

T H E W H I S K Y

# *Life*

**WHISKEY JOURNEY**

**JIM BEAM**

**TRAVEL**

**AMSTERDAM**

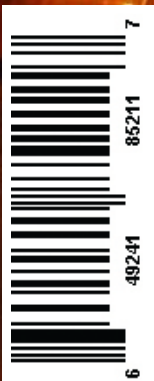
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#### Note from the Publisher

How can whisky be so complex, and yet only be made from three simple ingredients? Then I started to think... whisky really puts life into perspective. The greatest things in life *are* simple.

Simon Brookings said his mission was to spread world peace one dram at a time. And if you take a moment to think about what he said, after the smile passes from your face, it is this: whisky is just a simple drink that brings people together -- a father & son, brothers, and believe it or not, husbands & wives -- as long as you're not in Scotland when she thinks she is going into labor.

My first child was just born. Her name is Abigayle Rose and I love her more than life itself; and there is nothing better than savoring a whisky while holding her in my arms. Nothing more simple has given me more pleasure.

We spend our lives making every moment crazy. Take a moment for yourself and think about the simple ingredients and the men that made the whisky that now sits in your glass. Take at least 12 seconds to savor your first sip and sit back and enjoy the moment. Enjoy Life!

For Questions & Comments Email Me  
Jeffrey@whiskyguild.com

# T H E W H I S K Y *Life*

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the end  
of the  
back nine....

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2007



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nd battle  
the barrel



# WHISKEY JOURNEY - JIM BEAM

by Brett Calish

Whenever I write a Tasting Journey, I'm always looking for a cute little angle, or tie-in, to explain why we picked this collection to taste. So, in true Lewis Carroll style, I thought, "hey, how about a little logic". Fall is Halloween time. Halloween is for sweets. Bourbon is sweet. Bourbon will be for the fall.

And then I heard my Mama's voice in my head. You know, the voice that taught me to never lie. (You probably hear that voice too, from time to time – not my mother's of course, but your own). The truth is: I recently came back from the Kentucky Bourbon Festival, and while there, I drank a lot of bourbon. A lot of bourbon. A real lot of bourbon. So, because of my recent intoxications, and in honor of September being named National Bourbon Heritage Month, we chose the Jim Beam line, because it is well-established, popular, and, with six offerings, the perfect size sampling. And that's no Jabberwocky.

## The Line Up

### Jim Beam (white label)

A pretty nose, at first earthy and musty, then giving way to lightly-charred oak, mint, and bruised oranges. There were also hints of maple syrup, and of course rye. White label was very lightly sweet on the palate, which complemented its lithe body. This litness was continued on to the (relatively short) finish, which, though warming was nonetheless fresh and vibrant, with a floral, juniper berry quality to it. A straightforward whiskey, not complex, but still quite pleasing.

### Jim Beam (black label)

This is a Big Whiskey. It has a rich, full nose, bursting with caramel, peach pits, and a "soft" oakiness that just wants to stay in your nose and hang-out there for a while. It's no surprise, then, that Jim Beam Black has a medium/full bodied, chewy mouthfeel, slightly bitey. And the finish doesn't disappoint either. Heavy notes of burnt sugar, toffee, and caramel perfectly counterbalance a mélange of fruits, as this whiskey slowly wafts away. A Southern gentleman's sippin' whiskey.

## Basil Hayden's

Not to encourage angry e-mails, but just as some heavier whiskies are referred to as "masculine", those that are lighter-bodied can be thought of as "feminine". Basil Hayden's is a feminine whiskey, and delicious. It is incredibly complex, with a sweet, floral (dare we say Scotch-like) nose; lightly crisp, balancing sugar wafers versus toasted oak. A surprisingly medium/full body transitions beautifully to a finish of vanilla beans and more toasted oak, which keeps echoing in your consciousness for quite some time. Basil Hayden's is considered a beginner's whiskey, but this is nonsense. Instead, I think of Basil Hayden's as a gorgeous, well-rounded, subtle, and smooth whiskey. (I always did like the ladies).

## Knob Creek

This one's easy. Knob Creek is beautifully full of everything. Big caramel. Big rye. Big char. Big vanilla. Big stewed fruits. I don't really know how they cram all that bigness into that little bottle, but they do. The body is very full (of course), and the spicy, long finish stays with you like water on wool. The most popular of Beam's Small Batch Collection, my only complaint with Knob Creek is that it is almost too serious. This whiskey is (I can't resist) a heavyweight.

## Baker's

Another "heavy" whiskey, Baker's has a lightly vegetal nose with charred oak, pepper, and maple syrup. Medium-bodied and chewy, this whiskey has a hot, shortish finish full of rye bread, caramel (though not enough to overcome the rye), and quinine.

## Booker's

Heaven, I'm in heaven...An incredible nose that you could, quite literally, lose yourself in: sweet honey, citrus (grapefruits, oranges, lemons), candy caramels, traces of graphite, woodsmoke. One taster said it reminded him of waking-up at a campsite and smelling the wet earth and still-smoldering embers from the night before. Too true. Interestingly, the body of this whiskey is much lighter than expected, practically dancing in your mouth. And the finish! Dry, with light spice, the finish bursts with dried fruits, oak, blackberries, more caramel (but not "sticky-sweet"), and the lightest essence of vanilla. An absolutely elegant whiskey.

**"Heaven, I'm in heaven..."**

## INTERVIEW SPOTLIGHT

We recently sat down with the President of the Scotch Malt Whisky Society of America, Alan Shayne. The Society was started in Scotland in 1983 by a small group of whisky connoisseurs who were interested in single cask/single malt scotch. The Society now makes these special whiskies available to their members. Alan helped the Society expand to America in 1993.

The Society is open to anyone 25 years or older, to join at an initial cost of \$199.00. As a member, you receive your first Society bottling as part of your initial fee.

You're then able to buy Society bottlings that are individually selected by the Society for their exceptional taste and quality.

Joining the Society is a must for any serious Single Malt connoisseur. Society bottlings are at single cask / cask strength and include malts from virtually every distillery in Scotland.



*Alan Shayne*  
President of the Scotch Malt  
Whisky Society of America

**Jeff:** How large is the Scotch Malt Whisky Society?

**Alan:** The Society has over 30,000 members worldwide, with over 8,000 of them in North America.

**Jeff:** The Society offers single cask bottlings, correct?

**Alan:** Yes, and they are only available to Society members. We don't sell commercially in the stores. When someone decides that the Society is the right move for them to make, once they hear about us since we actually don't advertise, but it's for people that are discerning enthusiasts or those that want to be discerning enthusiasts. We have members from the novice to the most experienced.

**Jeff:** How does the Society choose which whiskies to bottle?

**Alan:** The Society is offered samples from various casks of whisky from virtually every distillery in Scotland. Our tasting committee finds individual casks that are truly exceptional...All nine committee members have to agree on the quality before the Society buys it.

**Jeff:** Now it's not only providing high quality whisky to your members. The Society sponsors tasting events as well. Can you tell us about the events?

**Alan:** When the Society was starting in America in 1993, we immediately began doing tasting events where member and non-member guests could enjoy the whiskies and taste them. In those days, not many people knew about single cask/single malt. The goal is to not only taste Society single malts but for the consumer to have an opportunity to taste a number of single malts and sample them in a very sophisticated, nice setting, along with a nice dinner. The consumer may have their 'dessert island whisky' but they also want to try every different whisky out there. It's a journey; we try to make it available for them through our events.

*You Are Cordially Invited to join...*

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# Restaurant Showcase

## Keens Steakhouse - 5 stars

BY STEPHANIE DE CARLO





“If it’s good enough for Theodore Roosevelt,  
it’s good enough for me”

I love meat. Any kind of meat; filet mignon, rack of lamb, buffalo burgers, pork loin, prime rib, chops, BBQ ribs; you get my point. When I think of a steakhouse, there are specific sensory cues that come to mind (and palate and nose): dark wooden walls and dimly lit tables; nostalgic décor; a low bustle of conversation and kitchen sounds; the smell of meat being roasted, braised and seared to perfection. Luckily for me, I was able to find a place that incorporates all of these standard requirements, plus a few delicious more!

Keens Steakhouse, located at 72 West 36th St in New York City, can only be described as “WOW”, and will satisfy even the most die-hard food critic. From the moment of arrival, Keens promises to set a classic atmosphere. There is no unnecessary frill at the doors or under the awning, no easel-style advertisements for discount meals; just a notable air of distinction. And understandably so, as the history of Keens tells a story of serving famous actors and playwrights (who frequently would come in between acts of their productions)!

Guests looking to share in the experience may choose seating in the more casual pub portion of Keens, which offers appetizers such as chopped chicken livers on toast, lobster rolls, oysters, crab cocktail, and fresh buffalo mozzarella. You can also order the famous mutton chop, prime rib, steak tartare, quail served with red cabbage and assorted sandwiches and salads. The main room of the pub is quite friendly and inviting, boasting an old-fashioned, Titanic-style portrait of a very indulgent looking woman. There is also an inviting dining room that serves the pub menu and puts one in the perfect mood for a steak sandwich and a nice lager.

Upon entering the main dining room of the steakhouse, my dining companion and I were immediately greeted by an extremely pleasant hostess who was more than accommodating. As we were led to our table, I noted a multitude of old-fashioned advertisements and posters in the style of “Dr. Brown’s Magic Elixir”. Between the roomy booths, the dark wood paneling, the fireplace (guarded by an impressive suit of armor) and the comfortable lighting scheme, I immediately fell into the “steakhouse” feel. The dining room gives an intimate feeling, appropriate for anniversaries and special occasions, but also for the easy, unpretentious atmosphere of a first date.

Perhaps the most interesting detail of the décor is the rows of churchwarden pipes that line the ceiling. These pipes, once a part of the well-known Pipe Club, happen to be the largest collection in the world. (Apparently, the clay pipes were ordered from the Netherlands for the pub’s guests and were stored at the establishment for the customers.)

Upon being seated, I requested a list of their single malt whiskies. I knew exactly what I was looking for, but I definitely wanted to see what they had to offer. To my surprise (and my absolute pleasure), I was presented with a menu that was three pages long, offering the brands in several columns. I also was appreciative that the numerous options were divided by region; that way, if you want to try something that is unfamiliar, you are able to gauge what you may like based on the brands you have tried.



The selection was obviously extensive and included the more common Oban, Macallan, Talisker, Laphroaig, and Dalmore, as well as the more rare Ben Nevis, 1968 Bowmore and 20 year Ledaig (the latter offered at the incredibly generous price of \$14/dram).

As we perused the menu, our table was presented with a plate of carrots, celery and olives, which accompanied the bread basket. I felt that this added to the real “steakhouse feel” and thoroughly enjoyed the rich, velvety blue cheese dressing for dipping! Choices of appetizers ranged from classic oysters, a seafood tray, lobster cocktail, and an iceberg wedge with blue cheese. I chose the New Orleans oysters Rockefeller, paired with a Talisker 18. The oysters arrived on a bed of sea salt and had no hint of a “fishy” taste. The dish was very pleasing, as both the texture and flavors were soft and subtle and blended nicely. And of course, the briny dram complimented the seafood flavor!

Being a fan of meat, I was certainly impressed with the entrée selection. All of Keens meats are dry-aged on the premises and hand selected for excellence. One can dine on NY Sirloin, T-bone, prime rib of beef, lamb chops, quail, chateaubriand, beer-braised short ribs and Keens’ renowned Mutton Chops. However, I always judge a restaurant by the filet mignon and was compelled to order it here. My dining partner chose sautéed shrimp, although I had encouraged him to choose his own lobster from the tank! Side dishes, served a la carte, included Keens creamed spinach (which I ordered under the same principle that led me to the filet!), carrots with brown butter, white asparagus (also selected for the table), escarole, and potatoes served in a variety of ways.

Dinner was simply outstanding! My filet mignon had an absolutely gorgeous seared crust and was the textbook definition of my request for a medium-rare temperature. The serving was quite generous, as the meat was roughly 4” thick! Every bite was tender and moist. Like all good steakhouses, there was a certain classic, no-frills type of presentation-just the meat and a slice of red pepper. This is how I enjoy steak, as there is no heavy sauce to distract from the flavor. The seasoning was subtle so that the true flavor of the meat itself was showcased. Similarly, Keens creamed spinach was obviously made from fresh spinach and was not too rich, as creamy dishes can often be. There was also a pleasant hint of nutmeg, a surprising way to bring out the flavor of dark, leafy greens. Simply steamed, the asparagus was well-trimmed so that only the most tender part of the asparagus was served. The sautéed shrimp was in a very light sauce that was not overly buttery and highlighted the flavor of the seafood. The jumbo shrimp were perfectly tender and rested on a bed of sautéed spinach.

Dessert was equally amazing, despite the lack of available space in my stomach, and began with a pleasing selection of cognacs, armagnacs, brandies, ports, and sweet wines. All of the sweet indulgences sounded equally tempting, but my companion suggested that we try the Keens Coffee Cantata. As he noted, anything with the restaurant’s name on it would definitely be a specialty. A sort of grown-up version of an ice cream cone, the cantata is a ridiculously generous serving of ice cream with a lovely hot fudge poured over it. Raspberries, whipped cream, and pieces of ice cream cone finished off an evening of decadence.

My evening at Keens was certainly one of unlimited indulgence! I am thankful that I was introduced to a classic restaurant that brought a unique hallmark to everything from decor to dessert. And, if you love whisky like I do, you will certainly be in your element with their whisky selections! Visit their website, <http://www.keens.com>, to review their menu, view the rooms available for private parties, and learn more about their intriguing history. (You can also take a look at their Thanksgiving menu, with rich and inviting holiday selections!)

If you are staying or living in the New York area, please make it a point to stop at Keens Steakhouse. It is guaranteed to be a memorable - and definitely tasty - experience!



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# WHISKY JOURNEY - **MACALLAN**

by Brett Calish

Alright everyone, enough with crazy wood finishes, ridiculous names, and whiskies that you need a college degree to make sense of. This month's journey is about good, old-fashioned, honest-to-goodness Scotch. And what could be more "honest" in a Scotch glass than Macallan? As one of the first Scotch whisky distilleries, Macallan has a reputation for integrity and consistency in all their drams. And while their bottlings are too numerous to count, they all seem to focus on the theme of just good, unadorned whisky – letting the whisky do the talking. So while there is a vast array of Macallans we could have chosen from, we decided to stick to the basics: three of their traditional sherry oak expressions, and three from their relatively new fine oak range. But whatever you do, stick a Macallan in your liquor cabinet – it'll make an honest man (or woman) of ya!

## **Macallan 12 year old**

A youthful nose, full of simple syrup and vanilla beans. Also some wet walnuts and cloves to round it out. A medium-to-light body is followed abruptly by a finish of dry sherry, orange zest, and musk cologne. When I think of Macallan, this is the whisky I think of first.

## **Macallan 18 year old**

More complex than the 12-year-old, with a nose that explodes onto the senses: mild, sweet, with peach pits, heather honey, wet, tanned leather, vanilla, orange peel, and just the faintest hint of peat(?), this nose just sets-up the whole dram. A chewy, full-bodied mouthfeel precedes a taste/finish of toasted oak, more vanilla, sherry, and light spices. A little short, but this expression is exceptionally well-balanced.

## **Macallan Cask Strength (58.2%)**

Warm and deep, this whisky nosed wonderful burnt caramel, vanilla, and oak that, were it not for the omnipresent sherry, reminded us of fine bourbon. With water, there were light citrus notes, marzipan, and something that reminded me of a NY roasted nut cart. Like the 18-year-old, this expression was very well-balanced, with vanilla, oak, and heavy sherry on the palate. With water, it revealed more citrus (tangerines) in its medium-length finish.

The “fine oak” range differs dramatically from Macallan’s standard sherried range. Though sherry casks from European oak are still used, so too are bourbon casks from American oak, and sherry casks from American oak, resulting in a more delicate, lighter whisky that possibly suits a more “introductory” palate.

## Macallan Fine Oak 10 year old

A fresh, very young nose, full of malt, hay, aldehyde, and vanilla. Also light honey, pineapple, and attic must. A thin, light body, opening into a short, warming, and oaky finish, with oranges and possibly candy canes. Some tasters swore they picked-up creamsicles, too. While not exactly balanced, this whisky could be the perfect introduction to the Fine Oak range.

## Macallan Fine Oak 15 year old

Sweeter and deeper than the F.O. 10-year-old, this whisky has delicious toffee notes playing against younger grassy notes.

There is also that Macallan sweetness and orange aroma, as well as nutmeg, and what I can only compare to toast-and-butter (and what’s better than that?). This whisky has a clean, medium-weight body, which suits it perfectly. And the finish...Long and lingering, sweet and smooth, nicely matching the nose, which, of course, is what you want. I picked-up caramel, more oranges, and a hint of milk chocolate. A fine whisky, before, during, or after a meal.

## Macallan Fine Oak 17 year old

Very different than its 15-year-old cousin – much more floral, especially lavender, though there is still that burnt caramel sweetness and ever-present oak. The 17-year-old also has a medium body, maybe a little lighter than you might want, with a “shortish” finish of dried peaches, honey, light peat, and wet campfires.



**What do you call the guy who bought bottle 367 of 367?**

**One lucky bastard**

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## Culinary Vacations on the Rise!

Culinary vacations have become increasingly popular. Food lovers who have experienced this type of travel claim they get more than their money's worth. Each day presents a new experience, with cooking in the morning, and sometimes again in the evening. Afternoons are filled with touring the area, wine tasting, shopping and more!

There are many cooking schools throughout Italy, each emphasizing different regional cuisines. For instance, the Emilia Romagna region of Italy is the pasta, parmigiano cheese, and balsamic capital of Italy. Many programs within this region will have excursions to these factories. Most programs include an olive oil tasting as well as winery tours. Wine is everywhere in Italy and your meals will definitely be enhanced as you drink the wines from that particular region.

Most of the culinary vacations are inclusive of accommodations, lesson, food, and tours with a local guide who will introduce you to the local history. As you travel by minibus, you are treated to Italy's stunning landscapes. Classes are small, creating an environment for individual attention, and excursions may introduce you to local artisans. Culinary vacations have price ranges to fit most budgets and there is always a program to meet your needs.

If a weeklong program is too much for you, then consider a one day class with shopping at the local market. Please know that airfare is not included.

So ...imagine yourself learning to prepare an exceptional meal while staying at a villa or agriturismo, and connecting with the Italian culture through great food, wine, and laughter! Don't wait too long!

For more information contact Marlene Iacofano at Gourmet Getaways. Please visit the website at [www.gourmetgetaways.biz](http://www.gourmetgetaways.biz) or call 1 888 95 ITALY. Talk to you soon!





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**55** YEAR OLD SINGLE MALT WHISKY  
IN LALIQUE DECANTER

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*The*  
**MACALLAN**  
HIGHLAND SINGLE MALT  
SCOTCH WHISKY  
IN LALIQUE

*Only one hundred will be  
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## THE MACALLAN® LAUNCHES 55 YEAR OLD SINGLE MALT WHISKY IN LALIQUE DECANTER

Iconic luxury brands, The Macallan® and LALIQUE unveiled The Macallan in LALIQUE Natural Colour decanter containing an exceptionally rare 55 years old single malt whisky valued at \$12,000. The Natural Colour decanter is the second in what will be a series of six based on The Macallan's Six Pillars and is testament to the quality and craftsmanship of both partners in this historic collaboration. One hundred of these decanters will be available in the United States in January of 2008.

The Macallan 55 Years Old single malt is cask strength (40.1% abv), and has remained undisturbed for over half a century at the Easter Elchies House – The Macallan's spiritual home in Speyside, Scotland - where it matured through the decades in a sherry oak cask. Dark rosewood in colour, the liquid has aromatic notes of exotic, sweet dried fruits with a hint of peat-smoke, while the finish is wonderfully soft, smooth and spicy with lingering touches of citrus.

Bob Dalgarno, The Macallan Master Whisky Maker, comments: "At The Macallan we insist on natural colour. It is the interaction of spirit and wood alone which delivers the rich diversity of colour evident throughout The Macallan range. We used the striking natural colour of The Macallan liquid as the inspiration for the design of this decanter, the second collaboration between The Macallan and Lalique."

*"THE MACALLAN 55 YEARS OLD LIMITED EDITION, ONLY 420 BEING PRODUCED"*

The Natural Colour decanter has been designed by the legendary French crystal house LALIQUE, exclusively for The Macallan. The Macallan 55 Years Old in LALIQUE is a limited edition decanter with only 420 being produced, each individually numbered and available in selected boutiques in the USA, UK, Asia and Russia. Its delicate gradation of colour and artful curvature makes it a vessel worthy of holding such a rare and unique Scotch whisky.

"The first LALIQUE decanter, containing The Macallan 50 Years Old single malt, was launched in 2005 and proved a huge success," said Eric Maldonado, The Macallan U.S. brand manager at Rémy Cointreau USA, Inc. "Since then we have seen an increase in demand for our rarer whiskies, proof that we were moving in the right direction by extending our partnership with LALIQUE to produce a series of decanters containing the finest The Macallan single malt."

Guillaume Gauthereau, president and CEO LALIQUE North America explains: "We are delighted to be working with the world's finest single malt as it has given us the opportunity to design a series of decanters which reflect all the best attributes of our brand - creativity, heritage and craftsmanship. The Natural Colour decanter was created by our design team in Paris and is based on the classic Paquerettes tiara perfume bottle designed by Rene Lalique in 1910. It is a mix of masculine and feminine shapes and the stopper is made in amber coloured crystal, one of the most difficult colours for crystal makers to achieve."

Handcrafted at LALIQUE's factory in Wingen-sur-Moder, the Alsace region of northern France, each piece filters through the hands of up to 25 crafts men, many of whom have attained the 'Meilleur ouvrier de France' – the Finest Craftsman of France Award. Each decanter bears the esteemed 'Lalique France' signature which symbolizes authenticity and over 100 years of creativity, heritage and craftsmanship and comes in a specially designed leather and silk presentation box, with a crystal stopper and a leather-bound collectors guide detailing the craftsmanship that has gone into producing this beautiful objet d'art.





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• JUN 69 •

# YOUR MOM WASN'T YOUR DAD'S FIRST

He went out. He got two numbers in the same night. He drank cocktails. But they were whisky cocktails. Made with Canadian Club®. Served in a rocks glass. They tasted good. They were effortless. **DAMN RIGHT YOUR DAD DRANK IT**



*Canadian Club.*



A photograph of two divers underwater. They are positioned on either side of a large, textured coral wall. The water is clear and blue. The diver on the left is wearing a black wetsuit and a blue BCD with 'COMP' written on it. The diver on the right is wearing a black wetsuit and a blue BCD. Both are wearing masks and snorkels. The coral wall they are near is composed of large, rounded, porous pieces of coral.

# Grand Cayman

## So what makes the Turtle Farm wall dive so desirable?

BY MICHEAL STROHW

Oftentimes, the need arises for unstructured activity while on vacation. When staying on Seven Mile Beach on Grand Cayman Island, a short drive up the West Bay Road is the Turtle Farm dive site, which offers this needed relief. A wonderful shore dive that differs from the often crowded cattle boats provided by the Hyatt and Weston's Red Sail Sports.

Nothing brings out the thrill of adventure as you lower yourself into the warm Caribbean Sea like a shore dive with just you and a dive-partner. Dive Tech divers (located at the entrance point to the turtle farm wall) can provide you with all your equipment needs, and advice for your dive.

What makes the Turtle Farm wall dive so desirable is its modest depth of 20 feet at the start of the wall to a respectable 60 feet at it's sandy bottom. The vast array of corals and marine life can keep even the most seasoned divers coming back for more.

Our recommendation is to swim out to the wall, marked by buoys some 200 yards away on the surface. You can therefore save on your air and appreciate the surroundings. This area is frequented by free-divers as well, so don't be alarmed to see people without air-tanks at depths of 60 feet. Tarpons, turtles, moray eels, and parrot fish will amaze the senses.

If you're staying a few days, the dive shop we strongly recommend is Diver's Down. A great dive company that limits its dives to 8 people, they are both warm and friendly, and make any level of diver feel at home. Families are always welcome and often you're given the choice as to which dive site you'd like to experience. If you make multiple dives during your vacation, Diver's Down is generous enough to let you hold-on to your dive gear for the duration of your stay. (Divers Down, North Church St. P.O. Box 1706 Georgetown, Grand Cayman PH.1-345-945-1611) Using them will give you ample time to explore the numerous shore dive opportunities available on Grand Cayman.

***“Nothing brings out the thrill of adventure as you lower yourself into the warm Caribbean Sea like a shore dive with just you and a dive-partner.”***

By the way, our shore dive at the turtle farm wall cost us \$3.00 for the air tank. The Red Stripe beer tab from the Cracked Conch outdoor bar, just steps away from our dive exit, was another story, entirely!

**60 feet to sandy bottom**



**Stingrays, Tarpons, turtles,  
moray eels and parrot fish  
will amaze the senses.**

# TASTING NOTES

## SINGLE MALT SCOTCH WHISKY

by Glen Karlovitch

### ABERFELDY 12 YEAR OLD

Aberfeldy is the heart of the popular Dewar's blends, but is just starting to be widely available as a single malt. The dram has a heavy citrus nose, a light body, and a very satisfying medium finish. Reliably price, this one is a bargain that should do very well. It opened up nicely with just a touch of water.

**Nose:** Lemon grass with an undercurrent of lemon oil, a touch of honey, pineapple; young but in a good way

**Body:** Light and a little oily

**Finish:** Sweet, malty character that's medium length and very satisfying.

87

A flavorful and easy-drinking winner and one you should add to the collection.

### THE GLENLIVET N'ADURRA 16 YEARS OLD

cask strength

N'adurra (Gaelic for Natural) is a relatively new cask strength whisky from The Glenlivet distillery. This one is much more powerful and flavorful than others in their range, even after you add water. The flavors are tight and very pronounced. I love their 18 year old expression for its smoothness and subtle flavors, and I liked this one for the opposite reasons. I cut the whisky with a healthy pour of water and it enhanced the dram immensely.

**Nose:** Nutty, vanilla, and honey

**Body:** Hot, untamed, medium-bodied

**Finish:** Long and dry with hints of fresh fruit and a whiff of smoke.

A great dram!

88

### CAOL ILA 8 YEAR OLD - UNPEATED 59.8%

A very unique dram that's unfortunately difficult to find. We found a few in some specialty shops in Scotland and quickly snatched them up. The distillery uses unpeated barley in this dram but the whisky still has some smoke. The dram felt older than it is and wasn't overly grassy, unlike so many other younger drams. A subtle nose greets you with hints of grass, tart apples, and charcoal. The body is light-to-medium and the finish is sharp and intense. Not a very well balanced dram but it all seemed to work exceptionally well.

**Nose:** Fresh, grassy, charcoal, tart apples, sea air

**Body:** Light to medium

**Finish:** Long and sharp, the bite lingers, warming, smoke

89

Not a dram that you drink all day but perfect for when you're in the mood for an intense treat.



## Glenturret 1992 13 year old Signatory

Glenturret is one of the oldest and smallest distilleries in Scotland and a good portion of its production ends up in the Famous Grouse. This Signatory bottling came off well balanced and had a very nice nose and sweet character. Had slight brine in the nose once you get past the initial sweetness. A little more complexity in the finish would have made the dram outstanding. The whisky came off a little sharp (which I like). You don't see Glenturret that often, and if you come across this bottle, you'd be wise to grab it.

**Nose:** Very sweet, honey, and simple syrup, some brine, woody and sharp

**Body:** Medium and slightly oily, has some bite

**Finish:** Medium and hot, big and leaves in a hurry, toasted oak and coconut, not as sweet as the nose.

A hot little number.

87

## Highland Park 15 year old

A very appealing and approachable Highland Park. Not as complex as the 18 year old, but still an exceptional dram from one of my favorite distilleries. This dram doesn't get a lot of press but it's worth discovering.

**Nose:** Nutty, fresh & clean, malty, a little young

**Body:** Light and crisp

**Finish:** Medium length, peat, iodine, very smooth & flavorful

Easy drinking and very enjoyable.

87

## Lagavulin 30 year old - Cask Strength, Bottle 2,222

It's hard to top Lagavulin's 16 year old, but this whisky makes a good attempt. It still has much of the great Islay fire that can get too tamed down after such a long maturation process. A very smooth, complex, and big Lagavulin that's very warming and flavorful. This dram stays with you for an eternity and one glass can last you the whole night. This dram will consume you, whole.

**Nose:** Ancient and woody, sweet, tobacco, heather, peat smoke, and coastal brine

**Body:** Medium-to-thick

**Finish:** Incredibly dry, long and peaty, a slow burn and then a roaring fire, some sweetness, amazing!

You don't drink this whisky, you experience it.

95

# TASTING NOTES

## AMERICAN BOURBON - WHISKEY

by Glen Karlovitch

### MAKER'S MARK

Like all great whiskies, this one seems to pull you back to the glass with each sip. Neat, or on ice, this is a nice easy drinking whisky. Well balanced with plenty of sweetness, but not overly so. Has a wonderful finish. This one should always be in your liquor cabinet.

**Nose:** Fresh, honey, invigorating, cut flowers, resin, fruit  
**Body:** Chewy  
**Finish:** Long, has some bite, honey, light char and oak, mint

88

Delicious.

### ELIJAH CRAIG 12 YEAR OLD

A simply great bourbon! Very well balanced and drinkable while still maintaining that Kentucky frontier spirit. This isn't a dram for those quiet moments, this one makes you want to move. Fresh fruit, vanilla, and not being overly sweet, make this bourbon a notch above most others.

**Nose:** Fresh fruit, burnt caramel, rich and deep, strong vanilla, not too refined  
**Body:** Medium and dominated by malt and rye  
**Finish:** Rye, very smooth, lingering

A great premium bourbon.

89

### GEORGE DICKEL Old No 12

Tennessee's 'other distillery' is well known to whisky connoisseurs who love George Dickel's smooth easy drinking character. This is a whisky that shouldn't be enjoyed with soda (ahhhhhh!), but neat or over ice. A great Tennessee sippin' whisky. This one's a gem.

**Nose:** Sweet, pumpkin spice, malt and oak, reminds me of a crisp fall day  
**Body:** Smooth, has some legs, satisfying  
**Finish:** Long and sweet, clean

86

A beautiful undiscovered Tennessee whisky. Buy this one before the secret gets out.

### KNOB CREEK 9 YEAR OLD

BIG! In my opinion this is one of the best bourbons on the market today. It's all here; all the robust flavors that made bourbon 'America's Whiskey'. Throw in a long, dry finish and you have one heck of a dram.

**Nose:** Sharp and big, spicy, rye, charred oak, a touch of vanilla, roasted nuts  
**Body:** Very sweet  
**Finish:** Long and dry with a big (well balanced) rye taste, in your face, stays with you

90

Very big and flavorful, a great one.



# TASTING NOTES

## OTHER WHISKIES

### TAKETSURA 21 YEAR OLD PURE MALT

#### Japanese Pure Malt

The Japanese excel at making whisky, and you can almost taste the craftsmanship in this superior malt. This is a full, rich dram that had that 'finish the bottle' type of feel. Luckily we stopped ourselves and we'll be enjoying this dram for months to come.

**Nose:** Big, rich and full, oak, dried fruit, vanilla, fruit cake

**Body:** Medium, mouth coating

**Finish:** Unique and subtle, medium length, peaches, oak, vanilla, very smooth and warming

A work of art.

92

### YAMAZAKI 18 YEAR OLD

#### Japanese Single Malt

Rich and sophisticated. If you've never had Japanese whisky you'd be wise to start with this one. You can taste the care and effort that went into making this premium dram. Deep flavors dominated by oak and malt and a nice long finish make this dram highly sought after, and well worth seeking out.

**Nose:** Rich, oak & malt, pears, fudge (a great nose)

**Body:** Medium

**Finish:** Big burst and full of spice, malt and oak

Sophisticated and enjoyable.

90

### McGILLIGAN'S 1992 RUM WOOD FINISH

#### Irish Whiskey

This dram seems to scream, 'hey buddy I'm here, drink and enjoy'. Full flavored with an amazing nose and finish. The rum is pronounced, but not overpowering. Once you get past the rum, deep vanilla emerges. Has some nice heat and bite to the finish. Not overly sweet and offers surprising complexity and attitude for an Irish malt.

**Nose:** Rum, vanilla, toasty, sharp

**Body:** Medium and chewy

**Finish:** Light rum, medium length, some heat and bite

Well put-together

88

### REDBREAST 12 YEAR OLD

#### Irish Whiskey

One of the best Irish whiskeys (or whiskeys for that matter) available today. Big and robust, Redbreast 12 is a malt that every whiskey lover should own. When I'm in the mood for an Irish whiskey, this is usually my first choice. Very deep and flavorful, I just love this stuff. Can stand up to any Scotch. This dram is also very reasonably priced so pick up a bottle (or two) before it starts to fly off the shelves.

**Nose:** Fresh and clean, malty, heather, honey, vanilla

**Body:** Medium

**Finish:** Medium length and toasty, sweet and syrupy

Highly recommended.

93





# DISTILLERY SPOTLIGHT

BY JEFFREY KARLOVITCH



## Oban Distillery Spotlight

The great Oban distillery is located in the heart of the town that shares its name. Oban is a beautiful and rugged port town that is worth visiting. On a recent trip to Scotland, I made sure I spent as much time as possible in my favorite distillery, which is one of Scotland's smallest and has a limited capacity. Oban's 14 year old expression was included by Daigeo in its Classic Malt line, which has dramatically increased the popularity of this Highland malt and, unfortunately, driven up its price. Like most seaside distilleries, Oban is influenced by the sea air, which adds a maritime salty character to the dram. Oban only operates 2 short stills that create a rich complex dram that is highly regarded. We love it for its hints of peat and spice and complex rich character.

*Established: 1794*

*Pronunciation: Oh bun*

*Region: Highlands*

*# of stills: 2*

*Tours: Open to the public*

*Location: Oban, Argyll, PA34 5NHB*

Style: spicy, light peat

### Oban 14 Year Old

When I take a sip of Oban 14 year old, it sends me back to standing on the water's edge of the beautiful town of Oban, with the waves crashing against the rocky shore.. The fresh salt air and the beautiful scenery captivate you. Oban whisky tastes so much like its surroundings and culture. The nose gives you that gust of the sea air. The body is smooth and complex with a hint of salt. The beautiful finish leaves your mouth with a wee hint of smoke. A truly great whisky. If you ever go to Scotland, make Oban one of your stops.

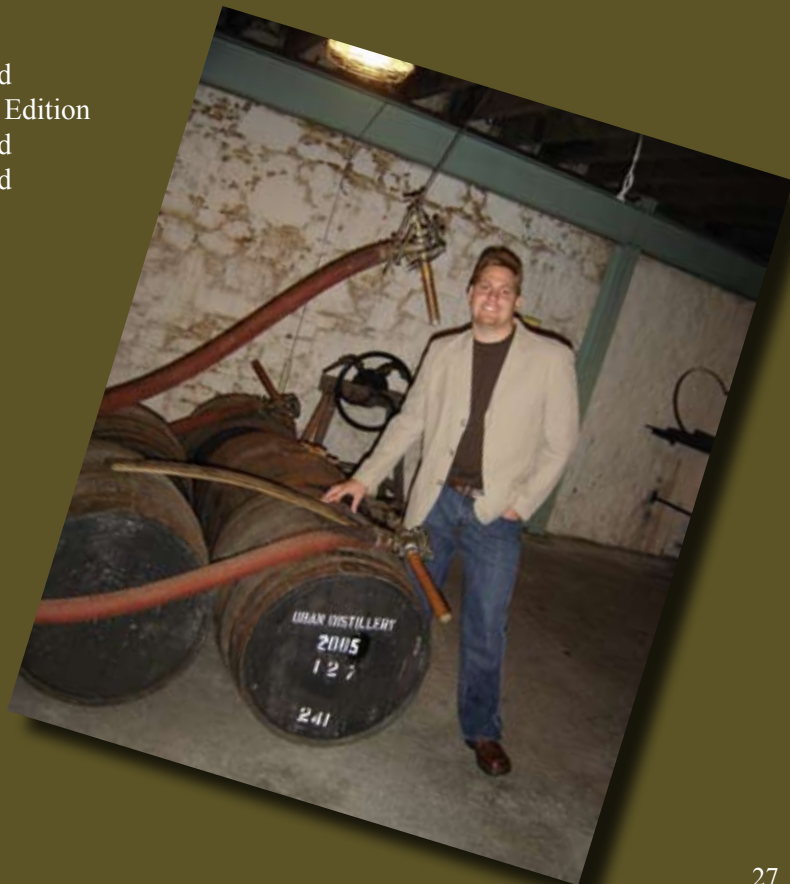
### Range

14 year old

Distiller's Edition

20 year old

32 year old





# *The Whisky Social*

## *Online Community*

*Join The Guild*

[www.whiskyguild.com](http://www.whiskyguild.com)

by Brett Calish



# My Secret Society

Whisk(e)y and food; food and whisk(e)y. It's all the rage! Everywhere you turn, from the pages of magazines, to various websites, to live tasting events, it seems that every distillery wants to promote fine whisk(e)y as an alternative to fine wine, or even beer, as a compliment to a good meal. I think that's great!!! Honestly. To me, even more than wine, a "cool" whisk(e)y adds both intrigue and depth to an otherwise delicious culinary offering. Um...one problem, though. How often do you "partake" of delicious culinary offerings? I'm guessing that it's probably less often than you partake of a glass of your favorite hooch. It is for me.

Don't get me wrong, I love a good meal – one designed to separate you from the contents of your wallet. I love the slow pacing, the attention of the wait staff, the care that goes into both the preparation and presentation of the food, etc. etc., blah, blah, blah.

But, who's kidding whom? If you're blue-collar (not blue-blood) you're eating at chain restaurants! Boonnigans, Froodays, Toosdays, Appleboos, the list goes on {note how the restaurant names have been changed to cleverly mask their identities and prevent frivolous lawsuits}. Now, these restaurants, and others like them that exist like fields of mushrooms across the American landscape, are reasonably priced alternatives to either a) eating at home, or b) watching "the game" by yourself, at home, all alone, in the dark. Er...sorry, I digressed.

The dilemma that I have is: try to get yourself a "cool" dram of whisk(e)y there. Can't be done! Oh sure, they all carry Johnnie Black and Red, a bottle of Jack, some Dewar's, Canadian Club for variety, maybe one or two others (maybe), but that's it! No cool drams. Nothing of interest that you haven't had eight thousand times. Now I know what you're thinking – Does anything really go with broccoli balls? Well I don't know, but I'd like to find out! I mean, I'm not suggesting that your local Boonnigans start stocking Duncan Taylor's whole range of one-off bottlings. But could we at least start with Diageo's whole classic malts range? Half of it? Please. And to those who think that these restaurants are little more than "lowest common denominator" restaurants, just think of the sheer number of patrons they serve. Why it's far more than the snooty restaurant with the delicious culinary offerings that few can afford. I think that there's a tremendous untapped market for whisk(e)y distributors in this country. But how to get their attention?

And then it hit me! A Secret Society! Yes, that's it! One that's dedicated to being able to get interesting whisk(e)y anywhere you dine, not just at fancy places. A society for you and me, for anyone with down-to-earth values and pie-in-the-sky dreams. A society for the working man, bound together by a love of good whisk(e)y, good times, and the desire to not be denied! Introducing: Everyone Understands the Need for Uncompromising Cool Hooch, or EUNUCH. Yes, EUNUCH.

Oh sure, our society will start out powerless and impotent, but as membership grows and grows, our message will be flaccid no more! Imagine the surprise of your local chain restaurant bartender when you tell him or her that you will not get excited about his or her barren selection of whiskies because you are a EUNUCH! Ha! I can almost see the looks on their faces!

Now I understand that not everyone is up for the challenge of being a EUNUCH, but I can assure you that, on this one, my internal compass has never pointed me in a straighter direction. Hoist the mainsail on this one, I say. But, remember, there's strength in numbers, and we want to be hard to ignore. To paraphrase Arlo Guthrie, if only one person accepts my challenge, they'll probably just be ignored. If two people proclaim that they're EUNUCHS, they'll probably just be thought of as "funny" and, possibly, be thrown-out of the bar. But, if three, four, or more people start proclaiming themselves, well friends, then we'll have a movement! And that's what this is.

So remember, the next time your local Boonnigans barkeep tries to offer you some hard Canadian Club with your broccoli balls, just turn to him, shake your head, stand up, and shout, "No sir! I cannot! I am a EUNUCH!"

Let me know how it goes.



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# GOURMET RECIPIES

## COOKING WITH WHISK(E)Y



### Bourbon Spiral Sliced Ham

1/2 cup apple cider  
1/2 cup bourbon  
2 cups (packed) light brown sugar  
1 cup pecans, toasted, cooled, finely ground  
1/4 cup + 3 Tablespoons honey  
3 tablespoons Dijon mustard  
1 Orange or 6 oz can of pineapple juice  
1 spiral sliced bone-in ham

Boil apple cider and bourbon in small saucepan until reduced to 1/2 cup, about 6 minutes. Combine sugar, pecans, 1/4 cup honey, and mustard in bowl. Add bourbon mixture; stir to form a thick paste. Preheat oven to 325. Brush remaining 3 tablespoons honey on the ham. Place ham, fat side up, in prepared pan. Cut orange in half and squeeze juice over ham. Add orange halves to the pan. Cover with tin foil and roast ham 10 minutes per pound. Remove ham from oven; increase oven temperature to 425°F. Lightly score fat on ham in diamond pattern. Rub glaze thickly over top and sides of ham. Return ham to oven and roast until glaze is deep brown and bubbling, about 25 minutes.

### Bourbon Pecan Chicken

1/2 cup finely chopped pecans  
1/2 cup dry bread crumbs  
8 skinless, boneless chicken breast halves

1/4 cup clarified butter, melted  
1/4 cup Dijon mustard  
1/4 cup dark brown sugar  
2 2/3 tablespoons bourbon whiskey  
2 tablespoons soy sauce  
1 teaspoon Worcestershire sauce  
3/4 cup unsalted butter, chilled and cut into small cubes  
1/2 cup sliced green onions

Stir together the pecans, bread crumbs, and 2 tablespoons of clarified butter. Spread the mixture out on a plate. Press the chicken breasts into the mixture to coat on both sides. Heat the remaining 2 tablespoons of clarified butter in a large skillet over medium heat. Place the coated chicken breasts in the pan, and fry on both sides until nicely browned and chicken meat is cooked through, about 10 minutes per side.

In a small saucepan, whisk together the Dijon mustard, brown sugar, bourbon, soy sauce, and Worcestershire sauce until smooth. Bring to a simmer over medium-low heat, then remove from the burner, and whisk in the 3/4 cup of unsalted butter one piece at a time. Do not return to the heat. Pour the sauce over the chicken, and sprinkle with green onion.

### Bread Pudding with Whiskey Sauce

6 eggs, lightly beaten  
1 1/2 cups white sugar  
4 cups milk  
1 cup heavy cream  
1 tablespoon vanilla extract  
1/2 tablespoon ground cinnamon  
1 (1 pound) loaf bread, cut into 1 inch cubes  
1/2 cup golden raisins  
1 1/2 cups white sugar  
3/4 cup butter  
3/4 cup corn syrup  
1/2 cup whiskey

Preheat oven to 300 degrees F  
In a medium bowl, whip together eggs and sugar. Mix in milk, heavy cream, vanilla extract and cinnamon. Whip until smooth. Arrange bread cubes in a medium baking dish, and top with golden raisins. Cover with the whipped mixture. Allow the bread to become saturated with the mixture. Bake 45 minutes in the preheated oven, until lightly browned.  
To make the sauce, mix sugar, butter and corn syrup in a medium saucepan over low heat. Remove from heat when thoroughly blended, and whisk in the whiskey. Serve warm over bread pudding.

# GLENMORANGIE'S BRAVE NEW WORLD

BY BRETT CALISH





**GRAHAM EUNSON**

GLENMORANGIE  
WHISKY CREATOR & DISTILLERY  
MANAGER

When Glenmorangie Distillery invited the Whisky Guild over for a private tour and tasting of their new line of whiskies, I had two thoughts spring to mind. First: excitement, because any trip back to Scotland is a reason to smile. Second: A quote from Winston Churchill. You know the one, where he described Russia as “a riddle wrapped in a mystery inside an enigma”. That’s how I always felt about Glenmorangie’s whiskies. Though always “good”, if you’ve read any of my past reviews, you know I felt that they were constantly mucking about with their wood finishing – masking that essential Glenmorangie character, and a beautiful whisky. In my (very) humble opinion, I felt that Glenmorangie was missing the boat. Until now.

But I’m getting a little ahead of myself. Before focusing on the new, let’s talk about the old, and about what makes Glenmorangie one of the world’s finest single malt whiskies. History lesson: Glenmorangie Distillery was founded in 1843 and (fast-forward) is now the best selling single malt in Scotland. Lesson over. So, the obvious question is, “Why mess that up?” Isn’t being “number one” good enough? Well yes, and no. You see, if Glenmorangie wants to keep up in an increasingly international whisky market, a little reinvention was needed. Number one in Scotland is good; number one internationally is even better. Glenmorangie couldn’t even hope to have designs on that without something drastic happening, and that is where their new range comes in. It’s fresh, it’s new, and, at the risk of not being objective, it happens to be absolutely delicious, and probably the “shot in the arm” that the company needs.

Anyway, we started our tour of the Glenmorangie Distillery where it all begins, the Turlogie Springs.

Accompanied by the distillery manager, Graham Eunson, we trudged through the rainy morning (is there any other kind of morning in Scotland) to see the source of Glenmorangie’s water. Though just a catch basin for the springs that flow out of the surrounding sandstone hills, it is part tranquil, part awe-inspiring to know where every drop of water at the distillery comes from. Graham said that they estimate that it takes about one hundred years for the water to filter through the sandstone and into the springs, which could explain why Glenmorangie is one of the few distilleries to use “hard” water in their whisky, as opposed to the “soft” water pervading most of the rest of Scotland. Perhaps this is why Glenmorangie whisky is so fresh and vibrant. Graham also reminded us that, provenance being so important, one hundred percent of the barley used at Glenmorangie is grown in Scotland; nothing imported.

As we strolled through the distillery itself, enjoying the sights, smells, and tastes within, what stood out the most to us was the most obvious feature – the stills themselves. Purported to be the tallest in Scotland, with narrow necks over sixteen feet tall, it is these stills that help make Glenmorangie single malt so light and delicate. Interestingly, according to Graham, these stills were an accident. Years ago, in a cost-cutting move (they are Scottish, after all), the owner bought gin stills down in London, instead of the traditional whisky stills of the time. Who knows what the whisky would have tasted like if he wasn’t as frugal, but it certainly would be different than the spirit that pours off the stills today. As we continued our tour, we came to the dunage warehouses for a quick peek.



As traditional as it gets, damp and dark with moldy floors, these warehouses just seemed to ooze history; which was odd, because there were no older casks there. This is the by-product of Glenmorangie's success – they can't stockpile older whiskies because there's too much demand for their existing stocks. (I'm told that warehouse expansion is in the works.)

The tour over, we then met up with Master Blender Rachel Barrie for the *raison d'être* of our trip – the new whisky range. I'll leave the descriptions of the whiskies for the sidebar, but suffice it to say that as a "range", we were very impressed. As opposed to the cluttered tastes of some of the whisky expressions in the old range, this new line has whiskies that are all distinct; yet they all still maintain that basic Glenmorangie vibrancy that wakes you up as soon as you nose it. With the exception of the 18 and 25 year old, there are no age statements, but instead each whisky now has a name (the ten year old has essentially just been renamed "The Original"). The other three whiskies in Glenmorangie's new stable are comprised of the Extra Matured Range, essentially The Original that has been aged for at least two years in a different type of cask. Unlike the older, discontinued wood-finished whiskies, these are all enhancements of The Original; they don't mask Glenmorangie's essential character, they embrace it and then take it further.

La Santa (Oloroso sherry casks), Quinta Ruban (port pipes), and Nectar D'Or (Sauternes barriques) all may have, shall we say, interesting names, but please don't let that dissuade you from trying them. All three are non chill-filtered and bottled at 46% ABV, and this extra proof and lack of chill-filtering really do enhance both the taste and mouthfeel of the whisky.

The new Extra Matured Range and the old wood-finishing are truly like night and day, chalk and cheese. After an extensive and exhaustive tasting session, and with our noses and tastebuds needing a whisky reprieve, we left the distillery to enjoy a quick lunch with Rachel and the assistant distillery manager, Pauline Ogilvie. One of the "sixteen men of Tain", the sixteen members of the distillery responsible for making Glenmorangie whisky, Pauline was very down-to-earth while discussing the re-branding of Glenmorangie. Amid all the hubbub of these exciting times at Glenmorangie, and her own reserved excitement, Pauline reinforced to us that it was in meeting people and sharing her passion for the distillery and its whisky, that she derives the most contentment. And previous or present Glenmorangie, that hasn't changed. The whisky, though, most assuredly has.



LEFT TO RIGHT;  
RACHEL BARRIE, GRAHAM EUNSON, PAULINE OGILVIE



After lunch we saw more change, as we went back to the distillery for a quick look at the marketing end of the process. The most obvious change is the bottle itself. I know, I know...it's what's inside that counts. But the old bottle was rather ugly, and the new ones are, well, beautiful. And not just their shape, either. There are also new labels, nicely hued, bearing what is now Glenmorangie's signet, a kaleidoscope design of interwoven loops that comes from an eighth century Pictish carved stone found on the shores of the Dornoch firth, not all that far from the distillery. Called the Hilton of Cadboll Stone, the original is now in a Scottish museum. A painstakingly crafted replica stands on what may have been the original site. (The answer to the obvious next question is "Yes, of course we trekked out to the Dornoch firth later that evening to check it out! When in Rome, after all!) We finished-up with a brief glimpse at Glenmorangie's new advertising campaign. It reminded me, not of food or drink advertising, but of perfume ads. There was no focus on: nose, body, palate, finish – the cornerstones of whisky evaluation. Instead, the focus was on how the whisky made you "feel"; what sensations it evoked. A novel approach. As novel as the whiskies themselves.

Slainte, Glenmorangie!





## *Tasting Round Up*

BY BRETT CALISH

**The Original:** Beautifully vibrant and eye-opening, the nose is bursting with citrus (lemon, grapefruit), melons, hay, and custard. A young nose, but definitely not immature. A delicate, crisp body blends in well with the medium-length, complex finish -- tannic and slightly dry, with vanilla and more grapefruit notes, and hints of butterscotch and fresh mint. A Classic.

**La Santa:** This one starts out, quite obviously, nosing like good sherry vinegar; but beneath that there is the quint-essential Glenmorangie lemony character, as well as cherries, raisins, spongecake, cinnamon, and toasted nuts. More fuller-bodied than The Original, it nevertheless seems to have a relatively short finish (a quick warm burst, and then it's gone). While it's there, though, it reveals more sherry character, oak, and a fruit *mélange* of melons and tart apples.

**Quinta Ruban:** Wow! You know those chocolate oranges that pop-up everywhere at Christmastime? That's what fills your nose at the first whiff of Quinta Ruban. There are also raspberries, lemons, anise, fresh nuts, and Werther's Originals, but it's that rich chocolate that stays with you. Very full-bodied, with a long, smooth finish, leaving behind hints of bittersweet chocolate, toasted almonds, toasted oak, and anisette toasts. That's a lot of toast, but this whisky's jammin'. (Sorry, I couldn't resist).



**Nectar D'Or:** Very crisp; this whisky noses younger than it is. There's lots of fruit in the nose, specifically green grapes, nectarines, and white grapefruits, as well as Karo syrup and hay. A very light body followed by an equally short finish, though there is a lot going on in it – candy corn, more grapefruit, lots of oak, a little must, milk chocolate, vanilla, and ginger. You can definitely sense the Sauternes.

**18 Year Old ("Extremely Rare"):** A fresh, clean, vibrant nose that is invigorating on the one hand, yet extremely subtle on the other, with oranges, lemons, new oak, nutmeg, and Hershey bars (with almonds). We found the nose very...relaxing. The 18 year old had a medium-to-light mouthfeel, with a soothing finish of apples, oranges, figs, mint, and those chocolate and caramel nut clusters. An exquisite and sublime whisky.

**25 Year Old ("Quarter Century"):** At first honeyed and musty, the Quarter Century's nose eventually gives way to menthol, gauze, dandelion, chicory, a mix of citrus fruits, dried oysters, sweetened breakfast cereals, and baked ham. Quite the mix. At 25 years old, it's not surprising that the Quarter Century had a full-bodied, almost meaty, mouthfeel. Neither were we surprised by the quantity of dry oak in the finish, which also contained camphor, cloves (for the ham), and the essence of a field after a late harvest. Quite interesting.



Say hello to iPhone.





# BLURRING THE LINES

by Jeffrey Karlovitch

NFL levied multiple fines on the New England Patriots Bill Belichick

## But Was It Enough?

In the 'win now or you're FIRED' current day NFL, many coaches are forced to work 18 hour days for virtually the entire year just to try and get an edge. Losing is not well tolerated. But, let's just say you could use technology to your advantage and steal, I mean innocently record, another team's defensive signals. That would probably help, right? Maybe for an adjustment or two at halftime, or for in-depth study for the next time you played this particular foe. That probably wouldn't be fair; that would be cheating, right? But if you get caught, you could just say you misinterpreted the rules, even though the commissioner specifically warned you, as well as your colleagues, that this type of innocent behavior is in fact CHEATING. I'm sure the NFL didn't use the word cheating; they probably called it something a lot more PC. Heaven forbid they insult the folks that are cheating.

Such was the case when the NFL levied multiple fines on the New England Patriots and their head coach Bill Belichick for filming the New York Jets' defensive signals during their September 9th opening day match up. It's a widely held belief that the Patriots have been doing this for some time, so it's no wonder the Jets were actively looking for it. To the Jets' credit they stood up and said, 'NOT in MY house' (or the Giants' house really). And how are the Jets rewarded for this brave act? They're vilified in the media for 'ratting-out' a fellow team. The sports media's first reaction was the old 'well everyone does it' line, and 'it's not that big of an advantage'. It's still an advantage, I don't care how small. The fact that other teams may do it still doesn't make it right.

When has cheating been measured in degrees? It's like, Johnny only cheated on part of the test so it's ok. It's never ok; cheating is cheating, period. Of course, the fact that the Patriots were doing this in the first place was idiotic, since they don't even need to cheat. The last time I checked (and I'm reminded twice per year, as a cursed Jets fan) the Patriots are the best team in football, and have been for the last several years. Why jeopardize your legacy for what all the so-called experts believe wouldn't be that big of an advantage? The fear of losing? I really don't think so. This was a case of ego run amok, pure and simple. I can cheat because I'm better than everyone else. Success can breed arrogance, which is exactly what happened in this case.

Now the sports media seems to be salivating for the next Jets/Patriots game. The Patriots will be able to 'exact their revenge' on the team that upset the cheater's apple cart. Hello! Who's the victim here? If anything, the Jets and the rest of the league are the ones who have been cheated, and deserve a share of revenge.

Sorry to preach, but when have we become so accepting of cheating, just to get ahead? We're starting to turn into an 'It's ok to lie, just as long as you don't get caught' society. And if you do get caught, just blame the victim and check yourself into the nearest treatment facility. It's like all these transgressions now come with a 'how to' guide for damage control and spin. Cheated on your spouse, turn to page 37; cheated on your taxes, turn to page 121. What these 'cheaters' are really doing is cheating on fair play, which is precisely what draws us to sports in the first place. My best against your best; not my best against your video camera, or chemically-enhanced homerun hitter.

Is Belichick's cheating any different than that of baseball players who took steroids to hit more homeruns? In the world of 'win at all costs', have we lost some integrity along the way? Why does the public so easily forgive a sports celebrity involved in unsavory conduct, on or off the field? Is it because of our forgiving nature, or is it the fact we know without him we may not win the title. Tony Dungy (the Anti-Belichick) showed the world that you can win it all, while still maintaining your integrity. We'll have to wait and see how history judges Bill Belichick. My only hope is that his excessive ego, and the damage he's done to the NFL in reaching his lofty accomplishments, is factored in if/when he's voted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

Maybe this is why I love whisky so much. It's simple, honest, and made with integrity by people that care deeply about their craft, and who respect the generations of men and women that came before them.

Ok, I'm done with my rant.

## *Top Ten Sports Controversies*

### **1. Black Sox**

Eight members of the heavily favored White Sox conspired to throw at least one game of the World Series.

### **2. Steroid use in Major League Baseball**

Evidence continues to mount regarding widespread steroid use by many of the games most popular players. In a sport where statistics are everything, one has to wonder if many of the current day records are worth the paper their printed on.

### **3. Pete Rose**

One of the greatest baseball players of all time is barred from the Hall of Fame for, as he now admits, betting on baseball.

### **4. Tonya Harding**

The metal pipe heard round the world.

### **5. Ben Johnson - Olympic Runner**

The first in a long line of runners stripped of Olympic gold.

### **6. Danny Almonte - Little League World Series**

A great pitcher, and only 2 years older than any other Little League player on the field.

### **7. Rosie Ruiz - Boston Marathon**

Hide in the crowd and jump out in the last 20 minutes to cross the finish line first. Brilliant!

### **8. Spygate**

When one of the NFL's most successful coaches is caught stealing other teams signals and many in the mainstream media write it off as insignificant, I guess cheating should be measured in degrees.

### **9. The 2000 Spanish Paralympics Team**

Turns out none of the members of the intellectually disabled basketball team were mentally disabled.

### **10. Tim Donaghy - NBA Referee**

Betting on games he officiated. At least the evidence indicates this is a case of just one bad apple, and not a widespread problem for the NBA



Kentucky  
**BOURBON**  
**FESTIVAL**  
*presents*

*The*  
*Great*  
*Kentucky*  
*Bourbon Tasting*  
*and*  
*Gala*



*The*  
*Great*  
*Kentucky*  
*Bourbon Tasting*  
*and*  
*Gala*

Kentucky  
**BOURBON**  
**FESTIVAL**  
*presents*



So there I was, in Kentucky....

Well, it wasn't quite that simple, but Whisky Life was invited down to cover this year's Kentucky Bourbon Festival (KBF), and seeing as how it is THE signature event of the bourbon year, it was an offer I couldn't refuse. (Hmm, let's see: stay home or go down to bourbon country and have an outrageous time doing things I wouldn't normally do. Let me think, let me think.)

For those who don't know, or haven't guessed, the Kentucky Bourbon Festival is the annual celebration of all things bourbon. Held in Bardstown, the "Bourbon Capital of the World", this six-day extravaganza is part craft fair and part high-end fun. It is both family-friendly, and "for adults". And, if you've got a few days next September, and you don't know what to do with them, you'd be well advised to consider the KBF in your travel options.

As nice as the KBF itself is though, one of the best things about it is that you don't have to just stay at the festival. Probably not what the chairpeople want to hear, but think about it. There are over 50,000 people who attend the festival every year, and though it is, truly, an awful lot of fun, that's a lot of folks, a lot of noise, a lot of chaos, etc., etc. How nice then, that you can break away for a not-too-long drive toward Frankfort or Lexington or Lawrenceburg. Keep in mind that not all bourbon activities reside near the festival grounds. In fact, the Kentucky Bourbon Trail has a large presence in the Lawrenceburg/Frankfort area, with four distilleries in that region, alone. It's a pleasant way to recharge your batteries, because you'll need all of your energy to enjoy even a portion of the festival. And that, after all, is the reason we're here – to soak-in the Kentucky Bourbon Festival! So, back to Bardstown.

Even though it is a six-day event (Tuesday through Sunday), we only stayed for three days. (Hey what can I say, we've got wives—mean wives, with big gnashing teeth.) After getting into town on Thursday, we decided to bypass the "hoo haa", as the hotel clerks called it, and just walk the mile or two into town to get a feel for Bardstown, itself. Cute little town, nice Main street, tasty tavern, a few (ahem) more Confederate flags than I'm used to seeing in New Jersey, but all-in-all just a peaceful, little, tight-knit community. Incidentally, I had one of the best beers I've ever tasted at the Talbott Tavern there, Kentucky Bourbon Barrel Ale. If you're ever in Kentucky, order one! In any event, this being a bourbon trip, we decided to don our tourist caps, and take a trolley tour of Historic Bardstown. Very interesting, sort of, though I remember nothing other than that we ended up at Heaven Hill distillery, or more specifically at the Heaven Hill distillery gift shop. Gee, I wonder who owns the trolley? Also, sharing the building with the gift shop was the Bourbon Heritage Center, complete with interactive exhibits about bourbon and its history. Funny thing, everyone from the trolley was on the gift shop side. I'm sure they're all coming back later to see the history side; I'm sure of it.

# WHISK(E)Y TRAVELOGUE

BY BRETT CALISH

## KENTUCKY BOURBON FESTIVAL



Bourbon Heritage Center  
at the Heaven Hill Distillery

Oh well, back to the hotel to get ready for our first KBF event, the Bourbon-Style Culinary School. This event was our tip-off that the KBF was something special. This sold-out event in the Great Hall at My Old Kentucky Home State Park was well worth the price of admission. As Louisville chef Chris Howerton prepared and explained that night's dishes, on stage, we got to relax and share all of his cuisine at large tables with others who shared our passion and interest for not just whiskey, but "bourbon country" in general. And, of course, every one of Chef Howerton's creations used a different Jim Beam Brand bourbon. Each table's centerpiece also incorporated a Jim Beam Brand bourbon (ours was Knob Creek). Now, there was just one rule that evening – don't open the bourbon in the center of the table. Um, well, see, I'm from Jersey, and was mighty thirsty that night (you know, after the trolley ride). But I was a mensch, sharing the bottle equally with everyone at the table! Besides, who needs a door prize anyway! Anyway, a good night, and a great way to kick-off our KBF experience.

Day two was our big day. And to be fair, some things we did were not "public" events, but merely intended to give us a feel for the bourbon community and people behind the scenes. Breakfast was such an event. What better way to start your day than with breakfast at the Knob Creek House with Jim Beam's three whiskey professors, and Jim Beam's great-grandson himself, Fred Noe. Now those of you who've been enjoying bourbon for at least a little while, may have even run across Fred yourself from time to time. He's not shy. And if you don't know what he looks like, just pick yourself up a new bottle of either Jim Beam white or black label – Fred was just honored by having his picture placed on the label, right next to his late father, Booker Noe, as the seventh generation of family distillers. Congratulations, Fred.



So after a breakfast that couldn't be beat, enjoyed alternately on the outside porch in beautiful serenity, and inside, listening to Lynyrd Skynyrd and Hickory & Friends on the stereo, it was time to go take a tour of the Jim Beam Distillery (which anyone can do). Located on Happy Hollow Road (I love that name), this distillery is "all business". Yet even in its beautiful mass efficiency there is still tradition, from the original yeast strain that James Beam used to bring home daily (just in case), and that Fred still has a little of in his refrigerator, too (just in case), to the second and third generation employees who wouldn't work anywhere else. I'm not going to bore you with the details of the distillery. Suffice it to say that a) it was a treat to meet so many distillery workers who loved, and were proud of, their jobs, and b) a tour of the Jim Beam Distillery is a must when you are in Kentucky! Well, maybe I'll bore you with one story: Fred Noe was actually our guide through the distillery. At one point he was talking about the amount of spirit that evaporates through the barrels, as whiskey matures.

I said to him that, of course, in Scotland this is known as the Angel's Share (an allusion to divine intervention in whisky making). I then asked if he had any cute phrase for this down in Kentucky. Fred looked at me with a bigger than life smile and, referencing his late father, said "that's Booker's Share." And that's why, for all its big-business feel, Jim Beam Brands remains so close to the hearts of so many bourbon drinkers.



From the Jim Beam Distillery, it was about a 45 minute ride to our next stop, Maker's Mark Distillery. After lunch at Burke's House on the distillery grounds, it was time to tour. As we passed other tour groups who were also enjoying the distillery, we all couldn't help reflecting on the differences between our two distillery experiences. Although both Jim Beam and Maker's Mark distilleries were impressive, and wonderful, in their own way, Maker's Mark was, for lack of a better term, lovely.

In spite of being owned by the same company that owns Beam, Maker's Mark appeared as a "model of inefficiency", by design. Though not the case, it was as if Bill Samuels, Maker's Mark's president, built beautiful old buildings in a pristine, bucolic setting, and then said, "oh what the heck, let's make some whiskey here!" And the whiskey matches the setting, (as all good whiskeys do), with soft red winter wheat replacing rye in the mash bill (recipe). [And yes, you can dip your very own commemorative bottle into red wax at the brand new visitor center there. And yes, it's cool!] After poking around the distillery for a short time, we were privileged to be able to attend this year's induction ceremony for the Bourbon Hall of Fame. Held this year at the Maker's Mark Distillery, the ceremony seemed to attract "everyone who was anyone" in the bourbon industry, as well it should. Of the six inductees, the two that most non-industry people would recognize are Edward Baker Beam (the namesake of Baker's Bourbon, one of the Beam Brands Small Batch Bourbon Collection), and Jim Murray (who unfortunately could not attend due to the funeral of fellow writer, and icon, Michael Jackson). Seeing, seemingly, the whole bourbon industry packed into one room, mingling with each other and laughing together, you got a sense that although there's a lot of competition amongst distilleries, there is still an over-riding sense of family that still pervades the industry.

Well, let's see. There's been bourbon for breakfast, bourbon for lunch, bourbon in-between. That can only mean one thing. Yes, bourbon for dinner. Had we wanted to go, one of the KBF events that night was "Bourbon, Cigars, and Jazz", which sounded right up our alley. Instead though, we were invited to dinner at Fred Noe's house for a "bourbon-que" and Small Batch Bourbon Collection tasting for about two hundred friends and family. You know, it's like your or my summer picnic, with, oh I don't know, more people, more bourbon, live music, and living history all around you. Pretty run of the mill. Just kidding, obviously. (Fred, as I told you then: you, your wife, your mother, and your son are all very gracious hosts). My two highlights of the party were seeing Fred flambé the pork loins with a full bottle of Booker's Bourbon, and Fred interrupting the tasting to have newly inducted hall-of-fame member Baker Beam come up and introduce his Baker's Bourbon for us. A memorable evening with an extraordinary family.

Next morning, we were back at Fred Noe's house for breakfast. He cooks up a pretty good eggs-and-sausage breakfast, but with no bourbon on the morning menu, it was all I could do not to go into withdrawal. After I shook-off my DT's, it was time to go enjoy the Festival Lawn. This turned out to be something of a surprise. There was... no whiskey there. Instead, it was a giant craft fair. You could get wood carvings, wind chimes, roasted nuts, jewelry, but no whiskey. Call me crazy, but I thought that at the centerpiece of the Kentucky Bourbon Festival, there'd be, well, bourbon. Some of the distilleries had set-up tents, but these were only to sell t-shirts, hats, barbeque sauces, etc. Odd. (Yeah, I bought a t-shirt, so what?!) We kept walking around, past the display of classic cars and the Army recruitment booth, and found the food area, though I couldn't understand why my companion didn't want any of the fried gator-on-a-stick that seemed to be calling to me. We were able to see a little of the World Championship Bourbon Barrel Relay as we were exploring. It's amazing just how many people mobbed to that event. It was packed! Finally, we found the bourbon. In an area behind a chain link fence, harmoniously dubbed The Spirit Garden. Well it is research, so we paid to get in, and then paid for a drink, and then looked around at all the other people just sitting there, silently. So after the (really) quick drink, it was "goodbye chain link fence". Apparently, on the Festival Lawn, you can have either food or drink, but not together. Together is bad.

You see, the problem (as it usually is) is expectation and perception. If you want to just go out for the day and spend a few hours walking around, enjoying, and soaking it all in, then the Festival Lawn is the place to be. But, on the other hand, if you're there for the Whiskey, the Whiskey, and the Whiskey, you might be just a tad underwhelmed. And let's face it, you are definitely not reading this article because you want a recommendation on which craft fair to attend. (Back at the hotel, we were all asking each other, "So what did you think?" Invariably the response was, "Um, it was nice". Because, in truth, it was nice, but it definitely wasn't what was expected!) It seems that there is a duality to the Kentucky Bourbon Festival: a pleasant, family atmosphere by day, laced with some extraordinary events by night.

This leads me to our last event, The Great Kentucky Bourbon Festival Tasting and Gala, a black-tie affair that was one of the best events I've, personally, ever been to. Also sold-out, the Gala is the signature event of the Festival, and if/when you go to the Festival, you need to make sure you get tickets. The evening starts out as a large tasting event, except instead of each distillery having a little table to showcase their products, each has about ten percent of a large hall. The distilleries all present themselves very well and there are master distillers or brand ambassadors everywhere to answer questions, tell you about their whiskies, or just help you enjoy your evening.



*Glen Karlovitch, Fred Noe (Jim Beam), Brett Calish*

As an added bonus, each distillery has its own glasses, which you get to collect and bring home. After ample time to sample everything you are interested in, the tasting hall shuts down, and everyone goes into the "ballroom", which is nothing more than a parking lot with a huge carnival-type tent set-up on it, that now also has a stage, dance floor, and hundreds of tables. In all seriousness, if you didn't look down and see blacktop, you wouldn't know that you were in a parking lot. It was all impressively done. The rest of the evening is as you'd expect at a Gala – first-class dinner, live band with dancing, open (bourbon) bar; there was even a silent auction. It takes a lot to get me out on a dance floor, but this event (or the bourbon I drank at it) did the trick. I said it at the time, and it's true: this event was Top Notch. And it was also a perfect ending to an eventful three days at the Kentucky Bourbon Festival, [www.KyBourbonFestival.com](http://www.KyBourbonFestival.com). I can't wait to go back.



"Head Turner - Performance and luxury, together in perfect harmony -- that's the first thing that came to mind when I test drove Jaguar's XK convertible. This is a car that you can fall in love with at first sight, even before you turn the key. A dramatic yet understated exterior design captures the look of a classic sport automobile, with the performance and features that can only be found in today's ultra-premium performance cars.

With a 300-horsepower, 4.2 liter engine, the XK is capable of doing 0 to 60 in six seconds, with a maximum speed of 155 miles per hour. The XKR convertible has 420-horsepower and can do 0 to 60 in five seconds. Too much power? If you think so, then these Jaguars aren't for you. But they certainly are for me! As far as I'm concerned, more is better. And when it comes in such a classy package, more is "just right".

The XK is pure indulgence for those that love to drive and have the resources to afford the very best. This is a car for today's professional that offers something different and classic, and seemingly built to turn heads."

**Henry Fitzgerald - Speed**

# JAGUAR



# Hosting a Whisky Tasting

BY PETER SILVER

## Minimal investment required

Hosting a whisky tasting at home is fun, and a good way to try multiple whiskies with minimal investment. All you need is a few friends, each of whom will bring some bottles of whisky plus your own. Compare notes to avoid duplication. Any whisky is fine, from Scotland, Ireland, America, or Tasmania – just as long as it's whisky! Try to arrange the tasting after a meal so everyone won't be tasting on an empty stomach, which can cause rapid inebriation.

## Fast easy home preparations

Your preparation at home is very simple. Buy some mildly flavored cheese, crackers, and bottled water, both for drinking and diluting whisky. Tap water has too many unwanted additives and can ruin good whisky. Put a large deep vessel in the middle of the table for people to rinse their glasses with a small amount of water between tastes. Use wine glasses, or any tulip shaped glass, so everyone can nose their whisky—rocks glasses don't work well. Don't use ice as it will make it much harder to detect any aromas. If someone really wants ice in their whisky, ask them to sample without ice first. Then after nosing and tasting, they can put in all the ice they want. Ask if they notice a difference. For the same reason, the water used to dilute whisky should be left at room temperature.

## Tasting technique

Go easy on the pour. As host, remind everyone that since you are trying 5-6 whiskies, half ounce pours are plenty. If you want to increase the number of malts tried, don't go past eight or nine, since it gets pretty blurry at that point! Pour everyone some of the whisky and encourage the group to nose the beverage. To avoid anesthetizing your nose, sniff with your mouth open. See if anyone can identify any aromas. While we only have five taste senses: sweet, sour, salty, bitter and umami (savory/meaty), we can smell over six times as many scents. Many of these aromas are listed in a whisky wheel derived by fellow malt maniac and noted author Charles MacLean.

A trick to help smell the nuances more intensely is to pour a little whisky on one palm and briskly rub your hands together for five seconds. Cup them over your nose and inhale deeply. If that doesn't get some aromas into your nose, you have a really bad cold!

It's also useful to have some blank paper for everyone to take notes on, if they wish. For each malt they can write-in nosing, palate or body and finish observations. Begin to keep a record of what your preferences are; start rating your whiskies, using points, stars, or any system you like. After sniffing away and recording your thoughts, take a moderately sized sip, and swirl it around your mouth. Does the taste deliver what the nose promised? What do you taste - honey, malt, sherry, vanilla? Does it change in your mouth, revealing different characteristics? How long is the finish before it fades away? Experiment with adding a few drops of water and seeing if the aroma and taste changes at all. If a whisky tastes too strong, keep adding water a little at a time until it feels right.



Rinsing glasses between whiskies is as essential as rinsing your mouth and throatout with some water as well. Eating a cracker will also help cleanse your palate. Another little secret to cleanse your nose is to sniff over some water. Don't forget to take a little break somewhere in the middle to eat some cheese, which helps keep you sober, and give your nose and palate a rest from tasting whisky. Above all, have fun! The next time you buy a bottle of whisky, you'll have personal experience to help make a selection.



PATEK PHILIPPE  
GENEVE





# It is not just funky cigarettes and

## Red Lights

BY ADAM LEVY

When people think of Amsterdam, certain images pop into their heads. There is the famous Red Light District. The 160 man-made canals that intersect throughout the city. The coffee shops that sell things besides coffee. Yet, if you know where to look you will find an active community of fellow whiskey connoisseurs.

Amsterdam, for centuries, has been an open, tolerant city. While the rest of Europe raged with religious violence in the 1700's, Catholics and Protestants and Jews lived side by side. This openness continues today and makes Amsterdam a welcoming city for its 730,000 residents and tourists alike. You will hear many different languages as you walk the streets throughout the city. The history of Dutch colonialism and its influence will be found, from its wonderful Asian restaurants to its large diamond-brokerage houses. Amsterdam has also undergone a serious cleanup effort in the last several years, to the point where the canals are now flushed twice a week and fish have returned to these beautiful waterways.

A visit to Amsterdam would not be complete without visiting the main cultural sites of this dynamic city. One museum you must visit is the Rijksmuseum which holds many of the Dutch Masters greatest works including Rembrandt's famous painting, "Night Watch".

Other great works from the 15th to 17th century will captivate your eye and soul. And, after a leisurely tour of the Rijksmuseum continue a short distance to the greatest whiskey bar in all of Amsterdam, the Whiskycafe L&B.

Whiskycafe L&B has been open for over 35 years and has an amazing selection of over 950 whiskies from distilleries around the world. This snug, wood-paneled bar has chalkboards all around you listing all the different whiskies available. The bar is located on a popular street filled with great restaurants and other great bars. It has a wonderful relaxed vibe and you will find people of all ages and incomes enjoying great whiskey and conversation. The bar staff encourages you to ask questions about different whiskies and the regions they come from. The owner Leon Eslshoff also runs whiskey tastings at the bar, on certain days, to anyone who wants to learn more about whiskey.

Another cultural spot to visit is the recently expanded Anne Frank Museum. It is a riveting experience that has also been updated to include the recreation of Otto Frank's business. What was once a warehouse commercial area during Anne Frank's time is now filled with hotels, restaurants and even a great pancake house down the street. A short walk from the museum is the Cadenhead shop.



Cadenhead of Scotland is the oldest independent bottler in the Whiskey industry. Started in 1842 Cadenhead is one of the few remaining family run companies that bottles their spirits from distilleries around the world. The Amsterdam shop is run by the knowledgeable Andries Visser who is a wealth of information on whiskey and what to do while in Amsterdam. This visit should not be a quick one, as you will find an immense selection of Cadenhead whiskey and rum. You should also watch Andries pour direct from a cask into a bottle, which you may also purchase. Cadenhead ships the whiskey to Andries who stores it in one of the many casks they keep in the shop. Each cask represents a different region of whiskey from Scotland. It is a great experience and memory to relive back at home, as you share it with your friends.

So take the time and visit the beautiful city of Amsterdam. Rent a bike and crisscross the many canals that intersect the city. Visit the museums that hold such a rich European history. Wake up early in the morning to visit the tulip gardens and later stroll to a wonderful pancake house for brunch. And in the end, visit and drink like the locals, with our friends at the Cadenhead shop of Amsterdam and the Whiskybar L&B.

#### Contact Information

Anne Frank Museum  
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# SPORTSNET

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WATCH CLARK THE CANADIAN HOCKEY GOALIE

**“SHOW US YOUR GAME”**

# Is a Whisky Worth \$20,000?

BY JEFFREY KARLOVITCH

I recently sampled the new 1974 Ardbeg Double Barrel Release (only 50 released in the world.)

Before I tried these 2 whiskies, I thought to myself, \$20,000 is a little steep; can a whisky really be that good? I'm not a person that gets caught-up in price or how old a whisky is. One of my all-time favorites is 14 years old. So when I walked into the tasting I already had my mind somewhat made up.

The leather shotgun case comes with 2 single cask bottlings from 2 different casks, plus 8 handmade pewter cups.

I was handed the first of the 2 whiskies to taste (cask #3524). After nosing and savoring this whisky, I quickly realized that this whisky was the closest to perfection I have ever had.

The second whisky (cask #3145) was amazing in its own right; it was more of what you would expect from an older, matured Ardbeg.

So is a whisky worth \$20,000, I would have never thought so, before this evening. But, how can you put a price on a whisky that is so close to perfection? The shame of this whisky is that most of it will never be opened. It will become a dust magnet on a collector's shelf. So gather together a group of your closest friends and buy yourself whisky bliss.

If only millions of these bottles were to exist, I think we would achieve world peace.

# DIAGEO BRINGS NEW RARE EXPRESSIONS TO THE U.S.



30 Year Old Brora - This was a fantastic whisky; buy it now. Brora goes fast.



1979 Port Ellen - A nice, cracking dram from a closed distillery that has always produced high quality whisky.



30 Year Old Talisker - This whisky was special. Hats off to this one.

# GADGETS

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**iPhone** is a revolutionary new mobile phone that allows you to make a call by simply tapping a name or number in your address book, a favorites list, or a call log. It also automatically syncs all your contacts from a PC, Mac, or internet service. And it lets you select and listen to voicemail messages in whatever order you want — just like email.

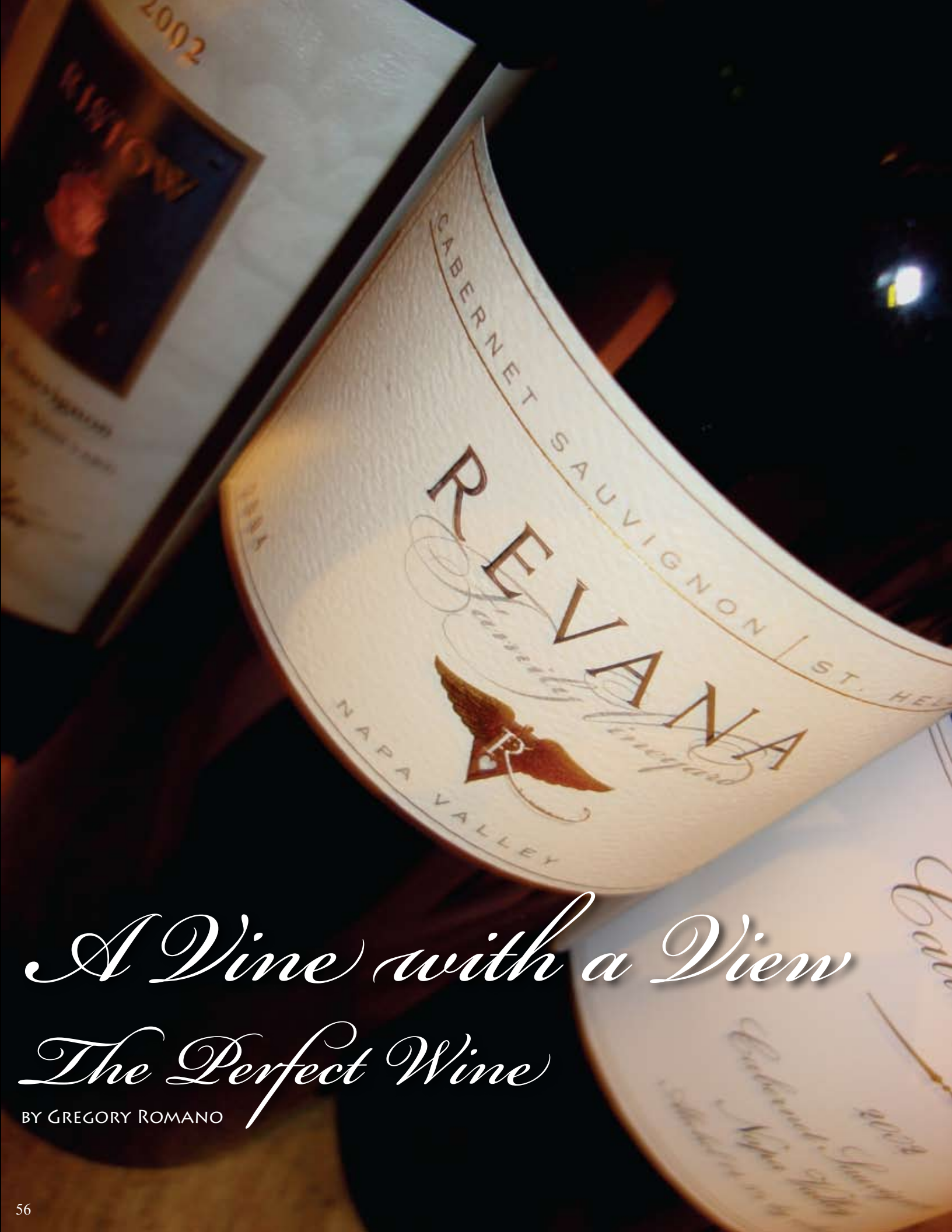


**The Dell XPS M2010** is built to impress and inspire, bringing together 20.1-inches of widescreen viewing, built-in high-definition video and a variety of high-performance components. Ideal for presentations, movies, music, TV7 and more, the XPS M2010 redefines mobile multimedia, using the latest technology to deliver an audio/visual experience unlike any other.

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*A Vine with a View*  
*The Perfect Wine*

BY GREGORY ROMANO

In 1966, a film was released entitled, *The Endless Summer*. Shot in a low budget documentary style, it follows the adventures of two young surfers from California who embarked on a utopian odyssey to search the world for a stretch of coastline that offered up the perfect wave. Though not a blockbuster success, it nevertheless struck a nerve with many baby boomers, surfers and non-surfers alike, who realized that while the film's protagonists ultimately found their surfing nirvana, it was the journey that mattered.

So it is with wine. Whether you are a beginner, novice, or experienced aficionado, enjoying wine is about the journey. There are no awards; merely rewarding experiences.

Wine suffered for far too long at the hands of the wine snob. Yes, they're still out there (and you know who you are), but their stature has, thankfully, been greatly diminished by very available and approachable wine education for the beginner through advanced levels. Concurrently, many winemakers from the major wine producing regions are producing wines that are drinking nicely in the near term, thus accelerating the learning curve for newer wine drinkers.

An oft quoted Roman expression, "De gustibus non est disputandum" roughly translated means, "In matters of taste there is no dispute." With wine, no truer words have been written. Where one gravitates toward Bordeaux, another to Barolo, and a third to Reisling, it doesn't really matter so long as we're enjoying our respective experiences.

This segues neatly into a discussion of ratings. The juggernaut *Wine Spectator* magazine and individual reviewers such as the iconic Robert Parker's *Wine Advocate* have winemakers twisting in the wind awaiting their annual pronouncements,

and thus, by extension, consumers have become equally tethered. Considering the seemingly endless choices in a wine shop is daunting for most, if not overwhelming and frustrating for beginners and novices. In a bottom line society, there's an attraction to creating a simple matrix of grape, price, and rating, then scanning the racks to find a bottle with the brightly colored tag heralding an acceptable rating.

The mind quickly concludes, "This wine got a 92 rating! It must be good." Reminds one of how discerning Jethro Bodine was about Granny's cooking. In reality, the wine earned a 92 from that particular reviewer according to his or her palate and personal preferences formed over the span of a career tasting thousands of wines. But once opened at your table, it may not taste like a 92 to you..... or your dinner guests.

Ratings crumble when held against the Romans' 2000 year old admonition. Each reviewer comes to a tasting with his or her personal prejudices. As one would expect, inconsistencies arise among well regarded reviewers over the same bottle of wine. Instead, we should be guided by Commodore's Perry's view of a predicament: "Damn the ratings! Full speed ahead!"

Anyone interested in wine should be trying several wines from various varietals among several vintages.....and keeping notes of what he or she likes and dislikes. Refining your taste is an important part of the journey. Similarly, experienced wine lovers should reach beyond their comfort zones and try wines with which they have little or no experience. Wine tastings are numerous so there are plenty of opportunities to try a wine before plunking down the plastic. Reputable wine merchants want you to try something new, and more importantly, want your tasting experience to be a positive one.

What do you call  
the guy who bought  
bottle 367  
of 367?

CASK STRENGTH  
COLLECTION

MANNOICHMORE

AGED 17 YEARS  
1988

Distilled on: 25/05/1988  
Bottled on: 20/02/2006  
Matured in Hogsheads  
Cask No: 4929+30  
Bottle No: 367 of 367

NATURAL COLOR  
56.3%

750ml

Cask individually selected  
Signature Vintage Scotch Whisky  
PRODUCT OF SCOTLAND

One lucky bastard

IT'S TRUE. EACH OF OUR SINGLE MALTS COMES FROM ONE DISTILLERY, ONE CASK AND ONE DISTILLATION. WHEN A CASK IS EMPTIED, THAT'S THAT. THAT LABEL WILL NEVER BE REPEATED. SO ENJOY EVERY SIP BECAUSE WHEN IT'S GONE, IT'S GONE.

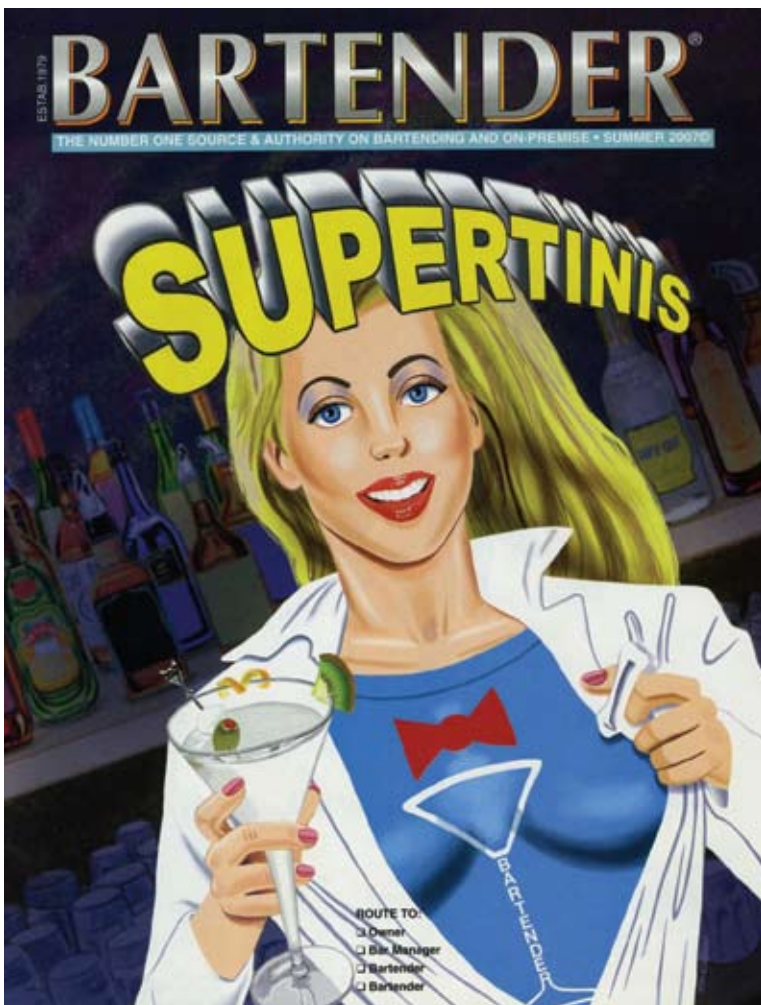
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Following in the footsteps of the foodie craze, the wine world has developed its own cadre of star wine makers. Like gourmet chefs, their winemaking styles are as individual as their personalities. If a particular bottle impresses you, go online to identify the winemaker and try a different wine he or she has produced. You may find a reliable barometer for future selections. Similarly, get to know the staff at a few wine shops. A knowledgeable specialist should be capable of pairing your taste preferences with reliable recommendations.

Wine education on the internet is of prolific proportions. Wine Spectator offers on-line wine seminars, and there are many resources available through a casual search. The University of California at Davis is home to one of the world's most illustrious schools of viticulture (cultivation of grapes) and enology (science of wine and wine making). Its website (<http://wineserver@ucdavis.edu>) is chock full of information. Wineeducation.com is another site I've enjoyed over the years. It even sports a mildly addicting game called "Sim Vin" where the participant tries his hand at developing a vineyard and winery and is confronted with a variety of investment, budget, meteorological, and production issues.

So, go ahead, open a few bottles, attend wine tastings, travel to wine country, or simply search the virtual wine world from your favorite chair. It's all about the journey.



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Please Drink Responsibly

# TALISKER 18 YEAR OLD



**Talisker 18** year old was declared the Best Single Malt Whisky in the World. This remarkable single malt was named overall winner after three rounds of blind tasting by independent whisky experts.

Talisker 18 year old had already accumulated several other esteemed titles since its launch in October of 2004. In 2005, it earned the 'Best in Class' Gold Medal and 'Whisky of the Year' at the International Wine & Spirit Competition. That same year, it was awarded a Gold Medal at Germany's International Spirits Competition.

In 2006, the impressive 18 year old took home a Double Gold Medal at the San Francisco World Spirits Competition and a trophy for the best single malt Scotch whisky over 15 years old from the International Wine & Spirits Competition.

Talisker's 18 year old is not alone. The 10 year old expression of Talisker is also the most award winning single malt in its class.

The only single malt Scotch whisky made on the island of Skye, the distillery was built in 1830 by Hugh and Kenneth MacAskill, beside Loch Harport. The name is derived from the Norse, "Thalas Gair", meaning "Sloping Rock". The whisky was already famous by 1880 as "The king o' drinks..." (R. L. Stevenson).

## **Nose**

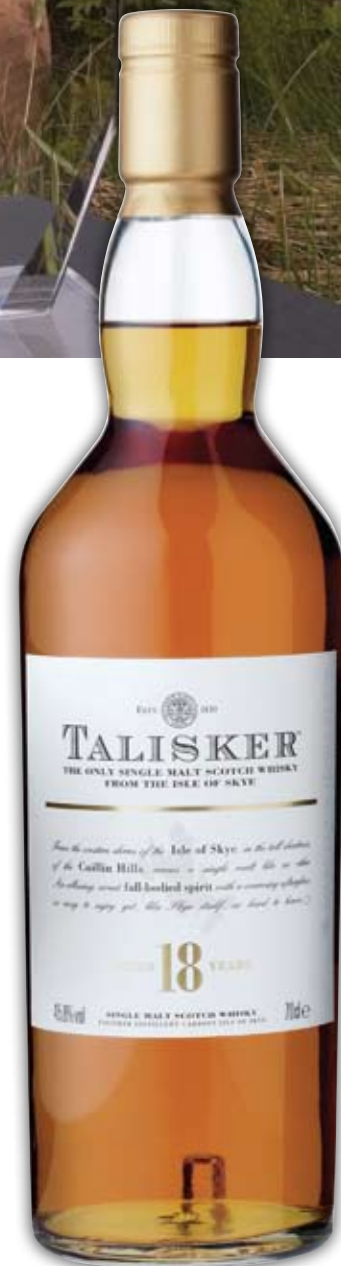
*Rich & Fruity,  
Hint of Salt*

## **Body**

*Creamy, Smooth*

## **Finish**

*Medium Length, with a  
gentle peat lingering on  
the finish, with a little  
smoke*



# The Value Meter

by Glen Karlovitch



All things get better with age, right? Or do they? When it comes to whisk(e)y, the only thing you can truly count on is older means it's MORE EXPENSIVE. Older can be better in some cases, but I've also tried way too many thirty-plus year old whiskies that are simply average or over-aged. Another increasingly common practice is for brands to inflate the prices of their older whiskies to present the ILLUSION that, if it's more expensive, it must be better.

Many Brand Ambassadors we've talked to have a common complaint, especially in the United States (sorry Yanks), that many whisky enthusiasts just want to try the oldest thing they have. I find that the best Scotch whiskies are usually in the 15 to 18 year old range. For bourbon, it's usually 6 to 9 years. Irish whiskey is around 12 years old. So next time you're at a whisky event, try the full range, and I'm fairly certain that the best thing you'll try won't be the oldest thing on the table.

So, back to value for your money. Through our travels we've found many excellent drams that, for the money, were excellent quality. These aren't bargain bin drams, but special whiskies that are still affordable.

'You get what you pay for', should be applied to household appliances and cars but never whisk(e)y.

## Single Malt Scotch Whiskies:

### Islay

*Laphroaig Quarter Cask* – An excellent heavily peated dram that is still amazingly drinkable and smooth.

### Islands & Campbeltown

*Talisker 10 year old* – One of the best whiskies in the world, regardless of price.

### Highlands

*The Dalmore 12 year old* – Rich and full of fruit; very smooth and enjoyable.

### Speyside

*Aberlour 15 year old* – Another sherried dram that has depth and complexity. One of my favorites.

### Lowlands

*Glenkinchie 12 year old* – The quintessential Lowland malt.

## American Whiskey:

### Bourbon

*Eagle Rare* – You'd be hard pressed to find better bourbon at any price.

### Tennessee

*George Dickel No 12* – An undiscovered gem that oozes Southern style.

## Irish Whiskey:

*Redbreast 12 year old* – Try it before the secret's out, and send us a thank you note. Even if you don't like, or never tried, Irish whiskey, you'll love this dram.

# THE WHISKY CLASSIC





Whisky flowing in the suburbs! When we toyed with the idea about the Whisky Classic, we asked ourselves can New Jersey really have its own whisky tasting event? Were there people in the suburbs that enjoyed whisky as much as we did? Will people show up on a Monday night in the summer? You hear about location, location, location, when buying a home, having an event, or just about anything. Well, sometimes hidden gems are just waiting around the corner.

The event at the Dark Horse Lounge in Morristown, NJ was a great success. People were friendly, and really wanted to know about the whisky and not just ask for the oldest dram on the table. In the world of tasting events that seem to have people more concentrated on how much they can drink in a 3-hour span, it was nice to see people savoring whisky and trying to grasp the complexity of each dram. We also limited ticket sales to ensure that our guests could visit every table comfortably.

The Whisky Classic has shown you don't have to be in a metropolitan city to have a successful event. You just need several hundred people with a passion to explore the world of whisky and who are open to trying new things. I heard over and over during the evening that people were amazed at how different all the whiskies were.

I want to thank all the vendors and participants that made the night a huge success. Special Thanks to Balvenie, Glenfiddich, & Ardbeg for donating bottles of whisky that were raffled-off for charity.

Mark on your calendar for Thursday, June 19th, 2008 for the second annual Whisky Classic in Morristown, NJ. We look forward to seeing you there.



Glen Karlovitch                      Brett Calish                      Jeffrey Karlovitch                      Adam Levy  
Spirits Editor                      Editorial Director                      Publisher                      Lifestyles Editor  
Editor-In-Chief



# Royal Porthcawl Golf Club

BY MICHEAL STROHW

During a recent trip to Wales, I had the distinct pleasure of participating in the Wales Invitational at the historic Royal Porthcawl Golf Club in Rest Bay, Porthcawl, Mid-Glamorgan. The course offers a picturesque Welsh landscape, dominated by views of the sea on all 18 holes. I quickly understood why King Edward VII bestowed the honor of "Royal" status to the club in 1909. However the course isn't without 'modern day' amenities, and is ranked number one in Wales and fifteenth worldwide by Golf Digest. Royal Porthcawl has also hosted many amateur and professional events. What the course lacks in sandhills, which are common on most British courses, it makes up for with thick gorse and heather, and a constant barrage of wind from the Bristol Channel. The conditions put a golfer's abilities in both shot making and course management to the test.

The course design on the first hole was challenging but only 324 meters long. The hole had a severely sloped green that made putting an adventure. The second and third holes were close to 450 meters each, and demanded long carries to reach the fairways. The remainder of the course offered few breaks, and the first par 3 wasn't until the 11th hole! Constant changes of wind, coupled with the ever-present heather, gorse, and broom made a bogie a victory and a par seem like a birdie. Anytime I rolled into a fairway pot bunker (and they are numerous), I was just satisfied with taking a 'shot out' to get up and down. If you think you can make it up with a fantastic recovery shot, you're sadly mistaken; avoid the double and move on.

The final four holes each average over 400 meters in length and never seem to be down-wind. Similar to the first hole, the eighteenth green severely slopes, on three separate levels. With the backdrop of the sea, an approach shot takes full concentration. Needless to say, this hole was a fitting end to a challenging round. Both the Walker Cup and the Curtis Cup have been played here and I can attest that the course's lofty reputation is well deserved.

Equaling the course, which was not easy, was the hospitality of the members. Our hosts were warm, friendly, and welcomed the tipping of a few pints, which was a nice respite after getting beaten-down by the wind all morning. The men's lounge (sorry ladies but it's a men's only establishment), was steeped in history and tradition. Members inside the lounge had their own pewter mugs, and the dark mahogany wood, good beer, and friendly talk make you feel as if you've found the "Holy Grail" of golf courses. You are, quite literally, immersed in the feeling that this is how golf was meant to be experienced. Dr. Frank Stableford was also a member of Royal Porthcawl, and as most golfers know, left his mark on the sport to this day with his scoring system.

So, if traveling in Wales, this is a must-play golf course. When arranging a game, try to be paired with a member. Local knowledge will definitely save you strokes, And the advice will probably only cost you a pint or two!

Rest Bay, Porthcawl, Tel: +44 (1656) 782251.  
Royal Porthcawl Golf Club  
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**Platinum Medal  
2006**

“SUPERLATIVE”  
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At the 2006 International Review of Spirits, the prestigious Beverage Testing Institute gave The Yamazaki 18 the Platinum Medal. Judged “*Superlative*” and “*Amazingly Complex and Deep*,” The Yamazaki 18 year old Single Malt Whisky beat out 24 other leading whiskies with a top score of 97. Close behind was The Yamazaki 12 year old, which earned a 93 rating, along with a Gold Medal.

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