



O thou, my Muse! Guid auld Scotch drink,
Whether through wimplin' worms thou jink,
Or, richly brown, ream o'er the brink,
In glorious faem,
Inspire me, till I lisp and wink,
To sing thy name!

Robert Burns - Scotch Drink (1785)

Whisky

The name derives from the Gaelic "usquebaugh", meaning "Water of Life". This was phonetically transformed first into "usky", then "whisky-bar" and eventually Whisky.

Scotland has internationally protected the term "Scotch". For a whisky to be labelled Scotch it has to be both produced and matured in Scotland. The maturation must take place in oak casks for a period of at least 3 years and one day and it may not be bottled if it is less than 40% alcohol by volume.

Legend has it that St Patrick introduced distilling to Ireland in the fifth century AD and that the secrets travelled with the Dalriadic Scots when they arrived in Kintyre around AD500. St Patrick probably acquired the knowledge in Spain and France, countries that might have known the art of distilling at that time.

Types of whisky

There are two main categories of whisky – single and blended. Single means that all of the product is from a single distillery, while blended means that the product is composed of whiskies from two or more distilleries. Traditional practices define five types:

Single malt whisky is 100% malted barley whisky from one distillery, distilled in batches in pot stills.

Single grain whisky is distilled at a single distillery from water and malted barley, with or without whole grains of other cereals and must not meet the requirements of a single malt whisky.

Blended malt whisky is a blend of single malt whiskies from two or more distilleries.

Blended grain whisky is a whisky created by mixing grain whiskies from more than one distillery.

Blended Scotch whisky is a mixture of single malt whisky and grain whisky, distilled at more than one distillery.

How to drink whisky

There is no right or wrong way to drink Scotch whisky - it's all down to personal taste, however, here are a few suggestions:

Many who drink whisky neat say they do not want to spoil the taste by adding water. However, equally as many will say that adding a touch of water, serves to enhance the distinctive aroma and flavour of a whisky, softening it up to help make the individual flavours more accessible. In some areas tap water contains high amounts of chlorine and therefore would not complement a whisky, so it is best to opt for bottled mineral water, which we offer complimentary with our whiskies if you prefer (please just ask). Adding ice to a whisky can be considered a shame because it will only dull the fine taste and wonderful aromas. Similarly, carbonated water is not an ideal accompaniment for whisky as it may also interfere with the aromas.

All of our whiskies are served in 35ml 'nips' & the following tasting notes are based on the whisky being undiluted. Adding a touch of water should help you access these flavours a little more easily.

As they say in Scotland.....'Slangevar'!

THE ISLANDS

ISLAY

Ardbeg 10 Year Old (46%)

Deep peaty notes with tobacco smoke and strong espresso, plus treacle sweetness. The finish is smoky, yet sweet.
£3.60

Ardbeg Uigeadail (54.2%)

Bottled at cask strength and awarded World Whisky of the Year 2009. The nose is deep and rounded – chocolate caramels and barley sugar combine with dates, raisins and smooth sherry notes, with leather and linseed oil finishing. The taste is sweet, chewy & oily with a silky feel in the mouth – fruitcake and treacle – then barbequed food and olives. A long sweet and dry finish with honey, treacle and lint.
£5.20

Ardbeg Corryvreckan (57.1%)

Winner of the World Best Single Malt of the Year 2010. Deepest amber in colour. A heady, intense & powerful aromas, initially of tarry ropes, creosote & linseed oil – then to waxy dark chocolate, warm blackcurrants & muscovado sugar. Tastes of peppery steak, crispy seaweed & black-tarry espresso coffee. Dark fruit tastes & bitter almonds also emerge. A long, deep & powerful finish.
£6.10

Bowmore 12 Year Old (40%)

Medium-bodied, warm gold malt. Smokiness balanced by heather-honey sweetness. Chocolate, pears, citrus bouquet.
£3.40

Bowmore 15 Year Old (43%)

The colour of burnt sienna. The nose is of dark chocolate, raisins & the usual Bowmore smokiness. Tastes of Cedar wood & rich treacle toffee with a robust & warming finish, encompassing a hint of cherry tannin.
£4.60

Bruichladdich 12 Year Old (46%)

The colour of bright, golden syrup. Floral/fruit notes with soft marshmallows, Madeira cake, carnations & apple blossom, before the oak sets in. Sweet oak flavours with a small wait before the richness and the fruitiness emerge. Eventually, black cherries emerge toward the finish, which is deep and full of finesse.
£3.60

Bunnahabhain 12 Year Old (40%)

Gentle and smooth with just a hint of peat and brine. Oiliness and mocha hints on the finish.
£3.40

Bunnahabhain 18 Year Old (43%)

Beautiful & golden in colour. The nose releases honeyed nuts with a slightly sea-induced salty tang – after that, leathery oak & rich toffee. Mellow, sherried nuts & oak influence the palate. A short but pleasant finish, with burnt pastry and smoke.
£5.70

Lagavulin 16 Year Old (43%)

A huge, dry, peaty style with hints of iodine and a long, smooth finish. Notes of orange, toffee and heath all feature.
£4.40

Caol Ila 12 Year Old (43%)

Pale straw in colour. The nose is subdued with a whiff of bath oil or dentists mouthwash. A fresh & appetising nose, with no sign of any smokiness. Drinks well at natural strength with a sweet start and a slight, fragrant smokiness with a lengthy finish.
£4.00

Caol Ila 18 Year Old (43%)

A golden appearance. A nose of smoky bonfires, wet wood & soapy water. Hints of mineral oil, wax & burnt sausages. A smooth palate, with a mildly sweet start, with good acidity and sea salt. A lingering, charred & slightly sour finish.
£5.80

Laphroaig 10 Year Old (40%)

Iodine, smoke and sea air abound on the nose along with Satsuma, clove, ginger peel and vanilla pod aromas. Intense and concentrated on the palate with masses of complexity and a long, spicy finish.

£3.40

JURA

Isle of Jura 10 Year Old (40%)

Almost Highland in style with a light, well matured palate. A pleasant oily nuttiness and lingering floral notes.

£3.40

Isle of Jura Superstition (45%)

The colour is a deep, intense mahogany, with glittering sun rays. The nose is firm and positive, yet forcibly mellow. Strong accents of phenolic aromas. Rich, sensual and subtle hints of honey and marzipan. The palate is of spice, honey, pine and a peat aroma creating a dramatic impact. A long, lingering and tantalising aftertaste. A Bronze Award Winner at the 2005 International Wine & Spirit Competition.

£3.80

Isle of Jura 16 Year Old (40%)

Glassy, golden highlights. A full & rich nose with each aroma beautifully structures – silk & honey with a hint of ginger spicy in this floral bouquet. Notes of soft peaches & honey followed by a hint of citrus & marzipan. A lingering finish leaving the palate rewarded. A Bronze Award Winner at the 2004 International Wine & Spirit Competition.

£4.80

Isle of Jura Prophecy (46%)

Rich, amber gold with shimmering highlights. A lustrous copper gold & cherry wood hue. Tarry bonfire notes give way to liquorice & nutmeg. Powerful flavours of peat smoke, fresh cinnamon and spicy sea spray give way to the liquorice & nutmeg. Hints of earth, moss and peat – perhaps a touch of bonfire smoke & Arbroath smokies (kippers). Bottled in a traditional style, crafted from a selection of the finest & rarest Jura single malts, delivering an authentic taste of 1938. Voted Best in Class Silver at the 2009 International Wine & Spirit Competition.

£5.70

MULL

Tobermoray 10 Year Old (40%)

A fresh lightly peaty, smoky nose. Medium dry with a smooth and fruity tang.

£3.40

ORKNEY

Highland Park 12 Year Old (40%)

Aromas of herbs and heather, boiled sweets and a drop of full cream; all rounded off with a waft of smoky sweetness.

£3.60

Highland Park 18 Year Old (43%)

Natural colour, burnished gold, clear and bright. Aroma of mature oak with a top note of aromatic smoke. A full flavour made up of honey and peat.

£6.60

Highland Park 25 Year Old (43%)

Natural colour, dark red golden, clear and bright. Very rich aroma, mature oak, chocolate, fudge. A rich flavour of soft honey and nutty toffee.

£14.50

Scapa 16 Year Old (40%)

Deep honeyed gold in colour. The nose has a heavy, butterscotch sweetness, with dried fruit and a subtle hint of orange. A smooth & full body with a perfectly balanced palate – honey, heather & delicate spices. A very rich & long finish. Initially a very controversial whisky with the traditionalists.

£5.20

SKYE

Talisker 10 Year Old (45.8%)

A smoky nose and a sweet maltiness with a spicy and long finish.

£3.60

SPEYSIDE

Aberlour 10 Year Old (40%)

Gold in colour with a dry, fresh fruit aroma. Sweet notes of mint toffee. Smooth creamy taste, with spicy-sweet nutmeg and honey, mixed with dewy freshness of autumn fruits. A long, soft warming finish.

£3.20

(The) Balvenie 12 Year Old Double Wood (40%)

Honey, amber gold in colour. Sweet fruits, Oloroso sherry and vanilla on the nose. The palate is smooth, rich and mellow, with a nutty sweetness and hints of spices, along with the sherry notes. The finish is long and warming.

£3.60

(The) Balvenie 21 Year Old Port Wood (40%)

Golden amber. A perfume of fruity and ripe raisin notes, backed by a nutty dryness. The palate is refined with remarkable character – creamy & silky with fruit, honey & spice notes. A long, gentle & nutty finish.

£6.90

Benromach (40%)

Straw yellow. The nose consists of citrus fruits with a hint of honey and pine resin. Peaty, malty notes in the background. The taste is smoky with cereal and malt flavours, which dries up with spicy/peppery notes, followed with a floral edge. A slightly sweet finish with a hint of smoke and malt.

£3.40

Cardhu 12 Year Old (40%)

Pale, light amber colour. Medium bodies with a hint of sweetness and peat. The taste is smooth, light to medium. Malty sweetness with a hint of peat. A long, lingering and sweet finish with some peat coming through.

£4.00

Cragganmore 12 Year Old (40%)

A delicate and smooth malt with a bouquet of herbal flowers. Smoky maltiness to the finish, which is long and dry.

£3.60

Dalwhinnie 15 Year Old (43%)

A crisp, dry aromatic nose, then soft flavours of heather, honey-sweetness, malt and citrus-fruits lead to a lingering, sweet finish and finally more smoke, peat and malt.

£3.80

Glenfarclas 10 Year Old (40%)

Wonderful combination of biscuits and cream, with hints of peat and perfume.

£3.60

Glenfiddich 12 Year Old (40%)

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

£3.40

Glenfiddich 18 Year Old (40%)

An inviting oaky perfume, with lots of mango, banana, some sherry sweetness, and backed up by a delicate complexity.

£5.80

(The) Glenlivet 12 Year Old (40%)

The nose is remarkably flowery, clean and soft. The body is light to medium, firm and smooth. Flowery, peachy, notes of vanilla, delicate balance between sweetness & malty dryness. A long and warming finish.

£3.40

Glen Moray 12 Year Old (40%)

Mid-golden colour. A sweet, fruity and floral aroma, with notes of Highland toffee and candy floss with honeycomb and sweet malt. Herbal top notes are discovered with heather and brambles. A smooth, warming and rounded taste with a good firm body. Lots of sweet, soft malty flavours evolve in the centre of the palate, surrounded by toffee and mouth watering fruits (blackcurrants and dried apricots). Boiled sweets reach the roof of the mouth before the emergence of liquorice, tea and nut oil. A medium length finish with toffee, blackcurrants and a hint of liquorice.

£3.60

(The) Glenrothes 1991 (43%)

Autumn gold, clear & bright in colour. The nose is rich, with a mature aroma of berry fruits, vanilla & white chocolate. The palate is soft & mature, with coconut, vanilla & butterscotch notes. A long, vanilla-sweet finish. Opens up exceptionally well with water.

£4.80

Knockando 12 Year Old (43%)

Pale gold in colour. Sweet and aromatic with light nutty notes. Light and smooth body – a little creamy. Delicate in the mouth, soft and fruity with a hint of almonds. A smooth finish – toffee and creamy notes, becoming drier.

£3.40

Linkwood 12 Year Old (43%)

Gold in colour. The nose is ripe fruit with a light, malty touch. A malty, fruit taste with a hint of honey. A pleasant malty finish.

£4.20

Longmorn 16 Year Old (45%)

Old-gold in colour. The nose is of cream, spice, toffee apples and honey. Medium bodied in the mouth, displaying fudge, butter and lots of spice. The finish is quite long, with oak and lingering spices towards the end.

£4.70

(The) Macallan 10 Year Old Sherry Oak (40%)

Pale gold in colour. A hint of sweet toffee, balanced with dried fruits and sherry. A smooth palate with dried fruits, sherry sweetness and wood smoke. A hint of wood spice on the finish, along with toffee and dried fruits.

£3.30

(The) Macallan 10 Year Old Fine Oak (43%)

Pale straw in colour. The nose is complex, with hints of heather honey. Soft on the palate, with a maltiness, balanced with oak and fruit. A lingering finish with hints of oak and fruit.

£3.30

(The) Macallan 18 Year Old (43%)

The colour is light mahogany. Dried fruits and ginger with a hint of citrus, vanilla and cinnamon. The palate consists of rich dried fruits, clove, spice, orange and smoke wood. The finish consists of full dried fruits and sweet toffee, with a hint of ginger and wood smoke.

£6.40

Strathisla 12 Year Old (43%)

Amber gold. An oaky nose, with hints of sherry and citrus fruits. A full and dry taste with pleasant honey hints. A long pleasurable finish.

£3.60

Tamdhu (40%)

Bright gold in colour. A flowery, faintly lemon nose, with cereal and grain. The palate is clean and sweet – very slightly toffeeish. A flowery finish with a hint of peat.

£3.60

Tomatin 12 Year old (40%)

Gold in colour. Rich malt and fruity aromas, with a hint of peatiness. Sweet in taste – a mix of apples and pears and malt with a hint of nuttiness and sherry wood. A long and warm spicy finish.

£3.40

HIGHLANDS

An Cnoc 12 Year Old (40%)

The nose is soft, very aromatic with a hint of honey and lemon in the foreground. Sweet to start with, the palate has an appetising fruitiness and a long smooth finish.

£3.60

Balblair Elements (40%)

Pale straw in colour, similar to Chardonnay. A light, fresh nose with a hint of autumn mist. The taste is sweet to start, with an appetising citrus tinge and a slightly peaty note as it slides over the tongue.

£3.40

Balblair 1997 (43%)

Subtly amber in appearance with rose-golden highlights. Aromas of pineapple, apricot & lemon. Hints of oak, spice & raisin in taste, with a vanilla sweetness. A long, lingering & creamy smooth finish.

£3.80

Balblair 1898 (43%)

Mid-amber with honey-gold highlights. A full-bodied malt with aromas of raisin, green apple & hints of banana and lemon. On the palate there are raisins and fruit with a rich spiciness, leading to a long, complex & smooth finish.

£4.80

Blair Athol 12 Year Old (43%)

Gold in colour with a sweet, smoky and ginger nose. The taste is sweet and fruity – a slow start develops into a prolonged explosion. The length of finish is average, sweet with a hint of smoke.

£4.00

Clynelish 14 Year Old (43%)

A delightfully complex spicy and perfumed nose, with some floral and malty hints. The palate is multi-layered, with some slight citrus hints on a background of honey with peat and delicious spices. The finish is honey with a trace of brine.

£4.00

(The) Dalmore 12 Year Old (40%)

Deep golden mahogany in colour with orange marmalade and aromatic spicy on the nose. Elegant and rich on the palate with concentrated citrus, Oloroso sherry and hints of sweet vanilla pod. A complex finish.

£3.60

(The) Dalmore Gran Reserva (40%)

Deep, golden mahogany. A firm and positive aroma – elegant and refined – notes of citrus, heavy fruits, balanced out with soft sherry tones. The strong malty flavours tantalise the tongue, covering it with a cloak of classic flavours which linger long in the mouth. Marmalade and Christmas cake with subtle hints of roasted coffee and chocolate. The finish is of ripe oranges and lemon peel – zesty. Allow time in the mouth to fully appreciate.

£4.20

(The) Dalmore 15 Year Old (40%)

Good attack on the palate – elegant and refined. The aged Matusalem, Apostoles and Amoroso Oloroso sherry butts deliver a rich and aromatic heart full of dried spices – cloves, cinnamon and ginger. A concentrated citrus mouth-feel tantalises the middle part of the tongue, with Seville orange, lemon and lime. An almost perfect single malt – great distinction.

£4.60

(The) Dalmore 30 Year Old (42%)

The nose is intense orange zest with hints of African cinnamon, Swiss chocolate and ripe bananas from the tropics. Classic tones of liquorice, crushed ripe apples and rich Java coffee drift softly in the background. The taste is a complex fusion of flavours over Seville orange peel and bitter Swiss chocolate with notes of dried fruits and walnuts from.

£16.50

Edradour 10 Year Old (40%)

Golden in colour with a hint of sugared almonds and Oloroso in the nose. The taste is smooth, creamy and lightly malty. A mellow and warming finish.

£3.60

Fettercairn 12 Year Old (40%)

Some sherry notes on the nose, with a hint of cereal and malt elements. A sweet, nutty aroma develops. Peppery with spicy elements on the palate – hints of liquorice. Malty with a subtle chocolate sweetness.

£3.60

Fettercairn Fior (42%)

A limited-release whisky. Honey-gold in colour, with aromas of crushed pear, toffee apple & hints of vanilla and cinnamon. A hint of peat smoke, nuts and orange complete the nose. The taste is bold, dark chocolate, roasted coffee beans & peat smoke. Other smaller flavours are marzipan, sherry trifle, pineapple, mint & nutmeg. Try picking them out! A lingering finish.

£4.00

Fettercairn 24 Year Old (44.4%)

Deep mahogany gold with amber copper highlights. The nose is of grapes, apples & pears, followed by oatcakes, freshly made bread & caramel. A positive & firm taste, which is elegant & distinguished – soft fruits, followed by nutmeg, peaches & spice. Only 6000 bottles ever produced.

£11.50

Fettercairn 30 Year Old (43.3%)

Warm honey gold with shimmering sandy highlights. A rich & pleasing nose, made up of marmalade, ground coffee & in lesser effect crushed almonds, marzipan & spice. Matured for 30 years in the finest wooden casks, you can also taste the influence of the Oloroso sherry from the cask. Citrus fruits, sweet mango & wild berries tease the tongue with subtle hints of pineapple, tangy grapefruit & cranberries. A long-tasting & memorable finish. Only 3000 bottles ever produced.

£16.50

Glen Garioch 15 Year Old (43%)

Our local whisky. Incense-like on the nose – perfumy, parma violets, heather. Quite a rich palate but becomes drier & more spicy. The flavour develops for quite some time. The finish is more emphatic with peat and spiciness.

£4.20

Glen Garioch 21 Year Old (43%)

Again, our local whisky, which is a copper coloured and full-bodied malt. Light sherry and oak is on the palate. Floral notes mingle with the malty sweet syrup flavours. The finish is mellow and warming. A critically-acclaimed malt that is now almost impossible to find.

£10.50

Glengoyne 10 Year Old (40%)

Golden yellow - clear and bright. A sweet nose with toffee and popcorn aromas. Slightly nutty, with fresh green apples coming through. Warming in the mouth with the initial taste being 'clean'. Green apples and grass with a hint of sweet liquorice come through. A sweet and malty finish.

£3.60

Glenmorangie 10 Year Old (40%)

Yellow gold colour. A rich nose – flower and spicy hints with some vanilla wood notes. The taste confirms the nose – delicate honey wood taste with a subtle hint of nuttiness. The finish is smooth and relatively long.

£3.40

Glenmorangie 18 Year Old (43%)

The colour is gold-yellow. The nose detects wax and cereals (malt). The mouth, nearby cereals develops on ripe fruits (pear). The oily finish reveals honey and sweet spices. The particularity of this malt is it's finishing for 6 months in new barrels (this does not happen often in Scotland).

£8.50

Glenmorangie 25 Year Old (43%)

The aroma is a pleasurable mix of the late summer scent of fruit orchards laden with cherries, plums and hedgerow blackberries that is melded with lavish chocolate and coffee tones followed by the sudden, icy clarity of fresh wild mint. The taste is big and full-flavoured, the effect is mouth-watering, chewy and then lightly mouth-coating. An intense and warm finish, heady with brambles and spices that melts softly away.

£16.50

Glenmorangie 30 Year Old (43%)

A very special nose - watercress and walnut skin, with some notes of Darjeeling tea. Very subtle. The mouth is rounded, sweet but nervous and complex. Some nice notes of ripe bananas, fructose, tropical fruits, getting quite smoky, spicy and gingery. This one is pure pleasure.

£19.50

Glenturret 10 Year Old (40%)

A malty nose with fresh fruit aromas. Some herbal notes and a slight floral element. Sweet and spicy on the palate - dried grass, leafy. Floral and fruity notes combine.

£3.60

Oban 14 Year Old (43%)

Olive gold. The nose is rich and full of sweetness – lemons, oranges and pears, with sea-salt and smoky peatiness. A rich and full body, with a mouth-filling taste of late autumn fruits - dried figs and honey-sweet spices; followed by a smoky malty dryness. A long, smooth-sweet finish with oak-wood, dryness and a grain of salt.

£4.20

Old Pulteney 12 Year Old (40%)

Deep amber in colour - red gold (with a slight pink hue). The nose has medium to high intensity and complexity - dry with a hint of sea air. Dry, medium bodied and smooth in taste - faintly salty with a slight sherry note. Elegant touches of smoke and peat. A clean, dry finish.

£3.30

Old Pulteney 17 Year Old (46%)

Red amber in colour with a rich autumnal hue. Sweet on the nose with traces of apples & pears – slightly woody with a hint of butterscotch. A full-bodied palate, with hints of vanilla and floral notes in the background. A long-lasting and memorable finish. An outstanding nip for after dinner.

£4.80

Tullibardine 10 Year Old (40%)

An easy drinking malt and an ideal pre-dinner appetiser. Smooth and mellow on the palate with a fruity flavour and has a clean crisp finish. The nose is a fresh, floral scent with hints of vanilla and chocolate orange.

£3.60

LOWLAND

Auchentoshen 10 Year Old (40%)

Gold in colour with an excellent aroma for a 10 year old. It is medium bodied, soft and fresh with a hint of oak. A clean and fruity palate and a delicate sweet finish.

£3.40

Glenkinchie 12 Year Old (43%)

Bright gold in colour. The nose is aromatic and flowery with noticeable hints of vanilla, cut flowers and a deep down hint of toast. It becomes increasingly sweet and creamy, with a light aromatic edge of lemon. A light and smooth body. The palate starts sweet, like crème anglais, yet swiftly becomes flowery with a very smooth delivery. A crisp mid-palate before the taste settles into butter-icing and lemon cheesecake. The finish is herbal and dry, bringing to mind pot pourri.

£3.60

Springbank 10 Year Old (46%)

The nose is orchard fruit (pear) with a hint of peat, vanilla and malt. The palate is malt, oak, spice, nutmeg and cinnamon, vanilla essence. A sweet finish with a lingering salty tingle.

£3.60

OLDER WHISKIES (Non Malt)

Ben Nevis 40 Year Old Single Blend (40%)

The colour of straw. The nose starts very fragrantly, almost perfumy. Lots of marzipan, kirsch, maraschino, rosewater. Nice notes of orange-scented candles, salted butter caramel, very old orange liqueurs. Sweet and rounded to the taste - notes of dried tangerines, sultanas, amaretti, marzipan. An extremely rare whisky.

£9.20