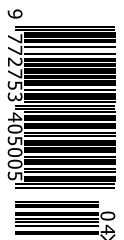


# Whiskeria



*Bespoke*  
*Luxury* • *Crafted*  
• Ying Mei Quan  
Savile Row  
Master Tailor



**EDITION**

Winter  
2023/24

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Auctions: Meet the team  
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**THE MAGAZINE OF**



UNLOCKING  
THE MYSTERY  
OF WHISKY

# A rascal of a thing!

The Whiskeria team catch up with Sir Rod Stewart CBE to discuss his devilishly delicious new whisky. Introducing... Wolfie's!

➔ **What gave you the idea to create a whisky?**

For me, whisky was a no-brainer. I've always loved Scotland—it's my home away from home, I've got a huge passion for the country, and you don't get a more Scottish drink than whisky. My dad was from Leith in Edinburgh, and I feel like I'm making him proud with Wolfie's.

Plus, whisky's been part of my life for a long time—in The Faces we used to drink it with orange juice. I even won Penny's dad over with a dram, although thinking about it now, I bet we finished the whole bottle!

**What is the inspiration behind Wolfie's?**

Well, Wolfie's is a little bit Americana, a little bit Scottish, a big bit rock 'n' roll and a bit of a rascal, like me. And some might even say I have a wolfish smile...

I want Wolfie's to take drinkers back to the best days of their lives—think about the times when they were going to gigs then sneaking into afterparties and drinking with rockstars, raising hell, and living footloose and fancy-free.

**How long has Wolfie's been in the works?**

It's been a two-year journey to get here. I met my co-founder in Wolfie's, Duncan Frew, through our shared love of football when we were introduced by a mutual friend. We had a brilliant, whisky-fuelled night talking about what we could do with Wolfie's, woke up the next day, texted each other saying "Let's do this" and I don't think we've gone a day without speaking since.

I've loved bringing Wolfie's to life and Duncan and the rest of the team have got me involved at every stage—from the labelling and the bottle shape to, of course, the liquid itself, which I love.

**There's a cracking playlist created to go alongside Wolfie's. How did you go about selecting the songs for this?**

Music and Wolfie's go hand in hand—most of the music I've created has had a cocktail or two thrown into the mix. In The Faces, we even had a bar built in the recording studio!

Every month I'll be selecting my favourite songs to drink Wolfie's to—whether that's relaxing with a vinyl or enjoying the company of friends and family.

My first playlist is pretty eclectic—from blues legend Sam Cooke and the fantastic Thin Lizzy to pop singer George Ezra, these are all songs I love to listen to while sipping on a Wolfie's concoction.

**Tell us a bit about the flavour profile.**

Wolfie's is wonderfully balanced and is just gorgeous. It tastes like cinnamon, fresh vanilla and baked apple—my favourite flavours. It's a blend of ages—just like my music!—and has been expertly blended to produce a wonderfully balanced whisky that's as delightfully sipped and savoured as it is in a cocktail.

**What's your favourite way to enjoy Wolfie's?**

My favourite is a Wolfie's take on an Appletini—delicious!





Wolfie's

CLERMONT SPRINGS  
DISTILLERY COMPANY  
ESTD 1850  
BOTTLED 1978  
COUNTRY OF SWITZERLAND  
BOURBON WHISKEY  
40% ALC/VOL

Celtic

DSG

ND  
V

Small label on a barrel, partially illegible.

# Magic touch

For our Winter issue, Ian P Bankier examines the sensory pleasures derived from the touch and feel of exceptional luxury products.



➤ In the early 1960s, my dad took us all by surprise when he arrived home in a Daimler that he had just acquired as our new family car. This was quite a step up from the diminutive Wolseley 1500 that five of us squashed into for our summer holiday trek to the West of Ireland. When I say the Daimler was a new acquisition, it was second hand, it wasn't the sleek new Jag Mark II lookalike. This thing was a veritable behemoth. It was a Daimler Majestic, one of the last individual models produced by the infamous company that founded the motor car industry. It was a car fit for royalty and prime ministers and indeed anyone accustomed to wearing a top hat whilst in motion!

We young travellers were simply in awe of this carriage, and I soon spotted that on the dashboard every switch and knob was a different size and shape. It was designed deliberately that way so that the driver, in reaching out in the dark, could determine which switch was which—from its feel. What genius! By contrast, the car I drive today has a large touch screen commanding all operations, including the same operation but in several different ways! When navigating its countless features whilst driving it's impossible to put one's finger on the correct function first time. And that makes it, not only annoying, but frankly borderline dangerous. And when I think back to the simplicity and clarity of the big

Daimler I wonder where did we go wrong?

This leads me, somewhat circuitously, to bottle shapes and sizes. Touch is one of our prime senses and I have long understood that the hand-feel of a particular bottle is as important as any other feature of its design. That thoughtful dimple or that subtle elliptical shape can make all the difference. Nothing can exemplify this better than the luxury The Macallan—The Reach, which we feature in this edition of Whiskeria. It's an unsurpassed 81-year-old malt residing in a beautifully shaped hand-blown decanter, which itself sits cradled in three soft hands sculpted in bronze. Every one of our organoleptic senses are engaged—the beauty and originality of the design, the intense aroma of the ancient whisky, the taste and finish on the palate, and the feel of the decanter in the hand. Magic!

As I see it, thinking back to my dad's old Daimler, with the ever-present aroma of leather from its sumptuous seats, the gleam of its burr walnut interior and the whisper from its V6 engine, it provided a comparable experience, with one obvious difference. With the Daimler, you could reach out for the correct switch on the dashboard. With The Macallan, you need to reach out for your credit card!

*Slainte!*  
Ian P Bankier, Chairman

THE WHISKY SHOP



Touch is one of our prime senses and I have long understood that the hand-feel of a particular bottle is as important as any other feature of its design.

**Competition**

# Win! Highland Park London Edition

This edition, readers have the opportunity to win a bottle of the exceptional Highland Park London Edition from the brand's Single Cask Series. Distilled in 2002, this expression from the famed Orkney distillery was matured in a single sherry seasoned European oak cask. Expect elegant flavours of toasted oak, soft peat smoke, and vanilla. With just 644 bottles filled, this is a competition that you do not want to miss out on. Winners will be contacted directly.



To be in with a chance to win, simply visit:  
**tw.s.cx/win**

Competition closes 5th February 2024  
T&Cs apply. Winners will be contacted directly.

THE MAGAZINE OF



# Whiskeria<sup>W</sup>

UNLOCKING  
THE MYSTERY  
OF WHISKY

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# Contributors

ILLUSTRATION: FRANCESCA WADDELL

## 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

9

## 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

22



## 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

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# New Releases/ Winter 2023/24



Reviewed by  
Charles MacLean

**Lagg** Corriecravie / **The Lakes** Whiskymaker's Editions Equinox /  
**Lagavulin** 12 Year Old Special Release 2023 / **The Single Cask** Dailuaine 8 Year Old /  
**Fettercairn** 16 Year Old 4th Release / **Arran** Private Cask 2009 13 Year Old /  
**Johnnie Walker** Blue Label Elusive Umami / **Glenfarclas** 8 / 10 / 12 Year Old 100 Proof

## New Releases

# Lagg Corriecravie

70cl 55% VOL

NAS £65

Island single malt

A deep amber hue, with ginger lights. Excellent beading. A mellow nose-feel, with Christmas cake, stem ginger and subtle peat-smoke, soon becoming stronger. A creamy texture and a sweet taste, with an aftertaste of hessian and canvas. I would have guessed this to be at least 18 years old!

"A creamy texture and a sweet taste, with an aftertaste of hessian and canvas."

Lagg Distillery on the south coast of the Isle of Arran, high above the cliffs of Bennan Head, went into production in March 2019, commissioned by Isle of Arran Distillers, who founded the Isle of Arran Distillery in 1995, changing its name to Lochranza (where it is located on the north end of the island) when Lagg opened.

The distillery's southern aspect across the Firth of Clyde to distant Ailsa Craig is breath-taking—as is the striking contemporary design of the new distillery itself—low and glass-fronted, with its roof covered with a sedum blanket sewn with plants which change colour with the seasons. Lagg was short-listed as Distillery of the Year in the Scottish Whisky Awards

2023.

In the same awards, both of Lagg's inaugural core range releases, Kilmory and Corriecravie, were also short-listed Best NAS Peated Malts - no small achievement! Kilmory is the parish within which the distillery stands; Corriecravie is a coastal hamlet to the west of the distillery.

The hamlet of Lagg, also to the west of the distillery in a wooded glen, was the site of a licensed distillery (1825-1837), although the south end of the island abounded with illicit stills - it was estimated that there were fifty such stills in 1797. The distillery's excellent website maintains that the two expressions reflect a "commitment to peated single malts that hark back to

*the illicit stills of Arran's past*".

Corriecravie is initially matured in ex-bourbon barrels, then finished for around six months in Oloroso sherry hogsheads sourced directly from producer Miguel Martin in Jerez. It is then bottled at 55% abv, without chill filtration and with no added colouring. According to the website, "...the result is a whisky that showcases a sweeter smoke and rich fruit notes, perfectly balancing the peat and spice that have become synonymous with Lagg's Single Malts".

LAGG

DISTILLERY



Lagg Distillery  
Isle of Arran  
167 Square Miles  
Firth of Clyde  
Scotland

LAGG

Single Malt  
Scotch Whisky

Corrieravie Edition  
Sherry Cask Finish

Non Chill Filtered  
Natural Colour

55%Vol 70cl.e

Product of Scotland



LAGG

Single Malt  
Scotch Whisky

Corrieravie Edition  
Sherry Cask Finish

Non Chill Filtered  
Natural Colour

55%Vol 70cl.e

Product of Scotland

ISLE OF

ARRAN

## New Releases

## The Lakes Whiskymaker's Editions Equinox

70cl 46.6% VOL

NAS £94

English single malt

Bright amber. A mellow nose with fresh fruit top-notes (apricot, peach, a hint of mandarin), backed by tired floral scents and a hint of camphor. A pleasant texture and a lightly sweet, unusually floral taste, finishing short with a clean aftertaste. More-ish!

"A pleasant texture and a lightly sweet, unusually floral taste, finishing short with a clean aftertaste. More-ish!"



The 'Whiskymaker' is Dhavall Gandhi—a remarkable man for whom I have the highest respect.

He is a scientist, but he's also an highly creative artist: his motto, adopted by the distillery itself, is *"The nature of our art is whisky. The inspiration for our art is Nature"*. He is also a philosopher—even a mystic (he meditates every morning)—and a poet: have a look at The Lakes Distillery website. It is exemplary; I wish that others were as intelligent, honest, and informative!

Dhavall describes The Whiskymaker's Editions as *"...a series of one-off releases showcasing a sense of adventure...Each edition is an exceptional diversion from The Lakes sherry-led signature style; an*

*expression of creative freedom, the product of a playground where instinct, experience and inspiration roam free"*. Every bottle in the series has the words *"Faith, Hope, Luck, Love"* embossed on the shoulder of its striking bottle. In short, he's having fun with each new edition!

While he is acutely aware of the influences upon the flavour of the finished product by every stage of process and maturation, he tells me that he starts from the end, from the flavour he wants to create for each of his whiskies, and works back from there.

He says Equinox is *"inspired by the last lingering twilight between a vibrant summer and the promise of a crisp, amber autumn*

*morning. Revealing the often-missed beauty that unites more noticeable states, rich and vibrant flavours shine harmoniously in an elegant symphony of floral notes, fruit and enduring spice"*. I told you he was a poet!

The Lakes Distillery was founded in 2011 in the World Heritage English Lakes district of Cumbria—beloved of romantic poets like Wordsworth and Coleridge and a fit cradle for a talent like that of Dhavall Gandhi. Although the poets were 'opium eaters', they would have been impressed by Dhavall's creation!

# Lagavulin 12 Year Old Special Release 2023

70cl	56.4% VOL
12 Year Old	£155
Islay single malt	

Pale gold with green lights; moderate beading. The top-notes are phenolic – both medicinal (surgical spirit, carbolic) and smoky (smouldering barbeque). Hiding beneath these are fruity notes (ripe plum, apricot) and a suggestion of salt crystals. The taste is sweet and slightly salty, with a smoky and spicy finish. Perhaps a hint of mezcal in the aftertaste?

“The taste is sweet and slightly salty, with a smoky and spicy finish.”



The exotic label depicts a pretty girl with a heavily tattooed back, surrounded by nightmarish, insect-like forms. Her eyes are closed.

Below the image the carton reads: *“THE INK OF LEGENDS. Thick whispers of rich smoke etched with bright herbs and juicy plums for an indelible finish”.*

I turn to the back for elucidation. *“Thick wisps of aromatic herbal smoke honour the ancient art of tattooing, clouds that steadily disperse in whispers of stories. The sweet scent of ripe plums lingers, as smoky black ink etches an outline of illustrious past generations. Each work of art is a map of historic victories imprinted on a living canvas”.*

I am none the wiser. The text continues: *“Inspired by the spirit of intensity that shines through a Lagavulin history more than 200 years long, our Malt Master explores the famed symbols of the ancient Mesoamerican art of tattoo”.* Then it is revealed that the whisky has been finished in Don Julio Anejo tequila casks, and it all comes together.

The eight Diageo Special Releases 2023, of which this is one, are called Spirited Xchange. Malt Master, Dr. Stuart Morrison writes: *“For me, Spirited Xchange is about identifying and celebrating the ideas, flavours, and tastes that surround us each day and inspire our curiosity to create. This collection has given us the*

*opportunity to roam freely through our vast portfolio and experiment with old and new cask types, including various wine and local spirits casks to create eight one-of-a-kind expressions that we’ve never imagined before.”*

Eight ‘global artists’ have been commissioned to produce the labels of the eight malts. They are imaginative, colourful and fun, *“inspired by the exchange of global craft and culture”.*

I’m afraid my tasting note is more prosaic!

## New Releases

## The Single Cask Dailuaine 8 Year Old

The Whisky Shop  
Exclusive

70cl 56.6% VOL

8 Year Old £105

Single cask Speyside single malt

The colour of ruby port!  
First-fill ex-wine cask? Very good beading and legs for its age, and a remarkably mellow nose. The top notes are of fresh raspberries and grape must, with a glimpse of boiled sweets; only faintly vinous, with almond flakes. A creamy texture and an unexpectedly dry taste, with a short, spicy finish. A drop of water sweetens the taste, adding a fruity note. Astonishing!

“The top notes are of fresh raspberries and grape must, with a glimpse of boiled sweets; only faintly vinous, with almond flakes.”

Ranked First Class by blenders, Dailuaine was always in demand as a ‘filling malt’, which is why it is comparatively uncommon as a single whisky. It was first released as a single malt by its owner, Diageo, in 1991. It is a robust spirit—Diageo described its character as ‘meaty’—and accordingly benefits from maturation in European oak, which this expression undoubtedly has been.

Although the distillery was founded in 1851 by a local farmer in a hollow by the Carron Burn—the name translates as ‘the green vale’—at the northern end of Ballindalloch Estate, it was his son, Thomas Mackenzie, who built Dailuaine’s reputation.

First, he bought the site, which had previously been leased from the owner of the estate, then he employed Charles Cree Doig of Elgin, the inventor of the ‘Doig ventilator’—the pagoda roof to the malt kiln, which rapidly became the leitmotif of malt distilleries. Dailuaine was the first distillery to have this elegant and practical feature, which made it possible to increase the draught through the malt bed, reducing the level of phenols at a time when blenders were looking for lightly peated spirit.

When Alfred Barnard visited in 1887, while researching The Whisky Distilleries of the United Kingdom, he “saw two thousand yards of two-year-old peats ready for immediate use”. Such dry peat would

burn hot rather than smoky. He devoted seven pages in his book to Dailuaine, which was one of the largest distilleries in the Highlands.

In 1891, Mackenzie & Co became a limited company and merged with Talisker Distillery in 1898 (in which Mackenzie had a substantial interest). On his death, without an heir, in 1915, Daluaine-Talisker Ltd. was bought by a consortium of the company’s leading customers, Buchanan, Dewar, Walker and the Distillers Company Limited, so passed to the DCL (now Diageo) in The Big Amalgamation of 1925.



## Fettercairn 16 Year Old 4th Release

70cl 46.4% VOL

16 Year Old £82

Highland single malt

Old gold with copper lights, the predominant aromas are fruity (led by pineapple, ogen melon, strawberry, and ripe pear), backed by a trace of almond marzipan and vanilla fudge, becoming more floral with a dash of water. A smooth texture and a sweet taste, finishing with warming light spice. All pleasantly balanced.

“Old gold with copper lights, the predominant aromas are fruity (led by pineapple, ogen melon, strawberry, and ripe pear), backed by a trace of almond marzipan and vanilla fudge[...].”



Fettercairn Distillery is neat, rural, and very traditional. It has a cast iron, rake-and-plough mash tun (producing cloudy worts) and eleven wooden washbacks; two pairs of small and compact stills - the wash stills fitted with soap grinders, once commonly used as a surfactant, to prevent the wash boiling over the lyne arms, the spirit still arm, while the spirit stills have unique cooling rings attached to their necks to spray cold water down the sides of the stills and help reflux. There are fourteen traditional dunnage warehouses on site. The result is a robust spirit, mitigated somewhat by the cooling rings. The distillery's owners, Whyte & Mackay, describe the spirit character as tropical,

and maintain that this 16 Year Old, which combines ex-bourbon casks with first-fill ex-plant pipes, as *“the purest expression of the distillery's character”*.

A distillery was licensed here in 1824 —so will be celebrating its bi-centenary next year - by the local laird, Sir Alexander Ramsay of Fasque, who sold both the estate and the distillery to Sir John Gladstone, father of four-time Prime Minister, William Ewart Gladstone, in 1830.

W.E. Gladstone's Spirits Act of 1860 laid the foundations for blended whisky by permitting the mixing of malt and grain whisky before duty had to be paid. The family's involvement with Fettercairn Distillery continued until 1923, when

it was sold to the Glasgow whisky brokers, Ross and Coulter, who mothballed it from 1926 to 1939 then sold it to Associated Scottish Distilleries, a subsidiary of National Distillers of America, in 1939.

In 1973, ownership passed to Whyte & Mackay, who have recently embarked on a major re-vamp of Fettercairn single malt, not only by presenting it in stylish ribbed bottles, but by re-racking much of the maturing whisky into more active casks, under the supervision of the company's two Master Distillers, Richard Paterson OBE and Gregg Glass.

## New Releases

## Arran Private Cask 2009 13 Year Old

The Whisky Shop  
Exclusive

70cl 55.1% VOL

13 Year Old £150

Single cask Island single malt

A deep amber colour, with excellent beading. A mellow nose, rounded. The top notes are fruity and syrupy (tinned pears?), with a pale sponge note behind. A mouthfilling texture and a mildly sweet taste, drying gently with a hint of spice. Smooth and relaxed.

“A mouthfilling texture and a mildly sweet taste, drying gently with a hint of spice.”



Since its sister distillery, Lagg in the south of the island (see entry) opened in 2019, Isle of Arran has been re-named after its location at Lochranza, in the north-west corner of the island, a pretty village of white cottages on a bay with a sandy spit running out into it, upon which stands the romantic ruin of a 16th century castle. All about the bay rise steep slopes, and behind these, the island's rugged peaks. Golden eagles are often seen, effortlessly soaring above the site; they nest in the nearby crags.

The distillery itself stands a short distance from the village, tucked into a fold of the hills. Neat, compact, white-washed buildings, with steep slate roofs, surmounted by copper pagodas, the whole

complex fits naturally into its setting. The principal building houses the entire production plant—mash tun, wash-backs, stills and receivers—in one barn-like room about 70 feet long by 40ft wide. Next door is the award-winning visitor centre, and behind them stand two maturation warehouses.

It was built from scratch in 1995 by a privately owned company founded by Harold Currie, formerly Managing Director of Chivas Bros. Mr. Currie was a Speyside distiller and determined that his spirit should have a Speyside character—of which this The Whisky Shop exclusive is a fine example. However, in December 2010 a heavily peated malt, named Machrie Moor,

was also released; such was its success that the directors were inspired to build Lagg Distillery to produce this style of spirit.

The Visitor Centre next door was opened by H.M. Queen Elizabeth II in 1997 and has quickly become second only to Brodick Castle as the island's main tourist attraction. It is also one of only three distillery visitor centres to have been awarded 5 Stars and was also awarded Distillery Visitor Experience of the Year in both 2014 and 2015.



## Johnnie Walker Blue Label Elusive Umami

70cl 43% VOL

NAS £295

Blended Scotch whisky

A rich amber hue, the nose is dry and savoury (dried meat, soy sauce, walnuts), with a trace of Seville orange peel (both sweet and bitter, especially with a drop of water) and a hint of candlewax. A creamy mouthfeel leads to a beautifully balanced taste, savoury overall, with a fresh tartness at the back and a lightly spicy finish.

“A creamy mouthfeel leads to a beautifully balanced taste, savoury overall, with a fresh tartness at the back and a lightly spicy finish.”

Umami is the fifth primary taste, the other four being sweet, sour, salty and bitter. It is loosely described as ‘savoury’ and was inspired by Japanese edible seaweed and the monosodium glutamate used extensively in Asian cooking—think meat broths, dried fish, fish sauce, shiitake mushrooms, parmesan cheese, fermented veg and—dare I say—Marmite. The word literally translates as “*the essence of deliciousness*”.

It was first identified as being a primary taste in 1908, by the Japanese chemist, Professor Kikunae Ikeda, but other scientists disputed this and it was not until 1985 that ‘elusive umami’ was recognised as being a true primary taste.

To create Blue Label Elusive Umami, Johnnie Walker’s Master Blender, Emma Walker (no relation, so far as I am aware!) collaborated with world-renowned Chef Kei Kobayashi (whose restaurant Kei in Paris has 3 Michelin Stars). Emma writes that creating the blend “*...wasn’t just a blending experience, but a gastronomic exploration. Getting acquainted with the intensity of the umami flavour was key to creating this exceptional Scotch whisky*”.

Casks from inland and coastal distilleries were selected for their unusual umami flavour profiles—“*only one in 25,000 casks succeeds in bringing this elusive character to life*”, she writes, then provides a curious tasting note: “*A beautifully balanced*

*Scotch whisky of sweet and savoury flavours, with notes of blood oranges and red berries with sweet wood spice, a touch of smoked meat, a hint of salt and pepper with a long, sweet fruit finish*”.

The new limited release is being showcased at a series of events, starting with its global launch in Paris, paired with a number of dishes created by Chef Kei Kobayashi. Emma concludes: “*Best served neat with caviar to unlock the full depth of this unique sensory experience*”, but she doesn’t say whether this will be on the menu!



## New Releases

## Glenfarclas 8 Year Old 100 Proof

The Whisky Shop  
Exclusive

70cl 57.1% VOL

8 Year Old £85

Single cask Speyside single malt

Amber with khaki lights, moderate beading. A mild nose, with malt loaf top-notes, back by dried fruits (sultanas, raisins, candied angelica root, glace cherries). A sweetish, spicy taste and a warming medium-length finish.

## Glenfarclas 10 Year Old 100 Proof

The Whisky Shop  
Exclusive

70cl 57.1% VOL

10 Year Old £95

Single cask Speyside single malt

Similar appearance to the 8 Year Old. Likewise, a mild nose, but this time led by cherry cake, with slightly burnt edges. Light dried fruit notes develop over time, and with a drop of water. More viscous than the 8 Year Old, sweeter and less spicy (although still a spicy finish).

## Glenfarclas 12 Year Old 100 Proof

The Whisky Shop  
Exclusive

70cl 57.1% VOL

12 Year Old £110

Single cask Speyside single malt

Possibly slightly darker than the other two; good beading. A mellow nose and a generally deeper and more complex aroma - Easter simnel cake (topped with dry marzipan) and a hint of tablet toffee. A very smooth texture and a sweet taste overall, with light spice in the finish.

Glenfarclas is always matured in European oak Oloroso sherry-seasoned casks, so one might describe it as a 'traditional' Speyside. The spirit suits *Quercus robur* well and the older bottlings are magnificent. This trio of (relative) young 'uns make for fascinating comparison. I guess they are drawn from refill ex-sherry casks, but the flavour development is clearly apparent (see my tasting notes).

Glenfarclas is one of only three distilleries founded in the 19th century which is still owned by the founding family—the others (pub quiz!) are Springbank/Glengyle (J. & A. Mitchell) and Glenfiddich/Balvenie (William Grant & Sons)—although,

in truth, a licensed distillery had been established on the site thirty years before the current family acquired it. The first was John Grant, in 1865; six generations of his successors—all named John or George—own and manage the distillery today.

The ebullient Tommy Dewar, who used the whisky in his blends, described it, in 1912, as: *"The King of Whiskies and the Whisky of Kings... In its superiority it is something to drive the skeleton from the feast and paint landscapes in the brain of man"*.

During the 1890s, John and George Grant made the near fatal decision of going into partnership with Pattison, Elder &

Company, blenders in Leith, who became the agent for the new-make spirit and undertook to take *"the whole make of the whisky"*. When Pattison collapsed in 1900 (the principals being sent to prison for fraud and embezzlement) it very nearly dragged down Glenfarclas with it, but the Grants managed to trade out of their difficulties by 1906, vowing henceforward to remain independent.

The single malt began to be promoted by its owner in the 1960s—Glenfarclas was the first malt to be offered at cask strength, in 1968.

"A mild nose, with malt loaf top-notes, back by dried fruits (sultanas, raisins, candied angelica root, glace cherries"

"More viscous than the 8 Year Old, sweeter and less spicy (although still a spicy finish"

"Easter simnel cake (topped with dry marzipan) and a hint of tablet toffee"





# Whisky business

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2



## The Whisky Shop opens new flagship store in Leeds

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The Whisky Shop has opened a brand-new flagship store in Leeds. The shop, located in Victoria Quarter, is the 22nd of the chain to open in the UK, and the 23rd in Europe. If you're a whisky lover based in Leeds, this new luxury store is a must-visit!

1



## Chivas Brothers to build its first Islay distillery

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Chivas Brothers has announced plans to build its first distillery on Islay. The distillery will be located on Gartbreck Farm and will be carbon neutral. The whisky itself is expected to be full of classic smoky Islay flavour. Chairman and CEO of Chivas Brothers, Jean-Etienne Gourgues said: *"Here on Islay, we can create a blueprint for carbon neutral distilling and continue to usher in this era of sustainable Scotch. We are committed to Scotch, to the Islay community and the landscape that makes it the perfect place to continue our vision to shape the future of whisky."*





### 3 Waterford Whisky release the most heavily peated Irish whiskeys of all time

Waterford Whisky have released the most heavily peated Irish whiskeys ever to be created. At 57ppm (Waterford Peated: Lacken) and 74ppm (Waterford Peated: Woodbrook) respectively, these expressions are bound to blow minds. To put this into perspective, whiskeys at 40-50ppm are considered to be heavily peated. Powerful stuff!



### 4 Two new distilleries to be built in Campbeltown

Campbeltown is expecting the arrival of two new whisky distilleries in the coming years after planning permission has been granted by the local council - keep your eyes peeled for Dal Riata Distillery and The Witchburn distillery! Dal Riata will include a museum, visitor centre, and shop, as well as the distillery itself. The Witchburn is expected to be solely powered by renewable energy sources.

# Going for gold



We are very excited to present the winners of the inaugural **W Club Members Choice Awards**. After months of judging by our members, we have compiled all the results and are finally ready to reveal the winners.



W Club members from across the United Kingdom came together in different groups over the past six months in a series of blind tastings and took the time to carefully judge each dram based on the following criteria:

1. Nose/Aroma (25 points) / 2. Mouthfeel & Taste (25 points) / 3. Finish (20 points) / 4. Overall impression (30 points)

The joy of blind tastings is how they strip away all preconceived ideas one might have and leaves you engaging intimately with each whisky on its own merits. We deliberately eschewed country of origin in our categories: so Irish and English single malts, for example, went head-to-head with Scottish single malts.

In any case where we charged a cover fee for our tasting, all proceeds went to a charity chosen by the respective W Club branch. We are delighted that the process raised funds for some very worthy causes.

If you partook in a blind tasting, first of all, thank you. If you are looking to discover which whiskies you sampled these will be available shortly via this link: [tws.cx/wclubawards](https://tws.cx/wclubawards) and on the W Club Members Hub.

Congratulations to all the winners, and a heartfelt thank you to all the brands who participated. Without further ado, here are your 2023 winners...

## Single Malt 12 Years and Under

Category winner:  
**The Whiskymaker's Reserve No. 6**

Gold Medallists:  
**Darkness 8 Year Old**  
**Deanston 12 Year Old**  
**Glen Scotia Cask Rum Finish**

## Alternative Mash bill Whisky

Category winner:  
**Stauning Kaos**

Gold Medallists:  
**Wormtub**  
**Michter's US-1 Rye**  
**Stauning Rye**

## Single Malt Over 12 Years

Category winner:  
**Loch Lomond 14 Year Old**

Gold Medallists:  
**Old Pulteney 15**  
**Balblair 15**  
**Old Pulteney 25**

## Blended Malt Whisky

Category winner:  
**Highland Journey Blended  
Malt Scotch Whisky**

Gold Medallists:  
**Noble Rebel Orchard Outburst**  
**Elements of Islay Cask Edit**  
**Elements of Islay Sherry Cask**

## Whisky of the Year 2023

The W Club Members' Choice  
Whisky of the Year 2023:  
**Loch Lomond 14 Year Old**

Double Gold Medallists:  
**The Whiskymaker's Reserve No. 6**  
**Old Pulteney 15**  
**Balblair 15**

## Blended Whisky

Category winner:  
**The One Fine Blended Whisky**

Gold Medallists:  
**Black Bottle 10**  
**Black Bottle Andean**  
**Black Bottle Smoke & Dagger**



# Meet the team

Since 2019, our The Whisky Shop Auctions has flourished into a truly spectacular part of our business. This is hugely due to the hard work of three of our wonderful key team members—Briony Turner, Alan Davidson, and James Corrigan.



**Name:** Briony Turner  
**Role:** Head of Customer Service  
**Years working for TWSA:** 4.5 years  
**Favourite whisky:**  
Bunnahabhain 12 Year Old

**What's your favourite part of the job?**  
I like that every day is different—it is never a boring job! It's always interesting to see the older bottles coming through the door that you wouldn't ordinarily see.

**What are some of your personal favourite bottles that you've seen come through the door?**  
For the sheer age of it, I'd say the likes of the Johnnie Walker Old Highland Whisky which was from circa 1910. Or some of the Karuizawa bottles that we see, some of the boxes have fantastic artwork on their labels too.

**Top tip for finding the best whiskies on TWSA?**  
Keep a look out on the website daily. We are rolling so we have items starting and ending each and every day. If you see something you like, get your bid in early. You also might find something you hadn't been expecting.



**Name:** Alan Davidson  
**Role:** Senior Packer  
**Years working for TWSA:** 3 years  
**Favourite whisky:**  
Arran

**What's your favourite part of the job?**  
Seeing the interesting and unusual bottles that you'd never see in retail only coming through at auction.

**What are some of your personal favourite bottles that you've seen come through the door?**  
Largiemeanoch 1967 12 Year Old due to the rarity of the bottle. Or anything Chichibu as they're not commonly seen and the art design on the boxes is interesting.

**Top tip for finding the best whiskies on TWSA?**  
To know what you want yourself, to have a theme, and chase that. Is there a specific distillery, independent bottler, or master distiller you're looking for? Have a theme and follow it!



**Name:** James Corrigan  
**Role:** Senior Photographer  
**Years working for TWSA:** 3 years  
**Favourite whisky:**  
Benromach 15 Year Old

**What's your favourite part of the job?**  
Research when writing lot descriptions. I enjoy finding out about what makes a particular whisky or producer different from its competitors.

**What are some of your personal favourite bottles that you've seen come through the door?**  
Bowmore Sea Dragon. I always liked the design and artwork on both the box and bottle. There was a bottle on display at the distillery visitor centre when my family used to holiday on Islay, so seeing it brings back nostalgic memories.

**Top tip for finding the best whiskies on TWSA?**  
Check daily and put your max bid in early. There are new items going live every day, so if you are looking to fill a gap in a collection it is worth checking every day as you may just find what you are looking for.

# The story so far



Brian Wilson takes us on a journey through the ages of one of Scotland's most famous distilleries, Laphroaig.

## Knowledge Bar

### Laphroaig Distillery



#### LAPHROAIG DISTILLERY

LAPHROAIG, ISLE OF ISLAY PA42 7DU



➔ Laphroaig, it has been said, is the only whisky guaranteed to 'divide a room' and that was intended as a compliment. It takes a whisky of character to attract such strong loyalties, even if that also guarantees a dissenting minority.

It has always been so. Since its inception in 1815, Laphroaig distillery in Islay has produced a whisky that is utterly distinctive. The secret of its continuing success has been to maintain rather than dilute the quintessential peaty flavour that makes it stand out from the rest, even among Islay malts.

Barry MacAffer has been distillery manager since 2022 and his family's association with the distillery goes back three generations. As well as human continuity, he explains, the 'Laphroaig DNA' derives from the slow, dry smoking of the moist barley to infuse the peaty flavours before it is dried. *"We burn the peat at a relatively low temperature—there is no heat in the fire. Once the grain is malted, we spread it on mesh and raise it 16 feet over the peat fire. It takes ten to twelve hours to dry out and the longer the barley stays moist, the more flavour it absorbs."*

Ninety per cent of Laphroaig's output, says Barry, is sold around the world as single malt, rather than going to blending—as used to be mainly the way with Islay whiskies. As early as the 1920s, Laphroaig was marketing its own single malt identity rather than merely contributing the Islay dimension to popular blends. For the other Islay whiskies, that came much later.

Laphroaig consistently features in the world's top ten sellers among Scotland's single malts. In the UK, its brand position has been helped by eye-catching advertising campaigns which emphasise its uniqueness

and do not shrink from the reality that maybe it's not everyone's glass of whisky. In fact, they use that as its marketing strong point.

Videos like 'Opinions Welcome' and 'You'll Always Remember Your First Laphroaig' certainly do not lay claim to unanimity. What other product would risk selling itself with comments from first time samplers which include: *"It reminds me of school lavatories"* or *"Maybe that's what's wrong – they smoked it too long?"*

But the marketing works and the ayes, who tend to come across as the younger and more adventurous, have it over the naysayers! Enough of them, at least, to make Laphroaig by far the biggest selling Islay single malt.

Like other Islay distilleries, Laphroaig started life as a small-scale venture developed by local farmers, in its case, the brothers Donald and Sandy Johnston. In the early 19th century, illegal distillation and smuggling were rampant on Islay and it was a natural evolution, as the Treasury took note and the excisemen closed in, for this lawless tradition to evolve gradually into a more commercial structure.

Laphroaig stayed within the Johnston family for almost 140 years and original buildings survive to the present day. A substantial community of distillery workers and their families grew around it. The distilleries, then much more labour intensive than today, offered employment and some degree of security as Islay suffered massive loss of population through clearance and emigration in the second half of the 19th century. Most went to Canada and there are still remains of a settlement called Laphroaig in south-western Ontario. There is only one place





that name came from!

By the 1880s, when that intrepid chronicler of the whisky distilleries of Great Britain and Ireland, Alfred Barnard, found his way to Kildalton parish in Islay's south-east corner, he found that Laphroaig looked from a distance *"like a cluster of ruins but on closer inspection we found it to be a Distillery of a very old-fashioned type"*. He was *"personally entertained by the proprietor, Mr Johnston"* and quickly confirmed that Laphroaig produced a whisky *"of exceptional character ...with "a peculiar 'peat reek' flavour"*.

Barnard continued: *"Although the distillery is of small dimensions, the proprietors would not attempt to disturb the present arrangements, as thereby the character of the whisky might be entirely lost. The distilling of whisky is greatly aided by circumstances that cannot be accounted for and even the most experienced distillers are unable to change its character, which is largely influenced by accidents of locality, water and position."*

*"No better instance of this can be given than the case of Lagavulin and Laphroaig which, although situated within a short distance of each other, each produce whisky of a distinct and varied type."*

Ardbeg completed the golden triangle of malt distilleries in that small corner of Islay, each with its own strong characteristics and all three are thriving concerns down to the present day, all having passed the 200-year marks.

Apart from its character as a whisky, Laphroaig had another unique distinction in the 20th century as the only distillery and whisky brand owned and run by a woman, the remarkable Bessie Williamson whose story would make a very decent movie. She commanded universal respect in what was then the very male world of whisky and blazed a trail which many other women have since followed.

In 1934 she and a friend took a working holiday on Islay with Bessie finding employment as a temporary shorthand typist at Laphroaig. She remained a resident of Islay for the rest of her life.

Laphroaig was then owned by Ian Hunter. Bessie's thinking was clearly aligned with his own and she took on increasing levels of responsibility. When Ian Hunter suffered a stroke in 1938, she became in effect, the manager. When he died in 1954, he left the distillery and his home to Miss Williamson, as all Islay knew her.

She married a Canadian singer of Islay descent, Wishart Campbell – reputed to have been the first to broadcast coast to coast on radio. A few years back, a little book came to light which had been published in the early 1960s by the Islay federation of the Scottish Women's Rural Institute, with a chapter on each of the island's four parishes.

The one about Kildalton parish was written by *"Mrs Wishart Campbell"* and

confirmed her deep love for, and knowledge of, her adopted island. About Laphroaig itself, she conjured up an idyllic image of the place which she had become so much a part of: *"The workers' cottages are modern, most of them built since 1945 and there is a community hall adjoining the office, where dances are held and where the Kildalton SWRI hold their meetings..."*

It was an era which was destined to end as expanded production demanded new investment and modern methods required fewer workers. Bessie Williamson looked for an owner best placed to maintain the Laphroaig ethos. Over a decade from 1962, Seager Evans—who owned Long John whisky—bought Laphroaig with Bessie continuing in her roles as chair and managing director. The distillery has flourished and expanded through several subsequent ownership changes and since 2014 has been part of the Suntory family of distilleries.

Two centuries bring the inevitability of change in order to survive, but the distinctiveness of Laphroaig has remained a constant which now has a huge global following. The product is as identifiable as ever. And there are more than half a million registered *"Friends of Laphroaig"*—each and every one of whom has decided emphatically which side of the room he or she is on!



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COOPERAGE, RESULTING  
IN THIS TRULY UNIQUE  
AND IMAGINATIVE WHISKY.**

Our spirit was started in American oak casks then finished for 10 months in heavily charred casks, flamed by our own cooperage giving a rich mouthfeel with notes of orange, pear & melted brown sugar with a dark chocolate, soft smoke finish.

This expression is a celebration of the incredible alchemy and engineering capability of our distillery and a product of our exploration, experimentation and know-how as master makers, distillers and coopers.

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**TASTING NOTES**

**NOSE:** Toffee, apple, fudge, vanilla, cinnamon.

**TASTE:** Silky mouthfeel, orange, peach, marmalade, coffee, melted brown sugar, roasted marshmallow.

**FINISH:** Medium to long dry finish with dark chocolate and soft smoke.

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# Meet the master

As long as she can remember, Michter's Master of Maturation, Andrea Wilson, has been fascinated by creating something special. This led her to her role as Master of Maturation at Michter's and a spot on the Kentucky Bourbon Hall of Fame. Join us as we discuss all things work ethic, wood, and women in whiskey!

## ➔ How long have you been working as Master of Maturation at Michter's?

I started with Michter's around nine years ago. In 2016, I was named Master of Maturation. It was a really important moment, not only for myself, but also for American whiskey as I had not heard of a Master of Maturation in our industry at that point. You hear so much about the distilling portion of the process, which is obviously very important, but the maturation process is also important. Having a Master Distiller and a Master of Maturation recognizes this very complex sequence of processes that must happen from beginning to end.

The new charred oak barrel is a fundamental ingredient in the making of Kentucky bourbon and Kentucky rye products—you cannot make them without it. There's a lot of complexity that comes from the barrel, so I was very honored to be named into the Master of Maturation position and very proud that Michter's identified the need for that position.

## How did you start working in the whiskey industry?

I grew up in a family that was always making beer and wine. My grandfather on my dad's side was a moonshiner here in Kentucky as a young man. I grew up listening to stories from him and I was really enchanted by his journey. My great uncle also worked in the drinks industry for a long time.

As a child, I was very much like my family. I was always making things, building things, cooking things. My grandfather and my great uncle had some influence on me, which led me to wanting to have a career in making spirits.

When it came time to go to university, there really wasn't a school for me to learn the trade. Today, there are many different curriculums and schools, but those options weren't there at the time I was coming up. Through family and mentorship, I was encouraged to pursue chemical engineering because it seemed to provide the education I would need to get into the spirits industry. I graduated with a Masters in Engineering and Chemical Engineering.

I thought I was going to get my big break in the industry as soon as I graduated but unfortunately, the American whiskey business in the 1990s was not doing well. On top of that, here in Kentucky, it's a bit of a career industry. People come into it, and they stay in it their whole life, so positions don't turn over frequently. Those two things combined did not create great opportunities for me.

I ended up going into a global consulting firm as a project engineer. I did that for almost ten years. It was amazing. I was strengthening my business acumen and learning about different types of industries, how businesses operate, and how you communicate between different layers of an organization.

One day, Diageo called me and asked me if I would come and do some work with them on contract, which I did for two years and then they hired me full time. I made it my business to learn everything I made it my business to learn everything I could in various whiskey related positions including Director of Distillation and Maturation for North America overseeing both the U.S. and Canadian distillation and maturing programs. After parting ways with Diageo, I was in touch with the Magliocco family who own Michter's and who I'd known for years. They asked if I'd like to come and work with them, and I thought that would be amazing. I had been watching the Michter's brand for a long time and thought what they were doing was exceptional in that they are so quality focused.

I came to work for Michter's in 2014 as the seventh employee—we have a team of about 100 people now! Our team has worked really hard with the Magliocco family to continue to grow the brand and hopefully build the next generation of Michter's producers which is exciting!

## What does your role as Master of Maturation entail?

I look after all of the barrel specifications, all of the barrel procurement, the barrel entry strength, and the heat cycling of our warehouses during the winter (Kentucky has a cold and dry climate during the winter so we try to increase



I'm a born and raised Kentuckian and I'm part of a company that's building a legacy and building the next generation of leaders in the industry.



*Andrea in the Shively campus' rick house*



There's a lot of creativity in this role and I think you must have your own artistic side to do well with this.



*Michter's Master of Maturation, Andrea Wilson*

the interaction between the wood and the whiskey by heating up our warehouses and then allowing them to naturally cool down). I also track the maturation of the barrels, deal with the whisky filtration in preparation for bottling, work on innovations with Master Distiller Dan McKee and our team, and everything in between!

**You're covering a huge amount within your role! What kind of skills do you need to have as a person to be able to do this kind of work?**

First of all, I want to make sure that I mention our team who are absolutely exceptional. Our ownership has afforded us the opportunity to really bring in top talent. I don't do anything without all of them. The goal for us is to come to work every day and bring everything that we can to create really high quality, consistently great whiskey.

In terms of skills, a knowledge of chemistry is important but there's a lot more than that. Being quality minded and detail oriented is important. Being curious and a life-long learner is important. Being a critical thinker is important. Utilizing science to achieve repeatable results is important. Also, being a bit of an artist! There's a lot of creativity in this role and I think you must have your own artistic side to do well with this.

**Michter's dates back to 1753. Could you tell us a bit about the history?**

In 1753, Michter's was started in Pennsylvania by a gentleman named John Shenk. He was a Swiss Mennonite farmer, producing rye whiskey using rye grain which was a favorite local crop. In 1861, the distillery was sold to a gentleman named Abraham Bomberger in 1861 and became known as Bomberger's. US Prohibition forced the distillery to shut its doors until

reopening again in 1934.

In the 1950s, then owner Lou Forman created the name Michter's by combining portions of his son's names, Michael and Peter. Sadly in 1989, the distillery closed and that was seemingly the end of Michter's.

Joe Magliocco was a young man working in the distribution business and was familiar with Michter's and was sad that it had closed. He was being mentored by a gentleman called Richard 'Dick' Newman, who knew a thing or two about whiskey. Dick suggested to Joe that if he was interested in resurrecting the brand, he should consider relocating to Kentucky, the heart of the American whiskey industry. Ultimately, Joe and his family applied for the abandoned trademark and made their first strategic decision which was moving the brand from Pennsylvania to Kentucky.

Now, Michter's has three campuses—our main distillery campus in the Shively section of Louisville, a second distillery—Fort Nelson—in downtown Louisville and our beautiful farm in Springfield, Kentucky.

**The distillery produces both rye and bourbon expressions. What kind of differences are there between the two when it comes to maturation?**

Our rye whiskey is what we would call a Kentucky style rye, so we stay closer to 51% rye grain (you have to have at least 51% rye grain to be considered a rye whiskey) in the recipe. We supplement the recipe with corn and malted barley and that gives us a nice sweetness around the spicy characteristics that you typically get from a rye grain. Some ryes on the market are very high rye content whiskeys so they're very bold and very spicy. If you have the palate for that, they're beautiful but not everyone enjoys that level of spice. Staying closer to the 51% rye grain gives you the opportunity to embrace caramel notes alongside the rye baking spice

character. It's super smooth, very easy to drink rye whiskey.

The bourbon, conversely, has a sweeter profile due to the higher corn content. You get a lot of caramel and vanilla coming from the barrel, too. You also get some beautiful stone fruits coming through. We create a nice, well-rounded bourbon.

They have very different flavour profiles but we're using the barrel in similar ways to bring forward that nice sweetness and to highlight different characteristics. What some people don't realise about the barrel is while it can obviously add colour, and complexity, it can also help accentuate flavour and so if there are things you want to highlight more than others, you can adjust the way you toast and char your barrel to help you do that.

**How do you go about selecting barrels for each expression?**

This is where the need for creative artistry comes into this. You have to look at the distillate and decide what's going on there. Is it fruity? Does it have some spice characteristics? Then, you have to decide how you want to influence the spirit. Do you want to lift the fruit? Do you want some sweetness or smokiness? You need to decide what you want in your final product and then you design your barrel accordingly to achieve that goal. It's a bit of an art project.

In the case of Michter's, the first step is the natural seasoning and air drying of the wood. We naturally season in an air dryer or wood for at least 18 months and the purpose of that is to get rid of the things in the wood that you don't want and expose the things in the wood that you do want. Natural seasoning and air drying not only physically dries the wood, but it chemically and microbiologically changes the wood as well.

Then, we toast the barrels before they are charred. Different compounds locked



*Clockwise from top left:  
 Michter's Shively Distillery; Michter's exterior  
 shield; the fermenters at Shively Distillery; still tail  
 boxes; Michter's US\*1 Small Batch Bourbon labels.*

## Industry Insider



*A Michter's bourbon barrel, ready to be stenciled.*

within the structure of the wood will break down at different temperatures and different amounts of time so that will unlock your extractives. There are hundreds of different extractives in the wood leading to many toasting profiles.

Then, we focus on the char. Charring will only last a matter of seconds. The longest char level is probably around a minute and a half whereas toasting takes hours. There's a handful of char profiles and this will help you highlight flavour, too. Lower char levels will help accentuate flavours of fruit and spice whereas darker char levels will help you accentuate oak, smoke, and chocolate notes.

### **What aspect of your job do you enjoy the most?**

I think it's the journey of exploration. I genuinely enjoy learning and innovation. There are so many oaks in the world and I think the opportunity to learn how even the same tree planted in a different part of the world can influence whiskey differently is so fascinating. I love working with oak. I think it's a really special part of my job.

I also love that I'm a born and raised Kentuckian and I'm part of a company that's building a legacy and building the next generation of leaders in the industry. I love imparting my knowledge and helping the team to know everything I've learned because they'll take it long past where I am, and I think that's amazing.

### **What would you say are Michter's defining characteristics?**

Michter's house style is one of creating a quality experience for every consumer. We want to have a beautiful style that is

rich, flavourful, and warms you but doesn't burn in your chest. We want it to be a dynamic experience across your palate which is what really makes a great sipping whiskey.

One of the keys to that for Michter's is the low entry strength that we go into the barrel with (51.5 ABV). This is very low compared to what's allowable in the industry at 62.5% ABV. We're about 75% whiskey in the barrel and 25% water. That water is a really powerful hydrolizer of many compounds and a key to getting a smooth, rich, easy-drinking whiskey.

### **Where do you predict the whiskey industry will go next in terms of innovation?**

It's hard to predict. I think experimentation and innovation are absolutely a part of the industry. I think people change, tastes change, and more than ever, people are wanting to explore and learn which is quite exciting. The fundamentals don't change but we can definitely venture into new worlds of grain and yeast and wood and toasting profiles and ageing periods and blending and equipment design—the list goes on!

### **What can we expect from Michter's next?**

You can always expect that we will continue to create and deliver high quality experiences. The future is bright. We've got some exciting things coming up.

### **What's your personal favourite expression that you've been a part of creating?**

I have a special fondness for the Toasted Barrel series. We were the first American

whiskey company to produce a toasted barrel finished product. We've been really successful with the series, and I think it's delightful. It brings a beautiful roundness to the product. I'm honoured to be a part of making that product.

### **You're the first woman that's ever served as Chair of the Kentucky Distillers Association and you're also part of the Kentucky Bourbon Hall of Fame. How does it feel to be so deservedly celebrated in your industry?**

It's a tremendous honour to hold such esteemed positions and to have garnered such a respect within the industry. I've always prided myself on hard work, building great relationships, and learning as much as I can.

When I was inducted into the Kentucky Bourbon Hall of Fame, what was most special to me was to have an industry full of my peers stand up for me and what I've accomplished on my journey. At the ceremony, someone asked me "Why do you do it?" and I said, "Every bottle of whiskey has about 25 opportunities to be a part of somebody's life. That's an incredible honour. Every day I come to work, I need to do my very best because somebody is going to have this spirit as part of a memory and that's something really special to me."

Whiskey brings people together for so many reasons and in so many ways. For me, the opportunity to pursue making something so beautiful and so delicious is tremendously rewarding.





Every day I come to work, I need to do my very best because somebody is going to have this spirit as part of a memory and that's something really special to me.



# The Glenturret reborn



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Join Gavin D Smith on a journey to one of Scotland's most scenic distilleries—The Glenturret.





## Distillery Visit

When it comes to offering hospitality to visitors, most Scottish distilleries content themselves with a café, ideally boasting some made-on-the-premises dishes and local treats.

Head to the picturesque Perthshire venue of The Glenturret, however, and you find a Michelin-starred restaurant in situ. The beautifully-appointed restaurant, presided over by chef Mark Donald, is just one indication that The Glenturret is setting out its stall to do things differently to most of its rivals. A pair of £75,000 Lalique chandeliers in the public tasting area is another. The name Lalique is highly significant here, as The Glenturret is co-owned by Silvio Denz of the iconic French luxury glassmaking Lalique Group and Swiss-American Dr Hansjorg Wyss, who acquired it from The Edrington Group in 2019.

As well as hosting the Lalique Restaurant, The Glenturret is also home to the only UK Lalique Boutique outside London, which has become a destination in itself. All of this luxury does not mean, however, that only well-heeled visitors with the urge to dine on a Michelin-starred meal or purchase a £15,000 Lalique pendant are catered for. Far from it.

As Global Brand Ambassador Jamie Morrison makes clear, members of the public with wallets of all sizes are as welcome at The Glenturret as they have ever been, and the business of showcasing the working distillery and offering samples of its malts remains central to the whole operation. “It’s important that nobody thinks we are ‘the Lalique whisky,’” he explains.

### OLDEST WORKING DISTILLERY

The Glenturret served as the high-profile brand home of Famous Grouse for almost two decades, but when Edrington decided to focus attention on its Macallan, Highland Park, and Glenrothes single malt brands there was no shortage of potential purchasers.

Jamie Morrison explains the rationale behind the purchase of The Glenturret by Messrs Denz and Wyss, saying that “Over 100 notes of interest were offered when the distillery was put on the market, but due to the long association with fellow Edrington distillery The Macallan, Lalique became aware of the sale. The Glenturret had an established visitor centre and an area that could be used for fine dining. Silvio Denz always wanted a high-end restaurant there.

“There is also the kudos of it being the oldest working distillery in Scotland, with a foundation date of 1763, and a good stock inventory, plus former Macallan whisky-maker Bob Dalgarno

to work with it. The new owners said it was ‘a diamond in the rough that needed polishing to let it shine,’ and they wanted to establish The Glenturret a single malt in its own right. When Edrington owned the distillery, 40 to 50 per cent of its output went into Famous Grouse, and it didn’t get a lot of attention as a single malt.” £31 million was paid for the distillery and stocks, including in excess of one million litres of maturing The Glenturret single malt, the oldest of which was filled to cask in 1987, along with 2,400 cases of bottled whisky.

### TAKING THE TOUR

A tour of The Glenturret begins in the Mill Store before moving into the mash house, and it is there that one of the most obvious changes to the whisky-making operation is evident. Formerly home to one of Scotland’s few surviving open-topped mash tuns, which was stirred by hand, the space is now occupied by a shiny new semi-lauter vessel.

According to Jamie Morrison, “We were using a lot of water and the new owners wanted to conserve water by using less. The new mashtun has manual controls, and the main reason for installing it was to future proof for sustainability, but it also enables us to increase throughput.

“We can now process 1.95 tonnes per mash, whereas it used to be 1.05 tonnes, so we’ve almost doubled it, and we’re using less water. Also, mashing used to take seven and a half to eight hours, and now it’s six to six and a half hours. Our aim is to be net zero by 2040, and energy use is down by 33 per cent in the last year.”

The tun room remains home to eight Douglas Fir washbacks, but the size of the charge in each has been increased, and fermentation remains relatively lengthy at 70 to 100 hours. When it comes to the stillhouse, the desire to save energy has led to wash being pre-heated before being pumped into the single wash still, and both it and the spirit still have seen internal copper heating ‘pans’ replaced by more efficient radiators.

Heating is by natural gas, and the wash still dates back to the 1970s, while its spirit counterpart is a more youthful 20-something years of age. As Jamie Morrison explains, “We have very slow distillation, otherwise we would lose the valuable esters built up during lengthy fermentations.

“There is a ‘boil ball’ on the still to increase reflux, and we take a very narrow middle cut. All cutting is done manually, judging the cut by strength, temperature, and clarity. The result is that our spirit is light, floral, sweet, fruity, and elegant.”

The Glenturret is currently producing

around 215/220 lpa, a figure that will increase in time, and of that annual output, some 35,000 litres are made from peated barley. 15 or 16 casks are filled twice per week, and the distillery operates with a production staff of seven.

Morrison notes that “We have six traditional dunnage warehouses, with 700 to 1,000 casks in each, and we now have an intense cask procurement process. Silvio Denz owns a Bordeaux vineyard, so we’ve filled quite a few wine casks, and while we principally fill into bourbon wood, we also have some rum casks and oloroso and Pedro Ximénez sherry casks. We are working with bodegas in Spain to get custom-made casks, with custom toast and char levels and seasoning times.”

### THE GLENTURRET SINGLE MALT

After the distillery tour, visitors assemble in the stylishly refurbished taste bar, complete with chandeliers, and there they are introduced to the Glenturret core range, presented in eye-catching bottles designed by Lalique. The line-up comprises Triple Wood (matured in American and European oak sherry-seasoned casks, and bourbon barrels), 7 Years Old Peat Smoked, 10 Years Old Peat Smoked, 12 Years Old and 15 Years Old, while there are also 25, 30 and 35-year-old bottlings in the Extremely Scarce range.

Perhaps uniquely, the core range changes on an annual basis, with Jamie Morrison explaining that “We decided on an annual release strategy because we had the great skills of Bob Dalgarno to accomplish this and because there were gaps in the inventory due to Edrington taking lots of maturing whisky for blending over the years. Bob is the first ever ‘whisky-maker’ at The Glenturret, and a lab and sample room have been created at the distillery for him.

“Every release is the best representation of The Glenturret each year, and there will be changes to strengths and perhaps wood types and barley varieties. As an operation, we can be very nimble. When we redesigned the range, we kept Triple Wood because it had a following—people recognised it as Glenturret. In 2020 Bob tweaked it a bit, giving more first-fill cask maturation influence, and he increased the abv and we offered it at natural colour. Triple Wood is closest to our essential DNA. As brand ambassador I get a new play set every year, which is great!”

### RETAIL THERAPY

Having become acquainted with some of the whiskies, members of the public climb a staircase to be greeted by a café serving



Top: The Glenturret warehouse  
Bottom: The Glenturret sample safe

## Knowledge Bar The Glenturret



THE GLENTURRET DISTILLERY,  
THE HOSH,  
CRIEFF  
PH7 4HA

### Timeline

- 1763** a distillery is built on the banks of the Turret River, near Crieff, Perthshire
- 1818** John Drummond commences distilling on the current site
- 1875** The Glenturret name is adopted
- 1921** The Glenturret closes, with equipment dismantled eight years later
- 1957** Businessman James Fairlie acquires the site, re-equips the distillery with a mashtun and stills from Tullibardine distillery
- 1959** Distilling recommences and a visitor centre is created
- 1981** The Glenturret is acquired by Remy Cointreau
- 1990** The Glenturret is sold to Highland Distillers
- 1999** The Edrington Group and William Grant & Sons Ltd purchase Highland Distillers for £601m
- 2019** The distillery is purchased by Glenturret Holdings—Silvio Denz and Hansjorg Wyss

## Distillery Visit



soup, sandwiches, and snacks and a retail space that offers souvenirs across a range of price points, including The Glenturret tartan scarves and hats, wines from the owners' personal vineyards, and a superb array of whiskies.

These include everything from the NAS Triple Wood up to what is described as Glenturret's 'halo' bottling, a single cask 50-year-old, distilled in 1972 and presented in 150 jet black crystal decanters. Also available are bottlings in the ongoing The Glenturret by Lalique Trinity series of 33-year-old expressions. 320 bottles of both Trinity Provenance—comprising the contents of three casks filled in 1987—and Trinity Prowess—from two 1987 casks and one 1988 cask—have been created, with the third and final Trinity—Passion—release due next year.

### Knowledge Bar

#### Lalique



The Glenturret opened their Michelin starred Lalique restaurant in **2021**.

With **just seven tables**, the Lalique restaurant provides an intimate dining experience, inspired by the distillery and its surrounding landscapes.

Led by **Mark Donald**, this is the world's first Michelin starred restaurant situated within a whisky distillery.

For anyone wishing to taste rare dram or two from The Glenturret, the Lalique Bar, adjacent to the restaurant, is the place to head. As Jamie Morrison notes, *"We have bottlings from 1965 to the latest releases, including lots of independent ones. It's the largest collection of Glenturrets in the world, and the bar boasts 450 whiskies in total, including lots of 'oddities and rarities.'"*

There is always one bar-exclusive Glenturret and a bar-exclusive NAS The Macallan expression available, and flights of Glenturrets from the bar menu are a popular option with visitors. The wine menu boasts 600 selections, including bottles from Silvio Denz's vineyards in Bordeaux and Tuscany and Catalonia, and Dr Hansjorg Wyss's winery in California.

Morrison says that *"We have worked with cigar manufacturers such as Davidoff to create cigars that match the flavour of The Glenturret, and there are plans for a cigar terrace outside the restaurant and private dining space."*

*"We work with people who have shared values—one of the first collaborations we did was with Jaguar E-type. It was the 60th anniversary of the launch of the E-type and we produced 265 bottles, as that was the car's original horsepower. The minimum age of the whisky was 30. We have since produced a bottling exclusive to the Gleneagles shop, and an Old Course bottling for St Andrews, comprising 18 casks to represent 18 golf holes."*

Many things may have changed at The Glenturret in recent years, but one constant is the presence of cats. A bronze bust commemorates the achievements of Towser, the former distillery mouser, who earned herself a place in the Guinness Book of Records by apparently accounting for a remarkable 28,899 mice during her almost 24 years at the distillery. Today, the tradition continues with Glen and Turret, who enjoy sleeping in the warmth of the stillhouse. The pair would appear to lack their predecessor's killer instincts, however, as Jamie Morrison, declares *"They are more useful at catching sandwiches than mice!"*

Summing up the ethos of The Glenturret today, Jamie Morrison says *"We respect the past, act as custodians, create great whisky and offer a destination of Scottish luxury and hospitality."*





*Clockwise from top left:*

*The wash still; the filling store;  
the distillery; the mash house;  
the tun room*

Interview

# Cut from a different cloth

Ying Mei Quan,  
Welsh & Jefferies,  
Savile Row, London.

ART DIRECTION: A VISUAL AGENCY  
PHOTOGRAPHY: CHRISTINA KERNOHAN  
ASSISTANT: VLADIMIR STUDENIC  
2ND ASSISTANT: JAMES CLARKSON FIRTH

Bespoke  
Crafted  
Luxury





## Interview

Savile Row is synonymous with the pinnacle of tailoring and the art of bespoke luxury. For those in pursuit of timeless elegance with a personal touch, this narrow street in the heart of London has never gone out of style.

*Whiskeria* takes the short trip from our flagship store in Piccadilly to Welsh & Jefferies, where Ying Mei Quan has shot to prominence as a contemporary, innovative guardian of the methods and traditions beloved by Savile Row's clientele.

Mei is also a friend and valued customer of The Whisky Shop—amassing an impressive personal collection—and has found a natural connection between the bespoke, luxury, crafted worlds of tailoring and whisky.

### Knowledge Bar

#### Savile Row



Savile Row has been the most famous street for tailoring in the UK since the late 18th century and the go-to destination for menswear for high profile figures.

Nestled in the centre of Mayfair, the street is brimming with history—frequented by royals, birthplace of the word “bespoke”, and the venue to The Beatles’ iconic final live performance together. Surely there are few streets in the world as iconic as this.



➔ Founded in 1917, Welsh & Jefferies has created pieces for Winston Churchill and members of the royal family, and was once granted a Royal Warrant as a military tailor. Their Savile Row HQ eschews any retro-fitting, commercial displays or overt-branding. Instead, it is a place purely dedicated to making, an authentic time capsule. Once inside, we are immersed in fabric swatches, thread spools, and the gentle hiss of irons from the back room.

Mei has been at Welsh & Jefferies since 2009, initially as an apprentice to James Cottrell before becoming his business partner. Her meteoric rise saw her win the prestigious Golden Shears Award in 2011. Despite this level of professional acclaim and frenetic demand for her work, Mei is a calm, welcoming, and patient host who takes endless joy in pointing out the materials and details that enrich her work.

On the shop floor, Mei allows us to flick through her treasure trove of fabric samples, and we talk at length about the provenance and colours of tweeds, and what wools work best for different types of cuts. We view a red military jacket that was created for a royal in the 1980s, inspecting the threads that ceremonial medals are attached to, so as not to spoil the fabric. She even allows one of our team to try on a velvet jacket that she's been working on as a passion project since 2016. She shows us a suit jacket that is lined with a silk printed with hundreds of colourful cricket bats, for one of her sport-loving clients.

We ask Joseph Morgan, Mei's senior assistant, about the changes he has witnessed over the years on the street. Joe apprenticed for late Savile Row legend, Tommy Nutter, in the 1960s, and talks about the difference between the timeless elegance of the Row versus the

immediate, throwaway boutique culture of Carnaby Street, and how that era gave rise to a dandy-ish flamboyance in menswear following the dour post-war era.

Upstairs from Welsh & Jefferies is another famous heritage tailoring brand, Scabal. Mei invites us into their inner sanctum to see the cloth that she often uses for her pieces, which are weighed out on a pillar box red vintage scale.

We also marvel at Scabal's behind-the-scenes work for the film industry. Their tailoring credits include Francis Ford Coppola's *The Godfather*; dressing Robert De Niro in *Casino* and Leonardo DiCaprio in *Titanic*, and even providing Daniel Craig with the fabric for the jacket for the premiere of his final James Bond film (a lustrous pink velvet number).

Although Savile Row can at times feel like a living museum piece, there's no 'do not touch' attitude here. Everything is made to be admired, fabrics felt, and inspiration drawn from previous work. There's also a real sense of relaxed camaraderie amongst the tailors on the street, as they gather for lunch and coffee in *The Service*, a cafe bar just a few doors down. Much like the whisky industry, there is a collective sense of betterment and innovation, of artisans handing down their craft and stories, to be preserved and enjoyed for future generations.

#### How did you start out in the tailoring industry, Mei?

I've been working in the industry since 2003. I ended up doing an internship in another shop on Savile Row—number eight. When you start in an internship, you're never customer-facing, so I started out behind-the-scenes.



## Interview

### How did you come to work at Welsh & Jefferies?

In the late 2000s, I started working for Welsh & Jefferies. I was planning to enter the Golden Shears and the ex-owner of Welsh & Jefferies, James Cottrell, was planning to retire. He started to teach me a lot of what he knew and passed on so much of his knowledge. It also led me to start working more directly with customers.

### What appealed to you most about working at Welsh & Jefferies?

I was intrigued by the work they had done in creating military jackets as well as their really impressive history.

### You won the Golden Shears in 2011. What was that experience like for you?

I actually entered the competition twice, in 2009 and 2011. In 2009, I made it to the final 25 and then in 2011, I managed to win the Golden Shears.

The whole process took such a long time as I had to work out a design and then cut and make each piece of the garment by myself.

My design was a kind of trench coat made from 40 year old fabric. It was all handmade and designed very traditionally.

As I said, I learned a lot from Welsh & Jefferies which is a very traditional company that has been around since 1917. My creation was a ladies' coat so I used the skills I had learned in menswear to create this luxury look for women.

I really felt quite lucky to win the prize. I remember after winning my first customer was a lady from New York. She had read about me winning the Golden Shears and wanted me to create something for her.

### What kind of work do you do on a daily basis?

I do a lot of work with customers, as well as doing the cutting and making various pieces. At this point, I really do a bit of everything!

### How does it feel to work somewhere that does have such a historical legacy? Do you feel pressure because of this?

Not really. Tailoring is a lot like whisky in the sense that you have to spend a lot of time learning how to become great at what you're doing. There's no rush and there's an understanding that good things take time. You want every piece to be as amazing as it can be so the legacy doesn't scare me too much as I want to spend my life learning how I can keep getting better at what I'm doing.

### What is your favourite part of your job?

Definitely the creative process of making each piece. I love working with customers, but I'm not a salesperson. That being said, I get to meet a lot of really interesting people!

### What's your favourite whisky that you've tried recently?

Ah, there's so many! Earlier this year, I tried a Brora 1977 that was very, very interesting. I've also tried a lot of great things from The Dalmore and The Macallan recently. The Bowmore x Aston Martin whiskies are excellent, too. There's a lot of great Scottish whisky.

### You've got a brilliant friendship with Alan from our Piccadilly shop. How did the two of you first meet?

We first met in 2016 when I popped into Piccadilly looking for a whisky. The whisky I was looking for wasn't actually available, but Alan gave me loads of amazing recommendations to try instead. It was very interesting.

He's so friendly and always helps me to try and source whiskies that are hard to come by.

### What is your personal whisky collection like?

I have quite a lot of bottles—probably around 250. I'm trying to work my way through the collection as it's too many for me to keep!

The most exclusive whiskies I have are probably my collection of Springbank whiskies, Brora 40 Year Old, or The Macallan Red Collection

### How did you first get into whisky?

It was 2003 or 2004—around the same time that I entered the tailoring industry! My friends and I wanted to go skiing in the UK and so we headed on a trip to Fort William. However, there was an awful storm, and we couldn't ski at all. We were there for five days, so we had to find something else to do! So, we ended up heading to Ben Nevis distillery, and I was totally fascinated by the amount of time and dedication that goes into producing a whisky. I was in my early twenties then and I've loved whisky ever since.

### Whisky making and tailoring are pretty similar in the amount of time and effort that goes into each process. How do you see the similarities?

The amount of time and skill that goes into making whisky and tailoring is quite different from most jobs. They're very specialized industries and you really need



Winning the Golden Shears Award, 2011



People who want tailored clothes and luxury whisky are interested in things that have longevity.

Interview



To me, luxury is about being selective about great products that will enhance your quality of life.



to learn a lot to start working in them. Because of this, the type of people who start working in whisky and tailoring tend to stay in these respective industries for life, often staying with the same distillery or shop for decades at a time.

I think it's important in both industries to maintain a strong relationship with clients. We want to build trust whether it's someone who loves whisky or someone who loves suits. We want them to always want to keep coming back for more.

**We did a whisky tasting earlier today in Centre Point. There seems to be a bit of a link between people who seek out luxury property, high-end whiskies, and bespoke tailoring. What similarities do you see?**

For a bit of context, Centre Point was built in the 1960s and it was the tallest building in the West End. At the time, people couldn't believe that we could build something this tall in this country and it was totally mind-blowing to people. Even though there are many much taller buildings today, it's still a significant part of London's history.

There's a similarity between the maintenance of a historic building and the maintenance of a suit jacket, for example. You need to really look after it and keep refreshing it. You don't necessarily have to follow trends, but you want to keep things looking sharp so that it has a timeless appeal.

Again, the craft of building something like Centre Point is similar to the craft of tailoring and whisky production. Each of these things takes such a long time and such attention to detail to get to the final product. Centre Point took three years to build. Whiskies will spend a minimum of three years maturing. A single jacket I make can take up to 200 hours to produce.

The same kind of people who stay in buildings like Centre Point want to live in the most comfortable apartments and also wear the most luxurious, intricate suits and drink the most exclusive whisky.

**What does luxury mean to you?**

Luxury definitely isn't the price of a product. To me, luxury is about being selective about great products that will enhance your quality of life. I think especially with something like a tailored jacket or waistcoat, it's been made just for you – you can't just buy the same thing anywhere. The same thing goes for rare whiskies where there are only a couple hundred bottles or historical buildings where there are a limited number of apartments. The rarity is what makes it so special.

## Interview

## Knowledge Bar

### Whisky tasting



Alan Robertson, manager of The Whisky Shop Piccadilly and close friend of Mei, specially selected four whiskies that he believed would suit her tastes perfectly.

**Arran Private Cask 2009**  
**13 Year Old**  
 TWS Exclusive  
 70cl | 55.1% VOL | £150

Just 506 bottles of this spectacular sherry bomb from Arran were bottled exclusively for The Whisky Shop. A decadent treat, perfect for winter.

**Ardray**  
 70cl | 48% VOL | £60

One of this year's most exciting new releases is this beautiful Scottish blend crafted to perfection with Japanese expertise.

**Benromach 2007**  
**Single Cask**  
 TWS Exclusive  
 70cl | 57.5% VOL | £179

Another delicious bottling exclusive to The Whisky Shop. Matured for 16 years in a single bourbon barrel, this is a dram that packs a mighty punch.

**Torabhaig**  
**Allt Gleann Legacy**  
 70cl | 46% VOL | £62

A total smokeshow from the Isle of Skye newcomers, Torabhaig. A must-try expression.

Location: Centre Point apartment, with special thanks to LESSEL Private Real Estate.



"This whisky has really nice strong sherry notes. I'm getting dates, tropical fruits, and a little bit of sticky toffee pudding here, too!"

Arran Private Cask 2009



"Very nice. There's a sweetness to it. It's full of fruit flavours and easy to drink."

Ardray



## Knowledge Bar

### Centre Point



Centre Point has stood tall in London's West End since 1966. At 117 metres, the building was one of the city's first skyscrapers and remains as one of the world's tallest buildings to this day. Whilst staying true to the building's original design, Centre Point has been rejuvenated and is now home to a number of luxury apartments sold by LESSEL Private Real Estate that provide of the city's most spectacular views as this.

"It's very smoky and maritime. I'm getting a lot of sea salt in this one."

Torabhaig Allt Gleann Legacy



"A really well-balanced whisky. It has a lot of fruit and nut notes as well as a hint of smoke. Lovely!"

Benromach 2007 Single Cask



THE  
**DALMORE**  
HIGHLAND SINGLE MALT SCOTCH WHISKY

THE  
**DALMORE**  
CASK CURATION SERIES

CASK CURATION SERIES  
THE SHERRY EDITION

# THE DALMORE™

HIGHLAND SINGLE MALT SCOTCH WHISKY

## CASK CURATION SERIES THE SHERRY EDITION



2023 SEES THE FIRST EDITION IN THE DALMORE CASK CURATION SERIES – A FOUR YEAR SERIES OF ANNUAL LIMITED RELEASES, FEATURING SETS OF THREE, AGED WHISKIES.

Each 150-bottle set edition will explore how different casks can influence the maturation of our spirit under careful curation of our master whisky makers, with first release highlighting The Dalmore's long-standing partnership with González Byass Sherry.

The trio of whiskies in this set are all non-chill filtered, with natural colour and bottled at cask strength.

ONLY 150 SETS WORLDWIDE



*Woodford Reserve invite  
you to the ultimate indulgent  
dinner party, from arrival  
to afters...*

---

ART DIRECTION: A VISUAL AGENCY  
PHOTOGRAPHY: CHRISTINA KERNOHAN  
ASSISTANT: PAUL REICH  
2ND ASSIST: LUCAS MACNAIR  
SET STYLIST: ISOBEL FORBES  
DRINKS STYLIST: KYLE JAMIESON

STYLIST: MATT MAITLAND  
HMU: JAK MORGAN  
MODELS: MAILIN HURST, CHRIS CAPALDI  
VALERIJA JEMELJANENKO, ELLIOT LOCKE  
LOCATION: STUDIO SAM BUCKLEY







## *Arrival* → **Golden Mask**

---

<i>Woodford Reserve Distiller's Select</i>	<i>20ml</i>
<i>Crème d'Abricot</i>	<i>15ml</i>
<i>Peychaud's Bitters soaked sugar cube</i>	
<i>Champagne</i>	

---

*Glass: Coupe*  
*Garnish: Mint leaf*

---

### **Method**

*Build the Woodford Reserve Distiller's Select and Crème d'Abricot in coupe / Add the bitters soaked sugar cube / Top with champagne / Add mint leaf to garnish*



BARREL FINISH SELECT  
WOODFORD RESERVE  
DOUBLE OAKED

DISTILLER'S SELECT  
WOODFORD RESERVE  
WHISKEY STRAIGHT MALT WHISKEY





## Aperitif → Rye Boulevardier

<i>Woodford Reserve Rye</i>	<i>40ml</i>
<i>Campari</i>	<i>20ml</i>
<i>Sweet vermouth</i>	<i>20ml</i>

*Glass: Rocks*

*Ice: Cubed*

*Garnish: Orange wedge*

### Method

*Add all ingredients to rocks glass / Stir together /  
Add cubed ice / Add orange wedge to garnish*





## *Palate Cleanser* → **Drowned Sorbet**

---

*Woodford Reserve Distiller's Select* 25ml  
*Scoop of lemon sorbet*

---

*Glass: Rocks*

---

### **Method**

*Add lemon sorbet to glass /  
Top with Woodford Reserve Distiller's Select*



*Dessert* →  
**Espresso Martini +  
Key Lime Pie**

---

<i>Woodford Reserve Malt</i>	<i>40ml</i>
<i>Espresso</i>	<i>25ml</i>
<i>Crème de banane</i>	<i>10ml</i>
<i>Coffee liqueur</i>	<i>15ml</i>

---

*Glass: Coupe*  
*Garnish: Mint leaf*

---

**Method**

*Add all ingredients to a cocktail shaker filled with ice /  
Shake well / Strain into coupette /  
Add mint leaf to garnish*







## *Digestif* → Old Fashioned

<i>Woodford Reserve Double Oaked</i>	<i>50ml</i>
<i>Sugar syrup</i>	<i>10ml</i>
<i>Angostura bitters</i>	<i>2 dashes</i>

*Glass: Rocks*

*Ice: Cubed*

*Garnish: Orange zest*

### **Method**

*Add all ingredients to glass /  
Stir together / Add cubed ice /  
Add orange zest to garnish*







## *Afterparty* → **Baccarat**

---

*Woodford Reserve Baccarat* *25ml*

---

*Glass: Rocks*

---

**Method**  
*Serve neat*

Crafted Carefully. Enjoy Responsibly.  
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# Ahead of the curve



We all know that every dram is precious, given the time, craft, and dedication involved in distilling whisky. Our shelves are testament to many different brands who express their character and provenance through beautiful design and refined typography. What happens, though, when an expression comes along that is so special and so rare that it needs to be presented in a way that can mirror the decades of maturation and ingenuity of process with bespoke, crafted, luxury? For the likes of The Macallan, Bowmore, Highland Park and Midleton, the answer often lies with John Galvin.

PHOTOGRAPHY: CHRISTINA KERNOHAN  
ART DIRECTION: A VISUAL AGENCY

➔ One could certainly call John Galvin a master craftsman, however it would be more accurate to say that he works at the apex of artistry, engineering and innovation. John is a story-teller, but with materials, rather than words. His work can often be understated at first glance, but reveal themselves via complex and theatrical opening mechanisms, and thoughtful details and inlays.

John's understanding of wood—its grain, its form, sculptural properties—as well as its effects on maturation and finish—means he can create highly original, conceptual works that showcase priceless bottles.

The studio's commitment to sustainability also means they work in ever more innovative ways with other industries, for example, using offcuts of metal from Bentley's factory, for their recent Bowmore project.

John also notes that he has no desire to start mass producing any of his pieces and is focused on sustainability, sourcing his materials from Scotland as much as possible. *"It's never about quantity. It's always about innovation and using unique materials in a different way."*

What is, perhaps, most exciting about John's practice is that he

endeavours to make things that other engineers believe are impossible, and then commissions machines that will help him achieve his visions. Everything that leaves John's warehouse is the epitome of *bespoke*. John and his team have set their own standards in production. *"If we believe that someone could make a better version of the same product, it won't leave the workshop."*

John founded his business fifteen years ago, initially garnering a reputation for creating beautiful furniture (he still runs a furniture company, Faolchú, with fellow designer, Derek Wilson). However, when John pivoted to the world of whisky, he not only found his calling, but a host of clients with who he could collaborate with at a new level.

*"I have no interest in trends,"* he says. *"Art is subjective, so you want to make something that really caters to one specific customer personally."*

One example of this approach is The Macallan—The Reach. Launched last year, it is the oldest Scotch whisky ever released, necessitating a truly remarkable presentation. John's cabinet in which the sculpture is encased was crafted from wood from a fallen elm tree that was growing on The Macallan Estate in 1940.

What is the secret to becoming the master of his craft? *"Pure devotion,"* says John. *"Luxury is when you pour your passion and time into a piece, and this then lands with the consumer. With our work, you see a reflection of our heart and soul in everything we do."*

What John and his team put together are exceptionally rare pieces of art. The passion with which John speaks about his craft, his colleagues, and the potential of his industry moving forward makes it clear that this is a man who has devoted his life to pushing his art to the outer limits of what is possible.

What's next for John? Of course, he's working on a number of top-secret projects for various whisky brands.

He's also opening a second studio space, retro-fitting a beautiful Victorian warehouse in the Southside of Glasgow. Long-term, John wants to continue focusing on how he can be as sustainable as possible in his work, sourcing as much as he can from Scotland. Perhaps most importantly, however, is for John to keep growing his wonderful team—who he *"would be nothing without"*—in Glasgow, with a focus on skilled apprenticeships. He has a lot of faith in the future generations and the potential that they hold. For John, *"the goal is to create a legacy that lasts well into the future."*



The goal is to  
create a legacy  
that lasts well  
into the future.

**Knowledge Bar**  
**John Galvin Design**



Founded: **2008**  
Location: **Glasgow**

Clients include:  
**The Macallan, Bowmore,  
Highland Park, Glen Grant,  
The Dalmore, Midleton,  
and The Glenlivet.**

## Whisky People

### Knowledge Bar

#### Whisky Masterpieces



##### ① | The Macallan | The Reach

The Reach marked an iconic moment in the whisky industry as it is the oldest whisky ever to be bottled to date. Designed by a team of artisans, including John, The Reach has set a new standard of what is possible in whisky presentation.

##### ② | MVR Silent Chapter3

John worked with Midleton, his local distillery as a child, to help Midleton Very Rare Silent Chapter 3 come to life. John created the cabinet for the expression using rare elm burr, sterling silver, oak from Irish whiskey vats, and luxurious leather.

##### ③ | The Glen Grant Devotion

Devotion was released by Glen Grant as a tribute to HRH Queen Elizabeth II. The liquid, aged 70 years, is presented in a spectacular tree shaped sculpture created by John. Made from a fallen elm from Glen Grant distillery's gardens, the sculpture boasts a beautiful silver diameter that has been engraved with lilies of the valley and thistles.

##### ④ | Highland Park 54 Year Old

For this limited run of 225 bottles, John crafted the presentation case for the enchanting Highland Park 54 Year Old. The exterior of the case is made from Scottish oak and has been inspired by the Cliffs of Yesnaby in Orkney.

##### ⑤ | The Dalmore Luminaries No.1

The sculpture for The Dalmore Luminaries No.1 was designed by Kengo Kuma and Maurizio Mucciola and crafted by John Galvin. The 48 oak diamonds represent each year of the whisky's maturation.

##### ⑥ | Black Bowmore Archive Cabinet

Crafted by John to house a complete collection of Black Bowmore. The black exterior is inspired by the dark stones of Islay and the interior by the distillery's copper stills. The former distillery spirit safe has been incorporated into the cabinet to carry a special piece of Bowmore's history.





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## Whisky People



Luxury is when you pour your passion and time into a project... With our work, you see a reflection of our heart and soul in every piece.”



It's never about quantity. It's always about innovation and using unique materials in a different way."



**GLEN SCOTIA**

CAMPBELTOWN SINGLE MALT  
SCOTCH WHISKY

ICONS OF  
CAMPBELTOWN

AGED **12** YEARS



RELEASE NO 1  
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ISSUE

Winter 23/24

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# THE WHISKY SHOP

UNIQUE  
DIFFERENT  
INTERESTING



## 'Tis the season

Celebrate Christmas with The Whisky Shop's cracking festive offerings.

Party Season

Golden Gifting

Stocking Fillers

St. Andrew's Day

*Please note: prices accurate at the time of printing.*

## THE WHISKY SHOP

# Golden Gifting

Perfect presents that are guaranteed to go down a treat.

## ① The Glenturret 12 Year Old

70cl | 46% VOL | £77

Christmas cake / Toasted oak / Cinnamon

- Crafted with European sherry oak casks
- Brimming with classic Christmas flavours
- An award-winning crowd pleaser

## ② Ardbeg Uigeadail

70cl | 54.2% VOL | £75

Campfire smoke / Festive spices / Raisins

- A spectacularly well-balanced sweet and smoky expression
- Voted by the Ardbeg Committee as their favourite Ardbeg whisky
- A must-have dram for any Islay whisky lover

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### ③ Harris Gin

70cl | 45% VOL | £52

Garden herbs / Lime / Vanilla

- One of the most exciting gins on the market
- Created using nine hand selected botanicals
- If you want to make a gin fan smile this Christmas, pop this in your basket

### ④ The Single Cask Bunnahabhain 13 Year Old The Whisky Shop Exclusive

70cl | 56.9% VOL | £175

Cardamom / Cloves / Christmas cake

- A striking bottling, exclusive to The Whisky Shop
- Just 89 bottles filled - get it before it goes!
- Impress a loved one with this ultra-rare dram this Christmas

### ⑤ Nc'Neen Flask Gift Set The Whisky Shop Exclusive

70cl | 46% VOL | £92

Peach / Pineapple / Lemongras

- A spectacular gifting set exclusive to The Whisky Shop
- Pop a hot toddy in the flask to keep you warm on a chilly winter stroll
- It doesn't get much more festive than this!

### ⑥ 12 Drams of Christmas

12x3cl | Various | £71

- Why gift one whisky you can gift twelve?
- Take your tastebuds on a tour of Scotland with this selection of drams
- Presented in an elegant gift box - no wrapping paper required!

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## THE WHISKY SHOP

# Party Season

Tipplers that are bound to have everybody in high spirits at this year's Christmas party.

## ① Benriach The Sixteen

70cl | 43% VOL | £72

Baked apples / Nutty oak / Smoke

- A fan favourite from Benriach
- Matured in a combination of bourbon, sherry, and virgin oak casks
- Expect rich and layered flavours that are bound to impress

## ② Hotel Chocolat Salted Caramel Velvetised Chocolate Cream

50cl | 12% VOL | £24

Dark chocolate / Sea salt / Caramel

- Treat yourself to a sensational cream liqueur this festive season
- Perfect on ice - or add a splash to your hot chocolate for a decadent treat at the end of the night
- It doesn't get much more indulgent than this!

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### ③ Ardray

70cl | 48% VOL | £60

Plum / Orange blossom / Apple

- A Scottish blend created under Japanese expertise
- The Suntory team has joined forces with Scottish whisky makers to create this complex blend
- An absolute must-have dram for every Christmas celebration this year

### ⑤ The Whisky Advent Calendar 2023

24x3cl | Various % | £150

- Use this as an advent calendar or as the centrepiece of your next tasting night with friends
- You're bound to find something new in this beautiful box
- Take your taste buds on a journey across the globe with these cracking expressions

### ④ Craft Gin Advent Calendar 2023

24x3cl | Various % | £70

- Treat yourself every day with this unique craft gin advent calendar
- Find your new favourite tippie here
- Explore expressions from across the globe with this fabulous selection

### ⑥ Christmas Pudding Gin Liqueur

50cl | 20% VOL | £25

Marzipan / Cinnamon / Candied oranges

- A divine sweet and spicy festive treat
- Bound to be a real showstopper at any festive party
- Christmas in a bottle!

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THE WHISKY SHOP

# Stocking Fillers

Little treats under £50 that are set to have jaws dropping this Christmas.

## ① Glencairn 6 Glass Pack

£45

- The ultimate whisky glass
- Award-winning innovation
- Host a mind-blowing whisky tasting with these beauties

## ② Johnnie Walker Taster Gift Set 3x5cl

3x5cl | 40% VOL | £15

- Style meets substance in this elegant gift pack
- Featuring three classic expressions from the well-loved brand
- The perfect introduction to Johnnie Walker

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### ③ W Club Membership

£30

- A gift to last you all year round
- Access to exclusive tasting events, bottlings, deals, and a print subscription to Whiskeria
- A whisky lover's dream!

### ④ The Loch Fyne Blend & Gin Set

2x5cl | 40% VOL | £14

- Introduce a loved one to the brilliant Loch Fyne range
- Perfect for fans of stunningly well-crafted tipples
- A ready-to-go gift!

### ⑤ Laphroaig 3x5cl Miniature Pack

3x5cl | Various | £31

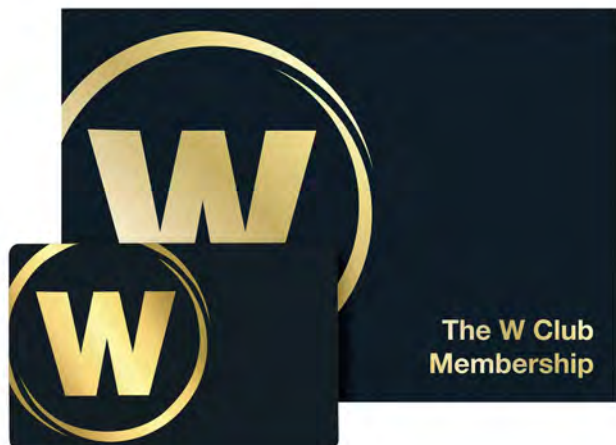
- The ideal introduction to Laphroaig!
- Containing 5cl samples of Laphroaig 10 Year Old, Laphroaig Lore, and Laphroaig Quarter Cask
- Peaty perfection!

### ⑥ The Whisky Shop Festive Box

6x3cl | Various | £30

- Festive drams to wow and delight
- Why have one when you can have six?
- Hand-selected by The Whisky Shop

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## THE WHISKY SHOP

# St. Andrew's Day

Celebrate St. Andrew's Day in style with these bonnie bottlings.

## ① The Glenlivet 15 Year Old

70cl | 40% VOL | £66

Stewed fruit / Chocolate / Oak

- This expression has enjoyed a unique finish in French oak to create a particularly rich palate
- Limousin oak is often used to mature fine wines and cognacs
- A toast-worthy dram!

## ② Fettercairn Warehouse 14

70cl | 51.2% VOL | £73

Honey / Crème caramel / Toasted nuts

- The final installment of Fettercairn's Warehouse Collection
- Finished in a combination of stout, dark ale, and pale ale barrels
- Created by pioneering Master Whisky Maker Gregg Glass

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**③ The Dalmore  
31 Year Old  
Platinum Old and Rare**

70cl | 57.5% VOL | £847 **Cinnamon / Baking spices / Blackberries**

- Bottled exclusively for Hunter Laing & Co.'s Platinum Old & Rare series
- Just 142 bottles were filled
- Impress your guests by bringing a bottle of this well-aged beauty to the table

**⑤ The Loch Fyne Finest  
Bunnahabhain 2001  
21 Year Old #3690**

70cl | 55.4% VOL | £150 **Liquorice / Pistachio / Tropical fruits**

- Only the Finest drams will do this St. Andrew's Day - this Bunna fits the bill!
- A wonderfully rare independently bottled delight
- Matured in a sherry cask to enhance Bunnahabhain's classically smooth and sweet flavours

**④ Glengoyne  
Sensory Tasting Experience**

3x5cl | Various | £40

- Take your senses on a spectacular journey with this Glengoyne set
- Featuring Glengoyne's 10-year-old, 12-year-old, and 15-year-old single malts
- Each expression has been paired with sensational chocolate from Coco Chocolatier

**⑥ Benromach 2007  
#137  
The Whisky Shop Exclusive**

70cl | 55.7% VOL | £179 **Smoke / Honey / Toasted oak**

- Another single cask wonder
- A striking expression with a mighty ABV
- Matured for 16 years in a single first-fill bourbon barrel

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## THE WHISKY SHOP

# Customer Favourites

## Light / Floral

### ① Fettercairn 12 Year Old

70cl | 40% VOL | £58

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.



"Fresh and fruity with lashings of tropical mango, papaya, and pineapple. Bourbon casks bring a vanilla sweetness to this delicious dram"

Jeremy, Paris

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### ② Bunnahabhain 12 Year Old

70cl | 46.3% VOL | £52

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.

### ③ Loch Lomond 14 Year Old

70cl | 46% VOL | £63

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.

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**④ Balblair 12 Year Old**

70cl | 46% VOL | £56 **Sultanas / Honey / Apple**

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

**⑥ Auchroisk 10 Year Old**

70cl | 43% VOL | £59 **Orange zest / Cut grass / Roasted nuts**

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.

**⑤ Balblair 15 Year Old**

70cl | 46% VOL | £86 **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.

**⑦ Glengoyne 12 Year Old**

70cl | 43% VOL | £51 **Honey / Ginger / Lemon zest**

A real smooth sipper from Glengoyne distillery. Matured in hand-selected sherry casks crafted from European and American oak, this multi award-winning expression is sure to keep you coming back for more.

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## THE WHISKY SHOP

# Customer Favourites

## Rich / Sweet

### ① Blair Athol 12 Year Old

70cl | 43% VOL | £60

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.



"Skip dessert and head straight to this! Enjoy rich sherry, raisins, and Christmas cake on the nose before wood spice, pepper, and even more sherry on the palate."

Chris, Norwich



### ② The Dalmore 15 Year Old

70cl | 40% VOL | £108

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.

### ③ Glenrothes 18 Year Old

70cl | 43% VOL | £160

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.



**④ anCnoc  
12 Year Old**

70cl | 40% VOL | £41 **Banana / Butterscotch / Custard**

Produced at Knockdu 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.

**⑦ Benrinnes  
15 Year Old**

70cl | 43% VOL | £60 **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.

**⑤ Old Pulteney  
15 Year Old**

70cl | 46% VOL | £81 **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.

**⑧ 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.

**⑥ Arran  
10 Year Old**

70cl | 46% VOL | £49 **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.

**⑨ The Dalmore  
12 Year Old**

70cl | 40% VOL | £71 **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.

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## THE WHISKY SHOP

# Customer Favourites

## Rich / Sweet

### ① Jura 18 Year Old

70cl | 44% VOL | £81

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.



"This soft, smoky dram is a fantastic addition to anyone's drink cabinet. Light peat, brown sugar, and orange on the nose leads to a smooth burnt toffee taste with softer citrus and coffee on the finish."

Donald, Glasgow

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### ② Glen Scotia Victoriana

70cl | 54.2% VOL | £81

Creme 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!

### ③ Glen Scotia Double Cask Rum Finish

70cl | 46% VOL | £54

Toasted coconut / Baking spices / Molasses

A beautiful dram that pays homage to the rum casks that were on sale in Campbeltown in 1815. Matured in ex-bourbon casks before an eight-month finish in ex-Demerara rum barrels, the result is something simply spellbinding.

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**④ Mortlach 12 Year Old The Wee Witchie**

70cl | 43.4% VOL | £66

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.

**⑤ Mortlach 16 Year Old Distiller's Dram**

70cl | 43.4% VOL | £105

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.

**⑥ The GlenDronach 12 Year Old**

70cl | 43% VOL | £58

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 | £48

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.

**⑧ Oban Distillers Edition**

70cl | 43% VOL | £85

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!

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## THE WHISKY SHOP

# Customer Favourites

## Smoky

### ① Glenturret 10 Year Old Peat Smoked

70cl | 50% VOL | £66

Citrus / Smoke / Sea salt

This exceptional single malt has been crafted in the same stills that the distillery's unpeated spirit runs through. Sweet and smoky, this is a simply delightful expression from an exemplary Highland distillery.



"Slightly burnt marshmallows rise from the glass before allowing through notes of freshly cut grass, citrus, and evergreen pine notes. Well-balanced on the palate; honeycomb toffee combines nicely with a floral aroma that sits intangibly between a dried old lavender pouch and fresh Highland heather with an enjoyably oily mouthfeel. The smoky finish lingers for a meaningful, but not overly full-on, stretch; like it has just shyly bid g'night to its crush on a crisp autumn evening."

Luke, W Club Manager

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### ② Talisker Port Ruighe

70cl | 45.8% VOL | £63

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.

### ③ Bunnahabhain Toiteach A Dha

70cl | 46% VOL | £53

Dried fruit / Peat / Black pepper

Made with Bunnahabhain Moine, 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.

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#### ④ Highland Park 12 Year Old

70cl | 40% VOL | £47

Honey / Cream / Floral smoke

An intriguing expression from Scotland's most northerly distillery. This beautiful dram is the flagship expression of Orkney's Highland Park.

#### ⑤ Highland Park 15 Year Old

70cl | 44% VOL | £102

Crème brûlée / Cinnamon / Honey

Matured predominantly in sherry seasoned European and American oak casks, this is an award-winning whisky that will transport your taste buds straight to the rugged landscapes of Orkney.



THE WHISKY SHOP

# Customer Favourites

## Smoky

### ① Torabhaig Allt Gleann Legacy

70cl | 46% VOL | £62      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 bottlings, all drawn from 30 casks or less.



"This more-than-worthy new resident of Skye sets forth with a burst of maritime smoke expected from this island, and a peat that envelops every sip yet never dominates, allowing ample room for lemon, blossom honey, vanilla, brine and tobacco to sail through the nose and mouth, coated with an oily texture and waves of salty sea air"

Tom, Bath

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### ② Laphroaig 10 Year Old Sherry

70cl | 48% VOL | £70      Smoky bacon / Wood polish / Fresh pine

Wonderful peaty fare with a sherried twist. Sweet and smoky drams don't get much better than this. Laphroaig's exceptionally well-balanced fare is an expression that is bound to keep you coming back for more.

### ③ Ailsa Bay 1.2

70cl | 48.9% VOL | £64      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.

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④ **Ledaig  
10 Year Old**

70cl | 46.3% VOL | £52

Gingerbread / Sea salt / Stewed fruit

This beautifully smoky dram is one third of the Ledaig core range. Hailing from the Isle of Mull's only distillery, this an impressively balanced maritime whisky that is sure to keep you coming back for more.

⑤ **Caol Ila  
Distillers Edition**

70cl | 43% VOL | £79

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.

⑥ **Lagavulin  
Distillers Edition  
Double Matured**

70cl | 43% VOL | £98

Maritime smoke / Peat / Spiced oak

Powerfully smoky and surprisingly sweet, this release of Lagavulin Distillers Edition has been double matured in Pedro Ximénez seasoned American oak casks to create a spectacular flavour profile.



THE WHISKY SHOP

# Customer Favourites International

## ① Kyro Wood Smoke

70cl | 47% VOL | £57 Rye / Black pepper / Smoked meat

A magnificent smoky triumph from Kyro. This Finnish whisky was made by smoking rye with alder wood, creating its wonderfully unique flavour profile.



"A hearty dram this one. Dusty library books, damp leaves, muesli, and barbecued game meat. Best enjoyed around a roaring campfire in the woods"

Matt, Oxford

## ② Widow Jane 10 Year Old Bourbon

70cl | 45.5% VOL | £88 Sandalwood / Tobacco / Madagascan vanilla

A fabulous bourbon from Widow Jane Distillery in Brooklyn. Each bottle of this ten-year-old tippie has been drawn from a single barrel, meaning that no two bottles of this fabulous expression will be exactly the same.

## ③ Bushmills 16 Year Old

70cl | 40% VOL | £98 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.

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**④ Hatozaki  
12 Year Old  
Umeshu Cask Finish**

70cl | 46% VOL | £82

Apricot / Pear / Plum

A striking twelve-year-old pure malt whisky from Kaikyo Distillery. Created by combining various small batch single malts, the expression was matured in American oak casks before enjoying a six-month finish in Umeshu casks.

**⑦ New York Distillers  
Ragtime Straight Rye**

70cl | 45.2% VOL | £54

Liquorice / Cinnamon / Marmalade

An impressive rye from New York Distilling Company. Specially created to be used in cocktails, this expression will be right at home in a delicious Manhattan! A must-have addition to your drinks cabinet.

**⑤ Waterford  
The Cuvée**

70cl | 50% VOL | £76

Orange zest / Barley sugar / Lemon peel

An outstanding release from Ireland's Waterford Distillery. This impressive expression draws together spirits from the distillery's Single Farm Origins series to create this striking single malt.

**⑧ Stauning  
Smoke Single Malt**

70cl | 47% VOL | £82

Digestive biscuits / Apple / Campfire smoke

A real triumph from Denmark's Stauning distillery. This Danish expression is full to the brim with seductively smoky notes that give way to soft, sweet, fruity hints.

**⑥ The Irishman  
Single Malt**

70cl | 43% VOL | £48

Crystallised pineapple / Ripe stone fruits / Honey

A bourbon and oloroso matured dream! This whiskey wonderfully balances sweet, fruity, and woody flavours to create this gorgeous Irish tippie. This small batch expression won Gold at the International Spirits Challenge 2022 - get your hands on one now!

**⑨ 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.

⑤



⑥



⑦



⑧



⑨



# THE WHISKY SHOP

# Directory

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## OUR STORES



### SOUTH

**LONDON**  
169 Piccadilly  
London,  
W1J 9EH  
0207 499 6649

**LONDON**  
Unit 7,  
Queens Head Passage  
Paternoster  
EC4M 7DZ  
0207 329 5117

**BRIGHTON**  
64 East Street  
BN1 1HQ  
01273 327 962

**GUILDFORD**  
25 Chapel Street  
GU1 3UL  
01483 450 900

**BATH**  
9-10 High Street  
BA1 5AQ  
01225 423 535

**OXFORD**  
7 Turl St  
OX1 3DQ  
01865 202 279

**NORWICH**  
3 Swan Lane  
NR2 1HZ  
01603 618 284

### WALES

**CARDIFF**  
36 Royal Arcade  
CF10 1AE

### NORTH

**GATESHEAD**  
Unit 1/9 Red Mall  
Intu Metro Centre  
NE11 9YP  
0191 460 3777

**MANCHESTER**  
3 Exchange Street  
M2 7EE  
0161 832 6110

**YORK**  
11 Coppergate Walk  
YO1 9NT  
0190 4640 300

### NEWLY OPENED LEEDS

12-14 County Arcade  
Victoria Quarter  
LS1 6AZ

**STOKE-ON-TRENT**  
Unit 210 Trentham Gardens  
ST4 8AX  
01782 644 483

**NOTTINGHAM**  
3 Cheapside  
NG1 2HU  
0115 958 7080

**BIRMINGHAM**  
Unit 9  
Great Western Arcade  
B2 5HU  
0121 233 4416

### FRANCE

**PARIS**  
7 Place de la Madeleine  
75008  
+33 1 45 22 29 77

### SCOTLAND

**GLASGOW**  
Unit L2-02  
Buchanan Galleries  
220 Buchanan Street  
G1 2GF  
0141 331 0022

**EDINBURGH**  
Unit U23  
Waverley Mall  
Waverley Bridge  
EH1 1BQ  
0131 558 7563

**EDINBURGH**  
28 Victoria St  
EH1 2JW  
0131 225 4666

**EDINBURGH**  
Multrees Walk  
28 St. Andrew Square  
EH2 1AF

**INVERNESS**  
17 Bridge Street  
IV1 1HG  
0146 3710 525

**FORT WILLIAM**  
93 High Street  
PH33 6DG  
0139 7706 164

**OBAN**  
52 George Street  
PA34 5SD  
0163 1570 896

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# SPIRITED XCHANGE

SPECIAL RELEASES

2023

# The Dalmore Cask Curation Series



Charlie MacLean delves into the perfect festive whisky trilogy—  
The Dalmore Cask Curation Series!

➤ The Cask Curation Series, of which these three whiskies are the first of four annual releases, will explore the crucial role played by the casks in which The Dalmore is matured. The title of this year's set is 'The Sherry Edition': each of the long-aged whiskies have been finished in different styles of sherry from the leading sherry house, Gonzalez Byass in Jerez de la Frontera.

Only 150 sets of the series are available worldwide. The sherry finishing casks are extremely rare, especially the Matusalem and Apostoles casks, and Gonzalez Byass has made them exclusively available to The Dalmore. As might be expected, the whiskies are at natural strength and colour, without chill-filtration. The bottles are presented in a leather-finished travel case, hand-made in Florence.

Regular readers of Whiskeria will be familiar with Master Distiller Richard Paterson O.B.E.'s passion for wood—especially super-rare sherry casks. This is shared by his colleague, Gregg Glass, Master Blender (see Fettercairn, p.15).

Together they have 97 years of experience in the whisky industry and for this rare edition they have partnered with the fifth-generation Master Winemakers at Gonzalez Byass, Antonio Flores and his daughter Silvia Flores.

The Dalmore is the only Highland distillery overlooking the Cromarty Firth. It was established in 1839 by Alexander Matheson, a partner in the dynastic Hong Kong trading house, Jardine Matheson & Co.—merchants in everything from tea to opium. From 1867 it was worked by tenants—the Mackenzie family, who had famously been gifted the iconic 'royal' stag's head symbol as their clan badge, in recognition for saving the life of King Alexander III (1241–1286) from being gored by a rampant stag. This now appears on all the proprietary bottles. In 1886, they purchased the distillery and associated buildings before merging the business in 1960 with Whyte & Mackay.

The distillery has several unique features which contribute to the spirit character. The four wash stills have flat

tops rather than swan-necks, which makes for a heavy, musky style, while the four spirit stills are fitted with water jackets around their necks, so the copper is continually cooled, increasing reflux and making for a lighter spirit. Furthermore, one of the spirit stills is twice as large as the other three and produces a very different style of spirit—citric fruits and aromatic spices. The two styles are mixed prior to being filled into cask. It is claimed that the stills are the oldest in the Highlands; part of one of them dates from 1874.

This collection is the first chapter in The Dalmore Cask Curation Series. In 2024, the second release will shine a light on the influence Port pipes have on the spirit, and celebrate a partnership with a famous Port wine maker. The third release arrives in 2025, followed by the fourth and final release concluding the series in 2026. Each release will celebrate Dalmore's exclusive relationships with the world's finest makers of wine and spirits.



## The Dalmore Cask Curation Series

3x70cl Various% VOL  
 26 / 28 / 43 Year Old £30,000  
 Speyside single malt



## 26 Year Old The Sherry Edition

Gonzalez Byass Vintage Sherry Cask Finish

Highland single malt | 48.2% VOL | 70cl

Deep gold, with amber lights. Pale amber in colour, with good beading. The nose is sweet and zesty - spun honey and orange zest - with a lightly oaky background and a hint of Cappuccino coffee. A pleasant texture and a sweetish taste with a dry finish and a return of the coffee in the aftertaste.

## 28 Year Old The Sherry Edition

Gonzalez Byass Matusalem Sherry Cask Finish

Highland single malt | 55.3% VOL | 70cl

Polished mahogany, with excellent beading. Considerable nose-prickle at first, then moist Christmas cake (with marzipan) with a trace of star anise and coffee grounds. Warm brioche in the development. A bitter-sweet taste (Seville orange marmalade), with some warming spice in the long mentholic finish.

## 43 Year Old The Sherry Edition

Gonzalez Byass Apostoles Sherry Cask Finish

Highland single malt | 46.8% VOL | 70cl

Amontillado sherry in colour. Some nose-prickle. A mild and complex aroma led by Seville orange marmalade, backed by toasted almonds and old sherry, with a trace of honey on warm buttered toast. Mouth-filling, the taste starts sweet and finished tart (orange zest), with warming kitchen spices, and a cool aftertaste.



# The Welsh Whisky Revival

The Whisky Shop Cardiff's Stanley Evans examines how one Welshman shaped the national industry both past and present.

➤ The revival of Welsh whisky, beginning at the turn of the millennium has been nothing short of astounding. In spite of the temperance movement of the 20th century essentially putting the production of Welsh spirits into comatose, the establishment and subsequent success of the Penderyn Distillery in the heart of the Brecon Beacons has brought about the dawn of a golden age for Welsh whisky. The continuing foundation of new distilleries in the nation is a magnificent indicator of a lucrative market which is still to reach its full potential. Aber Falls, Anglesey Môn, Coles, Dà Mhile, and In the Welsh Wind have all followed in the footsteps of Penderyn in the formation of their own distilleries, continuing to elevate the name and reputation of Welsh spirits in their own right.

However, even though this rebirth is a relatively new development, the history of Wales' impact on the national whisky market cannot be ignored. Particularly, the tale of Wales' only Prime Minister: David Lloyd George, and his attempts to end whisky production for good proved to galvanise the industry and secured the drink's position as a premium product.

Lloyd George's impact on whisky however mostly relates to his time in office as the Chancellor of the Exchequer, a role which he filled from 1908 up until his election as Prime Minister in 1916. With the First World War erupting in 1914, Lloyd George attributed Britain's slow progress to the regular consumption of alcohol by factory workers which slowed the production of war materials; even going so far as to allege that such beverages were more detrimental to the

war effort than the enemy submarines which regularly sunk British imports and exports. According to Dr Gerry Oram of Swansea University, this sentiment was arguably justified following an embarrassing British failure in the Battle of Neuve Chapelle in March 1915 in which Artillery units could not maintain their promising attack, consuming seventeen days' worth of ammunition in a single 24-hour period. This disastrous breakdown marked a turning point in parliament's sentiment towards alcohol.

Where his previous attempts had failed, Lloyd George enjoyed an albeit minor victory in the creation of the Immature Spirits (Restriction) Act 1915 as part of a series of sweeping reforms intended to boost worker productivity. The act itself stipulated that any and all whisky must be aged in oak casks for three years and one day at minimum. This, Lloyd George believed, would cripple the whisky industry, and admittedly did have the desired impact initially. Unfortunately, only a small number of distilleries survived the war and numerous restrictions imposed by both the Immature Spirits Act 1915 and Licencing Act of the same year.

However, what the Chancellor had failed to consider is that most reputable distilleries were already ageing their spirits for a minimum of three years in oak casks, and by introducing this requirement into legislation, Lloyd George accidentally aided in rooting out less reputable manufacturers who bottled their whisky straight from the still, which had previously been a scourge on the reputation of whisky in the country. Although at first detrimental to the whisky industry, in eliminating less credible distilleries, Lloyd

George's statute effectively resurrected the formerly poor image of the spirit, strengthening the industry and successfully establishing these new, mature whiskies as a premium product to be widely enjoyed by all.

Now, over a century later, in part as a result of Lloyd George's reforms, the production and sale of premium whisky stands as a monolithic industry, the mere export of Scotch whisky alone exceeding £6 billion in 2022; all while the enjoyment and distillation of Welsh whisky continues to grow into its own entity.

As mentioned, Wales' growth in spirit production was primarily spearheaded by Penderyn, who started production in 2000. As a leading Welsh distillery, Penderyn paid homage to the former Chancellor and Prime Minister in their Icons of Wales series, expressions bottled to recognise key moments and aspects of Welsh history and culture. Bottle #9, named 'The Headliner' after David Lloyd George for his frequent creations of the eponymous headlines through his policy celebrates the legacy which he accidentally established, an appropriately ironic conclusion to his tussles with the alcohol industry.

Of course, Penderyn's whole range is fantastic and can be bought from The Whisky Shop. Wales' only store resides in the bustling capital of Cardiff and contains the whole range, featuring exclusives only accessible from the branch, including the single cask ex-Oloroso sherry bottle featured in the Spring 2023 edition of Whiskeria, of which only 151 bottles exist. With the Welsh Whisky industry coming into its golden age, there has never been a better time to try it.



## Penderyn Icons of Wales The Headliner

Welsh single malt | 46% VOL | 70cl | £62

The bottle, aged in Jamaican rum and Ruby port casks is magnificent, with an incredibly fruity nose of red berries, cranberries, and strawberries and cream, with the added aroma of oak and vanilla, lightly spiced with nutmeg and cinnamon. The palate expands on the nose, with notes of dried fruit, evolving into sweet honey and caramel with a spicy kick of black pepper followed by a tannin dryness. The finish is pleasantly sweet, blooming into a fruity yet dry aftertaste. Truly, The Headliner does the history maker which bears its name justice.

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