



WHISKY

In the cooler parts of the world, where fruit can be hard to grow, people learnt how to distil grain. The earliest recorded whiskies come from Ireland in the 15th century. The name “whisky” comes from the Gaelic uisge beathe – “water of life”, which is thought to refer to fact that the drink was once valued for its supposed medicinal properties.

Whisky can generally be divided into two categories. Blended and single malt. Single malt whisky is made only from malted barley (no other grains) and at a single distillery. The majority of the world’s malt distilleries (about 100) are in Scotland. Single malt whiskies typically display all the personality and traits of their geographic origins. Blended whiskies by contrast, are created by mixing together a range of malt and grain whiskies to give a uniform spirit with a desired colour, flavour and character. Approximately only 4% of the world’s whisky production is devoted to single malt whisky.

Most of the whisky stocked at the Dispensary is single malt whisky.

Malt whisky is created by steeping grain in spring water, which can impart distinct characteristics to the spirit; for example, water from Islay (southwestern Scotland) gives peaty flavours, and water from the Highlands (central-eastern Scotland) gives notes of heather. The moistened grains are then left to germinate, traditionally on a “malting floor”, although many whisky makers are now using mechanised systems. During germination, starch in the grain is converted to sugar – the raw material for fermentation. Once the grains have sprouted, they are dried in a kiln – a process that also adds flavour to the final product. The dried grain, or malt, is then ground, and infused in hot water. The infused liquid is run off and the whisky-maker adds yeast to begin the fermentation process. It is this liquid, called “the wash”, which is distilled to make malt whisky.

Each country has its own rules and regulations regarding the processes that are needed to be able to label the final spirit a certain way.

There are many countries now producing world class single malt whisky. Scotland may always be the historical home of great malt whisky and it certainly provides the lions share of distilleries, but there are many other great whisky producing countries contributing to the amazing world of whisky. Ireland, Canada, USA, Australia, Wales, New Zealand and Japan are just some of the countries now producing world class whisky.

*“Too much of anything is bad, but too much good whiskey is barely enough.”
-Mark Twain*

SPEYSIDE

This is "THE" malt whisky making region of Scotland. Speyside is an intensely populated malt distillery heaven. Over half of Scotland's distillers are located within its boundaries. It has sweeping valleys, fresh sea air and some of the biggest names in the world of whisky. Named after the river Spey which runs through the region. The granite mountains give rise to soft water, which often flows over heathery moorlands.

The Speyside single malts are noted in general for their elegance; flowery, heather-honey notes; and sometimes a restrained fragrant peatiness. Beyond that, they have two extremes: the big sherryish type, as typified by Macallan, Glenfarclas & Aberlour; and the more subtle style, as shown by Knockando & Glenlivet.

The diversity of Speyside whiskies is what makes them so great. make sure you try a few from different distilleries.

AN CNOC 12 Year old

40%

\$10

Brand new, sweet, gingery and peppery malt from the Knockdhu distillery. The nose is lush and full of barley sugar, cereal, toffee fudge, espresso, creamy malt extract and herbal notes with a touch of something feinty. The palate is buttery and rich. Notes of apple crumble and Madeira, toffee fudge, malt extract and bourbon. There are hints of honeyed cereals.

MACALLAN - 12 Year old double cask

40%

\$13

Mac is back! At least Macallan age statement whisky that is. Matured in a combination of American and European Sherry oak almost 50:50, though slightly weighted towards American oak ex-Sherry casks. New oak is shipped from America across to Spain, where expert Coopers craft casks. These casks are then sherry seasoned before traveling to the Speyside distillery to mature for twelve years.

MACALLAN - Edition 2.

48%

\$23

Edition No.2 is a collaboration between master blender Bob Delgarno and legendary Spanish chefs Joan, Josep and Jordi Roca. This is a deliciously floral and fruity whisky with notes of tropical fruit, black pepper, liquorice and brandy snaps. Makes a old fashioned.

MACALLAN - Edition 3.

48%

\$23

Aroma is an integral part of the whisky tasting experience, which is why Macallan Edition No. 3 so seems like a good idea to create it in conjunction with Roja Dove, one of the most respected 'noses' in the perfume industry. A blend of six cask types, this whisky has the complex aromas of a fine fragrance, with notes of flowers, vanilla ice cream and orange oil leading into chocolate and oak. Another ripper. .

MACALLAN - Edition 4.

48%

\$23

Master Distiller, Nick Savage describes this latest edition released in 2018 as "A truly spectacular single malt, delivering a rounded honey and sweet toffee aroma and an intense burst of nutmeg wood spices on the palate... the combination of carefully selected sherry-seasoned oak casks brings out unique refreshing qualities delivering an unforgettable whisky experience". Don't taker his word for it jump on this extremely limited allocation before it's all gone!

GLEN GRANT - 10 Year Old,

46%

\$10

The nose is quite clean and crisp. There are some gristy cereal notes with rubbed petals and a pastry note. A milky note emerges with a little marmalade. The palate is quite smooth and of medium-body. Notes of oily nuts and barley with some bourbon notes. There are hints malt extract and caramel sweetness. The finish is of medium length with chewy oak Bourbon wood, malty, spicy with very orangey fruit. A delight.

GLENFIDDICH - Project XX

47%

\$16

Glenfiddich Project XX in the second release in the experimental series and was created when 20 of the industry's most exceptional minds came together to create this truly unique, pioneering expression. Warm summer fruit aromas with sweet candyfloss and liquorice notes. Experiment with a flake of sea salt on the side to heighten the taste.

THE HIGHLANDS

Geographically, this is the largest whisky making region. Malts vary widely in taste – from the “salty” coasts of the north to the “spicy” lands of the east. Because of the vastness of the region and the minimal scattered distilleries, it is difficult to generalise about their character. Some have very exposed locations.

If Highland whiskies have anything in common, it is a firm, dry character, with some peatiness and saltiness. Glenmorangie is probably the most well known of the Highland distilleries.

A veritable feast of malt just waiting to be explored.

AUCHNAGIE - The Lost Distillery Series

46%

\$21

See below. Very sweet to taste at bottled strength, with considerable spice across the tongue and a warming, medium-length finish. Fruity boiled sweets in the aftertaste. At reduced strength it is less sweet and less spicy, but remains fruity with a trace of vanilla sponge.

OBAN - 14 Year Old

43%

\$17

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

GLENMORANGIE - 18 Year Old

46%

\$22

A wonderfully creamy and thick 18 year old dram, matured for 15 years in ex bourbon casks before being finished in Oloroso sherry casks. Pale gold colour. Moderate aromatics offer seamlessly integrated scents of sweet, delicately peated cereals, subtle citrus notes (mandarine, grape fruit) followed by a touch of spearmint. Long biscuity, orange cake-like aftertaste. A wonderfully fresh Glenmorangie expression.

"The water was not fit to drink. To make it palatable, we had to add whisky. By diligent effort, I learned to like it."

- Winston Churchill

ISLAY (PRONOUNCED EYE-LUH)

Islay is a truly special place for malt whisky lovers. Only 40 km's long with eight distilleries (one of which went out of production in 1983 - Port Ellen), its whisky is known for smokiness & phenolic traits. These are the heavyweights of the whisky world.

- ARBEG We've Arrived Renaissance - 10 Year Old** 55.9% **\$58**
Final bottling in the Ardbeg lead up series. Big and medicinal nose, with an iodine-like quality and a full richness with gentle citric notes. On the palate it's sharp and smoky, there is a lanolin coating and a big, potent peat exuding exceptional balance. It finishes long with good character, a bitter edge creeps in with a nuttiness and moist cocoa. A monster of complex smoke, minerals & peat. Bottled 2008. Now extremely rare.
- LAPHROAIG - Quarter Cask** 48.0% **\$19**
The Quarter Cask is a strong, double cask matured, non-chill filtered malt from the iconic Islay distillery, Laphroaig. With a nose of burning peat embers and hints of coconut and bananas that is then followed by a palate that is deep and complex with smoky flavours. Still quite gentle with a hint of sweetness, this 48% Single Malt has a long, spicy and smoky finish that seems to last an eternity.
- LAGAVULIN 16 Year Old** 43.0% **\$17**
More like Lapsang Souchong tea than Lapsang Souchong! One of the smokiest noses from Islay. It's big, very, very concentrated, and redolent of iodine, sweet spices, good, mature sherry and creamy vanilla. Stunning. Very thick and rich. A massive mouthful of malt and sherry with good fruity sweetness, but also a wonderful sweetness. Big, powerful peat and oak. Finishes long, spicy finish, figs, dates, peat smoke, vanilla. Considered by many as one of the finest drams on earth. Who am I to argue? A veritable peat monster.
- BRUICHLADDICH - 2010 Islay barley** 50.0% **\$15**
From Bruichladdich comes an unpeated single malt Scotch whisky distilled from barely by eight family farms local to Islay. Aged in a combination of bourbon and French-wine casks, the Bruichladdich Islay Barley 2010 uses 100% Scottish barely and is un-chill filtered and of natural colour. The final product, bottled at 50% ABV at the distillery with Islay spring water, marks a really interesting release at a very reasonable per lick.
- CAOL ILA (pronounced cull-eela) 12 Year Old** 46.0% **\$14**
Caol Ila is Gaelic for "the Sound of Islay" (the strait separating that island from the Isle of Jura). This Caol Ila is sweet on the nose, with slight mango and vanilla notes. The palate is smooth, and chewy with the return of vanilla and oak. Citrus and peat to take you in to a beautiful finish which is warm, summery and long. This dram is young, fresh, briny and laden with kelp. Awesome.
- KILCHOMAN - 7th Edition** 50.0% **\$19**
Kilchoman was the first new distillery to be established on Islay in over 124 years. The distillery was founded in 2005 by Anthony Wills and is Islay's only farm distillery. Kilchoman is one of the few whisky distilleries in Scotland to remain independent. The fun part is that Kilchoman's 100% Islay range remains the only Islay single malt produced completely on site, from barley to bottle. Aromas of oak shavings, menthol and camphor gradually yield to a sweeter undercurrent of cocoa, cream sponge cake and semi-ripe banana.
- BRUICHLADDICH - Classic Laddie** 50.0% **\$13**
Possibly one of the last Laddie Classics created under the supervision of Master Distiller, Jim McEwan. This edition was produced from 100% Scottish barley and sees the ABV upped to 50%, but like previous expressions, it's matured in American oak casks and chosen to represent the classic, unpeated distillery style.
- BRUICHLADDICH - Octomore 08.1** 59.3% **\$29**
The spirit of Octomore has been defying logic for over fifteen years. The "what if" moment that once seemed almost absurd has progressively morphed into something endlessly alluring. It begat liquid like no other, an elusive collection, the stuff of legend! A PEATED MONSTER! Alright I'll Chill, but geez this stuff almost makes me move up north. 100% matured in first fill American oak casks 8 years old. One for all you peat freaks out there.
- BRUICHLADDICH - Octomore 07.3** 63.0% **\$29**
The second limited release of Octomore made from local barley grown two miles along the coast from the distillery at farmer James Brown's "Octomore" farm. Sourced from Lorgba field, it was distilled in 2010, peated to 169ppm and matured in x-bourbon barrels as well as Spanish wine casks from Ribera del Duero. As you'd expect from Bruichladdich, uber provenance, uber experimental and all natural. The peat is down compared to some previous editions but, the quality is better than ever. This happens to be a favourite of ours but more importantly the favourite edition to date according to James Brown.

ISLAY (PRONOUNCED EYE-LUH) CONT...

BRUICHLADDICH - Black Arts 6.1

46.9%

\$49

Black Art 6.1 has a special significance for Bruichladdich's new head distiller. From the moment Jim McEwan began supervising his protege, Adam Hannett was in contact with the casks for this bottling. In a way, they're Hannett's babies, having grown up with him since he took over. Not surprisingly, when the time came to choose the casks to be batched for Black Art 6.1, it was an exciting time. It's also the aspect of whisky creating he loves most: "There are no fixed rules, you follow your instinct." Chocolate, apricot, pineapple, classic exotic fruits from well-aged Bruichladdich tell of the quality and balance of oak and spirit. The oak speaks of its quality now with brown sugar, ginger nut biscuits, toffee, orange scented caramel and a velvet tobacco finish.

BRUICHLADDICH - Bere Barley 2008

50.0%

\$15

Made with Bere barley, which has a much lower yield than other varieties. For the 2008 vintage Bere Barley Bruichladdich (a phrase which actually rolls off the tongue rather enjoyably), the barley was actually harvested on Orkney! From one island to another, all to make this light, sweet, refined expression. Floral honeysuckle and fresh curd tart with plenty of vanilla cream and light oak.

CAMPBELTOWN

With only a few operational distilleries on the peninsula, at one time Campbelltown was "the" major whisky producing region, with 34 distilleries. The spirit is still held in high regard today and rightly deserves a heading of its own.

HAZELBURN - 8 Year Old

46.0%

\$21

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

SPRINGBANK 1997 Batch 1

55.2%

\$45

Clean with some cut hay notes, herbal tones and notes of damp moss and earthen roots, hints of tropical fruit and dried leafs. Some notes of dried cereals and a hint of Eastern spice. Pungent and full. Notes of tangerine juice and sugar, hints of lime, buttery barley and malt extract. There are some hints of smoked toffee with cream and sea weed. Winter spice develops with juicy sultana. Long and quite fresh with a little vanilla spice on the end.

SPRINGBANK 1997 Batch 2

54.9%

\$28

After the runaway success of 2007's first bottling, hopes were high for version 2.0 – so we were delighted to find another stunner. This is less sweet and more sooty and savoury than the first batch. A triumph, again.

LONGROW 10 Year Old 100 proof

57.0%

\$21

Clean and highly peated style. Often confused for Islay in blind tastings. A little unruly with a true fire in it's belly. Coconut, pine cone and charred embers.

LONGROW 7 Year Old, Gaja Barolo Cask

55.8%

\$23

The nose is quite citrusy, there are notes of zest and marmalade and hints of Parfait Amour. There are some tangerine notes with limes and dried fruits. Some sugared peels and crystallized stem ginger creep in. There is a gentle building peat, its quite thick but with a freshness. The palate is quite thick and full and, at first, slightly austere. There are notes of the cask, mostly in the mouthfeel, as is so often the case, but there is an exuberance of winter spice and pepper from the rich oak. Notes of peat rise with peppered heat. The finish is long and big-bodied with a hint of zest. Now discontinued

LONGROW CV

46.0%

\$17

On the nose there is smoke, cut fennel, spearmint and grass, followed by peat and touches of the coast. The palate is spicy, peaty, with hints of lemon zest, cutting lime, toffee, and lots of oily smoke. It finishes long, peaty, spicy and is clearly oak driven. Now discontinued.

ISLANDS

The islands of Scotland are renowned for their exposure to the natural elements. The character of these malts lies somewhere between the Highland and Islay regions.

Grouping the following whiskies under their own "Island" category is a little contentious, as many believe that most of these whiskies should be grouped with The Highlands. But very few have any real regional differences. The peppery heat of Talisker has little in common with the natural balance and sophistication of Highland Park.

HIGHLAND PARK - Svein 40.0% **\$14**

The first for us for the "warrior" series that continues to celebrate Orkney's rich Nordic History. Seven is named after the legendary Viking leader known for his fiery temper but also for his boundless hospitality. The whisky is matured predominately in ex-American oak casks, which has resulted in plenty of orange oil, vanilla, caramel and peppery oak, along with plenty of smoke.

HIGHLAND PARK - Valkyrie 40.0% **\$17**

For Viking warriors, death was not an end, but a glorious beginning. And it began with the Valkyries. Valkyrie, in Norse mythology, was a female figure or spirit that had the power to choose which Viking warriors would die in battle and be taken to join Odin's army. The flavour profile of Valkyrie dials up the Orkney peat resulting in a richer level of honey sweetness on the palate than their Highland Park 12. a combination of first fill American oak sherry, Bourbon and Spanish oak sherry casks as well as a selection of refill casks. Best served in the skull of ones enemy.

ISLE OF JURA Heavily Peated 1999, 5 Year Old, by Matthew Forrest 61.3% **\$23**

A no holds barred bruiser. Definitely not out to caress and soothe a wounded and tired palate. Simple, direct and straight to the point. You have been warned.

HIGHLAND PARK - 25 Year Old 48.1% **\$19**

Boasting 'the northernmost Scotch whisky Distillery in the World' in Kirkwall, Orkney, the Highland Park Distillery has an intriguing history of illicit distilling and smuggling. Highland Park 18 and Highland Park 25 year old are some of the oldest regularly supplied releases available in Scotch Whisky, a triumph in a time of desparity that is paying dividends. Like kids at christmas when we unboxed this, and much like some kids at christmas we opened it a few days before we were supposed to as we just couldn't wait! Uniquely complex and confident with such honey and slight smoke. A bucket list dram if ever there was one.

LOWLAND

The first stage of the malt whisky "journey of discovery". The lowlands represents a great introduction to whisky. Light and sweet in flavour, they make excellent aperitifs. Soft and grassy in flavour, the best have suggestions of lemon grass and maltiness, untempered by Highland heatheriness or costal seaweed and brine.

AUCHENTOSHAN 12 Year Old 40.0% **\$11**

Triple Distilled and matured for over 12 years. The signature nose of crème brulee, a burst of citrus and the nuttiness and green leafiness of Auchentoshan. of nuttiness with a smooth palate that is sweet, with hints of tangerine and lime. It finishes gingery and slightly drying, with a pleasant lingering nuttiness

STRATHEDEN - The Lost Distillery Series 46.0% **\$21**

In the last century, almost one hundred (nearly half) of Scotland's malt whisky distilleries have been closed or destroyed. The LOST DISTILLERY Archive Team studies key components that would have influenced the character of some of these long lost whiskies. They then use current day malts (average age 15 years) to reconstruct how the whiskies would taste if they were still made today. This distillery closed in 1926. This is a faithful reproduction of the way their whisky would have tasted. This one is made with a Lowland malt base and uses peat from Orkney. Toffee sweet with a dominant creme brulee and butterscotch attack. Some dates, some almonds and a hint of something musky and floral. Quite generous in it's approach. Creamy smooth and is like stuffing your face with a fruit basket of apples, pears, oranges and bananas. All at the same time. Quite a colorful fruity pounding. One which puts a smile on your face.

AMERICAN

All bourbon is whiskey, but not all whiskey is bourbon. Or so goes the mantra sung loudly by parochial Americans. Corn, rye and sour mash whiskeys are made across the U.S., but the heart of American whiskey lies in Kentucky. The county and the drink are named after the French royal family in recognition of their support for American independence. In order for a spirit to be called a straight bourbon whiskey, it must be made from fermented mash of no less than 51% corn & aged for at least two years in new charred white oak barrels.

MAKERS MARK 40.4% **\$10**
Soft corn and firm rye combine to make this a unique style. Some walnut, honey and treacle. A great everyday quaffer, without too much depth of flavour or complexity.

WOODFORD RESERVE 43.2% **\$12**
The mashbill for Woodford Reserve features a high percentage of rye: 72% corn, 18% rye and 10% malt. Unusual also for being triple distilled and having the lowest proof upon entering the barrel where it matures for at least six years. The nose is quite thick and creamy. There are notes of honey and spice, leather, a touch of cocoa, a little smoke, toasty oak and vanilla cream with a hint of butterscotch. The palate is thick and full. There are notes of espresso beans, winter spice, cereal sweetness, plenty of rye, ground ginger, almond oil, toasty oak and a little rum. The finish is long and mature with notes of cereals and toasty oaken spice. A must have Kentucky bourbon. Makes a wonderful Old-Fashioned cocktail. Truly magnificent whiskey. Affordable and luxurious. "The Desert Island" whiskey.

JACK DANIELS 40.0% **\$10**
Produced in Lynchburg Tennessee, Jack Daniels is the highest selling American Whiskey in the world. Its distinct taste comes from refining the distilled whiskey through 10 feet of sugar maple charcoal. The distilled whiskey is then matured in American Oak before being blended to achieve the iconic taste. Affectionally referred to a "bourboiz'.

EAGLE RARE 45.0% **\$13**
Made by Buffalo trace in Kentucky, the same folks that produce the Pappy Van Range, expect a well rounded sweet spice, orange peel and rich Corinthian leather. Well maybe not Corinthian leather but at least you granddads old wallet.

SAZERAC 45.0% **\$15**
Sazerac Rye dates back to the 1800's and symbolizes the tradition and history of New Orleans saloons. It was at the Sazerac Coffee House on Royal Street where local patrons were served toddies made with Rye whiskey and Peychaud's Bitters. The libation became know as the "Sazerac" and America's first branded cocktail was born.

WILD TURKEY - Masters Keep 43.4% **\$27**
Seventeen years is old for a bourbon, but Master's Keep spent a lot of those years in stone warehouses, which are more forgiving than the more common wooden storehouses, slowing down maturation and allowing the liquid to spend more time in cask. The result is a moreish, chewy bourbon with plenty of cinnamon and green almond. Remarkably fresh given its age. Alright, alright, alright, alright.

GEORGE DICKLE - No.12 45.0% **\$10**
We fell in love with this as we toured the USA in 2018. Copper gold colour. Toasted marshmallow and spicy oak aromas develop with lifted pepper notes. Flavours of candied peach, cocoa and nicely balanced sweet oak turning lightly smokey at the finish. Full flavoured, easy drinking Tennessee that's priced right! Best consumed in Honky Tonks at 3AM.

IRISH

Made slightly differently differently from Scottish whisky, the Irish use a high proportion of raw, unmalted barley, and it is usually distilled three times to Scotch's two. This usually results in a smoother taste and lighter coloration. Along with the Americans, the Irish spell whiskey with an "e", unlike all other countries.

JAMESON - Triple Distilled 40.0% **\$10**

The nose is full and floral with a smooth sweetness. Marmalade and fudge, Madeira and a little cut grass note. The palate is thick and of good body with notes of orchard fruits, both fresh and cooked with a little vanilla cream. The finish is of medium-length with spice and honey Unique grain texture and palate. More spice than most and a great lengthy finish.

JAMESON - Deconstructed Series - Bold 40.0% **\$14**

Jameson Bold is pot still perfection. With a heavy emphasis of pot still distillate; this blend lets you know it's a chip off the old block. Bold has an undoubted spiciness which and gives fruit and spice notes centre stage. For a whiskey that lives up to its name, Jameson Bold makes a Bold entrance.

JAMESON - Deconstructed Series - Livley 40.0% **\$14**

Jameson Lively is a whiskey that goes with the grain. While pot still whiskey is still part of the blend, this whiskey unlocks the grain whiskey element resulting in a light touch and fresher, greener notes. With zesty vanilla, citrus and floral notes floating above all others, the delicate side of Jameson is placed front and centre. For a whiskey that lives up to its name, Jameson Lively leaps to life.

AUSTRALIAN

Tasmania has just about everything you need to make good whisky: water, barley, even peat (although it's different to that found in Scotland).

No wonder then that the Australian single malt renaissance was kick-started here by the pioneering Bill Lark, then expanded by a number of other producers, including Overeem's distinctive small-cask operation, Hellyers Road, Sullivans Cove and more recently Starward in Melbourne.

STARWARD – Malt Whisky 43.0% **\$14**

Rich amber in colour. Aroma of ripe orchard fruits, pears, bananas and apples with raisins and dried figs. Caramel and vanilla balance the bright fruit. The palate is filled with rich, toasty caramel, crème brulee, more fruit, pepper and sandalwood, A full, sweet, juicy mouthfeel, with a youthful, spicy, dry finish. A really wonderful way to finish a meal.

23RD STREET - Hybrid Whisk(e)y 42.3% **\$10**

Head Distiller Graham Buller collected barrels of Scotch whisky and American Bourbon whiskey, with a aim of creating his idea of a perfect blend. The Scotch has an average of five years barrel maturation and the Bourbon two, while the final blend has gone back into bourbon barrels for finishing.

UPSHOT 43.0% **\$12**

Released from Whipper Snapper Distillery in Kensington W.A. Upshot Whiskey is an Australian expression of a Bourbon, Using 100% West Australian grains (corn, wheat and barley) in similar ratios to the Whiskey produced famously in the USA.

COROWA - Quick's Courage 46.0% **\$17**

This is Corowa Distilling Co's 7th release but the first using the Federation theme. It's a nod to Australia's history and was bottled in honour of John Quick. John Quick was a Victorian lawyer who proposed a three-step process to achieve a federal constitution at the Corowa Conference in 1983 hence forming the Peoples Federation. This whisky was first matured in American Oak Bourbon barrels before spending its final months in barrels from Spain that had contained the sweet aged sherry called Pedro Ximenez.

COROWA - Bosque Verde 46.0% **\$17**

This is the 2nd release from Corowa Distilling Co. that was launched side by side with their inaugural 'First Drop' release on the 31st of August 2018. Named 'Bosque Verde' which is Scots Gaelic and Spanish for 'Green Forest', the whisky pays homage to the local farms where the majority of the barley is grown. Corowa Distilling Co. believe in their sense of terroir and community by producing a robust whisky using local resources that is pure Corowa.

JAPANESE

If the finer points of Japanese culture can prove elusive to the Western psyche, much the same could be said for the country's whisky. While there may be echoes of Scotland in the distilleries of Honshu and Hokkaido, the huge variety of production techniques produces multifaceted whiskies with an identity all their own.

- SUNTORY - Chita Single Grain** 43% **\$18**
Chita is the first new premium whisky brand that Suntory has launched in over a decade, and one which is usually only available in Japan's 'Nagoya' Prefecture as well as Suntory's Whisky Shops in Osaka and Tokyo. There's not a great deal of information available regarding Chita - Suntory themselves remain silent with regard to production details. What is known is that the primary grain here is corn (though I'm pretty sure some malt is also used). Being corn based, like bourbon, the whisky is on the sweeter side. Reports have it that this is aged for around 12 years. There's unanimous praise across the web for this 'secret' gem, so I'm pretty chuffed to have nabbed a bottle.
- SUNTORY - Kakubin** 40.0% **\$10**
A classic blended whisky from Suntory - the core ingredients in countless cocktails over the many, many years its been produced by the legendary Japanese producers. Suntory's Kakubin differs greatly compared to many other world wide. Light, sweet and crisp, it boasts both balance and versatility. Rich gold in colour, Kakubin offers a stimulating blend of biscuit, vanilla and spice. Its lingering finish gives off subtle hints of smoke and spice.
- SUNTORY - Hakushu 12yo** 43.5% **\$25**
At the 2010 World Whisky Awards, whiskies from Japan won prizes in two of the top three categories for Scottish-style whisky. No one was surprised; Japanese whiskies have been snapping up awards at international competitions for the last decade. The problem we now face is getting our mitts on the delicious stuff. Bright gold with aromas of toast and honey moving through to some light florals. Get in quick we've only got one bottle and I doubt there will be a second!
- NIKKA - 12yo Blended** 43.0% **\$29**
What I love about this is it features elements of both the whiskies above it. A blend of whiskies from the Yoichi and Miyagikyo distilleries combined with Coffey-distilled grain whisky. Beautifully presented in heavy decanter-style bottle. Ripe, round, and generous, there's cocoa and butterscotch, with plenty of persimmon and nutmeg. Lush, round, and balanced. Classically perfect Japanese blended whisky.
- NIKKA - Miyagikyo** 45.0% **\$16**
Nikka's entry-level whisky from Miyagikyo distillery. Light in body, yet full of flavour, this is an excellent introduction to Japanese whisky. Elegantly fruity with sherry-cask character.
- NIKKA - Coffey Malt** 45.0% **\$19**
Almost unknown outside of Japan, Fuji Sanroku which means "at the foot of Mount Fuji", is produced in Fuji Gotemba distillery, opened in 1973 and owned by the Kirin Group. The water source at this picturesque location is rain and melted snow from the top of Mount Fuji. Maturation typically takes place in x-Bourbon barrels. While the focus is on grain whisky, a quantity of malt whisky is also produced and marketed under various labels Gotemba & Sanroku. The less expensive "Fuji Gotemba" label contains only 18 year old malt, while "Sanroku" reputedly contains malt up to 24 years of age however as malts are aged by their youngest component it don't appear on the bottle. Something special.
- ICHIRO'S - Malt & Grain** 46.0% **\$22**
A lovely blended whisky from Japan, created by Ichiro Akuto, the Japanese whisky extraordinaire. This particular gem is made with both malt and grain whisky from Japan as well as (possibly) some whisky from other countries too - the label describes it as "a worldwide blended whisky".
- NIKKA - Yamazaki 12yo** 43% **\$27**
This 12 year old from Yamazaki first came onto the market in 1984 and was the first seriously marketed Japanese single malt whisky. plenty of nut oils and zest, a pleasant floral character with a little tropical fruit finishing smooth with a little winter spice.

JAPANESE CONT...

KURA - The whisky

40%

\$15

The Helios distillery in Okinawa Japan may be more well-known for producing rums and awamori (a type of rice-based drink only produced in Okinawa), but they been known to dip their toe in the world of whisky. Kura The Whisky is a blended malt (or as the a label says, a "pure malt") then aged in white oak barrels that have been previously used for Rum production.

KIRIN - Fuji Sanroku 18yo

42%

\$59

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CANADIAN

Although it shares certain characteristics with Scotch whisky and bourbon, Canadian whisky has a style all its own, thanks to a unique means of production and the influence – sometimes subtle, sometimes obvious – of rye. And if Prohibition nearly killed American whiskey, it helped Canadian distillers to thrive.

CALVERT Canadian Masterpiece 1964

40.0%

\$15

A super blend from all 6 of Calvert's distilleries. Another unique and rare whisky from the 60's. Honeyed with restrained malt. Like drinking liquid history.

CANADIAN CLUB

37.0%

\$10

The nose is of medium-body with notes of barley sugar and aniseed, notes of cut grass and fennel, a hint of straw and a vegetal freshness. The palate is quite sweet and gentle. There are notes of winter spice and dark sugars, a touch of rum. The finish is of medium-sweetness and of medium-length. A delicate and soft whisky, with smoky rye, oak and a creamy toffee finish.

INDIAN

India is ostensibly a huge whisky drinking nation, the biggest of them all if you look at the bare consumption figures, but nearly all the domestic 'whisky' produced here is dominated by molasses-derived spirit But there are honourable exceptions. Most famously Amrut and Rampur.

RAMPUR - Single Malt Indian Whisky

43%

\$13

A new arrival from one of the largest distilleries in India and also the country's oldest, dating back to 1943. Based in the foothills of the Himalayas, Radico Khaitan follow traditional Scottish production methods. Deep brassy gold. It sounds almost like automatic suggestion to find "tropical notes" and "exotic spices" in a whisky from India, but that's what you get here, along side plenty of orchid fruit, a great place to start for those looking to get into Whiskey.