



LAGAVULIN



*Top Shelf Tasters*

October 26, 2018



## Highland Park 1995 Madera Cask Finish 20yr 46% Orkney

*Highland Park Distillery is the most northerly malt whiskey distillery in Scotland and thus the closest Scottish distillery to the Arctic Circle. Highland Park was established on the periphery of Kirkwall in the Mainland of Orkney in 1825-26 by Robert Borwick, a merchant and straw plaiter in Kirkwall, and John Robertson who owned the land previously known as Rosebank but by 1825 known as Highland Park. Whiskey had been distilled illicitly in the vicinity of the Parks of Rosebank by Magnus Eunson least as far back as 1798. Highland Park 12 Year Old, 18 Year Old and 21 Year Old are popular releases.*

Highland Park 20 Year Old 1995 vintage Orcadian Island single malt Scotch whiskey. Single Madeira cask #9151 bottled by The Vintage Malt Whiskey Co. for the Cooper's Choice series. 288 bottles.

Nose: Smoked rose turkish delight, aromatic oak (incense sticks) stewed rhubarb, subtle earthy, leathery notes, red liquorice, white pepper on strawberries.

Palate: Rhubarb and custard, aromatic red berries, earthy anise, peppery oak, leathery, crunchy redcurrants, smoke and crunchy tannins.

Finish: Aromatic spices, that smoke and stewed red fruit and crunchy berries combination lingers long, peppery, turkish delight and rose wine notes.

A very different Highland Park and more in common with the recent port cask "Fire" limited edition than the rest of the range.

Very elegant and so easy drinking with the trademark all round well balanced fruit, smoke and spice.

Nose:

Palate:

Finish:



## Glenmorangie Bacalta nas 46% Northern Highlands

*Glenmorangie Distillery was established in 1843 by William Matheson at Morangie Farm where distilling had likely been practiced as early as 1703. Glenmorangie is situated on the shore of the Dornoch Firth at Tain in Scotland's Highland whiskey region. Tall gin stills were installed rather than shorter whiskey stills when the distillery was established and so Glenmorangie has twelve of the tallest whiskey stills in Scotland standing 5.14m tall. This distillery has a core range which includes Glenmorangie 10 Year Old, Glenmorangie 18 Year Old and Signet.*

Another addition to the Glenmorangie Private Edition range! Bacalta is the first expression from the distillery which has been finished in sun-baked Malmsey Madeira casks. Dr. Bill Lumsden had bespoke American oak casks made and heavily toasted, then seasoned with Malmsey wine and left to bake in the heat of Madeira's sun. The casks were emptied and shipped to Scotland to finish the Glenmorangie whisky, which had been matured in ex-bourbon barrels.

**Nose:** Succulent apricots ripened in Madeira's island sun emerge from fragrant, honeyed aromas. A curiously flinty note gives way to beguiling hints of white chocolate.

**Palate:** Complex layers of honeycomb follow an initial burst of mint toffee. Almonds come forth to mingle with dates, caramelised oranges and more apricots.

**Finish:** Creamy fudge emerges in the long, syrupy aftertaste, alongside caramelised citrus and pears. All are played out against an intriguing mentholic backdrop.

### Producer's Tasting Notes

**Nose:** Fragrant, honeyed and sweet. Some ripe apricots, mead-like, and a curious mineral/flinty note, followed by some sweet white chocolate.

**Palate:** An initial burst of mint toffee, with baked fruits such as caramelised oranges and apricots, lots of honeycomb, almonds and dates.

**Finish:** A rich, syrupy aftertaste, with more caramelised citrus and pears, some creamy fudge, but always an intriguing mentholic/eucalyptus sensation in the background.

Nose:

Palate:

Finish:



## Springbank Local Barley 16yr 56.3% Campbeltown

*The Springbank distillery is a family-owned single malt whisky distillery on the Kintyre Peninsula in western Scotland. It is owned by J & A Mitchell & Company, who also owns the Glengyle Distillery, the oldest independent bottler, William Cadenheads, and several blended scotch labels. Licensed in 1828, Springbank is one of the last surviving producers of single malt whiskies in Campbeltown, an area that once had over thirty active distilleries. The distillery produces three types of peated and unpeated malt whisky that it bottles under three distinct brands. The majority of its distillate is bottled as a single malt, with a small percentage sold to larger blenders or ending up in one of J&A Mitchell's own blended scotch labels, such as Campbeltown Loch.*

The Springbank distillery in Campbeltown has released Local Barley expressions before, though there hasn't been one quite a while - until now! This 16 Year Old Local Barley is the first in a series of five expressions to be released over five years. They have used barley grown at Low Machrimore Farm in Southend, which is just a few miles outside of Campbeltown.

Nose: Authentic seaside fudge, chock-full of vanilla, alongside a touch of sea breeze and dried fruit.

Palate: More fruit (think ripe pear and a hint of chewy raisin), buttery biscuits and subtle smoky peat.

Finish: The finish goes on and on, with developing smoke from the peat.

Nose:

Palate:

Finish:



## Glenturret Single Sherry Cask #110 12yr 55.5% Speyside

*Glenturret Distillery was established on the banks of the River Turret at Hosh to the north of Crieff in Scotland's Highland whiskey region in 1775. Now one of the oldest working distilleries in Scotland and with mash in the mash tun stirred by hand using a long-handled wooden paddle and just two small stills it is also amongst the smallest. Glenturret whiskey is released in a limited range of official single malts and is available from independent bottlers including Signatory Vintage and the MacPhail's vintage Collection series. Glenturret Distillery is home to The Famous Grouse Experience.*

Superbly Sherried single malt from Glenturret, aged for 12 years in a first-fill Sherry cask! 590 bottles were produced. Grab one while you can, because we reckon this'll be pretty awesome.

Nose: Flamed orange peel and rum-soaked raisins, with a hint of chocolate truffle.

Palate: Mint, dark chocolate, Jaffa Cakes and old oak spice.

Finish: Lasting citrus sweetness and spicy clove.

Nose:

Palate:

Finish:

## Wychwood Brewery Hobgoblin "English Ruby Beer" 5.2% England



Hobgoblin English Ruby Beer is a blend of smooth, rich flavours from chocolate & crystal malts, the refreshing bitterness of English Fuggles hops & a dash of citrus aroma from Syrian Goldings. Hobgoblin is a powerful full-bodied copper red, well-balanced brew. Strong in roasted malt with a moderate hoppy bitterness and a slight fruity character that lasts through to the end.

Michael Jackson 500 Classic Brews

RateBeer™

80

Wychwood Hobgoblin  
(Bottle)

Wychwood (Marston's)  
Witney, Oxfordshire  
Beer style: Premium Bitter / ESB  
Ref: ratebeer.com Oct2018

Common descriptors are

brown malty **bitter** caramel decent  
hops dark **malts** fruit chocolate copper  
**sweet** truity roasted

## Brauerei Heller-Trum "Aecht Schlenkerla Rauchbeir Urbock" Smokebeer 6.5% Germany



Aecht Schlenkerla Rauchbeir Urbock is the complex sibling of the classic Maerzen Smokebeer. Exactly like the classic, all its barley malts are kilned and smoked by burning beechwood logs in the Schlenkerla maltings. Its higher smokemalt concentration and the longer maturation in the 14th century beer cellars underneath Bamberg create a taste profile of most intense smokiness beautifully balanced with deep malt sweetness. Like drinking a campfire in October. Caramel malts with a slight pumpnickel breadiness and hints of apple set against a greasy, smoke-laden back end accented by light floral hops and a salty-sweet undertone. Creamy, oily texture goes down easy; nose is smoke and toffee. Pours a beautiful burnt brown with an endless beige head and massive lacing. Awesome pint.

RateBeer™

99

Aecht Schlenkerla  
Rauchbier Urbock

Brauerei Heller  
Bamberg, Bavaria  
Beer style: Smoked  
Ref: ratebeer.com Oct2018

Common descriptors are

dark **smoked** malts sweet wood  
smoke bitter smoky **brown** bacon

## Founders "Barrel Runner" Mosaic Hopped Ale aged in Rum Barrels 11.1% Michigan



Mosaic-Hopped Ale aged in Rum Barrels Inspiration for our barrel-aged beers can come from the most unexpected places and our latest release is proof of that. Sweet and hoppy, rich and bright – this rum barrel-aged imperial IPA brewed with Mosaic hops will make you believe you're in the tropics. Inspired by the tiki cocktails that our Brewmaster is particularly fond of ...

RateBeer™

85

Founders Barrel Runner

Founders Brewing Company  
Grand Rapids, Michigan  
Beer style: IPA - Imperial / Double  
Ref: ratebeer.com Oct2018

Common descriptors are

**rum** tropical fruit white sweet orange

## North Coast "Barrel-Aged Old Rasputin" Russian Imp Stout 11.1% California



Seems hard to believe that we've been making Old Rasputin for 10 years now, but that's what's happened. And, to celebrate the occasion, we've brewed a special small batch that's been aged for 9 months in some 12 year-old bourbon barrels. It's bottled in 500 ml bottles with a cork and wired finish and a special commemorative label ---- and it's amazing. The depth, intensity and complexity of the flavor profile make it a worthy tribute to this fine beer. This entry is for all anniversary Bourbon BA Old Rasputin releases.

RateBeer™

100

North Coast Old  
Rasputin (Bourbon  
Barrel)

North Coast Brewing Company  
Fort Bragg, California  
Beer style: Stout - Imperial  
Ref: ratebeer.com Oct2018

Common descriptors are

coffee **black** roasted bitter tan **vanilla**  
sweet dark oak **chocolate** malts  
brown

## Kilchoman Sanaig nas 46% Islay



The distillery began production in June 2005, and was the first to be built on the island of Islay in 124 years. The distillery uses barley grown on site at Rockside Farm and malted at the distillery, as well as malt from the Port Ellen maltings and releases separate bottlings depending on the source of the grain. It is one of only six Scottish distilleries still doing traditional floor-maltings, and will be unique in having all parts of the process - growing barley, malting, distilling, maturing and bottling - carried out on Islay. The distillery first filled casks on 14 December 2005 and the distillery began bottling 3-year-old single malt in September 2009. Kilchoman also intends to release 5, 8, 10 and 12-year-old bottlings. The whisky will primarily age in bourbon casks, though sherry casks will also be employed. The first official Kilchoman, the "Inaugural release" was released in 2009 and the first 100% Islay whisky released in 2011. The whisky produced by the Port Ellen maltings are peated to the same levels as Ardbeg, while the malt peated on their own floor maltings will be approximately 25 ppm.

A handsome release from Islay's newest distillery, Kilchoman Sanaig is an enjoyably peaty single malt which has been vatted from both bourbon and Sherry casks. It's named after a small, rocky creek near the distillery on the west coast of the island. Look out for plenty of fruit and earthy peat coming through on this one, with a touch of dark chocolate-covered raisins.

Nose: Pineapple chunks and white grapes. Hints of fresh coffee carry the earthy, subtly spicy peat. Toffee cubes.

Palate: More light fruits (this time of the peach variety), with dark chocolate raisins and a whisper of red berries. Peat grows and grows, with a little black pepper too.

Finish: Quite long with coastal peat lasting.

*Notes from whiskyfun.com...*

Seventy percent oloroso and thirty percent bourbon.

Nose: There is a touch of bitter almonds and walnuts, as well as a little curry powder and nutmeg, but otherwise it's a rather clean, coastal, smoky, seaweedy Islayer, getting then earthier by the minute. Whiffs of bitter coffee (ristretto).

Palate: Same feeling, a rather spicy, curry-like arrival, with smoked almonds and touches of leather, seawater, olive brine, and blond tobacco. Not too many red berries, which comes as a blessing in this context.

Finish: Medium, with grapefruits, Seville oranges and lemons getting it on the act. Lovely saltiness in the aftertaste.

Comments: Very good, I think, with a sherry that's much better integrated than in many a single cask.

Nose:

Palate:

Finish:



## Lagavulin 200th Anniversary Limited Edition 12yr 57.7% Islay

*Lagavulin Distillery was established in 1816 by John Johnston on the rocky south coast of the Isle of Islay. In 1908 the Malt Mill Distillery was built next to Lagavulin Distillery but closed in the early 1960s and, whilst some of its buildings remain as part of Lagavulin, the Malt Mill is now a lost distillery. Lagavulin has four stills and produces superbly balanced peated whiskey. The core range is limited to the Lagavulin 16 Year Old and Distillers Edition with a limited edition single cask bottling produced each year for Feis Ile, the Islay Festival of Malt and Music.*

This commemorative 200th Anniversary is a classic, well-structured Lagavulin that smoke heads will love. Wonderfully smoky, oily and bitter-sweet, pure in style and beautifully balanced with an inspiring sophistication and as much at home with food as after-dinner, being lighter in aroma and texture and less drying than recent expressions. Limited quantities exist worldwide.

Nose: Smouldering peat smoke with icing sugar, lemons and spearmint rising.

Palate: Smooth and sweet with a salty balance. Fruit and nut chocolate warms with smoky, grainy cereals

Finish: Long and refined with more warming smoke.

Nose:

Palate:

Finish: