in the West and the Firth of Tay in the East (in other words, the line between Glasgow and Edinburgh) is considered to be part of the Highlands. Because the Highlands area is so large there's a wide variety in terms of the conditions that shape the character of a single malt; Scotland has many different 'micro climates'. As a result, it's very hard to identify any specific characteristics of a highland malt.

Whiskies from the Midlands (a.k.a. South Highlands), like Tullibardine or Glenturret, are really quite different from the expressive Northern Highland malts like Dalmore. Considering over 80% of all malts are produced in the Highlands (including Speyside), the phrase 'Highland Malt' on a bottle doesn't tell you very much about the malt whisky inside. Generally Highland Malts are more robust than their counterparts in Speyside.

Aberfeldy 12yo 40% Aberfeldy, Perthshire **£3.00**

Can never decide which cereal to have in the morning? Neither can Aberfeldy. One bowl, one part Sugarpuffs to one part Cornflakes to one part museli, drizzle with honey and consume. Warming, mouth-coating and full bodied on the palate with the finish long and complex, becoming progressively more spicy and drying.

Ancnoc 12yo 40% Knockdhu Distillery, Aberdeenshire **£2.85**

Try not to sneeze when the pepperiness nose bites deep into the grassy maltiness and coal smoke. Staggering complexity of malt, peat and oak infusion, with a delicious spicy finish.

Ardmore 12yo 46% Huntly, Aberdeenshire **£3.40**

Smooth, slightly dry aroma combined with just enough earthy peat smoke to avoid being overpowering. Rich flavours burst and fill the mouth with a creamy peat tang and a touch of vanilla. Full, succulent and quite long finish.

Balblair Vintage 1997 43% Tain, Ross-shire **£3.40**

From a first-fill Bourbon cask, an exceptionally confident nose with kumquats, pineapple, lemon and jazzed-up barley. Fudge, honey, spices, sultanas and hard toffee dominate the palate, lingering with lemon in the longish, creamy finish.

Campbeltown Malts

Campbeltown is a unique area in the whisky world. That little town, at the end of Mull of Kintyre, facing the Isle of Islay and near the Isle of Arran is an area apart due to the very large number of distilleries settled on its territory. There have been as much as 30 distilleries. Nowadays, just 2 of them have survived. The mythic distillery Glen Scotia (which is haunted by the ghost of one of its owners, who committed suicide by drowning himself in the loch during the big economic depression in the thirties) is just producing sporadically. Its whisky is produced and matured in the warehouses of its local concurrent, the other mythic distillery of the town: Springbank. The family Mitchell, owner of Springbank, remains the only really active in the whisky industry in the area. Not only do they help Glen Scotia, belonging to Loch Lomond Ltd to assure a sporadic production, but they have just reopened Glengyle in 2004. The first Kilkerran malts (produced at Glengyle) will be marketed in 2014. Further, they own Cadenhead, an important independent bottler.

Glen Scotia 12yo 40% Campbeltown **£3.70**

A very nice nose, initially fresh and briny, very spicy (pepper) with some sherry hints and hay leading to chewy toffee, nutty notes. A nice complexity resumes on the palate; chocolate and plum notes with a hint of seaweed and smoke, followed by another wave of chewy toffee and nuts creating a warm pleasant finish.

Longrow 10yo 46% Campbeltown **£4.50**

This peated expression of Springbank is fresh, powerful, and unbridled with an attack of tar, damp peat, kippers, mustard seed, Spanish olives and Poire Williams. The sweetness emerges again briefly, before succumbing to an assertive, fiery finish.

How interesting... Although Longrow is produced in the same distillery as Springbank it is a very different malt due to its different production methods. Unlike Springbank, Longrow malt is 100% dried above a peat fire, giving it a stronger taste. Also Longrow has a classic double distillation unlike Springbank which has a 2.5 times distillation.

Springbank 10yo 46% Cambeltown **£3.35**

Chipotle chilli and sweet chilli ice cream. Sprinkle with nutmeg and salt and vinegar crisps (with an emphasis on salt). Stick a charcoal flake in it and you have a Springbank 99. Confused? Yes. Intrigued? Even more so!

How interesting... The distillery actually produces 3 different malts:

eating apples. Ardbeg Blasda may be considered by some connoisseurs of the great Islay whisky to be 'Ardbeg Lite.'

How interesting... According to the distillers "By taming our usual mighty peating levels we have created Blasda, peated to an average of just 8 parts per million phenol (8ppm) compared to the more usual 24ppm."

Ardbeg Uigeadail No age 54.2% Port Ellen Islay **£5.30**

Optimus Prime just got K.O.-ed by a mere exhalation from this whisky. An awesome package of intense peat reeks amid complex fruitcake and leather notes. A special blend of Ardbeg malts.

How interesting... Voted Whisky of the Year 2008

Bowmore 12yo 40% Bowmore, Islay **£2.85**

Smoky, peaty and salty, with sherry sweetness. An enticing nose of lemon and gentle brine leads into a smoky, citric palate with notes of cocoa and boiled sweets appearing in the lengthy, complex finish.

Bowmore 15yo 40% Bowmore, Islay **£4.00**

This new release is an improvement from the original. It is fuller in flavour and more visceral, in both the nose and palate. Notes of lush fruit, raisin, pot-still rum, and Heath bars, with citrus and wood spices emerging, along with burning peat embers that linger on the finish. Nicely done.

Bruichladdich 12yo 46% Bruichladdich, Islay **£3.40**

The nose is a big barrage of green apple, soft pear, green grapes, garden mint; warm dry hay and oak shavings. The green nose notes work through the rainbow to oranges and tangerine, with a zip of sherbet that tickles the tongue. Like a Scottish Reel it is full of action.

Bunnahabhain 12yo 40% Port Askaig, Islay **£3.05**

Start with a bag of fruit and nuts. The light aroma escapes from bursting the bag open, leading to a spectacular malty sweetness. You grab a hand full and chomp away when discreet smoke swirls between your teeth placing you beside an open fire, finishing into a beautifully rich full-bodied, lingering experience.

Caol Ila 12yo 43% Port Askaig, Islay **£3.00**

This malt has a peaty nose, with distinct floral notes. It tastes slightly of seaweed and iodine, and a light medicinal quality is enough to think a cold can be kept at bay. Smoky, salty, and sweet with a dry peppery finish.

Caol Ila Unpeated 8yo 65.8% Port Askaig, Islay **£6.10**

A pale gold colour speculates at a light bodied, oily whisky. A bombardment of lemon and vanilla tackles you from every sense, throwing you into a tingling tantrum as a fizzy lemon sherbet attacks your tongue. A fresh oak

mashy. Lemon sprinkled porridge? Mouth: not too bold of course but perfectly balanced, with again this huge lemon as well as hints of salt. Goes on to grains, orange drops and lemon pie. The finish is rather long, still lemony but also with a little candy sugar and touches of bubblegum. Did I mention lemon?

Glenkinchie 12yo 43% Pencaitland, East Lothian **£4.05**

The nose is fresh and floral, with spices and citrus fruits, plus a final hint of marshmallow, fresh cut grass, vanilla, bright lemon, and cinnamon, with a soft malt underbelly. Medium-bodied, smooth, sweet and fruity, with malt, butter and cheesecake. A very fine dram and one with sufficient 'presence' that one might think it was not a Lowland malt at all.

Island Malts

Island Single Malts is a general term for single malt scotch whiskies produced on the islands around the perimeter of the Scottish mainland. The exception is Islay, which is considered a separate whisky producing region. Although people equate "Island" whiskies as having similar smoky or peaty overtones to the whiskies of Islay, this is far from true. The whiskies produced on the Islands are extremely varied and have few similarities to point to.

Highland Park 12yo 40% Kirkwall, Orkney **£2.80**

Smoky, heathery and honeyed on the nose; not bold but playful, getting more and more flowery hints of lilac besides the heather with fresh butter, apple juice and even hints of fresh pineapple and ginger. Extremely pleasant. Taste is flawless: raid the larder for hints of oranges, tangerines, apples, light honey, toasted brioche, touches of pepper and a rather short but fresh and clean finish of honey and tinned pineapples. A perfect everyday dram!

Highland Park 18yo 43% Kirkwall, Orkney **£6.10**

The nose is a wee silent and shy, like a grassy Waldorf salad of fresh walnuts and apple skin garnished with mint. The taste is a creamy light honey and caramel, pear juice, liquorice, light coffee. The finish is, in fact, quite long: very dry, oaky, smoky and hot with a little salted liquorice and warm lemon juice. If I smoked I would have a cigar with this one!

Isle of Arran 10yo 46% Lochranza, Arran **£2.85**

The classic Arran fruity-sweet citrus nose with notes of orange, lemon meringue pie and apricot have rounded with age to reveal new depths of

character against a background of sweet oak. There is also an underlying vanilla maltiness that is balanced by oak spice on the finish. A respectable effort for a 10 year old and versatile enough to drink any time of the day.

Isle of Jura 10yo 40% Craighouse, Jura **£2.85**

Sweetish, soft, malty, oily, slowly developing nose with resin, oil and pine notes and slight island dryness. Light bodied in the mouth, with malt and drying saltiness. The finish is malty, nutty, with more salt, plus perhaps just a wisp of smoke. A perfectly drinkable single malt.

Isle of Jura Superstition No age 45% Craighouse, Jura **£3.35**

Peaty bonfire aroma and flavours, complemented by a creamy caramel maltiness. Teasing sea salt notes of brine, and seaweed, crash the shores of pear fruit to spice things up a bit. A gentle dry, moderately smoky finish, with an immediate peatiness turfs you inland rather than marine.

Ledaig 10yo 43% Tobermory, Mull **£3.00**

Medicinal enough to suggest an Islay but not overly oily. The nose is profoundly peaty, sweet and full, with notes of butter and smoked fish. The finish is medium to long, with pepper, ginger, liquorice and peat. This is an impressive, well matured dram and an interesting alternative for Islay lovers.

Scapa 16yo 40% St Ola, Orkney **£6.10**

Hints on the nose of honey and kumquats, apricots and peaches, nougat and mixed spice with a taste of barley sprinting between the shards of honey. The finish is toasty with subtle bitterness lingering between barley and honey, with fat, buttery notes emerging at the end. Pretty, yet profound.

Talisker 10yo 45.8% Carbost, Skye **£3.60**

The Lava of the Cuillins, this powerful, full bodied malt has a huge, peppery attack and pungent, sweet and sour, rich palate. You feel like you have been slapped in the face with a crashing wave of seaweed and driftwood leaving you with an expression of utter dismay at your surprised pleasure.

Talisker 57° North No age 57%, Isle of Skye **£5.40**

The nose offers a smoking seaside bonfire which fades to the spent matches used to light it. Surprising fruity notes cling to the palate before the trademark smoke plucks their hanging fingers from the tongue. Surprisingly smooth for a whisky at such strength, but carries the unmistakable pepper and chilli qualities a Talisker adheres to.

How interesting... 57° North is named in recognition of the distillery being at unusually high latitude.



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Reverie Whisky Menu