



Top Shelf Tasters



Tasting
February 19, 2010



Tomintoul 12 Year old / Sherry Cask

Single Speyside Malt Scotch Whisky

A new variant from the under-appreciated Tomintoul, this has been finished in an Oloroso sherry cask and is soft, sweet and creamy. Great value, as always with this distillery.

More Details:

Country:	Scotland
Region:	Speyside
Age:	12 Year old
Strength:	40%
Bottle Size:	70cl
Cask Type:	Oloroso Sherry Finish

Tasting Notes:

Nose: Malty. Cheery cereal notes alongside with freshly squeezed orange juice. Distant aroma of dried fruit.

Palate: Smooth. Sweet and tender. Praline, nougat. Bowl of cereals with honey. Milky chocolate.

Finish: Nutty and creamy. Spicy comeback.

Comment: On the sweet side. An invitation to enter the candysop. A morning dram?

Producer's Tasting Notes

Colour: Warm gold

Nose: Round, creamy with subtle hints of sherry sweetness

Palate: Soft, smooth and elegant style with delicate sherry presence

Finish: Mellow, soothing

Brand Info:

Tomintoul

Tomintoul is a relatively modern distillery, having been built in 1964-65. The distillery is owned by the independent company Angus Dundee Distillers, which bought it from the troubled Whyte & Mackay group in 1996. ADD have expanded the core range in 2008 to include a 12 year old 'Peaty Tang' expression (the distillery also makes a heavily-peated malt whisky called Old Ballantruan) and a 1976 vintage, the oldest Tomintoul yet released.

Nose:

Palate:

Finish:

Rating:



Bruichladdich 16 Year old / Bourbon Cask

Single Islay Malt Scotch Whisky

Something exciting for Bruichladdich fans and malt purists alike: A new 100% bourbon-matured 16yo, untroubled by fancy finishing of any kind. Hats off to the team at Bruichladdich for taking note of the chorus of disapproval.

More Details:

Country:	Scotland
Region:	Islay
Bottler:	Distillery Bottling
Age:	16 years old
Strength:	46%
Bottle Size:	70cl
Cask Type:	Bourbon Cask

Brand Info:

Bruichladdich

www.bruichladdich.com



BRUICHLADDICH

Bruichladdich has been transformed since 2000 from a worthy but rather dull distillery into one of the most exciting, recognisable and innovative brands, not only on Islay, but in the entire whisky world. This has been down to many factors, but chief amongst these must be the marriage of the marketing genius of Mark Reynier and his team, coupled with the knowledge, experience, passion and commitment of Jim McEwan, one of the industry's most celebrated ambassadors.

Customer Reviews:

Posted on 14 Oct 2009 :

Without doubt, one of the best single malts I have had the pleasure of sipping around the campfire. Excellent! Posted By: dropspinner

Nose:

Palate:

Finish:

Rating:



Glenmorangie Signet

Single Highland Malt Scotch Whisky

A delicious no-age-statement dram from Glenmorangie, soem of the spirit in Signet has been made using a unique heavily-roasted Chocolate Malt that really beefs up the rich flavours. The packaging is very impressive too.

More Details:

Country:	Scotland
Region:	Highland
Bottler:	Distillery Bottling
Strength:	46%
Bottle Size:	70cl

Brand Info:

Glenmorangie

www.glenmorangie.com

GLENMORANGIE

Glenmorangie has existed as a distillery since 1843 when William Matheson bought a license to make whisky on the site of a brewery located near the Tarlogie Springs in Ross-shire in the highlands of Scotland. Matheson bought two second-hand gin stills to make his spirit, and the distillery is famous for having the tallest stills in Scotland, although these days there are eight stills rather than just two (with more to come), and Bruichladdich claim that their stills are taller.

Customer Reviews:

Posted on 12 May 2009 :

Fantastic complex taste, tremendous nose - one of the best choice! Posted By: Gleb Batalin

Posted on 03 Sep 2009 :

Like everything best goes today to the wealthy New Russians :(((O tempora, o mores!!! Posted By: HighschoolTeacher

Posted on 17 Oct 2009 :

excellent taste....one of the best in recent times! Posted By: paras

Posted on 03 Nov 2009 :

Delicioso sabor a aceite de chocolate. Impresionante!

Nose:

Palate:

Finish:

Rating:



Mannochmore 1990 / 18 Year old

Single Speyside Malt Scotch Whisky

This heavily-sherried Mannochmore 1990 was one of Tim's favourite drams of the night at the recent Special Releases tasting. A belter from a previously undistinguished distillery - hats off.

More Details:

Country:	Scotland
Region:	Speyside
Bottler:	Distillery Bottling
Age:	18 years old
Vintage:	1990
Strength:	54.9%
Bottle Size:	70cl

Brand Info:

Mannochmore

Mannochmore is a Diageo workhorse distillery, making malt whisky for the Haig and Dimple blends. Built on the grounds of the company's Glenlossie distillery in 1971, Mannochmore is a high-capacity distillery with a potential production of 3.2 million litres/year. It hasn't always been plain sailing, though - the distillery was closed in 1985 during the over-supply crisis and remained silent until 1989.

Nose:

Palate:

Finish:

Rating:



Ardbeq Corryvreckan Single Islay Malt Scotch Whisky

After a very successful Committee bottling last year, Ardbeg Corryvreckan gets a deserved general release. As a replacement for the much-loved 1990 Airigh nam Beist, Corryvreckan has some pretty big shoes to fill, but the good news is that this is a belter. Check out our tasting notes for more details. 1 per customer only.

More Details:

Country:	Scotland
Region:	Islay
Bottler:	Distillery Bottling
Bottling Date:	2009
Strength:	57.1%
Bottle Size:	70cl

Tasting Notes:

Tasting Notes by Tim F

Colour: A very appealing gold, no doubt in part due to the French wine casks (good-quality Burgundy) in which some of the spirit was matured. On the [Colour Me Goodd](#) scale, this is luteous or aurlent.

Nose: Over-ripe oranges, strong bitter marmalade and hot-buttered toast initially, then hints of some more exotic fruit (perhaps fresh pineapple or passionfruit? Wine cask-induced?). Tinned peach syrup. Turfy phenolics are smouldering in the background. Becomes more citrusy with a few minutes in the glass, running the gamut from the previously-mentioned oranges, through Cointreau, then lemon sherberts, grapefruit, and lemon cheesecake. Continues to evolve over time, which is always a good sign. Eventually more savoury notes creep in - Frazzles, some pepper, woodspice and an appealing breadiness. In a word? **Appetising.**

Palate: Rich, luxuriant mouthfeel - definitely more weighty than most standard Ardbegs. Good concentration of most of the flavours mentioned above but, after an initial burst of sweetness, becomes more savoury than a cursory nosing would suggest. The exotic fruit comes through as peaches and passionfruit. Peppery at full strength, with faint notes of damson jam. Generous turfy peat, but also becomes quite coal-

like mid-palate, with a suggestion of the wet cardboard character sometimes associated with youth. In a word? **Oof-aaahh.**

Finish: Good length. The peat and pepper hang in there, balanced with a return to the orangey citrus notes from the initial nose. Decent balance and a lovely briny note right at the death - the hand is already floating towards the bottle for a refill almost automatically. In a word? **Moreish.**

This is a very enjoyable dram at full strength and I'm not inclined to add any water at all. However, in the interests of science, I will - just a drop, mind.

Nose: A hint of the Caramac bar note that I get with young whiskies emerges. The exuberant fruitiness that I enjoyed on the neat nose seems somewhat subdued.

Palate: Yeah, definitely a bit sweeter - notes of fudge biscuits or home-made caramel slices.

Finish: Perfectly pleasant, but lacking the charming grunt of the full-strength.

Verdict

Well, you can probably grasp my thoughts - this is a fine dram, and at its intended 57.1% strength, very satisfying. If I'd tried it watered down without having already had it at full strength, I'm sure I would have enjoyed it that way too. But there's really no need to be meddling with what's in the bottle with this one. No water required.

Nose:

Palate:

Finish:

Rating:



Port Charlotte PC8 / Ar Duthchas Single Islay Malt Scotch Whisky

The new Port Charlotte from Bruichladdich is here, arriving the same week that it was named Best Whisky at the 2009 Whisky Fringe in Edinburgh. Last year's PC7 was regarded as a return to form, it looks like this is another improvement.

More Details:

Country:	Scotland
Region:	Islay
Bottler:	Distillery Bottling
Age:	8 Years Old
Bottling Date:	2009
Strength:	60.5%
Bottle Size:	70cl
Number of Bottles:	30,000

Brand Info:

Port Charlotte

www.bruichladdich.com/latestnewsarticles/portcharlotte.htm

Port Charlotte is the name for the heavily-peated spirit made by Bruichladdich on Islay. Port Charlotte is named after a long-defunct distillery on the island, the remaining buildings of which have been bought by Bruichladdich and are currently being renovated and refurbished with new equipment - with a view to producing whisky onsite in the next few years.

Nose:

Palate:

Finish:

Rating:



Long Trail “Winter White” Belgian Style Witbier

7.2% abv

**Malt beverage brewed with sweet orange, bitter orange, and coriander
Vermont**

Nose:

Palate:

Finish:



**Bateman’s “Combined Harvest” Multigrain Beer no abv listed
England - Gold Medal International Beer Award**

Nose:

Palate:

Finish:



**Southern Tier “Choklat” Stout 11% abv
Vermont**

Nose:

Palate:

Finish:



**Laughing Dog Brewing Co. “The Dogfather” Imperial Stout no abv listed
Idaho**

Nose:

Palate:

Finish:



Sam Smith “Yorkshire Stingo” 8% abv
Bottled conditioned ale. Aged in oak ale casks
England

Nose:

Palate:

Finish:



Dogfish Head “World Wide Stout” 18% abv
A very dark beer brewed with a ridiculous amount of barley

Nose:

Palate:

Finish:



Espresso Oak Aged “Yeti” Bohemian Black Imperial Stout 9.5%
Colorado
Stout aged on oak chips with coffee added

Nose:

Palate:

Finish:

