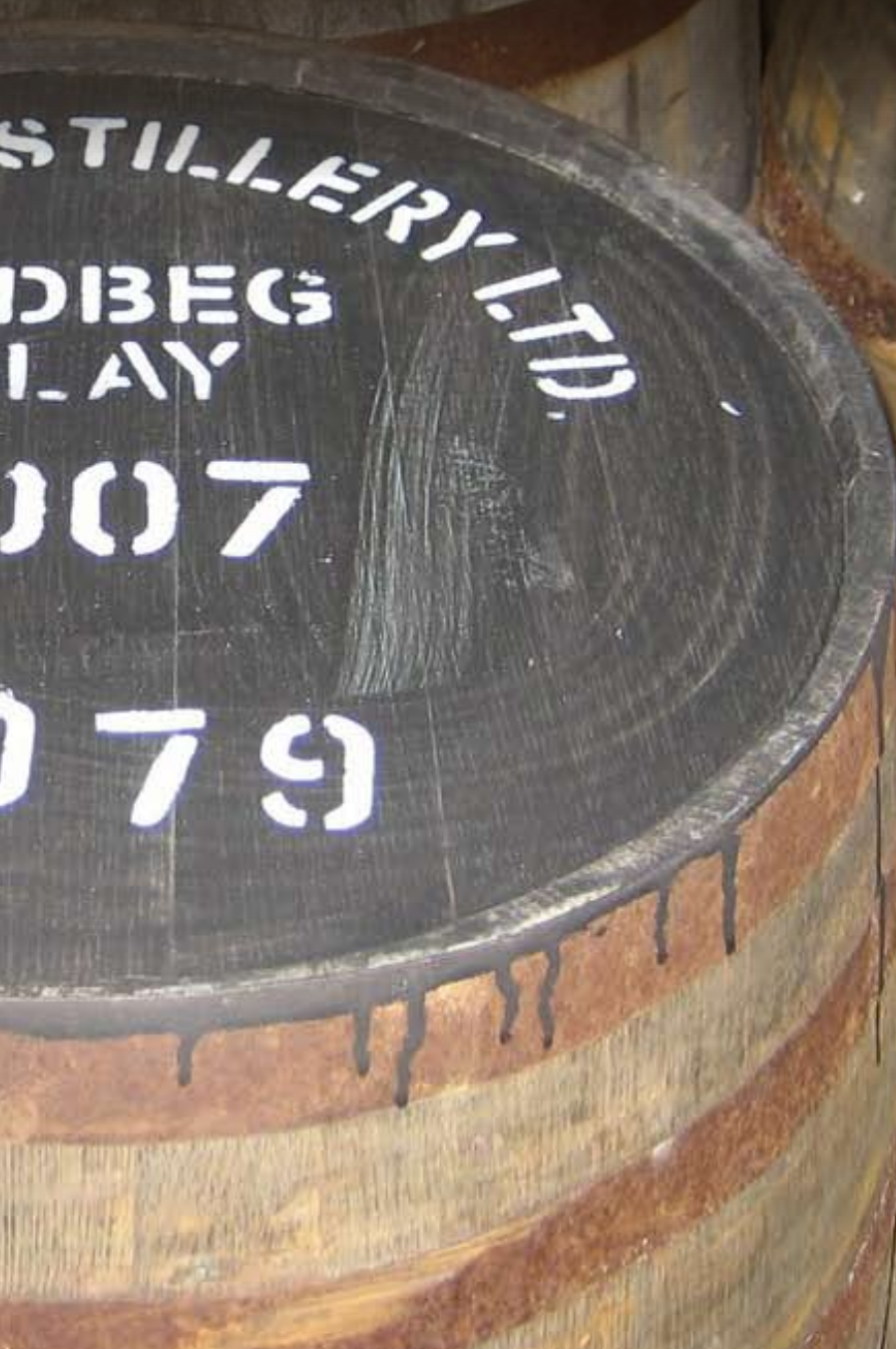




Top Shelf Tasters

TASTING

DECEMBER 11, 2009





Ben Nevis 1992 / 14 Year old

Single Highland Malt Scotch Whisky

A new single cask release from Ben Nevis, this is from the same batch of sherry casks as the excellent 10 yo cask-strength of a few years ago.

More Details:

Country:	Scotland
Region:	Highland
Bottler:	Distillery Bottling
Age:	14 Year old
Vintage:	1992
Bottling Date:	Jan 2007
Strength:	46%
Bottle Size:	70cl
Cask Type:	Sherry

Nose:

Palate:

Finish:

Rating:



Smokehead Extra Black / 18 Year old

Single Islay Malt Scotch Whisky

A new longer-aged edition of Smokehead, the popular mystery Islay Single Malt bottled by Ian McLeod Distillers. This Extra Black expression is 18 years old.

More Details:

Region:	Islay
Age:	18 years old
Strength:	40%
Bottle Size:	70cl

Brand Info:

Smokehead

Smokehead is the name of a 'mystery' single malt from Islay bottled by Ian MacLeod distillers. The packaging and entry-level price of the malt are targeted at younger arrivals to the malt scene, with the emphasis on the malt's peaty characteristics. There has been frequent speculation as to the identity of the malt in Smokehead, with guesses ranging from the interesting (heavily-peated Bunnahabhain) to the highly unlikely (young Ardbeg or Lagavulin). In reality, very few people know the true identity of the distillery which supplies the stock for Smokehead - and those who do aren't telling.

[Read more >](#)

Nose:

Palate:

Finish:

Rating:



Balvenie 17 Year old / Madeira Cask

Single Speyside Malt Scotch Whisky

A recent addition to Balvenie's tremendously successful releases of finished 17yo's, this has been finished in Madeira wine casks for a delicious combination of sweetness, spice and dry oak.

More Details:

Country:	Scotland
Region:	Speyside
Bottler:	Distillery Bottling
Age:	17 Year old
Bottling Date:	2009
Strength:	43%
Bottle Size:	70cl
Cask Type:	Madeira Finish

Brand Info:

Balvenie

www.balvenie.com

THE BALVENIE®

At the 2006 International Spirits Challenge, The Balvenie was awarded gold medals for its **Founder's Reserve 10 Year Old**, **DoubleWood 12 Year Old**, **Balvenie New Wood 17 Year Old**, **PortWood 21 Year Old**, **Balvenie Thirty** and **Balvenie Portwood 1991**. This is the biggest gold medal haul for any brand in any one year since the competition began. William Grant founded Balvenie whisky in 1889. William Grant was born on 19 December 1839 in his father's house in Dufftown.

[Read more >](#)

Nose:

Palate:

Finish:

Rating:



Port Ellen 1982 / 25 Year old / Cask #2030/2035

Single Islay Malt Scotch Whisky

The Milroy's share of casks 2030 & 2035, also bottled by Berry Bros. Only the labels are different.

More Details:

Country:	Scotland
Region:	Islay
Bottler:	Milroy
Age:	25 Year old
Vintage:	1982
Bottling Date:	2008
Strength:	46%
Bottle Size:	70cl
Cask Type:	Refill Sherry Butt
Cask Number:	2030/2035
Chill Filtered:	No

Brand Info:

Port Ellen
www.malts.com

PORT ELLEN™

Established on Islay's south coast in 1825 by A K Mackay and Co., Port Ellen is reputed to have been the first distillery to have incorporated Septimus Fox's spirit safe design into the distillation process. Its innovations did not stop there, however. After having been taken over by the shrewd and energetic John Ramsay in 1836, Port Ellen became the first distillery to trade with North America in 1848. Ramsay secured the right to export in larger casks and store the casks in bonded warehouses prior to export, a system which persists to this day.

Nose:

Palate:

Finish:

Rating:



Laphroaig 18 Year old Single Islay Malt Scotch Whisky

The new Laphroaig 18yo is a replacement for the 15 year-old (Prince Chuck's favourite whisky, lest we forget, and it'll be sorely missed when it's gone). This is a stronger, altogether gutsier affair at 48%.

More Details:

Country:	Scotland
Region:	Islay
Bottler:	Distillery Bottling
Age:	18 years old
Strength:	48%
Bottle Size:	70cl

Brand Info:

Laphroaig
www.laphroaig.com

LAPHROAIG®

Part of the triumvirate of heavily-peated southern Islay malts, alongside LVMH's Ardbeg and Diageo's Lagavulin, Laphroaig was founded in 1810 by brothers Alexander and Donald Johnston (although the official year of start-up is given as 1815 on the company's labels and literature). The histories of Lagavulin and Laphroaig have been closely tied together, with Lagavulin said to have been founded by Alex and Donald's father, John.

[Read more >](#)

Nose:

Palate:

Finish:

Rating:



Edradour 1983 / 25 Year old / Port Finish

Single Highland Malt Scotch Whisky

This Edradour 1983 was aged 19 years in a traditional hogshead before a long second maturation of 68 months (over five years!) in a fresh Port Pipe. Bottled at cask strength and natural colour - this looks terrific.

More Details:

Country:	Scotland
Region:	Highland
Bottler:	Distillery Bottling
Age:	25 years old
Vintage:	1983
Bottling Date:	June 2008
Strength:	52.5%
Bottle Size:	70cl
Cask Type:	Port Cask Finish
Cask Number:	08/364
Number of Bottles:	531

Brand Info:

Edradour

www.edradour.co.uk



Edradour is the smallest distillery in Scotland, with the smallest stills in Scotland to boot. Production is overseen by just three men, including the distillery manager, and the distillery's output is just 12 barrels (600 gallons) per week from four wash runs.

Edradour was originally called Glenforres when it was built in 1825, but became Edradour around a decade later - only to return to the Glenforres name as Glenforres-Glenlivet after being acquired by William Whiteley company in the 1920s to produce malt for their King's Ransom blend. The distillery eventually ended up as part of the Pernod Ricard stable, and was sold to Andrew Symington's Signatory company in 2002, since which time it has gone from strength to strength, with a thriving tourist trade thronging through its quaint buildings near the beautiful village of Pitlochry.

Nose:

Palate:

Finish:

Rating:



Caol Ila Cask Strength

Single Islay Malt Scotch Whisky

A superb, lemony, salty, coal-tar-soapy bonanza, Caol Ila Cask Strength is a whisky capable of bringing joy to the most jaded peathead. We love this.

More Details:

Bottler:	Distillery Bottling
Strength:	61.6%
Bottle Size:	70cl

Brand Info:

Caol Ila

www.malts.com/en-gb/malts/caolila.htm

CAOL ILA
ISLAY SINGLE MALT SCOTCH WHISKY

Customer Reviews:

Posted on 13 Jun 2009 :

This is a king amongst whiskies. The label warns of such corrosive and violent elements as petrol, creosote and so on, but the experience is superb. Yes, it is peaty, smoky and all those things, but they are subtle, rounded, mellow and utterly complementary. An enormously complex drink and one which leaves you trying to analyze the flavours for a long time after the glass is empty - and then you have to check it with a second glass ... Posted By: Chris Todhunter, Argyll

Built in 1846, Caol Ila is the largest of the eight working distilleries on the island of Islay (situated off the west coast of Scotland), with a production capacity of 3 million litres per year. In the classic Islay style, Caol Ila is made predominantly with peated malt and the resulting phenols have a big influence on the final flavour of the whisky, as does the salty coastal air that the casks 'breathe' during maturation. One of the most approachable Islay malts.

[Read more >](#)

Nose:

Palate:

Finish:

Rating:



**Long Trail "Imperial Porter" 8.3%
Vermont**

Nose:

Palate:

Finish:



**Allagash Black 7.5%
Maine**

Nose:

Palate:

Finish:



**Southern Tier "Oat" Oatmeal Stout 11%
New York**

*2 row pale malt, oats, caramel malt, barley flakes, chocolate malt, black malt,
kettle hops: columbus & willamette*

Nose:

Palate:

Finish:



**Long Trail Double IPA 8.6%
Vermont**

Nose:

Palate:

Finish:



Smokestack Heritage Porter

Nose:

Palate:

Finish:



High & Mighty "Two Headed Beast" 5.5% Massachusetts

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:



Southern Tier "Imperial Creme Brule Stout" 10% New York

Nose:

Palate:

Finish:



Weyerbacher Echo PA

Nose:

Palate:

Finish:



Weyerbacher Fox Trot PA

Nose:

Palate:

Finish:



Terrapin Beer Co "Rye Squared" Imperial Pale Ale 8.5% abv GA

Nose:

Palate:

Finish:

LLERY LTD.
G

ARDBEG DISTILLERS
AR
IS
20
19