



THE SCOTCH MALT
WHISKY SOCIETY

August Outturn: Flavour Parade

Trio and Pair Recommendations

If you're finding it hard to pick that special something, our August recommendations may help. There are also some rather nice savings to be had. Buy **35.39** and **125.39** as a pair for **only £97** and enjoy a saving of £12.60 OR buy trio **76.71**, **48.23** and **27.82** for only **£138** and save £17.70.

Also don't forget, if you buy any six bottles you can enjoy a case discount of £12, or £24 if you buy twelve bottles...and so on.

How to order: from Fri 6 August

- **Online.** Visit www.smws.co.uk
- **By phone.** Call **0131 555 2929** (Mon-Fri, 9am-4.45pm)
- ****Available at Hotel du Vin & Malmaison**, look out for new whiskies available at Aberdeen Malmaison and Brighton and Birmingham Hotel du Vin

August Outturn:

Highland Northern

125.39 Gateau de Mille-feuilles (*cake of a thousand layers*)

£67.40 inc. P&P

(Buy with **35.39** for **£97**)

A stunning **multi-layered** dessert; on the nose we found ripe **peach** stone, **vanilla** pods in **mucovado** sugar, scented **wood spices**, custard apple and **pain au chocolat**. The neat taste revealed zingy pineapple and guava, a mid-palate of silky **coconut** and **cream**, fine **pastry** and luscious peaches, then lime marmalade on toast. On second nosing with water, peach melba emerged with caramelised sugar, **honey** and **fudge**. The reduced taste became more nutty and balsamic with flaked **almonds** and **hazelnuts** in **treacle toffee**, lashings of thick cream and fresh **cedar** and **balsamic oak**. From the distillery known for its glen of tranquility.

Colour: Harvest gold

Date distilled: Feb 1992

Cask: First-fill ex-bourbon hogshead

Alcohol: 55.7%

Drinking tip: Indulgent moments with loved ones

Age: 18 years

Outturn: 234

Highland Eastern

19.47 Dried roses in a shoe-box

£58.30 inc. P&P

The nose had creamy porridge, **custard creams**, bread and butter pudding, **biscotti**, Kahlua and cocoa-dusted **praline** balls; then something more **curious** – comments included **coconut** doormats, roses, old telephone cable and **plastic** dolls. The palate tasted of sweet biscuits and golden **syrup** sponge, but with the welcome **muscularity** of ginger cake, **malt loaf** and exotic teas. The reduced nose suggested **putty** and leather, fresh bread, **lime** peel, perfumed **peach**, tinned lychees and “dried **roses** in a shoe-box”. After minimal water, the palate remained beautifully sweet, with fruity **perfumes** (peach blossom) and super-shiny **leather**.

Colour: Faded tan with golden beads

Date distilled: Feb 1992

Cask: Refill ex-bourbon hogshead

Alcohol: 54.6%

Drinking tip: The ideal dram to welcome guests

Age: 18 years

Outturn: 117

****Available at HdV & Mal**



Call: 0131 555 2929 (Mon-Fri, 9am-4.45pm) Visit: www.smws.co.uk

Speyside Spey

48.23 Marshmallows and barley fields

£40.20 inc. P&P

(Buy with 76.21 & 27.82 for £138)

The nose was juicy and sweet with **honeydew melon**, **apple** pie and fudgey **marshmallow**, beneath which we discovered the warmer notes of **cinnamon** and **liquorice**. The neat palate had sweet and creamy vanilla with warm toasted marshmallows and **candy floss**; a spicy prickle brought **candied fennel** and **tarragon**, and zingy chocolate limes. Addition of water brought **barley** fields, white **chocolate**, pear drops, **peaches** and icing sugar. The reduced palate was mellow and smooth with a **creamy mouthfeel** (clotted cream) and hazelnuts. The distillery is nestled at the bottom of the Haughs of Cromdale in the Spey valley.

Colour: Golden syrup

Date distilled: Aug 2001

Cask: First-fill ex-bourbon barrel

Alcohol: 58.3 %

Drinking tip: For a lazy summer day relaxing

Age: 8 years

Outturn: 230

36.47 Reassuring springtime dram

£59.30 inc. P&P

The nose had a bright, **springtime**, outdoors feel to it – buttery **lemon puffs**, light honey, strawberry jam, Arctic Rolls, rice crispy squares and hints of forests and **gorse** flowers. The palate confidently conveyed rich sweet **buttery** biscuits, **banana** ice-lollies and cream teas (clotted cream, scones, **jam**). We felt reassured by the fabulous **integration** and balance of the reduced nose, with its **butterscotch**, popcorn, white **chocolate** and Dime Bars. The reduced palate had a **substantial** mouthfeel, a warm, **fulfilling** sweetness and the restrained fruitiness of Asti Spumante or Shloer **grape** juice. The distillery, named after a mountain, has partial triple distillation

Colour: Mellow yellow

Date distilled: Feb 1989

Cask: Refill ex-bourbon hogshead

Alcohol: 55.2%

Drinking tip: Out of doors in the spring

Age: 21 years

Outturn: 271

****Available at HdV & Mal**

76.71 Tasty pastry and mellow morello

£62.30 inc. P&P

(Buy with 48.23 & 27.82 for £138)

What a tasty nose – we found treacle toffee, choux **pastry**, apple pie, strawberries dipped in dark **chocolate**, morello cherries, **maple syrup** pancakes, desiccated **coconut** and egg custard. We also identified wood shavings, pencil erasers, **leather**, wood polish and **matchboxes**. The palate was a pleasant surprise – not sulphury – only slightly burnt short-crust pastry and crème **caramel**, cinder toffee, thick cut **marmalade** and jaffa cakes. The reduced nose hinted at distant fireworks, **marzipan** and mulled wine (**cinnamon**, clove, orange peel). The palate turned very **mellow** in reduction – chocolate orange, crème brûlée and **toffee** fudge ice-cream.

Colour: Orange gold

Date distilled: Aug 1989

Cask: First-fill ex-sherry butt

Alcohol: 60.1%

Drinking tip: With a bowl of cereal

Age: 20 years

Outturn: 606

****Available at HdV & Mal**

Speyside Lossie

35.39 Stollen and Panettone

£42.40 inc. P&P

(Buy with 125.39 for £97)

This intriguing nose was a cornucopia of rich and warming aromas: **brandy snaps**, **Demerara sugar**, **plums** and ageing **prunes**, **marmalade** on **toast** all bursted out, with chocolate **chutney** and ginger biscuits. **Rum and raisin** gripped to the palate with resinous apple and dark orange marmalade. The reduced nose brought **Stollen cake** and **Panettone**, **crème-brûlée** and candles in the fireside. The reduced palate remained rich and warm with sundried raisins, marzipan and ginger snaps. **Hickory coffee**, fudge and **coal dust** were reminiscent of war-times. For a number of years, this distillery beside the Lossie mellowed its Classic whisky expression in Chardonnay barriques.

Colour: Brandy snap gold

Date distilled: May 2000

Cask: Second-fill chardonnay barrique

Alcohol: 59.4%

Drinking tip: Warmth at a traditional winter market

Age: 9 years

Outturn: 258



64.25 Juicy Fruit

£56.20 inc. P&P

The inviting **rich** nose was fragrant and heady with **baked orchard pears, tulips, strawberries** and **sandalwood**. Old **leather** jackets, **cedarwood** and **white musk** were deep and mysterious; reminiscent of wardrobe smells brining thoughts of Narnia. The neat palate had a **tropical fruit** zing with **apples** and **lemon** and **lime** cheesecake. Hot **chilli** and limes made us hunger for Thai cuisine. Addition of water brought scented notes of **pot-pourri, lavender** and **fern**. The reduced palate was softer than neat and mouthwatering as we found juicy gum and traces of oak **smoke** and **spice**. The distillery is a modern distillery dating back to 1971; it is located on the same land as Glenlossie.

Colour: 18 carat gold

Date distilled: Feb 1990

Cask: Refill ex-bourbon barrel

Alcohol: 57.9%

Drinking tip: Don't add water !

Age: 20 years

Outturn: 186

Campbeltown

27.82 Candy floss in a train station

£53.20 inc. P&P

(Buy with 48.23 & 76.71 for £138)

We found **peppered** ham and crispy **bacon** on the nose; also pepper and **salt** crisps; someone imagined a **newspaper** printing shop – “Yes, but by the **sea-side**,” came the important qualification. The palate was salty, but also sweet (Ferrero Rocher **chocolates**) or “bacon rolls from John Lewis” (highly recommended, according to the Lady-poet). The reduced nose (**pears, straw, figs**) was **industrially** sweet – “**candy floss** in a station” or “**vanilla ice-cream** on a metal-worker’s bench”. The reduced palate suggested dry-roasted **peanuts** and “biting **leather** gloves”; the fizzy, sweet, creamy **vanilla** was inevitably “Sarsaparilla – in a dirty glass!” From the quintessential Campbeltown distillery.

Colour: Harvest gold

Date distilled: June 1997

Cask: Refill ex-bourbon barrel

Alcohol: 57.9%

Drinking tip: Something of a fun fair dram

Age: 12 years

Outturn: 210

Islay

3.163 Mysterious masked man visits Islay

£41.20 inc. P&P

The key nose characters were fruit and spice (**pineapple, lime, green mango, plum jam** and **watermelon**, with chilli and **pepper**). Unsurprisingly, we also found **coal-tar** soap, salt and **bonfire** smoke. Water brought out **vanilla, coconut** and **lavender**; the bonfire had been dampened. The unreduced palate – **fiery** and tongue-roasting – was like an action scene in a Zorro movie – the dark smoky hero showed mastery over both the **spicy** bandits and the **fruity** wenches; vanilla, **caramel** and coal were extras. The reduced palate had **toffee, straw** and **smoky** tea with Victory V’s and tannins from the wood. The distillery dates from 1779.

Colour: Pale straw

Date distilled: Oct 2000

Cask: First-fill ex-bourbon barrel

Alcohol: 57.3%

Drinking tip: For bonfire nights

Age: 9 years

Outturn: 238

****Available at HdV & Mal**

29.85 Space-dust and charcoal toothpaste

£47.70 inc. P&P

The nose had **lavender, Parma violet** candies and “**toffee apples** by a bonfire”. It also had **coal-tar** soap, Germolene, peat ash and **seaweed**. The unreduced palate was described as “in your face” and “**chocolate limes** rolled in pipe ash”; other panellists got **cough medicine** and dandelion and burdock. The reduced nose had **lemon, lime** and **sherbet, granite dust** and “a ton of **ash**”. Similar impressions emerged from the reduced palate – **fizzy** lemon and blackcurrant **space-dust** fought against tar, ash and “**charcoal** toothpaste”. We couldn’t agree whether it was better neat or diluted. The distillery is one mile from Port Ellen.

Colour: Platinum gold alloy

Date distilled: April 1998



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Cask: Refill ex-bourbon hogshead
Age: 11 years

Alcohol: 58.7%
Outturn: 264

Drinking tip: Strangely refreshing – maybe for after dinner

33.90 Cocktails in a chimney

£57.30 inc. P&P

Coconut, elderflower and **lime** aromas suggested exotic cocktails, but the Malt-meister was in a malt **kiln**; certainly there was **peat** smoke, chimneys, coal-dust, **charcoal**, tar and **liquorice**. Smoke and liquorice inhabited the palate also, with **lavender**, peppermint and a mouth-coating **texture** like bread in dripping. Water agitated the fruitiness of the nose, uncovering chewy fruit bars, **sherbet**, raspberry and **strawberry**; along with crème brûlée. The reduced palate was a balance of savoury (barbecued burnt offerings) and lovely fruity **fudge** sweetness. The after-taste was long and hot, like the summer we never had. The distillery was resurrected by Glenmorangie in 1997.

Colour: Mid gold
Cask: Refill ex-bourbon barrel
Age: 10 years

Date distilled: Jan 2000
Alcohol: 56.7%
Outturn: 238

Drinking tip: When you come to the end of something

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