



*Tops Shelf Tasters*

October 11, 2013



## Deanston Virgin Oak 46.3%

83 points

Country: Scotland

Region: Southern Highlands

Strength: 46.3%

Bottle Size: 70cl

*Deanston (Scottish Gaelic: Baile Deadhan) is a village in the district of Stirling, Scotland, on the south bank of the River Teith across from and outside the Burgh boundary of Doune, formerly of West Perthshire. It is a part of the parish of Kilmadock. Gas lighting was installed in 1913, the first such installation, outside of London in the UK. Deanston Cotton Mill was built by the Buchanan brothers of Carston, Killearn near Glasgow, in 1785, and utilised the River Teith to power the mill. In 1808 James Finlay & Co bought the mill and developed it into the industrial leader of its time, which included the construction of a 1500 yard long Lade. James Smith, a manager of the mill, was a successful entrepreneur and inventor. He built unusually designed accommodation over four levels for his workforce, called the divisions, which was new in its day. At its peak, the mill had over 1000 workers and had the largest waterwheel in Europe, Hercules. The cotton mill closed in 1965. On the site, the Deanston Distillery opened in 1966 and is now owned by Burn Stewart Distillers Limited, where it produces several megawatts for the National Grid (2007).*

*Notes from royalmilewhislies.com*

Nose: Expressive with hay and malty cereal notes. Creamy toffee and heather honey balanced with aromas of sweet oak and barley sugar.

Taste: Fresh and creamy with soft vanilla. Sweet and fruity with a malty honeyed spiciness.

Finish: Satisfying, clean and dry with a hint of cloves, tingling then gently fades.

*Notes from whiskyfun.com*

Nose: Well, the distillery's very peculiar character still shines through, in the form of an immense plate of warm porridge sprinkled with vanilla custard and maybe a little yoghurt and Swiss cheese. Add a little grated ginger and touches of cardamom and it's ready. Bon appétit!

Palate: Less whacky and certainly influenced by the new oak, with some, well, oak as well as ginger and yet again these notes of porridge. Becomes grassier and globally drier over time. Quite some pepper and something a little sour in the background. Muesli this time?

Finish: Shortish, peppery and kind of 'Indian'. Popadoms? A yeastiness and a tannicity in the aftertaste. Comments: unusual and kind of fun.

Nose:

Palate:

Finish:



## Glenmorangie Ealanta 19yr

**90 points**

Country: Scotland

Region: Northern Highlands

Strength: 46%

Bottle Size: 70cl

*Glenmorangie is a distillery in Tain, Ross-shire, Scotland that produces single malt Scotch whisky. The distillery is owned by The Glenmorangie Company Ltd, whose main product is the range of Glenmorangie single malt whisky. Glenmorangie is categorised as a Highland distillery and boasts the tallest stills in Scotland. It is available in Original, 18, and 25 year old bottlings, special cask bottlings, cask finishes, extra matured bottlings, and a range of special edition bottlings. The Glenmorangie Company also owns the Ardbeg Distillery on Islay and The Scotch Malt Whisky Society based in Leith, Edinburgh.*

*Tasting notes from whiskyfun.com*

Glenmorangie Ealanta is the fourth annual release in the brand's Private Edition range, which has included Sonnalta, Finealta and Artein. "Ealanta" is Scots Gaelic for 'skilled and ingenious', and this expression has been matured for 19 years in heavily-toasted virgin American white oak casks.

Nose: Milk chocolate, cream soda, pineapple and honey

Palate: Notably smooth, with toffee, cloves, freshly-planed timber and a squeeze of orange.

Finish: Lengthy, with citrus fruits and spicy oak.

Nose:

Palate:

Finish:

## Kilchoman Machir Bay

92 points

Country: Scotland

Region: Islay

Strength: 46%

Bottle Size: 70cl



*The distillery began production in June 2005, and was the first to be built on the island of Islay in 124 years. The distillery uses barley grown on site at Rockside Farm and malted at the distillery, as well as malt from the Port Ellen maltings and releases separate bottlings depending on the source of the grain. It is one of only six Scottish distilleries still doing traditional floor-maltings, and will be unique in having all parts of the process - growing barley, malting, distilling, maturing and bottling - carried out on Islay.*

*The distillery first filled casks on 14 December 2005 and the distillery began bottling 3 year old single malt in September 2009. Kilchoman also intends to release 5, 8, 10 and 12 Year old bottlings. The whisky will primarily age in bourbon casks, though sherry casks will also be employed. The first official Kilchoman, the "Inaugural release" was released in 2009 and the first 100% Islay whisky released in 2011.*

### *Notes from connosr.com*

**Nose:** Robust brininess on the forefront with an underlying hint of rose petals. When I pull the glass forward towards my nose, the salty smoke becomes more apparent and when I pull the glass away from me the aroma softens, giving me notes of sweet bread. When I lean my left nostril into the glass, I get milk chocolate! MM! How lovely!! My right nostril, on the other hand, picks up alcohol (oh! the burning) and smoke.

**Palate:** There's some spice here and it tastes creamy, too. There are undertones of sweetness here that holds the smoke and char together. Towards the end, the sugar tones move away and the char comes forward. The orange zests tingles the sides of my tongue, while the aroma of smoke hits my nasal cavity quickly.

**Finish:** Coffee. The smoke rides here for a few minutes, but agave syrup kicks in. Burnt sugar emerges 5 minutes later. 15 minutes later, dark chocolate and oak comes out. Damn, this whisky has long finish, but I'm not complaining! ;D 20 minutes in, toasted coffee beans! Holy crap! The finish is still rolling in!!! It's kicking ass here!

Nose:

Palate:

Finish:

## Lavery Brewing Co "Belfast Black Ale" Smoked Porter 7.5% Pennsylvania



*Lavery Brewing Company was founded in 2009 by husband and wife Jason & Nicole Lavery. Jason Lynch joined the brewing quest in 2010 to build our own 10 barrel production brewery. Born and raised around Erie, PA, we are excited to bring something new and dynamic to the local beer culture - Brewing Innovative Ales in Small Batches!*

*By the way, it's pronounced 'Lav-ry' not 'Lave ry', a soft 'a' in the middle. Similar to 'have', not 'gave', thank you very much.*

### *Notes from ratebeer.com*

This is the beer that started the brewery. Named after the ancient homeland of the Lavery's. It is rich, dark and smoky. Not for the faint of heart but that's how we intended it. It has taste of bacon, which is one of the most beautiful images I can image; a bacon beer. A solid earthy hop bitterness with a little astringency from the dark malts. This beer has no better pair than excellent Vermont Cheddar cheese.

ratebeer™

86

Lavery Belfast Black



Lavery Brewing Company  
Erie, Pennsylvania  
Beer style: Smoked  
Ref: ratebeer.com Sep2013

Common descriptors are

dark brown amount  
smokey via buddy **smoked** porter  
great **malts** chocolate **smoke**  
sweet hickory roasted bitter lacing  
peat subtle few bomber finger beige  
bittersweet wood malt

Nose:

Palate:

Finish:



## Shipyard "Monkey Fist" IPA 7.6% Maine

*Shipyard Brewing Company is an American microbrewery and soft drink manufacturer based in Portland, Maine and founded in 1994. Maine ranks among the top five states in the U.S. for microbreweries, with Shipyard the largest brewer (owning the Shipyard, Sea Dog Brewing Company, and Casco Bay Brewing Company banners, and bottling under contract with Gritty McDuff's Brewing Company). Shipyard is the 15th largest microbrewery in the United States, and the fourth largest in New England after Boston Beer Company, Harpoon Brewery, and Magic Hat Brewing Company. Shipyard first began in 1992 at Federal Jack's Restaurant and Brew Pub in Kennebunk, which is one of Maine's original brew pubs and working breweries. Within two years, demand for Shipyard beer outpaced the small operation and, in April 1994, businessman Fred Forsley and brewer Alan Pugsley opened the Shipyard Brewing Company in the heart of the waterfront in Portland, Maine on the site of the former Crosby Laughlin Foundry.*

*Notes from ratebeer.com*

Shipyard Monkey Fist IPA is the genesis of a new generation of IPA. The traditional elements of classic English IPA have been redefined by American craft beer innovation. Like the image suggests, Monkey Fist is edgy, aggressive, and unique in style. This beer is brilliant copper in color and exploding with Warrior, Glacier, and Cascade hop character but able to maintain a beautiful balance. Monkey Fist holds up to the spiciest foods or is delicious savored just on its own. And, in case you didn't know, a Monkey Fist is the knot tied at the end of a sailor's rope to serve as a weight and make it easier to throw. Cheers!

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80

Shipyard Monkey Fist  
IPA



Shipyard Brewing Company  
Portland, Maine  
Beer style: India Pale Ale (IPA)  
Ref: ratebeer.com Sep2013

Common descriptors are

amber white sweet

**hops** bitter pine grapefruit hoppy

**malts** citrus orange caramel

Nose:

Palate:

Finish:

## Southern Tier "Plum Noir" Imperial Porter 8% New York



*In operation since late 2002, Southern Tier Brewing Company of Lakewood, New York, has grown to produce more than 60,000 barrels of beer annually. The hand crafted ales are now available in more than thirty States, as well as parts of Australia, Denmark, Japan, Philippines, Singapore, Ontario, British Columbia, and the United Kingdom. Founders Phineas DeMink and Allen "Skip" Yahn started the brewery with the vision of reviving the practice of small batch brewing to a region rich in brewing tradition. In 2002, with equipment gained from the purchase of the Old Saddleback Brewing Co. in Pittsfield, Massachusetts, the Southern Tier Brewing Company began production in the Stoneman Business Park just outside of Lakewood, New York. By 2003, select varieties of small batch ales were locally distributed, and by 2005, sales covered the majority of New York State and Pennsylvania. Before launching a successful roster of seasonal beers, the brewery produced Pilsner, Mild Ale, and India Pale Ale.*

### Notes from ratebeer.com

Plums are a diverse group of species, with somewhere between 19 & 40 varieties depending upon whom you ask. We're using what we consider to be the best to brew with. the Italian plum has beautiful dark skin & the flesh is perfect for fermentation. Plum Noir's mild sweetness is not necessarily derived from the many malts we use. A bit of plum flavor is present as well as earthy, toasted grains, & hints of caramel with mild coffee overtones.

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94

Southern Tier Plum  
Noir



Southern Tier Brewing  
Company  
Lakewood, New York  
Beer style: Imperial/Strong  
Porter  
Ref: ratebeer.com Sep2013

Common descriptors are

fruit **chocolate dark** brown roasted  
roast **malts** sweet tan black coffee  
porter bitter

Nose:

Palate:

Finish:



## Allagash "Four Ale" 10% Maine

Founded in 1994 by Rob Tod, Allagash sold its first batch of beer in the summer of 1995. Tod had been working in breweries around the U.S. and recognized a void in the craft brewing movement. While both German and British styles were available throughout the country, Belgian-style beers were very difficult to find. He established a small 15-barrel brewery and began brewing Allagash White, modeled after Belgian Wit beer. His beer gets its flavor from the use of wheat in place of barley as well as the addition of Curaçao orange peel, coriander and other spices. All of the beers Allagash produces are bottle conditioned. The technique calls for two fermentations, the first in the fermenting tanks and the second in the bottle itself (a process known as the *methode champenoise*). Before the beer is bottled, a small amount of yeast and sugar is added and a second fermentation occurs. It is this second fermentation which produces a notable increase in carbonation, a softer feel and remarkable complexity. This method of bottle conditioning leaves a small amount of yeast in the bottle, creating what is known as a "living" beer.

Notes from [ratebeer.com](http://ratebeer.com)

A unique new beer from Allagash, Allagash Four; a one-of-a-kind ale made from four malts, four varieties of hops, four natural sugars, and it's fermented – that's right – four times!

  
  
Allagash Four  


Allagash Brewing Company  
Portland, Maine  
Beer style: Abt/Quadrupel  
Ref: [ratebeer.com](http://ratebeer.com) Sep2013

Common descriptors are

cloudy raisins candied  
malts spice caramel sweetness  
carbonation amber SWEET bitter brown  
yeast dry fruit dark hops white  
sugar raisin belgian

Nose:

Palate:

Finish:



## Highland Park Loki 15yr

**89 points**

Country: Scotland

Region: Orkney

Strength: 48.7%

Bottle Size: 70cl

*Situated in the city of Kirkwall — the capital of the Orkney Islands — Highland Park Distillery was founded in 1798 by Magnus Eunson. The name of the distillery is derived not from the region of Scotland known as The Highlands — the Orkney islands are not a part of The Highlands — but rather, from the region known as High Park, where the distillery was founded.*

*Tasting notes from [royalmilewhiskies.com](http://royalmilewhiskies.com)*

**Nose:** A spirited lift of dried bitter orange which quickly turns into lemon peels. Cardamom notes trick then tease the nose, before an enticing hit of gingerbread develops. With water, liquorice and aromatic smoke are both unleashed.

**Palate:** The true shape-shifting ability of Loki springs to life on the palate: its waxy texture is amplified by an intense smoke that doesn't appear on the nose, shattering the light citrusy illusion of the aroma. All is not what it seems. The smoke fades as liquorice and rich spiced apple flavours come out to play. Lemon and grapefruit are consistent throughout this elusive, yet intriguing character. With a touch of water, lingering notes of melted dark chocolate over spent embers leave a soft smoky impression.

**Finish:** As Loki departs, he leaves behind toasted cloves, hickory smoke and soft vanilla. It is constantly changing, from appearance to finish. Loki is an enigma and truly another whisky of the gods.

Situated just a few miles north of Scotland's mainland, the Orkney archipelago was occupied by a number of different nomadic and belligerent tribes for centuries. In 875, however, the islands were annexed by Norway and settled by the Norse, who began using the archipelago as a base for Viking raids across Europe. In 1468, the islands were pledged by King Christian I of Norway as a dowry to King James III of Scotland, and since then, the islands connection with Scotland has been perpetual. Highland Park Loki is the second of four releases in the Valhalla Collection available from Highland Park. Named for one of the most treacherous and mischievous characters in Norse mythology, Loki is a 15 year-old limited edition single malt whisky that was matured in both sherry casks and casks that were previously used to mature heavily peated whisky. The whisky, much like the god it pays homage to, is intriguing and complex, and is housed in an award-winning wooden frame that echos the fearsome contours of a traditional Viking ship. While it has an aroma of citrus and cardamom, the palate is robust and chewy, with notes of intense smoke and hints of dried fruits. The smoke fades to notes of licorice and chocolate, and finishes with a touch of cloves, cinnamon, vanilla and hickory smoke. "While everyone will recognize the definite 'Highland Park-ness' of this 15 year old single malt," says Gerry Tosh, the marketing manager at Highland Park Distillery, "it will be the unexpected and surprisingly smoky dynamics that will really get palates excited and mouths talking. This is unlike any expression that has come before and will beguile and fascinate with its complexity and trickery."

Nose:

Palate:

Finish:



## Hazelburn Sauternes 8yr

**85 points**

Country: Scotland

Region: Islay

Strength: 55.9%

Bottle Size: 70cl

*Hazelburn Distillery was a distillery in Campbeltown, Scotland, which was in operation between approximately 1825 and 1925. In 1886, it had 22 employees and produced 192,000 gallons of whisky per year, making it the largest distillery in the town. The distillery was bought by Mackie & Co. in 1920, but shut down in 1926. Mackie & Co. owned two other distilleries, including Springbank Distillery. Since 2005 Springbank Distillery bottles a whisky called Hazelburn Single Malt.*

*Notes from connosr.com*

Another from the fine wood range of Springbank and its siblings (Hazelburn and Longrow), which includes Madiera, Burgundy, Barolo and now the 8 year old Sauternes from Hazelburn. In theory the lighter style of Campbeltown married with a sweet wine finish.

Nose: Dense fruit, maybe apricot? Or peach? Tiny phenol, bitter toffee. Utterly Fantastic nose

Palate: Genuinely hot spice with rich sweet caramels

Finish: Spice, smoke and maybe burnt toast?

Nose:

Palate:

Finish:

## Bruichladdich Black Art 3.0 22yr



91 points

Country: Scotland

Region: Speyside

Strength: 50%

Bottle Size: 70cl

*Bruichladdich was built in 1881 by the Harvey brothers—William (32), John (31) and Robert (23)—on the shore of Loch Indaal, on the Rinns of Islay, the westernmost part of the island. The Harveys were a dynastic whisky family that had owned two Glasgow distilleries since 1770. Using an inheritance, the three brothers combined their talents to build a third distillery—Bruichladdich—designed by John, engineered by Robert, and financed by William and other family members. At the time, the distillery was a state-of-the-art design unlike Islay's older distilleries, which had developed from old farm buildings. It was built from stone from the sea shore and has a very efficient layout, built around a large, spacious courtyard. (read more on wikipedia.com)*

*Notes from tomswhiskyreviews.com*

Nose: My first thought is sherry sweetness and all that goes with it, raisins, sultanas, dates and touches of manuka honey, this ebbs out into plum jam port / red wine notes and a touch of Covonia.

Palate: Ok I'm sure that has a dry port influence, massive plum jam and victoria sponge goodness on the palate interlaced with honey, good quality manuka honey.

Finish: This has it's own arms and legs and crawls through you kissing your insides on the way down, glorious

*Official tasting notes*

Nose: The voyage of olfactory discovery starts with vanilla pods & chocolate raisins. hints of warm, christmas pudding and a splash of mulberry wine follow, all encased in a date syrup and walnut cradle. Add a dash of water and the direction changes; now we are joined by plump, ripe blueberries with a nuance of damson jam. Little hints of cinnamon and aniseed join the harmonious throng as they enter into the valley of oaks, where the mellow, sweet, vanilla notes have waited patiently to impart their majestic characters to the spirit; this they do in harmony with the lighter fruits, gleaned at birth from the malted barley. The pear, mango, papaya & honeydew melon is a seduction of the senses.

Palate: The power of the oak encompasses the structure of the spirit, ensuring that all the characters can be experienced; their journey was long, and now you are there to hear their story and share in the harmony that's to be found in the glass. It's the black art of man-made spirit, nature's natural resources, and the distiller's never-ending quest to find the ultimate taste experience. At bruichladdich we are constantly making spiritual journeys, seeking new and exciting experiences for those who have been with us since we first set sail a decade ago. stay on board for our next voyage!

Finish: A heart-warming finish, lasting long into the night. The flavours are like friends who listen and never disagree; who give comfort and companionship when there is no one else around; or in company, they bring out the best in all who partake of the black art.

Nose:

Palate:

Finish:

