



Tops Shelf Tasters

October 23, 2015



GLENGLASSAUGH
HIGHLAND SINGLE MALT
SCOTCH WHISKY
1973

GORDON & MACPHERSON
RARE OLD
SINGLE MALT
SCOTCH WHISKY
FROM
**ROSEBANK
DISTILLERY
1990**

TALISKER
SINGLE MALT
SCOTCH WHISKY
18 YEARS OLD
21
YEARS
SPRINGBANK
CAMPBELTOWN
SINGLE MALT
SCOTCH WHISKY
70cl 46%vol

TALISKER
SINGLE MALT
SCOTCH WHISKY
18 YEARS OLD

LAPHROAIG
ISLAY SINGLE MALT
SCOTCH WHISKY
CAIRDEAS
190TH ANNIVERSARY EDITION
FOR THE FRIENDS OF LAPHROAIG
ESTD 1815

Ardbeg
PERPETUUM
SINGLE MALT
SCOTCH WHISKY



Rosebank 1990 24yr

Country: Scotland
Region: Lowland
Strength: 46%

Situated on the banks of the Forth-Clyde Canal between Edinburgh and Glasgow lies Rosebank distillery. The present distillery dates back to 1840, although there are records of distillation under the name of Rosebank taking place locally prior to this. With the regeneration of the canal (driven by the Falkirk water wheel) it has been mooted that the distillery could become a focal point of the area's industrial heritage, but most likely as a museum rather than a distillery. Truly the Queen of the Lowlands, this distillery closed in 1993. Although it remains intact persistent rumours of it re-opening have died down, so it looks as if its fate may be sealed. We live in hope!

Here's one for whisky historians - a 1990 vintage single malt Scotch whisky from the Rosebank distillery in the Lowlands, which was closed in 1993. This whisky was bottled in 2014 for Lot RO/14/02 as part of Gordon & MacPhail's Rare Old collection.

Nose: Hints of lavender, rose petals and beeswax polish.

Palate: Cracked black pepper with hints of red apple, orange peel and almonds, complemented by a creamy milk chocolate edge.

Nose:

Palate:

Finish:

Springbank 21yr



Country: Scotland
Region: Campbeltown
Strength: 46%

Springbank is probably Scotland's most traditional distillery. It is run by a descendent of the family that founded the company in the early 1800's. John and William Mitchell had a background of illicit distilling before they founded Springbank in 1828. The town that houses Springbank, Campbeltown, was once home to about 30 distilleries. Prohibition in the United States saw some distilleries falter after rushing to produce sufficient quantities of spirit, with the result that quality fell. The Crash of 1928 compounded problems and with closures over the years, there are now just three Campbeltown distilleries: Springbank, Glen Scotia and Kilkerran, which the Springbank team opened in 2004.

Springbank 21 Year Old has become something of a legend among whisky lovers and with good reason. It's a spectacular dram that offers unbelievable complexity.

Nose: There is a lot going on here; heather, plums and peach, quite dry but with hints of honey. There's a slight waxy note too with a little bit of leather.

Palate: Very soft, with caramelised fruit and raisins and cassis. The spices include cinnamon and vanilla and there's some oaky dryness to balance the honey. A subtle wood smoke and a hint of the sea.

Finish: Very long with hints of aniseed and raisin sweetness.

Overall: Wow. there's so much to take in... this is a whisky worth spending serious time with.

Nose:

Palate:

Finish:

Glenglassaugh 1973 40yr



Country: Scotland
Region: Speyside
Strength: 52.1%

Glenglassaugh Distillery, near the fishing village of Portsoy, not far from Banff, was established in 1875 and produced a distinctive malt until it was mothballed in 1986. When Alfred Barnard visited it in Victorian times, he described it as "Too well known to need any praise"...how times have changed. It was until recently best known as a contributor to well known blends such as Cutty Sark, Famous Grouse and Laing's, but independent bottlings (not least our own Dormant Distillery Company bottlings) have kept the spirit alive. This whisky hasn't appeared much at auction, but will surely feature more often as the malt becomes rarer. In Winter 2008 the distillery came alive again and was officially re-opened by First Minister Alex Salmond. The project has been masterminded by Stuart Nickerson and Graeme Eunson (both ex-Glenmorangie) and the team have the unique challenge of managing a stock profile with just unaged spirit and extremely old single malt.

40 year old, single cask single malt from the Glenglassaugh Rare Casks Releases - and from the first batch of this new range, no less! Collectible and delectable stuff, this is. It was distilled in December 1973 and bottled in February 2014 after enjoying a finishing period in a Manzanilla Sherry puncheon. 497 bottles were produced.

Nose: Magnificent full bodied, yet elegant sherry character. Plum juice and dates carry bursts of orange sherbet and touches of gentle anise.

Palate: The freshness of candied peel balances the rich dark chocolate and sherried dark fruit character.

Finish: A subtle grapefruit and warm oak spice lightens and adds a citrus twist to the finish.

Nose:

Palate:

Finish:



Innis & Gunn "White Oak Wheat Beer" 6.4% Scotland

Inspired by the aroma and flavours more typically found in a cup of Earl Grey tea, the German-style Kristallweizen beer has been brewed at a warmer temperature to encourage sweeter, spicier flavours to develop. The brew has been aged over oak and then infused with dried bergamot and blood orange to create a fragrant and refreshing finish.

ratebeer
48
 Innis & Gunn White Oak Wheat Beer



Innis & Gunn
 Edinburgh, Scotland
 Beer style: Wheat Ale
 Ref: ratebeer.com Oct2015

Common descriptors are
 clear golden spice
 sweet bitter vanilla gold floral
 soft citrus orange fruity malty caramel



Troegs "Master of Pumpkins" 7.5% PA

Brewed with native Pennsylvania neck pumpkins harvested just a few miles from our brewery at Strites' Orchard, Master of Pumpkins conjures the spirit of autumn by combining roasted pumpkins and traditional pie spices with a French saison yeast. This natural fermentation releases a palate of vanilla, cinnamon, clove, nutmeg, ginger, and honey. In addition to 750mL bottles, Master of Pumpkins is also currently available on draft and for take-out growler fills in the Tasting Room. Taste it you will see. More is all you need! 2014 note: now sold in four packs of 12.7 oz bottles. (375 ml)

ratebeer
91
 Tröegs Master Of Pumpkins



Tröegs Brewing Company
 Hershey, Pennsylvania
 Beer style: Spice/Herb/Vegetable
 Ref: ratebeer.com Oct2015

Common descriptors are
 sweet pie spice orange amber
 cinnamon nutmeg clove ginger



Neshaminy Creek "Punkless Dunkel" 8.8% PA

When we set out to create what we hoped was a unique pumpkin beer we decided to brew an imperial version of our Dunks Ferry Dunkelweizen, but in an unabashedly American way by adding pumpkin to the mash and your favorite pumpkin pie spices to the kettle. We add dark brown sugar, cinnamon, nutmeg, and allspice to the boil as well to pair with the banana esters and spicy clove imparted by the yeast during fermentation. At 8.8% ABV it's no slouch either. Always released after Labor Day, Punkless Dunkel doesn't last long as the crisp Autumn nights make way to Winter just around the corner.

ratebeer
93
 Neshaminy Creek Punkless Dunkel Pumpkin Wheat Ale



Neshaminy Creek Brewing Company
 Crofton, Pennsylvania
 Beer style: Spice/Herb/Vegetable
 Ref: ratebeer.com Oct2015

Common descriptors are
 pie spice brown nbsp clove
 banana sugar nutmeg cinnamon sweet malts



Founders "Dark Penance" Imperial Black IPA 8.9% MI

A heavy malt foundation includes Crystal malt for sweetness and just enough Midnight Wheat malt to push the color to black. The bitterness is huge, but balanced by malt sweetness and alcohol burn. The hop flavors and aromas range from citrus to floral to pine thanks to a delicious blend of hand-selected Chinook and Centennial hops.

ratebeer
98
 Founders Dark Penance Imperial Black IPA



Founders Brewing Company
 Grand Rapids, Michigan
 Beer style: Black IPA
 Ref: ratebeer.com Oct2015

Common descriptors are
 brown malts bitter
 hops roasted coffee citrus pine roast
 fruit sweet chocolate



Talisker 2012 30yr

Country: Scotland
Region: Islay
Strength: 45.8%

Talisker is the only distillery on Skye. Today Talisker sits in a huddle of white buildings close to a shoreline covered in seaweed at low tide. Little of the old distillery remains, thanks to a recent re-fit and a fire in 1960, when spirit trickled out of a still through a brass valve onto a coal fire below. The still-house was set ablaze along with the stills, which were afterwards replaced exactly, apart from being fitted with internal steam coils to prevent another fire. As the sole survivor of the island's distilleries, Talisker has evolved in isolation. Without a community of other distillers to turn to, it has had to rely on its own ingenuity. A possible example of this can be seen outside the back of the distillery, where a pair of pipes appear through the wall, soar in a giant U-bend and then plunge into two wooden worm tubs brimful of cold water. The pipes, known as lyne arms, connect the top of the stills to the copper worms where the spirit is condensed. They look like two enormous question marks on their side, and are quite unique to Talisker. One theory is that the distiller was experimenting to create a slightly cleaner, purer spirit, closer to the original Talisker that was triple distilled like an Irish whiskey until 1928.

Originally produced primarily for overseas markets, a 30 year old Talisker at the standard 45.8%. Limited run of just 3186 bottles.

Extra long maturation has given this gentle medium bodied 30 year old Talisker an unusual elegance and subtlety of character. Softly muted, mild and reserved at first, the nose shows red fruits fading behind the faint smoke of a spent peat fire. Water brings up spicy maritime aromas, hinting at pleasures to come. At full strength the palate is sweet, peppery and hot, with a brilliantly balanced bitterness; a lively, yet mature delight. The finish is long and drying, with hints of smoke and just the merest tingle of pepper in the maritime aftertaste. A little water brings up the sweetness, still balanced by the appetising acidity and salt, and there's some smoke in the waves of warmth that break over the palate.

Tasting notes by The Chaps at Master of Malt

Nose: Elegant smoke blends together effortlessly with red fruits and coastal peat.

Palate: A finely-tuned balance of sweetness from plump berries and an enjoyable peppery heat. Its age shines through.

Finish: Final flourishes of smoke and salinity.

Overall: An elegant, refined and wholly exhilarating Talisker.

Nose:

Palate:

Finish:



Laphroaig Cairdeas 200th Anniversary

Country: Scotland
Region: Islay
Strength: 51.5%

The Johnstons started farming at Laphroaig around 1800, and soon after messers Charles and Willie Doig were asked to do some 'work on a distillery' at Laphroaig. By 1815 Laphroaig's reputation had spread and the tax man was getting suspicious so they 'officially' established 'Johnston & Johnston' and the legend of Laphroaig had begun. Today's Laphroaig is famously peated, using malt of 35ppm phenol levels but tasting like much more. The whisky is distilled in seven stills, each unique by virtue of their unusual flat sides & base. They are all small stills and are of varying ages. The 'peat freaks' have ensured that this malt always does well at auction and official bottlings have been relatively rare. They tend to mature their whisky in ex-bourbon casks, but 2007 sees the release of some sherry cask matured whisky.

A 200th Anniversary Edition Cairdeas from Laphroaig distillery. This special release Cairdeas has been created by Master Distiller John Campbell to replicate how Laphroaig was originally produced.

Official tasting notes

Sweet, malty and salty. Then the earthy sweet peat comes in along with citrus and honey. There's smoky (not smoke) sweet cured meat, lots of brine and vanilla and after a few minutes there's some fragrant edge to it. Peat and ash, seaweeds, salty berries, soursweet fruits, a touch of TCP, brine and citrus. Ingering sweet peat and brine, salty fruits, gentle and mellow with smoky note and salt-Whisky Review.

Tasting notes from adventuresinwhiskyland.com

Nose: Refreshing fruit with solid peat at the front. Kind of minty, vegetal, slight peanuty, green grapes, and lingonberries. Bit plasticity.

Taste: Sweet herbal notes. Ferns and it makes me think green for some reason. Kind of refreshing like an Irish Springs soap bar. Peaty but not very strong. Even though this is bottled at a hefty 51.5% it does not taste like it. I would have thought it were more in the area of 46%. It comes off as being light and a bit oily.

Finish: Nice and long gentle sweetness with easy peat. Sweet like herbal tea.

Nose:

Palate:

Finish:



Ardbeg Perpetuum

Country: Scotland
Region: Islay
Strength: 47.4%

The last distillery on the road along the south coast from Port Ellen on the magical island of Islay, past Laphroaig and Lagavulin. The distillery itself dates back to the final years of the eighteenth century. The site's water source, Loch Uigeadail, is superb and has had the honour of having a whisky named after it. Until 1976/'77 Ardbeg still had its own malting floor, but take their heavily peated malt from the Port Ellen maltings. Jim Murray, in his Complete Guide to Whisky, described Ardbeg as the greatest distillery to be found on Earth. This was high praise indeed, given that the distillery was mothballed for most of the 1980's until Glenmorangie took control in 1997 and secured its future. The transformation from neglect to a homely and handsome distillery with a fine restaurant has been heartening to watch. Their first new release, an unchillfiltered 10 year old, has proved to be a huge success.

Released to celebrate Ardbeg's 200th anniversary, this is a blend of old and young whisky, matured in both bourbon and sherry casks, delivering the classic Ardbeg note of cured meats, smoke and sea spray.

Tasting notes by The Chaps at Master of Malt

Nose: Vanilla and pine, chocolate and coffee grinds, pleasingly coastal peat. Deep and yet lively.

Palate: More chocolate, fresh citrus, hazelnut, treacle toffee, fig and smoked meat. Creamy, great mouthfeel.

Finish: Smooth tar smoke, nutmeg, anise, lemon.

Overall: Here's to another 200 years!

Nose:

Palate:

Finish: