

BERTIE'S

WHISKY BAR



Whisky

M E N U

365

SELECTED WHISKIES
TO BE
DISCOVERED →



Gable

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FIVE ARMS HOTEL

GREET'S YOU

W

WELCOME

TO BERTIE'S

HERE, seated amidst the warming glow of *365 whiskies*, we ask you to relax and enjoy some of the finest, and rarest, drams in the world.

We named the bar after *KING EDWARD VII* (also known as *Bertie*) because we feel it would be a place that reflects his personality. Where would we be without this bon viveur, gourmand, and fashion icon?

Without Bertie we might not wear tweed or ever eat roast beef and Yorkshire pudding on a Sunday. The bottom button of our waistcoats would have remained fastened. Bertie was a true diplomat, 'The Uncle of Europe'. He was also a gambler, a cigar smoker, and occasional drinker.

He would, we hope, have felt at home here.

We hope you do as well.

At home WITH Our Range

B E F O R E we explain how things work in Bertie's, a very quick word on how single malt whisky is crafted in Scotland.

It is made from barley that has been malted in order to free up starches in the grains, which are then dried to stop further growth.

The barley (grist) is then ground into a coarse flour, and hot water added to produce a sweet liquid (wort) to which yeast is added. This ferments it into a beer (wash).

The wash is then distilled twice in copper pot stills. In the second pass, the distiller chooses which flavours he wants. This middle cut of new make spirit is then aged in oak casks for a minimum of three years.

During maturation the flavours from the oak mingle with those of the spirit to produce the final, complex, single malt whisky.

Each distillery has its own specific take on this process making all of them unique. Stir in the fact that each cask will give slightly different flavours, rather a sprinkling of mystery, and you have a vast selection of whiskies to choose from.

Now, relax, *START EXPLORING*, and remember, we are here to help.



At home WITH Our Range

Bertie's is not your standard whisky bar. We chose the *365 whiskies* that make up the Bertie's range by **FLAVOUR** and quality, not name, age, reputation, or region. There will be names that you recognise, but hopefully there will also be surprises. You will find Scotch single malt, blends, grain, and whiskies from around the world, making every visit an exciting one.

Why **FLAVOUR**? Although Scotch whisky is divided into recognised regions – Lowland, Highland, Speyside, Islay, and Campbeltown – each region does not have a single style, making this method of selection confusing.

A well-stocked bar can be daunting for newcomers, and even seasoned whisky lovers, but a bar, surely, is a place to relax. By grouping the whiskies into four flavour camps: Fragrant, Fruity, Rich, and Smoky, we can help you discover your whisky comfort zone and once in it, allow you to explore with *confidence*.

ASK FOR OUR
FLAVOUR
INTRODUCTION
FLIGHT

F

LET'S START WITH

FRAGRANCE

THE SMELL OF FRESH CUT GRASS, FLOWERS, GREEN APPLES AND PEARS. A SENSE OF THE DELICATE, FRESH, AND LIVELY. IF THIS WAS A SEASON, IT WOULD BE SPRING. WELCOME TO THE WORLD OF FRAGRANT WHISKIES.

These drams are light in body but vibrant in aromas and often have a crisp acidity. They are low in flavours coming from the cask, they are all about freshness and vitality. Ideal as aperitif whiskies, they refresh and stimulate both appetite and conversation.

Don't worry if you are new to whisky. There are flavours here that will appeal to those who like lighter white wines – think riesling, sauvignon blanc or albariño. Beer drinkers? IPA lovers will fit in perfectly here.

Don't be fooled into thinking that just because these whiskies are lighter in style they lack character. There is a world of subtlety here.



FRAGRANCE

NAME	VOL	PRICE
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SINGLE MALT SCOTCH

AnCnoc, 12 year old 40% **.9.00**

This is all about the balance between flowers, touches of bright citrus, and only the merest hint of oak. Aperitif sorted.

Arran, 10 year old 46% **.9.00**

It may be young, but don't let that distract you. Hedge clippings, mandarin, cut flowers and russet apples.

Auchentoshan, 12 year old 40% **.9.00**

On the banks of the Clyde outside Glasgow, this triple distilled malt offers sugary cereal crunchiness as well as light fruit.

Auchroisk, 10 year old, Flora & Fauna 43% **.9.00**

A lovely example of this Speysider's distillery character: sweet, slightly nutty, hints of citrus and coconut.

Aultmore, 12 46% **.9.00**

A lesser-known malt beloved by blenders (which means it's great). Hints of grass, honeysuckle, light fruits, plus a soft texture. Delightful.

Ben Nevis, 2011, Signatory 46% **.9.00**

Here's a different take on Ben Nevis that still has oiliness but also freesia, strawberries and only a hint of oak.

Bladnoch, 28 year old (1990), Connoisseur's Choice,
Gordon & MacPhail 48% **.28.00**

From Scotland's southernmost distillery and still fragrant after all these years. Bluebells and apples. Best neat. A rare treat.

NAME	VOL	PRICE
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Bruichladdich, Bere Barley 2010 [I.M. Carl Reavey] . . . 50% **9.50**

Made from an ancient strain of barley, this is like sugar and pineapples on porridge, with lemon and peach blossom on the palate.

Caol Ila, 17 year old, Special Release 2015 55.9% **16.50**

Here is Caol Ila without any smoke. Fresh green, with lemongrass, basil, and hard pear. Water ups the fruits. Must-try.

Clynelish, 14 year old 46% **9.00**

Famed for its gentle, palate-coating, ‘waxy’ style. Orange-scented candles, dry grass, ginger, a tiny touch of flowers, and seductive succulence.

Craigellachie, 13 year old 46% **9.00**

A fascinating distillery whose whiskies gain in weight and fruitiness as they age. Here however, it’s pineapples and florals that take centre stage.

Daftmill, 2006, Single Cask, Royal Mile Whiskie 56% **21.00**

The first release from this farm distillery in the lowlands of Fife. Bright and zingy, with fennel, lemon verbena, grapefruit, and chamomile.

Fettercairn, 12 year old 40% **9.00**

Hailing from the eastern Highlands, here you get a mix of light florals, with a gingery depth.

Filey Bay, Spirit of Yorkshire 46% **9.00**

The flagship single malt from this new distillery, made from barley grown on co-owner Tom Mellor’s farm. Vibrant aromas of lemon peel, barley sugar, pears, and Mr. Whippy ice cream.

Glen Elgin, 24 year old (1995), Asta Morris 49.5% **19.50**

The distinct green apple note here is produced by a specific type of yeast. A gentle spring breeze. Soft and long. Old doesn’t always mean heavy.

Glen Garioch, 12 year old 48% **9.00**

Cult Aberdeenshire distillery (pronounced Geerie by the way). On the cereal side, but there are also touches of fruit syrup and lemony zestiness.

NAME	VOL	PRICE
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Glen Grant, 12 year old 43% **9.00**

A gorgeous mix of fresh, crisp apples and pears, spring flowers, cucumber, and a gently sweet delivery. One of the definitive fragrant whiskies.

Glen Ord, 12 year old (2007), Signatory 46% **9.00**

The distillery on the Black Isle makes a green grassy style. Here it's overlaid with layers of lime, high-end patisserie, and May blossom.

Glencadam, 15 year old 46% **9.00**

There aren't many distilleries left on Scotland's east coast. Sweet dry leaves, day lily, a little oak sweetness. Becomes fruitier with a little water.

Glen Ord, 9 year old 'Acorn' (2011), James Eadie 46% **9.00**

From enterprising bottler James Eadie comes this utterly charming Glen Ord which, is filled with notes of pear drops, green grass and light creaminess.

Glen Spey, 10 year old (2008), Mossburn Distillers. . . . 55.9% **9.50**

From the independent bottling arm of Torabhaig's owner, this example of a rarely spotted Rothes distillery mixes delicacy, a hint of sugary malt, almond, and mint.

Glendullan, 12 year old (2007), Signatory 46% **9.00**

As Bertie (allegedly) liked this whisky we couldn't really leave it out of the list could we? Roses, peaches. Light body (unlike Bertie).

Glenfiddich, 12 year old 40% **9.00**

You don't get to be the world's biggest-selling single malt unless you are high quality. Apples, bananas, and light malt with a delicious chewiness.

Glengoyne, 12 year old 43% **9.00**

This southern Highlander mixes oaky touches with lemon and ginger, apples and decent depth.

Glenlossie, 10 year old, Flora & Fauna 43% **8.00**

Another distillery that slips under the radar. Sweet and appealing with light cereal, a lovely oiliness, and a light aromatic edge.

NAME	VOL	PRICE
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Glenmorangie Allta, Private Edition No.10 51.2% **10.50**

Fermented with a yeast from the fields around the distillery, this is breadly with green apricot, a minty, herbal edge, and a beautiful perfumed backdrop.

Glentauchers, 25 year old (1992), *Daily Dram* 51.2% **20.00**

A rarely seen single malt. This mature example retains its powdery, honeyed side. Low wood allowing the aromatics to rise. Blossom and mango.

Inchgower, 14 year old, Flora & Fauna 43% **9.00**

From the fishing port of Buckie on the Moray Firth. Is that where it gets its spicy and, yes, salty character? A must-try.

Inchmurrin, 12 year old 46% **9.00**

Named after one of the islands in Loch Lomond, this lightly spicy single malt offers pear drops, dill, and tangerine flavours.

Kilkerran, 12 year old 46% **9.00**

Revived distillery in Campbeltown, Scotland's old distilling capital. Distinct blood orange notes backed with Crunchie bars, lemon, and a tiny peaty touch.

Kingsbarns, Dream to Dram [NEW DISTILLERY] 46% **9.00**

One of a new wave of distilleries from the Kingdom of Fife, this inaugural release is light, sweet, with foam bananas, pear, and a caramel flan background. Lovely.

Linkwood, 12 year old, Flora & Fauna 43% **9.00**

The benchmark fragrant whisky. Apples, cut grass, peach blossom and a succulent texture. Seems light but with real presence. Must-try.

Longmorn, 22 year old (1997),
Single Malts of Scotland 58.7% **26.00**

Much-revered distillery whose whiskies are usually brimful of fruit. Here, a refill cask has preserved the delicacy of youth. Lemon verbena, rosehip jelly and stone fruits.

NAME	VOL	PRICE
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Macduff, 11 year old (2007), *Infrequent Flyers* 54.6% 9.00

Coastal distillery that's said to be haunted by a Jacobite soldier's boot. This is buttery and sweet with night-scented flowers and stone fruits.

Mannochmore, 12 year old, Flora & Fauna 43% 9.00

Sister distillery to Glenlossie. Here you can find subtle vine flowers, dessert apple, and soft fruits. Delicate and subtle. Makes a delicious Highball.

Miltonduff, 11 year old (2007), *Berry Bros & Rudd* . . . 55.8% 9.00

There are hints of Calvados here, alongside warm lemon drizzle cake, rosebuds and apple skin. Classic aperitif style. Try chilled.

Miltonduff, 20 year old (1999),

Single Malts of Scotland 50.7% 14.50

Distillery forward. Candy floss, Starburst sweets, lemon blossom, and pineapple jam. Bright and effervescent. Summery, vivacious, and immediate.

Nc'nean [NEW DISTILLERY] 46% 9.00

First release from this new distillery, the only one to exclusively use organic barley. Fresh gooseberries, lemongrass, brioche, grapefruit. Highball time!

Pittyvaich, 28 year old, Special Release 2018,

[CLOSED DISTILLERY] 52.1% 45.00

Rarely spotted. Citrus fruits, overripe apple, popping candy, and a riesling-like limeiness. Nutty on the finish.

Teaninich, 10 year old, Flora & Fauna 43% 9.00

An old site that is also hyper-modern. Gently clinging and oily, with sencha, bison grass, fennel and mint. Deserves to be better known.

Teaninich, 17 year old, Special Release 2017 55.9% 35.00

A rare older bottling from this distillery. Water opens it up like a flower: lemon zest, freshly mown hay, apple spiked with a little cinnamon.

NAME	VOL	PRICE
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Tomintoul, 14 year old 46% **.9.00**
 Think daffodils, apple blossom, freesia, and white fruits. A white bread sugar sandwich. There's fresh pear juice on the palate.

Tullibardine, Sovereign 43% **.9.00**
 Ageing in first-fill ex-bourbon casks gives this a distinctly vanilla-like quality. Milky bars, young Calvados and whiffs of maltiness.

..... **GRAIN**

The Girvan Patent Still, No.4 Apps. 42% **.9.00**
 Owned by William Grant & Sons, Girvan makes a light, floral style of grain from this still. Think butter icing, honeysuckle, and light spiciness. Sweet!

Girvan 2006, Asta Morris 58% **.9.00**
 Our second expression from Girvan is also lively and fresh, this time with plenty of pineapple, icing sugar and hard candy. A perfumed garden of delights.

BLENDED SCOTCH ~~~~~

Compass Box, Great North Street 43% **.9.00**
 An absolutely delicious, malt-rich blend. American cream soda, pears, lily of the valley, anise, and white peach. Makes a perfect Highball.

NAME	VOL	PRICE
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Old Potrero, 18th Century Rye. 51.2% **11.00**
 Rye whiskey made in the way it used to be. Intense, spicy, peppery, and powerful.
 Try it in an Old Fashioned.

Widow Jane, Rye Mash,
La Maison du Whisky bottling 45.5% **9.00**
 From Brooklyn, and using grains from the New York State and Pennsylvania.
 A complex maraschino-accented 10 year old whiskey. One to discover.

— — — **REST OF THE WORLD** — — —

Stauning KAOS [DENMARK] 46% **9.00**
 From the country’s west coast comes this blend of rye, unpeated and peated
 single malt. Rye bread, orchard fruits, ginger, sweet apple, and hazelnut. Cool.

Stork Club Straight Rye [GERMANY] 45% **9.00**
 Much of the rye used by American distillers comes from Germany.
 Here’s what happens when it stays at home. Berries, Szechuan pepper, chocolate.
 New wave classic.

Green Spot [IRELAND] 45% **9.00**
 Single pot still (made from malted and unmalted barley). Brisk, fresh, minty,
 lemon accents, a lingering feel and spicy finish. Rightly revered.

Hakushu, 12 year old [JAPAN] 43% **22.50**
 A whiskey that reflects its alpine forest surroundings. Fresh herbs, mint, pine,
 plus a hint of smoke. Understated and classy.

WHISKY TALE N°1

Bertie and
the First Distillery
Visit

Today, a distillery tour is an essential element of the perfect Scottish holiday but did you know that the first of these took place close to the Fife Arms, at Lochnagar Distillery in 1848?

John Begg had taken over the lease of the distillery three years previously, and had heard that the royal family was visiting Balmoral next door. Knowing that Prince Albert was keen on engineering, on 11th September he extended an invitation to ‘examine the works’, as long as it was before 6pm.

The next day, not only Prince Albert appeared at the distillery, but also Queen Victoria and three of the children, including Bertie (then aged six), his younger brother Alfred (aged three) and one of his sisters. At the end of the tour, Begg encouraged the Queen and her consort to dip their fingers into the new make spirit, then taste some mature whisky.

According to Begg’s account, as his parents were busy with this important task, Bertie and his siblings were ‘chasing each other in and out of the rows of casks’. Begg’s gamble paid off. A few days later, he received notice that the distillery was allowed to add the prefix ‘Royal’, and was to be awarded a warrant to supply the household.

On the eve of Bertie’s christening, a request was sent to Duncan Campbell of Islay for ‘a cask of his finest Mountain Dew for the household’.

In her apparent fondness for a dram, the Queen was following in the steps of her uncle, King William IV, who, in 1833, issued a royal warrant and the ‘Royal’ prefix to the Brackla Distillery.

CONTINUE THE TALE ON THE NEXT PAGE

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An understanding of the spirit's restorative powers was encouraged by her ghillie John Brown. He would add a tot of whisky to her tea, and encouraged drams to be taken when outdoors on picnics. Sadly, there is no concrete evidence that the Queen liked to mix her whisky with claret.

CASTLETOWN OF BRAEMAR



Bertie followed in this tradition and issued royal warrants to a number of distillers and brewers. One of the latter, Alexander Gordon of London, was born in Littlemill, Upper Deeside and learned his trade at Royal Lochnagar.

Although there have been mentions of Bertie in 1902 expressing a love for Glendullan, this is more likely to have been a commission for the distillery's owner (William Williams of Aberdeen) to supply Balmoral with other whiskies.

—————▶ WE CARRY AN EXTENSIVE SELECTION FROM
ROYAL LOCHNAGAR, ROYAL BRACKLA
AND **GLENDULLAN.**
TRY OUR: *EDWARDIAN DELIGHTS FLIGHT*



Fruity



WELCOME TO A WORLD OF FRUITS
AND THE BROADEST OF OUR FLAVOUR CAMPS.
WHEN WE TALK ABOUT FRUIT IN WHISKY,
WE INCLUDE A RANGE THAT ENCOMPASSES
RIPE PEACH, APRICOT, AND TROPICAL
FRUITS, SUCH AS MANGO, GUAVA, BANANA,
AND PINEAPPLE. THERE COULD ALSO BE
TOUCHES OF COOKED APPLE.

Along with these, you might be able to pick out evidence of ageing in American oak casks which give whiskies notes of vanilla, crème brûlée, maple syrup, and sweet spices, such as cinnamon. If this was a season it would be summer.

New whisky drinkers will have got the idea here already, but wine lovers who like white Burgundy, barrel-fermented Chardonnay, or late harvest riesling will find a lot of similarities here.



Fruity

NAME	VOL	PRICE
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SINGLE MALT SCOTCH

Aberfeldy, 12 year old 40% **.9.00**

From the heart of Scotland. The distillery’s signature style is honey. This is scented, with some raspberries, and butterscotch.

Aberfeldy, 20 year old 54.1% **.30.50**

Mature, with depth and the polished wood element you get with maturity. Honeycomb, clove, birch sap, and vanilla. Great depth and complexity.

Aberfeldy, 40 year old, Cask 5029. 50.1% **.204.00**

A precious, old, single cask. Light milk chocolate, spice, that honey once more, and cigar wrapper leaf. Supple and complex. Needs time to open.

Aberlour, 8 year old, (BOTTLED IN THE 1960s) 50% **.93.00**

A rare old bottling from the 1960s for the Italian market. Has the thicker texture typical of the time. Precious.

Aberlour, 25 year old (1993), *The Whisky Exchange* . . 54.1% **.26.00**

Older Aberlours often sit in the rich camp. This, however, is filled with barley sugar, blackcurrant leaf, mirabelle, beeswax, and sultana. Classic relaxed maturation.

AnCnoc, 18 year old. 46% **.9.50**

A shift in time and flavour camp from the freshness of the 12 year old to the fuller, sweeter citrus and crème brûlée accents of this older expression.

Ardmore, 8 year old (2009), *Lady of the Glen* 59.6% **.9.00**

A short period of ‘finishing’ in a small, ex-PX cask has added a lush layer of dried fruits to Ardmore’s classic mix of smoke and flowers.

NAME	VOL	PRICE
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Arran, The Bothy Quarter Cask 56.2% 9.00
 Cask strength malt given two years of finishing in small casks. A fresh and lemon-accented start with surprising sweetness and exotic fruits. Light oak. Needs water.

Auchentoshan, Three Wood 43% 9.00
 Pioneering use of three cask types (bourbon, PX, and oloroso) gives a soft sweet delivery of blackcurrant, bitter orange, and a little raisin.

Aultmore, 21 year old 46% 17.50
 This older expression of Aultmore is a veritable fruit salad of a dram. You expect bees to be buzzing around the nectar it generates. Jasmine, tropical fruit. Have neat.

Balblair, 15 year old 46% 10.00
 From the north-east coast, this has been finished in ex-sherry butts, which give chocolatey depth to the distillery's signature ripe fruitiness.

Balvenie, Tun 1509 50.4% 51.50
 A fascinating, fluxing, harmonious melange of casks, each bringing its own personality. Rich muscovado, acacia honey, neroli, and vanilla pod.

Balvenie, Port Wood, 21 year old 40% 22.00
 A legendary whisky that balances the sweetness of the distillery character with the sloe-like fruits of port. Highly complex and rewarding.

Balvenie 30 year old 43.7% 87.50
 The distillery's signature mix of honey, spice, and malt are all present but with the compression and complexity gained by age. Cacao, plum jam, and caramelised fruits.

Balvenie, 40 year old 48.5% 159.00
 Older again, but not woodier. Instead there are marmalade accents, creaminess, and a real fresh energy that then settles into a layered, complex finish.

NAME	VOL	PRICE
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Benriach, The Twelve 46% **9.00**
 A result of ageing in three cask types: ex-bourbon, ex-sherry and ex-port has resulted in a mix of blue fruit, chocolate digestive, and fruit syrup.

Benriach, 25 year old 46.8% **29.00**
 When Benriach hits its second decade so it starts to become filled with exotic fruit salad aromas. Here sherry casks bed all of that down with sweet date flavours.

Benrinnes, 11 year old (2008), Signatory 43% **9.00**
 An example of the newer style of Benrinnes with less of the meatiness of old replaced by a deeper, fruitier character.

Benromach, 10 year old 43% **9.00**
 Owned by legendary independent bottler Gordon & MacPhail, this small Forres distillery specialises in old-style Speyside drams. Light smoke, a hint of dried fruit but also a gentle creamy fruitiness.

Benromach, 15 year old 43% **9.00**
 A fascinating mix of deeper sherried elements (gingerbread, clove, sultana cake) with a soft meadowsweet, minty, apple top note. On the richer side of fruity.

Blair Athol, 31 year old (1988), Daily Dram 47% **35.50**
 A mature (and rare) single cask example that is bursting with purity of fruits – quince and super-ripe pear especially, touches of marzipan, and a silky texture.

Brora, 30 year old, Special Release 2010 54.3% **164.00**
 A cult distillery that closed in 1983 (but is reopening this year). Maritime aromas mix with brown butter, pot pourri, blanched almond, a tinge of smoke, and a waxy feel.

Bunnahabhain, 12 year old 46.3% **9.00**
 Sitting on Islay’s north-east coast, Bunnahabhain’s unpeated malts have a sweet ginger element, some sultana, and a little malt on the finish.

NAME	VOL	PRICE
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Caperdonich, 20 year old (2000), Signatory,

[CLOSED DISTILLERY] 56.9% **35.50**

Originally rather unromantically called ‘Glen Grant No.2’, this distillery shut down in 2002 but has built a cult following. This shows its honeyed fruitiness to great effect.

Caperdonich, 23 year old (1995), Chieftain’s 58.2% 50.50

Slightly older, but due to less wood influence you get a fascinating mix of light fruits, some herbal elements, and a slightly oily texture. Bright and delightful.

Clynelish, 1999, ‘21 years of Friendship’ 57.6% 26.00

Stunningly complex Clynelish. Candle-wax, a hint of brine, pear drops, cashew, treacle pudding, date, ras el hanout, and a deep lusciousness.

Clynelish, ‘Select Reserve’, Special Release 2014 54.9% 68.50

Give this time in the glass and you get ozone, fried plantains, ginger, and ginseng. A drop of water brings out waxiness, mint, and pear tart.

Convalmore, 32 year old, Special Release 2017

[CLOSED DISTILLERY] 48.2% **124.00**

A deservedly legendary whisky – the definitive, sensual mix of ‘whisky rancio’: tropical fruits, waxiness and rich honey. This is rare as hen’s teeth.

Cragganmore, 12 year old 40% 9.00

An underrated Speysider with real complexity. Citric, dark berry fruits, a hint of cigar smoke, and roasted spice. Deep and layered.

Cragganmore, Special Release 2016 55.7% 53.00

Starts savoury and honeyed. Then black fruit pastilles, dried lime, hawthorn jelly, and cranberry sauce. Honeyed and vinous on the palate.

Craigduff, 45 year old (1973), Signatory 45.4% 137.00

Insanely rare peated Glen Keith that used smoked barley – and water! It’s filled with tropical fruits, barley sugar, apricot, rose water, and (actually) no smoke at all.

NAME	VOL	PRICE
Craigellachie, 17 year old 46% Here you start to see The Craig's marvellous mix of barbecued pineapple, lily, peach cobbler, and rich vanilla. Thickly textured and delicious.		11.00
Craigellachie, 23 year old 46% There's some bright citrus on the nose as well as that pineapple element. Balanced and richly fruited with beeswax-polished wood. Lingering.		53.50
Dailuaine, 13 year old (2007), Signatory 46% Ageing in hogsheads has helped to accentuate Dailuaine's inherent sweetness. It's pronounced Dahl-You-Ayn by the way.		8.00
Dailuaine, 22 year old (1997), Signatory for The Whisky Exchange 54.3% This Speyside distillery was once the largest producer in Scotland and the first to have a pagoda roof. Here is a classic mix of rich meatiness and sweet fruits.		18.00
Dalwhinnie, 15 year old 43% From the coldest spot in Scotland comes this surprisingly sunny dram that is positively brimming with heather honey, lemon zest, and ripe peach.		9.00
Dalwhinnie, 30 year old, Special Release 2019 54.7% Mature. Cultured butter, clover honey and some tropical fruits. Needs time to show its unctuous stickiness. A soft hug of a dram to be taken slowly.		68.50
Deanston, 12 year old 46.3% Golden syrup and toffee. Tinned peaches and melting milk chocolate. Plus a light waxy feel. What's not to love? Deserves to be better known.		9.00
Deanston, 18 year old 46.3% A deepening of the Deanston signature here, with ginger syrup, touches of ripened melon, and then an enlivening burst of sweet citrus.		9.50
Deanston, 19 year old (1999), Daily Dram 51% Our final delight from Deanston is this single cask bottling that mixes juicy fruits with earthy tones, macadamia, vetiver, and a waxy feel.		19.00

NAME	VOL	PRICE
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E&K Fusion, Adelphi 57.8% 17.50

Named after Victor Bruce, 9th Earl of Elgin who, in 1894, was made Viceroy of India by his godmother, Queen Victoria. In tribute to his great-grandfather, Adelphi's MD Alex Bruce has cunningly blended whiskies from Scotland (Ardmore, Glenrothes) and India (Amrut). A fruity delight.

Fettercairn, 28 year old 42% 64.00

Fettercairn is one of those whiskies that needs time to really get going and show its full character. Here is tropical fruit with an underpinning of liquorice allsorts.

Fife Arms, 'Braemar' blended malt 46% 9.00

Our very own whisky – made in collaboration with Adelphi. There's a touch of sherry, some west coast smoke, and loads of fruit. We're very proud of it.

Glen Elgin, 12 year old (2008), Daily Dram 46% 9.00

From a top Belgian bottler, this is an absolute fruit bomb, mixing red cherries, blueberry, and on the palate stewed orchard fruits and toffee. Mmmm.

Glen Garioch 1997 (2012) 56.7% 10.00

Bottled to celebrate the reopening of this famed Aberdeenshire distillery. Sweet and very fruity – cooked apple, apricot, and some caramel.

Glen Grant, 18 year old 43% 16.50

Glen Grant has a light character (do try the 12 year old) but while the wood is more apparent here it has not overpowered. Flowers remain along with sultana.

Glen Grant, 24 year old (1995), Signatory 48.1% 19.00

An example of how relaxed maturation in refill accentuates top notes, concentrates fruits and gives length. Exemplary balance at work here.

Glen Moray, 15 year old 40% 9.00

Hailing from Elgin, Glen Moray is famed for its easy-going, sweet nature and this is its finest expression. Tablet, light coconut, nutmeg, and nectarine.

NAME	VOL	PRICE
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Glen Moray, Rhum Agricole Cask Finish Project . . . 46.3%9.00

The first (and so far only) Scotch single malt to be finished in a rhum agricole cask, which has added firm dry spices, grassiness, and floral touches. A one-off.

Glen Scotia, 15 year old 46%9.00

Campbeltown’s Glen Scotia has undergone a complete transformation in the past few years. Rich, oily, cooked apple, Danish pastries, peach, and spices galore.

Glen Scotia, 25 year old (1992),

The Whisky Agency 49.3%19.00

A hugely rewarding example of a distillery that’s building a dedicated following. Saltier than usual but with that signature rich, clinging, fruitiness.

Glenallachie, 15 year old 46%9.00

Recently purchased by industry legend Billy Walker, this is rightly considered Glenallachie’s classic expression. Blueberries, touches of mocha and clove.

Glenallachie, 2006 single cask,

Royal Mile Whiskies 60.5%13.00

From our friends at RMW comes this lovely fruit-driven, maple syrup-accented dram with hints of coffee, red fruits, and allspice. A wee powerhouse. Don’t over water.

Glenburgie, 8 year old (2012), Carn Mor 47.5%9.00

A summer picnic in a glass. Soft red fruits, cinnamon buns, whipped cream leading into deeper and slightly darker fruitiness.

Glenburgie 29 year old, Cask 14087 (2018),

Berry Bros. & Rudd 46%32.00

A refill sherry butt has only a light touch here, allowing elegant, aromatic tropical fruits to emerge. Lightly syrupy with some cinnamon dust on the end.

Glencadam, 21 year old 46%14.50

A relaxed and decadent mix of mango, guava, crème anglaise, and balancing sweet oak. This is Glencadam showing its class.

NAME	VOL	PRICE
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Glencreig, 42 year old (1976), Signatory,
 [CLOSED DISTILLERY] 42% **161.00**

This amazingly rare malt was made in ‘Lomond’ stills within the Glenburgie Distillery, which were removed in 1981. Ripe mangoes and guavas galore. Decadence.

Glenfarclas, 105 60% **9.00**

This, the first distillery-bottled cask-strength whisky was first released in 1968. It remains a classic. Deep, richly fruited, heathery, light hazelnut, and prune.

Glenfarclas, 15 year old 46% **9.00**

This distillery’s whiskies could never be described as shy. Fruity and teetering on the brink of richness. Dried peach, light malt, some raisin and sweetness.

Glenfiddich, 26 year old, Grand Couronne 43.8% **65.00**

Two years finishing in ex-cognac casks. Soft apricot, mace, acacia honey. A velvety feel, crystallised fruits, jasmine, and brioche studded with chocolate. Stunner.

Glenglassaugh, Evolution 50% **9.00**

Closed between 1986 and 2005, this distillery has since gone through three owners. Here it shows orchard fruit notes, and orange blossom honey.

Glenkinchie, 2007, Distiller’s Edition 43% **9.00**

Located to the south-west of Edinburgh, here we have ‘Kinchie finished in ex-amontillado casks, which add a nutty sweetness to the grass/floral style.

The Glenlivet, 15 year old 40% **9.00**

The use of French oak gives a beautifully perky, spicy undertone to the distillery’s signature apple-like core.

Glenmorangie, A Tale of Cake 46% **25.00**

Inspired by a pineapple upside down cake this is ‘Morangie finished in Tokaji casks. Not as sweet as you imagine. Mango, pomegranate, and kernel-like balancing dryness.

NAME	VOL	PRICE
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Glenmorangie, The Original, 10 year old 40% 9.00

The tallest stills in Scotland help to produce a classic medium-bodied dram with succulent notes of passion fruit, orange zest, and vanilla.

Glenmorangie, Nectar d’Or 46% 9.00

For those with a sweet tooth, this has been finished in ex-Sauternes casks. Golden syrup, apricot, lemon curd, and spice. Remember, ‘Morangie rhymes with ‘orangey’.

Glenmorangie, Grand Vintage 1996 43% 86.00

This has been aged for 23 years in the distiller’s own bespoke American oak casks. It has rich fruited maturity, passion fruit, a floral note, and crème brûlée. Luxurious.

Glenrothes, 22 year old (1996), Signatory 54% 23.50

Older Glenrothes, on the other hand, develop sumptuous levels of fruits – in this case nectarine – and spices – nutmeg, clove, and cinnamon.

Glenturret, 30 year old 45.7% 139.00

Bob Dalgarno, the ex-Macallan whisky-maker, has here crafted a complex expression filled with apricots and soft, elegant maturity. Whisky rancio at work.

Highland Park, 12 year old 40% 8.00

Legendary Orkney distillery here in sweet and fruity guise. There’s typical notes of heather honey, stewed orange and a touch of maltiness.

Highland Park, 18 year old 43% 15.00

The honeyed element of the distillery’s character is given full expression here with the merest hint of smokiness at the very back.

Imperial, 26 year old (1994), The Whisky Show,

[CLOSED DISTILLERY] 45.3% 39.00

The distillery fell silent in 1998 but has achieved posthumous cult status (it happens in whisky as well as art). Grassy, green melon, barley sugar, and preserved lemon.

NAME	VOL	PRICE
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Imperial, 29 year old (1991), *Single Malts of Scotland*,

[CLOSED DISTILLERY] 45.7% **.45.50**

A deeper and earthier style of Imperial: old cellars, autumn woods. On the palate though it blooms into cooked pear, guava. Mature, teasing. Best neat.

Inchgower, 27 year old, Special Release 2017 55.3% **.34.50**

Our Inchgower obsession continues with this spicy, peppery, herbal example. There's added sun-baked stone fruits, Amontillado nuttiness and, yes, salt.

Jura, 12 year old 40% **.9.00**

The recently revamped Jura range has added depth and touches of smoke. This mixes fig rolls, cranberry, raisin, toasted sesame, and moor-burn. Neat is best.

Jura, Two-One-Two 47.5% **.11.50**

An experimental series from whisky-maker Gregg Glass finished in chinquapin oak casks. Think cinnamon toast mixed with pears, pistachio, and maple syrup.

Kingsbarns, Single Cask 2015, *Royal Mile Whiskies*,

[NEW DISTILLERY] 62.5% **.10.00**

Here you have turbo-charged Kingsbarns or as turbo-charged as such a well-mannered distillery can be. More creaminess, more melon, more lemon.

Linkwood, 37 year old, Special Release 2016 50.3% **.79.00**

A superb, mature example. Apple syrup, tropical fruit, peach jelly cubes, rancio. Amazingly fresh. Silky release of apple, and en rama sherry. Be careful with water.

Littlemill, 29 year old (1990), *Private Cellar*,

[CLOSED DISTILLERY] 47.3% **.281.00**

A rare chance to try whisky from this distillery, which closed in 1994. It has nectar-heavy floral notes alongside Galia melon, marmalade, and sultana.

Loch Lomond Original 40% **.9.00**

This remarkable distillery produces a vast array of different styles of whisky – unusual in Scotland. This has runny toffee, touches of charred wood and mace.

NAME	VOL	PRICE
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Longmorn, 2005 (2019), *Distillery Labels* 48% **9.00**

Here we have a quintessential Longmorn: cooked apples, toffee, a hint of raisin and damson, then a release of aromatic scented fruits. Mature, with great elegance.

Macallan, 12 year old, Sherry Oak 40% **9.00**

Although fully sherry cask matured, this expression has retained the orchard-like freshness of youth. Sultana-dotted pastries, citrus peel, and dry grass.

Mannochmore, 22 year old (1997)

Connoisseurs Choice, *Gordon & MacPhail* 55.8% **17.00**

With low impact from refill casks, here we have a mix of distillery character and the richness of maturity. Oily, rounded, hugely peachy, elegant.

Mortlach, 34 year old (1986), *Adelphi* 54.2% **65.00**

A stunning, old Mortlach given a relaxed maturation in refill American oak casks which reduces the distillery’s meatiness replacing it with a cornucopia of honey, banana, Starbust sweets, apricot and a hint of linseed oil. Rare and remarkable.

Mosstowie, 45 year old (1973), *Signatory*,

[CLOSED DISTILLERY] 51.6% **137.00**

Another Lomond still whisky (see Glencraig), which ceased production in 1981. A rummy note, mixed with funky mature fruits, butterscotch, apple, and oak.

Oban, Little Bay 43% **9.00**

We are fond of this new(ish) expression using multiple oak types and finishing in small casks. Hugely fruity, bright, gingery, ripe citrus, and sweet. Best neat/ice.

Old Pulteney, 15 year old 46% **9.50**

All the way from the northerly town of Wick, here’s a classic oily, unctuous Pulteney that nods towards florals, sea spray, grapefruit, and ripe banana. Light dilution.

NAME	VOL	PRICE
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Old Pulteney, 18 year old 46% **15.00**
 Staying in Wick, here is Pulteney pushing further into the fruited axis. Quite estery to start, with cider-like elements, some sultana and that identifiable thick texture.

Rosebank, 30 year old [CLOSED DISTILLERY] 48.6% **156.00**
 When this legendary distillery shut in 1993 few thought it would ever reopen, but it shall later this year. This is a superlative expression – a perfumed cloud of jasmine, mango, lemon meringue pie, and wild flowers.

Rosebank, 21 year old, Fascination, Elixir Distillers,
 [CLOSED DISTILLERY] 49.5% **130.50**
 Why have one Rosebank when you can have two? Dew-heavy flowers, honeysuckle, fresh ginger, white cherry, quince syrup. Silky, gentle, and sublime.

Royal Brackla, 18 year old 46% **15.00**
 Finished, unusually, in a Palo Cortado sherry cask gives this a mix of quince, bergamot, kiwi, nuttiness, and maturity. Excellent.

Royal Lochnagar, 12 year old 40% **9.00**
 We're proud to be able to offer a wide selection from our local distillery. This is its signature expression. Meadow grass, sweet fruits, and nutmeg.

Royal Lochnagar, Distillery Only Bottling 2017 48% **15.50**
 Every year the distillery bottles a whisky that can only be purchased on site, which is what we did. Now you too can try it.

Royal Lochnagar, Distillery Exclusive Bottling 2019 48% **12.50**
 The most recent bottling is filled with brown sugar almond and a refreshing green apple quality before it sweetens into vanilla and toffee.

Royal Lochnagar, 17 year old, 175th Anniversary. 56.3% **32.50**
 A limited release to celebrate our neighbours' (legal) birthday. This moves into the realms of tropical fruits, with balancing hay and apple.

NAME	VOL	PRICE
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Scapa, 8 year old (1980s bottling),

Gordon & MacPhail. 40% **79.00**

Juicy fruits abound in this old bottling of Orkney's (sadly) lesser-known single malt. Some verbena, mintiness, and apple.

Spice Tree, Compass Box 46% **9.00**

A blended malt, this pioneered a new approach to maturation with the use of new charred French oak heads giving cardamom, clove, gingery richness.

Springbank, 12 year old 46% **21.50**

Bottlings from this deservedly legendary Campbeltown distillery sell out immediately. Here's its classic style: brininess, a little smoke, flowers, and tangerine.

Springbank, 22 year old (1998), *Adelphi* 46.3% **48.50**

Soft and decadent, with classic mix of salty, citric brightness that shifts on the palate to chocolate and raisins, black olive, and a wisp of smoke. Best neat.

Springbank, 23 year old

(1993), *Whisky Exchange Masterpieces* 52.2% **51.50**

A single cask (ex-sherry) bottling by Sukhinder Singh. Springbank's oiliness is to the fore, alongside smoke, leather, and a balancing citrus bite. Complex and ever-lasting.

Strathisla, 2008, *Distillery Labels*,

Gordon & MacPhail. 46% **9.00**

The Elgin independent has been the quasi-official bottler of this Keith distillery for many years. Discreet, with hints of oak, some maltiness and pulpy fruits.

Tamnavulin, German Pinot Noir Cask 40% **9.00**

Another unusual finish here. German Pinot Noir adds a bright, sharp, cherry-like fruitiness to the distillery's apple and pear base. Gentle and rather delicious.

Tamnavulin, 45 year old, Vintage 1973 40% **154.50**

An extremely rare old expression from this Speysider aged in first-fill sherry butts and bourbon barrels. Sweet orange, fig, gingerbread, pineapple, and coffee bean.

NAME	VOL	PRICE
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Tomintoul, 16 year old 40% 9.00

A particularly pleasing expression of this Speyside distillery that shows its fruitier side, backed with a little almond butter and vanilla ice cream.

Tomintoul, 2004, Robert Fleming bottling,

Royal Mile Whiskies 60.4% 13.00

A single cask chosen by Tomintoul’s long-serving distillery manager. Massively fruity and honeyed, with day lilies, peach juice, and floral finish. Strong!

Tullibardine, 11 year old (2006),

Lady of the Glen 59.3% 10.50

A decidedly moreish bottling from this central Highland distillery which, balances the chocolate notes from oak with the distillery’s red fruit/barley base.

Wolfburn Langskip [NEW DISTILLERY] 58% 9.00

The most northerly distillery on the mainland, Wolfburn started in 2013 and has never put a foot wrong. Here you get trail mix, ginger snaps, and light spice.

..... **GRAIN**

Hedonism, Compass Box 43% 9.00

This is the whisky that made people aware of the quality of grain. Sweet, sultry, creamy, syrupy, with red fruits and honey. Glorious.

Cambus 29 year old (1990), The Whisky Trail 52% 26.00

A funky label and a delicious single grain full of runny honey, baked banana, white chocolate ganache, and touches of sweet oak.

Cambus, 40 year old, Special Release 2016,

[CLOSED DISTILLERY] 52.7% 74.00

Though it closed in 1993, Cambus’ reputation continues to grow. This is all steamed syrup pudding, honeysuckle, strawberry, and mango lassi.

NAME	VOL	PRICE
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Caledonian, 40 year old, ‘The Cally’, Special Release 2015,
 [CLOSED DISTILLERY] 53.3% **82.00**
 Edinburgh’s Caledonian distillery shut its doors in 1988 making this a very rare bottling. Crystallised lemon, light spice, banana peel, and black butter. Elegant.

North British, 20 year old (1996),
Berry Bros. & Rudd 54.8% **10.50**
 Another Edinburgh distillery, this shows some age and complexity with butterscotch and so much flambéed banana that it could be a rum.

North British, 2015, *Bramble* 46% **9.00**
 Our friends at Edinburgh’s finest bar group have picked this remarkable grain. Sandalwood, vetiver, clover honey, coconut, and corn. Chewily delicious.

Bains Cape Mountain Grain [SOUTH AFRICA] 40% **9.00**
 Another of the grain pioneers, this is double aged in first-fill bourbon casks. Bright, citrusy with yuzu, creamy vanilla, and Demerara sugar.

The Glaswegian, 29 year old, *Whisky Works*
 [CLOSED DISTILLERY] 54.2% **17.00**
 From the now-closed Port Dundas distillery, which used to dominate Glasgow’s skyline. Strawberry cheesecake, tangy fruit salad, milky coffee, and buttercream.

BLEND ED SCOTCH ~~~~~

Antiquary, 21 year old 43% **10.50**
 Sumptuously elegant blend, mixing meadow hay, blackberry with some creamy fudge, and a touch of oak. A wisp of smoke as well.

Ballantine’s, 17 year old 40% **9.00**
 Here, Ballantine’s fresh floral style gains greater depth: think polished wood, chestnut, mixed with dried peach, and pot pourri. One of the great blends.

NAME	VOL	PRICE
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Chivas Regal, 18 year old 40% **9.50**
 Whisky lovers agree that this is a classic. Glossy and soft, with plump apricot, toasted almond, coriander, and gentle oak.

Johnnie Walker, King George V 43% **68.50**
 One of the House of Walker’s top end expressions, here you have magnificent old fruity textural grain mixed with tropical fruit, manuka honey, and a hint of smoke.

Royal Household, (bottled in 1980s) 43% **50.00**
 Rarely seen blend from Buchanan’s, first made in 1901 for Bertie’s son, the Duke of York (later George V). Supremely elegant, silky and gently fruity.

===== **U S** =====

Four Roses, Small Batch 2017 45% **26.00**
 This distillery can draw from ten different new makes (white dog) to produce its rye-accented bourbons. Here some allspice mixes with Greek honey and warm oak tones.

Michter’s, *1 Bourbon 45.7% **9.50**
 Produced in Louisville, Kentucky in small batches, this is an elegant but old-style, full-bodied fruity bourbon. Coconut, caramel, and cherry.

Old Fitzgerald, Larceny 46% **9.00**
 The use of wheat rather than rye in the mashbill cuts down peppery spices and ups sweet tones. Think hot pastry, cinnamon buns, mashed corn, and cappuccino.

Rittenhouse Rye, Bottled in Bond 50% **9.00**
 One of the few old rye brands to survive the downturn and still a classic. Pepper, clove, rye flour mixed with sweet oak, chocolate, and orange peel.

NAME	VOL	PRICE
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St. George, Baller Single Malt 43% 16.50

It's often forgotten that this was the whiskey that started the single malt revolution in the US. We remembered. Gently fragrant, lightly nutty, superbly balanced.

Sonoma County Rye 48% 9.00

The range of whiskeys being made in the US today is quite remarkable. Here's a West Coast take on rye – sweeter, more fruity and rounded.

Westland, American Oak Single Malt 46% 9.00

From Seattle, here's a PNW take on single malt – a superbly balanced mix of crème brûlée, chocolate-covered cherry, and cardamom. Class act.

— — — **REST OF THE WORLD** — — —

Armorik, Double Maturation [FRANCE] 46% 9.00

Located in Brittany, this expression even uses Breton oak casks (then sherry). Ripe elegant fruits with a crunchy flapjack quality.

Bimber, Recharred Oak Casks,

[ENGLAND] [NEW DISTILLERY] 51.9% 9.00

At the forefront of England's recent explosion of whiskey distilleries, London's Bimber is creatively rich. Chocolate and tobacco mix here with lemon puffs and fresh pear.

Cotswolds, Single Malt,

[ENGLAND] [NEW DISTILLERY] 46% 9.00

A mix of ex-bourbon and red wine casks have been used here to produce a balanced, sweet, lightly barley-accented dram. Sweet, creamy and long.

Canadian Club, 1967, (bottled 1960s) [CANADA] 40% 32.50

Rare, old bottle of this long-established Canadian brand. This comes from a time when the rye content was higher.

NAME	VOL	PRICE
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English Whisky Co. 11 year old [ENGLAND] 46% 9.00

A milestone whisky – the first release from England’s first whisky distillery of the modern era to have an age statement. A fruit salad, strawberries, and pepper and gingery finish.

Hibiki, Japanese Harmony [JAPAN] 43% 9.00

A blend of Yamazaki, Hakushu and Chita distilleries, there’s subtle hints of sakura in amongst the gentle tropical fruits and fresh green apple.

Lot 40, Cask Strength, 3rd edition [CANADA] 57% 9.00

You want true Canadian rye? Look no further. 100% pot still. Spicy, flamed orange peel, caraway, allspice, cassia, green apple, pine needles, and dried red fruit. Benchmark.

Jameson Crested, (AKA Crested Ten) [IRELAND] 40% 9.00

In 1963 this was the first whiskey released under the Jameson label. Great pot still oiliness, blackcurrant, vanilla, and pulpy fruits. An overlooked classic.

J.J. Corry, The Gael [IRELAND] 46% 10.50

From Clare bonder Louise McGuane, this is a ridiculously fruity blend with subtle spices, a hint of dried fruit, and light ginger syrup notes.

JJ Corry, The Vatting No.1 [IRELAND] 46.9% 143.00

Here is a blend of casks from the 1990s, hailing from the north of Ireland. If you want whiskey rancio, tropical fruits and heavy florals look no further.

Langatun, Old Deer Classic [SWITZERLAND] 46% 9.00

Yes, the Swiss make single malt and this has been aged in a very Swiss mix of ex-sherry and local Chardonnay casks. Soft stewed fruits with subtle, figgy depth.

Mackmyra, Brukswhisky [SWEDEN] 41.4% 9.00

Aged between ex-bourbon, ex-sherry and Swedish oak. Restrained, pure, delicate and fresh, with crisp fruits and then sweeter oak-driven creaminess.

NAME	VOL	PRICE
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Midleton, Dair Ghealeach, Knockrath Forest,

[IRELAND] 56.1% **36.00**

Single pot still whiskey exploring the flavours of Irish oak. The pot still’s textural quality and soft sweet fruit is offset by notes of spice, cocoa, and toasted nut.

Omar, Bourbon Cask [TAIWAN] 46% 9.00

Taiwan’s climate means that whisky matures twice as fast as it does in Scotland. This is packed full of vanilla, ripe tropical fruits, and touches of tangerine peel.

Paul John, Brilliance [INDIA] 46% 9.00

This Goan distillery is building a deservedly high reputation on the global market. Think marshmallows, honey-glazed nuts, clotted cream, and juicy fruits.

Pike Creek, 21 year old Speyside Cask [CANADA] . . 45% 10.00

There’s hardly any rye used in this blend, allowing the warming fatness of corn to show itself fully. Mature, with light oak but ultimately a dreamy, creamy dram.

Starward, 5 year old (2011) single cask, Adelphi,

[AUSTRALIA] [NEW DISTILLERY]. 58.9% **15.00**

A single cask from the Melbourne distillery. Ripe, fleshy fruits, with some clove and black cardamom. Bold and sweet with water.

Starward, Fortis [AUSTRALIA] [NEW DISTILLERY] . . . 50% 9.00

The distillery’s signature release, which has been aged exclusively in American oak ex-wine casks. Melbourne’s intense climate adds richness to the luscious fruits.

Tullamore Dew, 12 year old, Special Reserve,

[IRELAND] 40% **10.00**

A blend of single malt, pot still and grain, this is further evidence of Tullamore’s quality. Deep, with some dried fruit and pecan pie.

NAME	VOL	PRICE
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Teeling, 18 year old, Renaissance Batch 3,

[IRELAND] [NEW DISTILLERY] 46% **22.50**

Though using older stock, here the Teeling have finished a malt in Muscat casks, which ups the sweet perfumed fruit juices to the max. Richly hedonistic.

J.P. Wiser’s, Dissertation [CANADA] 46.1% 9.00

We love Canadian whisky. Here, Dr Don Livermore has used casks from his PhD studies to make a softly textured mix of apple, peach stone, maraschino, and pepper.

JP Wiser’s, 15 year old [CANADA] 40% 9.00

JP started distilling in Prescott, Ontario in 1855. These days his brand is made in Windsor. A sweet, lush blend of green apple, with hints of allspice, maple syrup, flamed orange peel, and apricot jam that moves to almond and cigar wrapper.

Yamazaki, 12 year old [JAPAN] 43% 14.50

Japan’s first distillery was founded in 1923. This, its signature release, mixes tatami-esque grassiness with soft fruits. Stunning balance.



WHISKY TALE N°1

WHISKY

= ON =

DEESIDE



W H I S K Y O N D E E S I D E

Whisky's story has always been intimately bound up in the land. From its earliest days, its production was part of the annual rhythm of life in the Highlands where it was used for celebration, hospitality, and as barter.

All this changed in the late 18th century, when changes in the law effectively banned small-scale farm distilling. Many, however, continued to make whisky illegally. Landlords turned a blind eye – they were still getting their rent – and there was demand in the Lowlands whose whiskies were of inferior quality.

Upper Deeside was more populous in those days, with numerous clusters of houses in the smaller glens, such as Glen Gironck, close to Abergeldie Castle. Here operated moonshiners and smugglers, such as Charles Stewart of Buailteach, and Charles and Alexander Gordon of Tilfogar.

There was also Charles Robertson who operated a still at Mill of Balmoral, whose son James continued the art at the inn at the Spittal of Glenmuick, then smuggled the hooch through the high mountain passes.

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Gairnshiel, on the north side of the Dee, was also a hotbed of illicit production, as was Inverey to the west of Braemar.

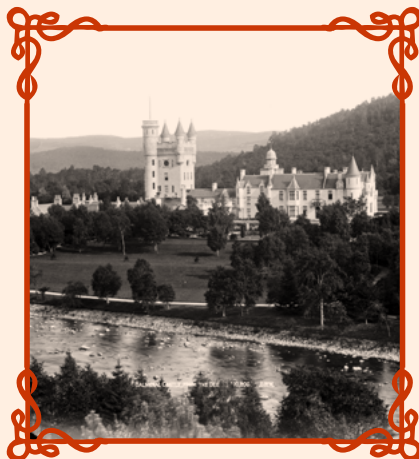
The ‘whisky smuggling’ era ended in 1823 when a new Excise Act ushered in the modern whisky era and spelled an end to illicit production.

As moonshining ceased, so the small farmers were forced off their land. Some moved to the new small towns, others went to the Lowlands or abroad. The land we see now was emptied of people.

One who survived was James Robertson. He had worked an illicit still in Gairnshiel but in 1826 went legitimate and established a legal distillery on the borders of the Abergeldie and Balmoral estates.

It was burnt down – probably by smuggling gangs. He started again at Tilfogar paying £12 a year to the laird, Charles Gordon of Abergeldie. He called the distillery Lochnagar. After his death in 1837 it was taken over by Alexander Farquharson. The man he chose as distiller was Charles Stewart, the illicit distiller of Buailteach. It remains the only legal distillery in the whole of Deeside.

After another fire in 1845, the Farquharsons sold it to John Begg, who built the distillery we see today. His eponymous blend became famous (particularly in the US) but ceased to exist in the 1990s.



BALMORAL CASTLE



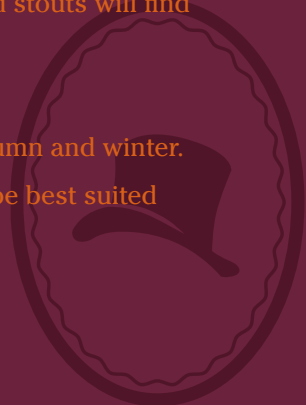
RICHNESS

RICH WHISKIES ARE DEFINED AS MUCH BY THE CASK THEY'VE BEEN AGED IN AS BY THE DISTILLERY. IN GENERAL, THESE CASKS WILL HAVE PREVIOUSLY HELD SHERRY, PORT, MADEIRA OR EVEN RED WINE.

These are full-bodied whiskies, often with a supple tannic structure to them. Aromas and flavours of black fruits (cooked plum, blackberry), dried fruits (raisins, dates, sultanas, figs), spices like clove, occasionally incense, and walnut-like nuttiness are commonly found.

Lovers of rich red wines – Bordeaux, cabernet, Rioja, shiraz etc. – or beer drinkers who gravitate towards heavier ales and stouts will find themselves at home here.

These are whiskies that align themselves with autumn and winter. Drams to take your time over and contemplate. Maybe best suited for later in the evening as a digestif.



RICHNESS

NAME	VOL	PRICE
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SINGLE MALT SCOTCH

Aberlour, 16 year old, Double cask matured 40% **9.50**
Here, ex-bourbon gives a softness while ex-sherry adds subtle weight. Lovely, easy-going and balanced.

Aberlour, a'Bunadh 60.6% **10.50**
Cask strength (so please be aware), this is one for the lover of sherry bombs. Prune, fig, and raisins galore.

Allt-a-Bhainne, 20 year old (2000), Signatory 52.6% **25.00**
Well, this is not what you could call a shy and modest whisky. Full-blooded, sherried character – resin, dried fruit, clove, and leather.

AnCnoc, 24 year old 46% **15.50**
The final element in our selection from this distillery sees it move to another flavour camp. This is all Christmas cake, bittersweet fruits but still some creaminess.

Arran, 18 year old 46% **11.00**
For a malt that was considered to be an early maturer Arran sure ages magnificently. There are deep mulled spices at work here, some dark chilli chocolate and citric bite.

Auchroisk, 14 year old (2006), Oloroso Finish 56.3% **9.00**
Here, Auchroisk is given a glossy sweet covering of dark toffee over its gentle citric character.

Ben Nevis, 10 year old, Batch No.1 62.4% **15.50**
Fast becoming a cult malt thanks to its stubborn adherence to old-style ways of making whisky, such as the use of brewer's yeast. Oily, meaty, robust.

<i>N A M E</i>	<i>V O L</i>	<i>P R I C E</i>
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Ben Nevis, 23 year old (1996),

Single Malts of Scotland **48.9%** **.21.50**

A super-mature example from this burliest of distilleries. Polish on new shoes, lemon leaf, then touches of rhubarb and gentian, balanced by honeyed sweetness.

Benrinnes, 15 year old, Flora & Fauna **43%** **.9.00**

A great example of a meaty whisky. Highland treacle toffee, Oxo cubes, and shiitake mushroom. Robust with supple tannins.

Old Highland, Sherry cask blended malt,

Berry Bros & Rudd **44.2%** **.9.00**

This is a great starter for newbies to the sherried whisky world. There's espresso, dried black cherries, mulberry jam, and low tannins.

Blair Athol, 12 year old, Flora & Fauna **43%** **.9.00**

A powerful malty dram. There's sticky malt loaf, plumped up currants, a hint of date, and dark chocolate.

Blair Athol, 23 year old, Special Release 2017. **58.4%** **.50.50**

It's big, it's bold, it's Blair Athol with sherry butts front and centre, contrasted with eucalyptus, star anise, and crème de mûres.

Breath of the Isles, 14 year old (2007), Adelphi. **59.1%** **.9.50**

An intriguing mix of pomegranate, light meatiness, pumpkin flesh. Great concentration with hedgerow jam, and a hint of smoke. Water required!

Bruichladdich Black Art 8.1, 26 year old (1994) **45.1%** **.37.00**

The mix of casks used here is never revealed, so relax with Black Forest gateau, hints of damask rose, some walnut and marmalade. Remarkable.

Bunnahabhain, 18 year old **46.3%** **.16.00**

A long-term advocate of sherry casks, this expression is Bunna-heads' favourite. Gingerbread, marzipan icing, some Assam tea, and real sweetness.

<i>N A M E</i>	<i>V O L</i>	<i>P R I C E</i>
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Dailuaine, 16 year old, Flora & Fauna 43% 9.00
 Deep and sherried, but, significantly, it's sweet as well. Blackberry jam, treacle, marmalade, and clove.

Dalmore, 15 year old 40% 10.00
 Lushly sweet, showing the influence of three types of sweet sherry casks. Blackcurrant, hawthorn jelly, and flamed orange peel. Lush.

Dalmore, 18 year old 43% 14.00
 There's a little more spice and chocolate on show in this expression thanks to more American oak in the mix. Deep, sweet, and profound.

Dalmore, 40 year old 42% 749.00
 What is remarkable here is the way the wood has added richness but not drying tannins. Red fruits remain, as do apples, chocolate ganache, and sloe.

Dalmore, Cigar Malt 44% 10.00
 Now sadly discontinued, here we have a clever mix of treacle, roasting coffee bean, and Dalmore's blackberry fruits. We have a cigar list by the way.

Dalmore, King Alexander III 40% 23.00
 No-age statement mix of six (count 'em) cask types. That marmalade-like distillery character is there with cassis, rosehip, vanilla pod, and balancing bitter nut.

Dalmore, Quintessence 45% 129.00
 More wood shenanigans here. Starting life in American oak then, into five different Californian red wine casks. Black cherries and cream with hints of crystallised ginger.

Edradour, 10 year old 40% 9.00
 One of our local distilleries – turn right at the foot of Glenshee. Old style practices are maintained and this is a lush, heavily fruitcake-like, lightly oily dram. We love it.

<i>N A M E</i>	<i>V O L</i>	<i>P R I C E</i>
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Edradour, 12 year old, ‘Caledonia’ 46% 9.00

Chosen by local bard Dougie Maclean and named after his most famous song, this lures you in with gentle sweetness before rich sherry tones take over.

Glen Garioch, 9 year old (2011), *Carn Mor* 47.5% 9.00

Though this is relatively young it is already mature. The distillery’s bready undertow is here given a new level of sweetness, spice and light dried fruits

Glen Scotia, 18 year old. 46% 10.00

A whisky as deep as Glen Scotia almost demands time and active casks to show its mettle. Here, its slightly salty/smoky oils are offset by candied peels and black cherry.

Glenburgie, 21 year old (2018), *Distillery Labels*

Gordon & MacPhail. 43% 12.00

Though this is big on American oak’s sweet side, the length of time in cask has added a succulent rancio richness and espresso notes. Highly complex.

Glendronach, 15 year old, ‘Revival’. 46% 9.00

This old Aberdeenshire site was the last distillery in Scotland to have coal-fired stills. Ageing in a mix of PX and oloroso adds dark-fruited sweetness to its earthy core.

Glendronach, 18 year old, ‘Allardice’. 46% 13.50

Serious and classically framed sherry. Layered and velvety, with dried red and black fruits, and liquorice. Long and highly concentrated.

Glendronach, 21 year old, ‘Parliament’ 48% 19.50

Bigger still, with resinous wood oils being added to the seething, dark mix of black and dried fruits. Figgy pudding, gamey.

Glendronach, 26 year old (1993),

scotchwhisky.com 50.9% 55.00

Bottled for the much-missed website, this is like being in the ‘Dronach warehouses. Rich humus, Christmas cake, sultana, and rich earthy power.

<i>N A M E</i>	<i>V O L</i>	<i>P R I C E</i>
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Glenfarclas, 25 year old 43% 20.00

This is a distillery character that welcomes longer-term ageing. Here there's extra heathery weight balanced by preserved orange and plenty of raisin. Endless finish.

Glenfiddich, 15 year old Solera 40% 9.00

A sweeter and richer side to the distillery. Imagine mulberry jam on buttered wholemeal toast. There's chocolate and blue fruit as well. Soft.

Glenfiddich, 18 year old 40% 10.00

The richness here has as much to do with maturity as it does with the effects of casks. You get a classic mix of cooked apple and tinned peach but also dark cacao and sultana.

Glenfiddich, 40 year old 48% 250.00

The remarkable thing about Glenfiddich is how well a seemingly light whisky ages so magnificently. More of the chocolate now, pipe tobacco, and fig rolls. Huge length.

Glengoyne, 18 year old 40% 13.00

A firm belief in ex-sherry casks here sees a mix of first-fill and refill being used. This balances the dried fruit character with more fresh fruits and citrus.

Glengoyne, 21 year old 43% 20.00

Mature but not bitter and tannic. Instead you find berry fruits coming back into the mix with sweet maltiness before things darken on the palate. A complex dram.

Glengoyne, 25 year old 43% 43.50

Now the ex-sherry casks are given full reign. Some molasses and treacle start things off, along with Seville orange, muscovado sugar, and liquorice.

Glenlivet, 14 year old (2006), Signatory 63% 13.50

The use of first-fill sherry butt (which ominously has produced 666 bottles) and a younger, more floral Glenlivet combine to give layered complexities.

<i>N A M E</i>	<i>V O L</i>	<i>P R I C E</i>
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The Glenlivet, 18 year old 40% 12.50

An interesting comparison with the Signatory bottling. Sharing a pot pourri and pineapple core, this is sweeter with more toffee and red apple. A complex dram.

The Glenlivet, XXV 43% 47.00

Moving up in age, this is the first to show overt sherried elements, but you can't keep the inherent sweetness of the distillery down. Cherries and sweet walnuts.

Glenmorangie, Signet 46% 21.00

The use of chocolate malt adds a distinctive roasted coffee aroma to this fascinating dram. Off-dry, chocolate orange, but also sandalwood, dried mint, and macadamia.

Glenrothes, 11 year old, *Discovery*,

Gordon & MacPhail 43% 9.00

Thick and sweet and slightly nutty (roast hazelnut and almond). A good robust quality with some chocolate orange on the palate.

Glenturret, 12 year old 46% 9.00

This small, Perthshire distillery has revamped its range. This is filled with polished wood, Manuka honey, and rum and raisin. Best neat/ice block.

Glenturret, 15 year old 55% 15.00

An upping of age and strength. Refined with stone fruits, chocolate, spice, and orange peel. Gently sherried. Be careful with water.

Highland Park, 21 year old 46% 29.50

Sherry casks here but made from both American and European oak. This is where you begin to see a heathery Orcadian smoke amongst the stewing fruits.

Highland Single Malt 16 year old (2005),

Watt Whisky 57.1% 13.00

Where this is from we cannot say, but it's a dram to luxuriate in. Figs, raisins, and dark chocolate add a luscious depth to a honeyed spirit.

<i>N A M E</i>	<i>V O L</i>	<i>P R I C E</i>
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Inchgowrie, 13 year old (2007), Adelphi 58.7%10.00

Relaxed and mellow with walnuts, liquorice, even sweet and sour sauce. Great balance with a tingle of saltiness.

Jura, 18 year old 44%11.50

Maturity with blackberry and apple pie, and just enough oak to balance the cedar and cigar smoke. A rich, almost waxy element. Needs time to open.

Macallan, 10 year old, bottled 1970s. 40%35.00

A rare chance to try a whisky from this era. Bold and quite figgy with the rich oiliness of the time. Macallan as meaty? Indeed.

Macallan, 18 year old, Sherry oak, (2020 release). . . . 43%255.00

It's fair to say that this is regarded as the distillery's classic expression. Macallan has a heavy distillery character and it needs time. Resin, raisin, clove, and ginger chocolate.

Macallan, 25 year old 43%146.50

... and it keeps on giving. With extra age and sherry casks it is easy for a whisky to become over-wooded and bitter. Not here. Still sweetness at the heart.

Macallan, 30 year old 43%315.00

If anything, this expression moves further away from the precipice and sweeter fruits begin to re-emerge. Soft tannins and lots more clove accents.

Macallan, No.6, Lalique 43%339.00

Bottled in a Lalique decanter, this first-fill sherry expression manages to mix scented black fruits with subtle candied peel and walnut.

Macallan 1981, Speymalt, Gordon & MacPhail 43%107.50

G&M is unusual for an independent bottler as it fills new make into its own casks. There is a sweetness to them that really comes out here. Bold but balanced.

<i>N A M E</i>	<i>V O L</i>	<i>P R I C E</i>
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Mannochmore 1998 (2009), Managers Choice 43% 36.00

You wouldn't expect this distillery to be able to cope with first-fill sherry, but its oiliness helps to offset the tannins, while bergamot and fresh mint rule on the palate.

Miltonduff, 10 year old, 'Discovery',

Gordon & MacPhail. 43% 9.00

There's big cask impact for a young(ish) whisky. Candied peel, sultanas, and ripe black fruits. Low in tannins and big in ultra-smooth delivery. Great intro.

Mortlach, 16 year old 43.4% 12.00

The new expression of the 'Beast of Dufftown'. Stewed damson, earthiness, grilled red pepper, chocolate. Then comes roast beef. Slightly leathery. Burly and rich.

Mortlach, 16 year old, Flora & Fauna 43% 31.00

A discontinued and much-loved expression. Black and dried fruits with meatiness to the fore. Forest floor, raisin, bitter chocolate, and Bovril.

Mortlach, 21 year old, Special Release 2020 56.9% 145.00

Showing the distillery's maltier side rather than its meaty one. Chocolate pudding, walnut whip and, in time, ripe black fruits. Glossy rather than savoury. For a sweeter palate.

Old Pulteney 12 year old (2008), Signatory 56.2% 13.50

Finishing in an ex-sherry cask has added cloves, dark tobacco and chocolate to Pulteney's signature oily, salty fruitiness. Bottled at cask strength.

Royal Brackla, 12 year old 46% 9.00

New expression. There are bold sherried aromas, green fig jam, date, and raisin. As it opens, there's a noticeable freshness, ripe melon, and pink grapefruit acidity.

Royal Lochnagar, Selected Reserve 43% 21.00

Most of the distillery's make goes into sherry casks and here's the result. Rich in well-tempered dark chocolate, Christmas pudding, and coffee bean.

<i>N A M E</i>	<i>V O L</i>	<i>P R I C E</i>
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Speyside 18 year old Blended Malt,

(2001), *Rare Find* **46.8%** **.9.00**

Rare indeed and a sumptuous example of a mix of different distilleries, which mixes soft orchard fruits with the dense weight of ex-sherry casks. Recommended.

Springbank, 21 year old Local Barley. **55.6%** **.26.00**

A much-prized annual release using barley grown on the Kintyre peninsula. This year's example is full-bodied with date, maraschino cherry, and light smoke.

Springbank, 15 year old **46%** **.9.00**

Springbank's weighty, complex distillate automatically moves towards the rich side of the flavour spectrum. Leathery, smoky, yet with mango and light spice.

Springbank, Rundlets & Kilderkins. **49.4%** **.33.50**

The Beatrix Potter style name actually refers to two types of small cask. Speedier maturation and maximum impact of ridiculously sweet flavours. Delicious.

Tamdhu, 10 year old. **40%** **.15.00**

Speyside Distillery with a high-quality range of ex-sherry casks. Young certainly but rich and ripe already. A great starter.

Tamdhu, 12 year old. **43%** **.9.00**

Two years has deepened the flavours further. Now there's allspice, raisin, and date with a sprig of mint before fruitcake and sherried funkiness come in. Classic.

Tamdhu, 18 year old. **43%** **.15.50**

As Tamdhu ages (in sherry especially), so it picks up an autumnal earthiness as well as Christmas cake but still has a balancing sweet fresh fruit core.

Tamdhu, Batch Strength **59.8%** **.9.00**

Be aware of the strength of this – especially as it doesn't particularly care for a lot of water. Prunes and muscovado sugar, plus peach and barley sugar. Delicious.

<i>N A M E</i>	<i>V O L</i>	<i>P R I C E</i>
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Tomatin, 18 year old **46%** **12.00**

This Highland distillery has been quietly building a following in recent years. This expression shows its racy acidic style given gravitas by ex-sherry casks.

B L E N D ~~~~~

Compass Box, Glasgow Blend **43%** **9.00**

At the turn of the 20th century Glasgow's whisky drinkers were known for preferring heftier blends. This is a stunning recreation of that richer style.

Cutty Sark, Prohibition **50%** **9.00**

The full-strength version of this old-style whisky. At one time, big, boisterous, toffee and dried fruit blends like this were all the rage. Worth a try.

Johnnie Walker, Blue Label **40%** **19.50**

The blend that reawakened interest in the category. This shows what blending is all about – a wide range of flavours and textures brought into sublime harmony.

Royal Salute, 21 year old **40%** **16.50**

The luxury blended segment owes a huge amount to this lusciously-fruited and deep blend, which is every bit the equal of any single malt... if not better.

===== **U S** =====

Eagle Rare, 10 year old **45%** **9.00**

A deliciously fragrant base spirit given licks of sweet oak, some honey, light jags of orange peel and, for the finish, some leathery depth. A classic bourbon.

George T. Stagg, 2002 (bottled 2017) **64.6%** **48.50**

Legendary – and mightily strong. Rather than it being a pile up of wood it is actually immensely sweet. Plenty of treacle toffee, and cherry chocolate.

<i>N A M E</i>	<i>V O L</i>	<i>P R I C E</i>
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Michter's, 25 year old 58.1% 122.00

Superlative example of an old bourbon. Heavy, velvety with cherry stone, humidor, rich spices – a ready made Manhattan! Powerful and elegant.

Rowan's Creek 50.05% 10.50

One that serious bourbon lovers keep to themselves. Fruity and sweet with lots of toffee, light oak tones, and a little char on the finish.

Westland, Garryana 50% 21.00

This is aged in a mix of Q.alba and Q.garryana, the latter an oak species unique to Washington State. Intense barbeque, savoury, almost meaty yet sweet. Astonishing.

— — — **REST OF THE WORLD** — — —

Amrut, Fusion [INDIA] 50% 9.00

A blend of unpeated Rajasthani barley and peated Scottish barley from the best-known Indian distillery. Balanced, biscuity sweet, mildly smoky. A creamy delight.

Cardrona, 'Growing Wings', Cask 101,

[NEW ZEALAND] [NEW DISTILLERY] 61.2% 27.00

Amazingly, this was the first cask filled by the Cardrona team and it is amazing. Sherry, maple syrup, walnut and sultana, green fig jam. You'd swear it was 18 years old.

Hibiki, 21 year old [JAPAN] 43% 78.00

An older expression of the blend (see earlier for 17 year old). As rich and resonant with cooked fruit, blackberry, ripe banana, caramel, sandalwood, and incense.

Ichiro's Malt, Mizunara Wood Reserve [JAPAN] 46% 15.00

A vatting of a selection of single malts that have been aged by Ichiro Akuto in Japanese oak (mizunara). Lots of tingling spice and citrus.

<i>N A M E</i>	<i>V O L</i>	<i>P R I C E</i>
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Jameson, 18 year old [IRELAND] 40% 12.00

A positively voluptuous blend from the Jameson stable. A higher percentage of pot still gives it a richness to the palate along with raisin butter and sweet suede.

Kavalan, Solist Fino [TAIWAN] 57.8% 37.50

The distillery that woke the whisky world up to the phenomenon of sub-tropical; ageing. This is gorgeously fruity rather than oaked.

Lakes, Whisky-maker's Edition, Colheita cask,

[ENGLAND] [NEW DISTILLERY] 57.8% 9.00

A belief in fortified wine casks, here Dhavall Gandhi has produced a balanced mix of grape jelly, cherry jam, and pomegranate. Superbly balanced.

Method & Madness, Single Pot Still,

Chestnut cask finish [IRELAND] 46% 12.00

Irish whisky can be aged in any type of wood. Here a spicy, floral, rich single pot still is given a scented, soy-like effect. It could be the chestnut. Great stuff.

Milk & Honey, Sherry Cask [ISRAEL]

[NEW DISTILLERY] 46% 9.00

Hailing from Tel Aviv, this has been matured in kosher sherry casks. Dried fruit richness, cedar, then cacao and roasted spices follow on.

Millstone, 100 rye [THE NETHERLANDS] 50% 11.50

100% rye, 100 months, 100° proof. This represents rye returning home. Yes, it's spicy, but it's also lush and sweet with hints of preserved lemon. Best rye in the world?

Penderyn, Madeira Finish [WALES] 46% 9.00

We are particularly fond of this release from Wales' first whisky distillery. The almost savoury fruit of Madeira is the perfect foil for the distillery's sweet, citric spirit.

<i>N A M E</i>	<i>V O L</i>	<i>P R I C E</i>
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Powers, John's Lane 12 year old [IRELAND] 46% 9.00

A classic example of the Dublin style of single pot still. Unctuous, tongue clinging, ridiculously juicy, with blackcurrant and a lovely drying spice on the end.

A classic.

Rampur, Double cask [INDIA] 45% 9.00

Goan whisky that starts off in ex-bourbon and is then given a second maturation in ex-sherry. Suitably soft and tropical with berry fruits rather than raisin.

Just lovely.

Redbreast, 15 year old [IRELAND] 46% 10.50

Single pot still (malted and unmalted barley) has an oily palate clinging quality.

Combine it with sherry casks and the result is a fruit explosion.

Red Spot, 15 year old [IRELAND] 46% 14.00

Another member of the Spot family, this time a mix of ex-bourbon, ex-sherry and ex-marsala casks. Wine gums galore, raspberry, blackcurrant, and sweetly spiced.

Teeling, Brabazon,

14 year old, Series 3 [IRELAND] 49.5% 13.50

An ongoing series from this enterprising distiller. This time PX casks have been used which, throws a soft blue blanket over proceedings. Toffee sweet.

Yamazaki, 18 year old [JAPAN] 43% 65.00

A legendary bottling from Japan's oldest whisky distillery. Savoury, with hints of incense, raisin, and lengthy sweet fruits. Superb balance.

THE EARL OF *MAR'S*

PUNCHBOWL

Nearby, at the bridge at the Linn of Quoich, is a curious circular depression in the rock, known as the Earl of Mar's Punchbowl.

Its legend is tied up in a febrile time in Scottish history. John Erskine, the 24th Earl of Mar (1675 – 1732), was known as 'Bobbing John' for his ability to switch allegiance. In 1714, he appeared to make up his mind.

After being refused a position by the new king, George I, he threw in his lot with the Jacobite cause and the attempt to restore James II to the throne.

In August 1715, under the pretence of a grand hunt, he called the Highland chiefs together and laid out his proposals. After receiving their support, the party, plus followers, headed to the Linn of Quoich where, according to legend, 'a little jollification was held'.

The hole was filled with whisky, boiling water, and honey. It was 'bumpered off, replenished and bumpered off again, until the whole company felt comfortable'.

On September 6, in Braemar he raised the standard of the exiled monarch, signaling the start of the rebellion. The rising failed and in February 1716 Mar fled to France. Soon after, the bottom fell out of the Punchbowl.

THE FOURTH FLAVOUR

SMOKE

SMOKY WHISKIES ARE EASY TO DEFINE - THEY SMELL OF SMOKE! - YET THEY ARE ALSO THE MOST DIVERSE OF THE FLAVOUR CAMPS, AS THEY CAN ALSO BE FRAGRANT, FRUITY OR RICH.

The smoke will (*with a couple of exceptions*) come from peat, which was the native fuel of the Highlands and Islands, and whose evocative aroma (*reek*) scents the barley when it is being dried. Once commonplace, it is now a speciality of island whiskies and a small number of mainland stills.

As peat varies in its composition, so the smoky aromas range from woodsmoke (*Highlands*) to heather (*Orkney*) to the more medicinal smoke of islands such as Islay where you get marine aromas: seaweed, smoked fish, tar, and beach bonfires. The intensity can vary from the lightest wisp to powerfully pungent.

A fascinating camp to EXPLORE



SMOKE

NAME	VOL	PRICE
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SINGLE MALT SCOTCH

Ardmore, 11 year old (2009), Berry Bros. & Rudd. . . . 46%9.00

From the Ardmore Distillery but smokier than usual, thanks to the combo of its relative youth and the use of ex-Laphroaig casks. Bonfire and hot sesame oil.

Ardbeg, 1975 (1997), Spirit of Scotland,

Gordon & MacPhail. 40%129.00

The mid '70s is regarded as a high point in Ardbeg's history and this richly resinous, hugely smoky dram is a classic example. Rare.

Ardbeg, Airigh nam Beist. 46%51.50

Ardbeg has a tarry/sooty type of smokiness, but this pushes things more towards the medicinal. Coal tar and iodine, bonfire, with a distinctly salty finish.

Ardbeg, An Oa 46.6%9.00

A lighter expression in terms of phenolics that accentuates the fruits to the fore along with the oft-overlooked sweetness. You still get smoke, creosote and lime.

Ardbeg, Uigeadail 54.2%9.00

With a nod to darker dried fruits here Ardbeg moves towards high water mark with extra layers of roasted spices. Piney and tarry.

Ardnamurchan [NEW DISTILLERY]. 46.8%9.00

A new west coast distillery, making then blending to distilling, and then blending together, peated and unpeated spirit. Clam juice, sweet leather, hessian and Jaffa cakes. Rock salt and smoked oysters. Great!

NAME	VOL	PRICE
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Ardnamurchan, MacLean and Bruce, *Adelphi*

[NEW DISTILLERY] 59.3% **11.00**

A single sherry cask chosen by the legendary writer Charlie MacLean and the distillery owner Alex Bruce. Kippers, guillemot, oatcake and moustache wax. Ripe, rich and remarkable.

Arran, Peated Sherry, (2012) Royal Mile Whiskies. 54.2% 11.00

The distillery has run a small amount of peated spirit every year. Here sherry hogsheads have added almost meaty treacley depth to the smoke and citrus.

Ballechin, 10 year old 46% 9.00

This is the smoky expression from the Edradour Distillery just a wee bit down the road (well, an hour away). Oily, woodsmoke, and pepperiness.

Ballechin, 14 year old, *Single Malts of Scotland*. 58.8% 12.50

More woodsmoke and light funkiness, a leathery richness that moves into chestnut honey. Great balance.

Benriach, Smoke Season 52.8% 9.00

A gently smoked Speysider – like a fire-pit on a summer’s evening, apples and cinnamon roasting in the embers.

Bowmore, Vault Edition, 1st Release,

‘Atlantic Sea Salt’ 51.5% 10.50

The name doesn’t lie. This is the most intense and refreshingly salty dram you’ll ever try, but there is sweetness there. Bracing!

Bowmore, Vault Edition, 2nd Release,

‘Peat Smoke Perfection’ 50.1% 11.50

The second edition of this series sees the saltiness retained but Bowmore’s peatiness upped considerably. Rosemary burning on a bonfire, dates, and ember-like smoke.

NAME	VOL	PRICE
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Bunnahabhain, 22 year old (1997),

The Whisky Exchange 51.3% **32.50**

A smoked example. Spent fires, turfy smoke with some feral/funky notes, briary fruits, and caramel sweetness. Unconventional but good.

Caol Ila, 7 year old (2012), Asta Morris 60% **11.00**

A mix of bonfires, curry spices, pitch pine, tea leaves, eucalyptus, and smoky bacon. Hugely smokey and oily. Pay no attention to age, look for quality.

Caol Ila, 12 year old 43% **9.00**

Islay’s largest distillery, known to the cognoscenti for its amazing consistency. Grassiness, sweet fruit, and seashore-like smokiness. Makes a fantastic Highball.

Caol Ila, 12 year old, Single Malts of Scotland 58.5% **10.00**

The same age as the official bottling, but this is softer with saltean crackers, crab creels, pine, and fresh shellfish. Polished and graceful with a salty finish.

Caol Ila, 13 year old (2008), Adelphi 53.9% **10.50**

Here’s Caol Ila in sherry casks – lots of treacle-cured bacon, cherry wood tobacco, polished wood, and embers. A rich barbeque. Be gentle with dilution.

Caol Ila, 20 year old, 1995 ‘Artist #7,

La Maison du Whisky 54.1% **50.00**

To round things off, here is the distillery with more age. Waxy, refined, slightly more oily (deck oil). There are touches of angelica, pine needles and only light smoke.

Croftengea, 13 year old (2007), North Star 49.5% **9.00**

The heaviest peated style from the innovative Loch Lomond distillery this is usually used in blends. A rare chance to discover a mix of pepper, bonfires, and cinder toffee.

Edradour/Ballechin Cuvée, 8 year old 46% **9.00**

An intriguing experiment from Edradour Distillery. A vatting of smoky Ballechin malt from a sherry cask, mixed with three ex-bourbon barrels from Edradour.

NAME	VOL	PRICE
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Highland Park, 10 year old Manzanilla (2007),

Gleann Mor 50% **.9.00**

The use of Manzanilla sherry casks is very unusual. Here, they add a lightly saline brightness to Highland Park’s heathery smoke, roasted spices and dried red fruits.

Highland Park, 25 year old. 46% **.56.00**

Low smoke on this, but it is there, hanging around in the background behind the shortbread, honey, and tablet. Luscious.

Inchmoan, 12 year old 46% **.9.00**

Another island in Loch Lomond and another whisky from the eponymous distillery. The smoke is quite discreet, allowing rounded oaked fruits the greater say.

Kilchoman, 100% Islay 50% **.9.50**

On the west coast of Islay this farm distillery makes a beautifully balanced peaty malt. Grass, scallops, pear, and creamy oak. This is made with its own barley.

Kilchoman, Fino 46% **.9.50**

A relatively unusual type of ex-sherry cask for Scotch but its lighter and more yeasty/saline qualities match the sweet, estery side of Kilchoman. Fresh and lovely.

Kilchoman, Loch Gorm 46% **.9.50**

This is the distillery’s sherried expression, adding a rich and almost meaty quality and helping to accentuate the depth and oiliness of the base spirit.

Kilchoman Machir Bay 46% **.9.00**

Now the peat comes back but with added floral, sandy qualities, some sweet seafood, then ripe mango and pear, finishing with chocolate raisins.

Lagavulin, 8 year old 48% **.9.00**

Once again, we ask you not to be swayed by age but try a whisky for its quality. This is fresh, intense with oyster brine, quite drying and salty. A sharpener.

N A M E	V O L	P R I C E
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Lagavulin, 16 year old **43%** **.9.00**

The richest of Islay’s malts, mixing rockpools, seaweed, tar with Lapsang Souchong tea, bay leaves and all-enveloping scented smoke. Magnificent.

Lagavulin, 21 year old (1985) **56.5%** **.357.00**

Older expressions of Lagavulin are uncommon and this, we believe, is one of the finest. Ageing in sherry has added another layer of pruney, smoky, cigar-like complexity.

Laphroaig, 10 year old **40%** **.9.00**

There’s creosote, there’s iodine, but there is also real sweetness and then on the back palate tingling roasted spices. A classic.

Laphroaig, 10 year old sherry finish **48%** **.8.00**

The newest addition to the range. Laphroaig is usually aged in ex-Bourbon, but sherry adds a fruited depth to it. Tar but also treacle. Raisins but also green herbs.

Laphroaig, 20 year old (1978), Dun Bheagan **48%** **.38.00**

A mature Laphroaig that is bold on the old peat front but balanced by a herbal note, plus hints of chocolate. A lingering smoky delight.

Longrow, 18 year old (2019) **46%** **.12.00**

The double-distilled whisky from Springbank is a fascinating mix of a fug of woodsmoke, a briny edge, smoked mussels, and a sweet, almost honeyed core. Complex.

Octomore, 10.3 **59.1%** **.23.00**

Using heavily-peated malt grown on James Brown’s Octomore Farm, this is rich, slightly oily with a mix of honey and lemon throat sweets, peat embers, and brine.

Octomore, 9.3 **62.9%** **.22.50**

Using heavily-peated barley from Octomore farm, this shows rich barley notes, but also a honeyed heart, wild flowers and a long slightly salty finish. Strong!

NAME	VOL	PRICE
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Old Pulteney, Huddart 46% **9.00**

A mix of porridge and salt. There's amber malt, peanut oil, lipstick, and dried flowers. Oily and vivacious with low smoke and distinct saltiness.

Orkney Malt, 11 year old (2009),

Berry Bros. & Rudd 46% **9.00**

From an unnamed Orcadian distillery (but as there's only two you can probably guess). Wholemeal bread, heathery smoke, new tweed on the nose. Slightly more peatiness on the palate. Silky and soft. Very good.

Port Askaig, 19 year old 50.4% **28.50**

From an unnamed Islay distillery this has remarkable freshness for its age. The smoke only emerges late on (and with water). Estery, mildly malty, and moreish.

Port Charlotte, Islay Barley 50% **9.00**

Fresh linen and sandy sea breezes to start with, then lemon, green fruit, apple sauce, and crunchy pears. Geranium and earthy woodsmoke. Balanced.

Port Charlotte, 2010, MRC01 59.2% **12.00**

A complex mix of casks are used here with French wine playing a major role. This gives red fruit, rose, cassis, then nuts, and slowly-evolving peatiness. Sweetly smoky.

Port Ellen, 18 year old (1979), Signatory,

[CLOSED DISTILLERY] 56.3% **143.00**

A cult distillery (which is being rebuilt). Bottlings can be slightly skeletal but this is racy, oily weight with earthiness (peat bog!) lemons on oysters, and light smoke

Port Ellen, 40 year old Nine Rogue Casks 50.9% **599.00**

Mature and refined. Olive oil, preserved peach, dried mint, and *sel gris*. Low smoke. Floral, then briny with sappy herbal elements. Ends with real minerality.

Talisker, 8 year old, Special Release 2020 57.9% **11.50**

Here's Talisker as you've never seen it before – aged in ex-rum casks. This gives a lovely oily funkiness to the mix of seaweed, salt, and smoke.

NAME	VOL	PRICE
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Talisker, 10 year old 45.8% **9.00**

The oldest distillery on Skye, this mixes relatively low levels of peat smoke with burning heather, sweet pear, and a lovely peppery finish. Highball time!

Talisker, 57°N 57% **9.00**

As close as you can get to the old 8 year old expression. Intense smoke, sea spray, peppered mackerel, seaweed, and a rich oily feel. A classic.

Talisker, 18 year old 45.8% **11.00**

A more relaxed style with greater levels of sweetness and gentle fruitiness, and the smoke playing more of a supporting role. Great balance and a good introduction.

Talisker, 25 year old (2017) 45.8% **36.50**

The elements are pulling together. Glimmerings of shoreline-like smoke mix with scented fruits, some poached pear, Calvados, caramel, and humidor.

Talisker, 41 year old (1979), Bodega Series 50.7% **274.00**

So far the only member of this 'series'. Finished in manzanilla casks to accentuate the crisp salinity. Relaxed, fruity but still smoky.

Torabhaig Legacy 2017 [NEW DISTILLERY] 46% **9.00**

Stunningly good first release from Skye's newest distillery. Lightly oily with juicy melon, smouldering smoke, mint leaf and salt-washed rocks.

Williamson, 10 year old, Carn Mor 47.5% **9.00**

The use of ex-sherry hogsheads gives some extra fruitcake-like depth to a mix of kippers and beach bonfires.

B L E N D ~~~~~

Islay Mist, 17 year old 40% **9.00**

A legendary but strangely little seen blend that mixes subtle seashore elements (seaweed) with maltiness, light oak and gentle grain. Great balance and length.

NAME	VOL	PRICE
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Johnnie Walker, Black Label. 40% **9.00**

The world's best selling whisky brand. A seamless mix of autumnal notes, light smoke fruitcake, light sherry, and creamy grain. Impeccable balance.

— — — **REST OF THE WORLD** — — —

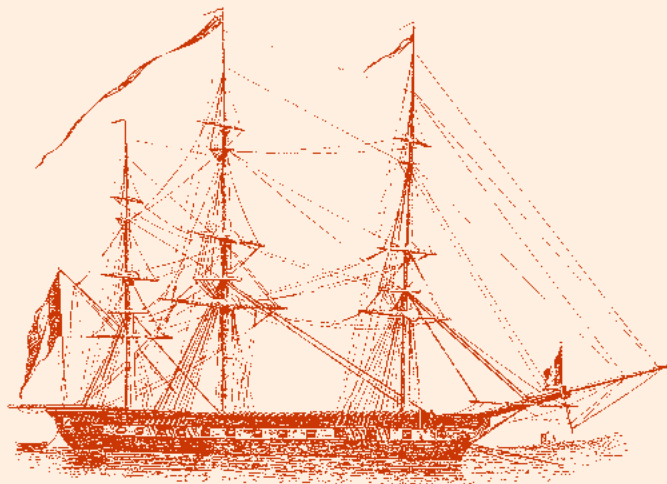
Langatun, Old Bear Smoky [SWITZERLAND]50%. **12.00**

There's great balance here between delicate aromas of flowers and light fruits and smoke, something which is very hard to achieve. Recommended.

TURN THE PAGE FOR OUR

WHISKY TALE:—

WORLD OF WHISKY



WORLD — OF — WHISKY



Though single malt Scotch is the largest style on offer, we at Bertie's have not ignored the other whiskies made here: single grain, blends, even rye. Nor have we ignored the rest of the world. How could we when we live in this golden age of whisky?

Never before have there been so many countries making whisky. Here are, we feel, some of the finest available, all chosen because of their quality and interest.

There are the finest examples of single pot still from Ireland, a representation of the best of America, from bourbon and rye to new single malts. Neither do all of them come from Kentucky and Tennessee but from across the continent.

The underrated whiskies from Canada are here, along with some of the best examples from Japan – a country which has built up a cult following in recent years.

Other countries may come as more of a surprise: Australia, England, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, India, New Zealand, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan, and Wales.

As you journey through them you will encounter different grains, distillation techniques, species of oak, and other woods.

None of them are Scotch copies. They are representations of their place and are compelling drinks. Be bold, take a walk into the wider world of whisky.



The Whisky Flights

A CAREFULLY SELECTED COLLECTION OF
WHISKY FLIGHTS.

The Whisky Flights

CAREFULLY CURATED

APRIL 2021

An Introduction to Flavour

As you can see, Bertie's whiskies are organised by flavour rather than region or alphabetically. Here's a handy liquid introduction to those groupings.

- FRAGRANT:** Linkwood, 12 year old Flora & Fauna, 46% Spring meadows
- FRUITY:** Glen Elgin, 12 year old (2008), Daily Dram, 46% A fruit salad
- RICH:** Glendronach, 15 year old Sweet dried fruits
- SMOKY:** Ardbeg Uigeadail Seaweed and tarriness

ENJOY THIS FLIGHT FOR **£29**

NEW SCOTLAND

There are now more distilleries in Scotland than at any time for the past 150 years. Here's a flight of the newest and most exciting.

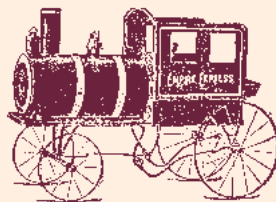
- Kingsbarns Dream to Dram** 46% Sweet, fruity
- Nc'nean Organic** 46% Juicy gooseberries
- Ardnamurchan** 46.8% Smoky fruits and oyster shells
- Torabhaig** 46% Salty, smoky, sweet

£32

— TRAVEL —

A WORLD OF WHISKY

£45



There are now more countries making whisky than ever before – and they are of high quality. Here are four of our favourites >>

Cotswolds Single Malt [ENGLAND] 46% Gentle fruits
Milk & Honey Sherry Cask [ISRAEL] 46% Kosher, date-like
Starward Fortis [AUSTRALIA] 50% Bold, red fruits and spice
Westward Single Malt [US] 46% Chocolate-covered cherries



Edwardian Delights

What dram would Bertie have taken? A sumptuous one we suspect.
 Here are our thoughts:

Craigellachie 17 year old . . . 46% . . . Pineapples and lily (Langtry?)

Johnnie Walker Blue Label . . . 40% . . . Silky and deep

Redbreast 15 year old . . . 46% . . . Blackcurrants, raisin, and spice

Royal Lochnagar Selected Reserve . . . 43% . . . Figs, chocolate, and sherry

£59






Cocktails

SAZERAC

— 22.00 —

Born in 1830 in New Orleans as a medical remedy, built around tonic and cognac and named after the "Sazerac de Forge et fils" cognac. Now, this emblematic cocktail is a preparation of sugar, bitters, absinthe and whiskey... best enjoyed strong and neat.

OLD FASHIONED SMOKY

— 22.00 —

A great classic invented in 1900 to dilute the taste of smuggled whiskey, using soda and sugar. Fine spiciness, bitterness and sweetness create this cocktail's distinct taste.

OLD FASHIONED NOT SMOKY

— 22.00 —

In the words of the great singer Cole Porter: *"Give me another Old Fashioned please"*

BOULEVARDIER

— 22.00 —

An Americanisation of the classic Negroni, where bourbon replaces gin, vermouth's usual companion.

HIGHBALL + MIXER

— 13.00 —

Enjoy our house blended malt with a mixer of your choice.

S N A C K S

M E N U

CAPE WRATH OYSTERS

birch seared or natural

... £ 1 2 F O R 3 ...

GRILLED WAGYU TONGUE 'PASTRAMI'

fermented white cabbage

... £ 1 2 ...

BRIOCHE TOASTIE

British black truffle & Fat Cow cheese (v)

... £ 1 4 ...

MACKEREL TARTARE

Granny Smith apple, fennel,

sourdough crisps

... £ 1 2 ...

TRY OUR
CAVIAR MENU

AT BERTIE'S WHISKY BAR

A DELICIOUS SELECTION

SPECIAL NOTICE: Our caviar is ethically sourced from King's Fine Food.
15g tins served with fresh blinis & sieved egg.



FRAGRANT

Platinum, Gueldenstaedtii X Baerii,
*Delicious with: **Craigellachie 13/17:**
Has got weight, some pineapple
elements, heavy florals. . . £ 30*

FRUITY

Golden Oscietra, Gueldenstaedtii,
*Delicious with: **Linkwood 12yo:**
The oiliness requires some acidity
to cut through. Linkwood is fresh,
green grassy and bright, but with
a succulent mid palate. . . £ 46*

RICH

Oscietra, Gueldenstaedtii, *Delicious
with: **Clynelish 14yo:** The distillery's
'waxiness' matches the umami,
while the citric notes add lift,
build complexity and extends
the finish. . . £ 42*

SMOKY

Beluga, Huso Huso, *Two options here:*
Glendronach 18yo: Has the requisite
dark fruits, but also, some light grip
to add some structure.
Octomore 9.3: There's smoke here
but also a dark fruited weight and a
little salinity at the end. . . £ 110

Chocolates

FRAGRANT

FENNEL POLLEN, 54%
...£5 FOR 3...

Delicious with: Aultmore 12 year old

FRUITY

APPLE CARAMEL, 54%
...£5 FOR 3...

Delicious with: Compass Box Hedonism

RICH

HIGHLAND BEEF FAT
GANACHE, 70%
...£5 FOR 3...

Delicious with: Dailuaine 16 year old

SMOKY

BLACKTHORN SEA SALT, 70%
...£5 FOR 3...

Delicious with : Caol Ila 12 year old

*Or a selection to include one of each flavour
...£6 FOR 4...*

THE END.



CONTINUE EXPLORING?
BACK TO [CONTENTS PAGE](#)

BERTIE'S

WHISKY BAR