



## OCTOBER OUTTURN

### Lowland

#### Closed distillery

##### 25.54 Dressed to impress

The elegantly impressive nose had buttery **lemons** and **honeydew** with a dusting of sugar. We also found powdery perfumed notes with **rose-scented Turkish delight** in sugar paper casing. The neat palate continued the fruity-floral theme with **pink grapefruit** in a **pine forest**, revealing elegant soft wood and cooling **eucalyptus tea**. The reduced nose softened and fizzed; lemon meringue and **buttery shortbread** with a dusting of **icing**; refreshing **lavender** and grapefruit soda with soft **coconut milk**. The reduced palate had lavender scented butter biscuits, Edinburgh rock and hints of herbal oak in the finish. The distillery, on the Forth and Clyde canal, closed in 1993.

Colour – Indian summer sunshine

Cask – Refill ex-bourbon barrel

Drinking tip

A reward for after work

**Age:** 18      **Date distilled:** July 1991      **Strength:** 54.6%      **Outturn:** 224

### Highland Northern

#### 125.40 A Quaich tart

The neat nose was **elegant** and **enigmatic** – butterscotch, **lime** cordial and sushi ginger with **vetiver** and jasmine; **cherry** flan and **apple** crumble in a **pewter** Quaich. A vague saltiness reminded the Whisky Creator of mackerel pate and chorizo. The palate was spicy and buttery with zingy green apples, **toffee** and pie crust. The reduced nose became herbal and spicy; earthy **angelica** root, citrusy Thai cooking, biscuity **ginger** and birch trees; also, Sauvignon blanc-like. Custard cream, angel cakes and icing kept things sweet. The reduced palate was tart with **gooseberries** and lemon zest, followed by a tasty mid palate of **Dutch syrup cookies** (stroopwafels). Cherry and **almond** flan was left lingering. The distillery uses hard water from the Tarlogie Springs.

Colour – Olive gold

Cask – First-fill ex-bourbon hogshead

Drinking tip

A summer picnic outdoors

**Age:** 18      **Date distilled:** Nov 1991      **Strength:** 55.4%      **Outturn:** 202



THE SCOTCH MALT  
WHISKY SOCIETY

### Highland Southern

#### 123.5 Feisty but fun

Lovely, sweet, **spicy** things came to the nose – sticky **marmalade**, cinnamon toast, **plum** jam, burnt edge of rice pudding and **liquorice** allsorts in a waxy bag. The palate was **feisty** but fun – Crunchie bars dipped in salt, burnt grass, **molasses** and the kind of **toffee** that comes with a hammer. The reduced nose was intriguing; we found polished wood and a **brass** coal scuttle. One panellist was reminded of a fairground (candy-floss and generator **smoke**). The reduced palate was tangy, **leathery**, with **lip-burning** heat – “a fire-breather’s dram” said one of the ladies. Made near the ‘glen of the wild geese’.

Colour – Tangerine copper

Cask – Port pipe

Drinking tip

After a go on the waltzers

**Age:** 8 years **Alcohol:** 60.8% **Date distilled:** April 2001 **Outturn:** 800

### Speyside Spey

#### 95.12 Brings a tear to the eye

We thought the nose fresh and fruity (**banana** toffee, strawberry **pavlova**, rhubarb and custard, **Campinos**, drops of lemon); it also had **vanilla**, hazelnut and fine chocolate. The palate, at natural strength, was substantial, if not **eye-watering**; crème brûlée, bitter **chocolate** and cinder **toffee** (someone said “with flames still flickering”). The reduced nose seemed to turn **greener**, more youthful, like **herbal** tea perhaps, but with **liquorice** root and aniseed balls. The reduced palate acquired pepper and curried **coconut**, yet seemed more pleasant and **approachable** – in fact, very drinkable indeed. The distillery’s unpronounceable name apparently means ‘ford of the red stream’.

Colour – A trumpet under moonlight

Cask – Refill ex-bourbon barrel

Drinking tip`

Late evening at home after a hard day

**Age:** 19 **Date distilled:** June 1990 **Strength:** 58.4% **Outturn:** 187



### Speyside Lossie

#### 35.41 Sweet and savoury in a double oven

The nose was of warm baking; **lemon** juice and baking soda before toasted **vanilla** pods and **honey** were added to the mix. **Syrup** sponge pudding melded with **orange** blossom and **maple** syrup. Spices were added to oriental spare ribs coated with **allspice**. The palate was syrupy with a spicy kick- **treacle** scones with Nutella, well-toasted bread with **marmalade**, and sweet and spicy Char Sui chow mein. A few drops of water revealed **sugared almonds**, maple syrup and **honeycomb fudge**; **poached pears** with vanilla ice-cream and a dusting of cinnamon. The reduced palate was nutty and creamy; **Brazil nut** brittle and **walnut** whip with a **honey** nut cereal bar. This distillery in Elgin was formerly a brewery, converted to a distillery in 1897.

Colour – Burnt amber

Cask – Refill ex-bourbon hogshead

Drinking tip

At home with friends and lots of home baking

Age: **35**      Date distilled: **Jan 1975**      Strength: **56.1%**      Outturn: **179**

### Speyside Lossie

#### 35.42 Cleopatra in a sweet-shop

The nose was sweetness and spice with old **medicine** cabinets; gingerbread and **clove** against honey nut cornflakes, **golden syrup**, cola cubes and **chocolate** orange. The unreduced palate had **grapefruit** tang, orange oil and **Cointreau** with pleasant spicy heat (**chilli** chocolate, **gingerbread** and “spices sizzling in the pan”). The reduced nose had the **innocence** of a sweet-shop but something **musky** and sexy that seemed far from innocent (but very nice). Almonds on the palate reminded the Whisky-scientist of Cleopatra glue; it also had green bananas, **peaches**, pears and **maraschino** cherries. A summery dram from the distillery recently acquired by La Martiniquaise.

Colour – Light honeyed gold

Cask – First-fill ex-bourbon barrel

Drinking tip

For not entirely innocent summer evenings

Age: **10**      Date distilled: **Feb 2000**      Strength: **60.7%**      Outturn: **209**



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### Speyside Lossie

#### 39.78 Welcome wake-up call

The enigmatic nose made us think of eating breakfast in a **library** with **leather**-bound books and antique cabinets; **fruits of the forest yoghurt**, **cereal** with dried **papaya** and **raspberries**, and toasted poppy seed bites were all on offer. The palate was like a friendly pick-me-up: with sugar-coated **cornflakes**, lemon flavoured **cola**, **Cranachan** and sweet muffins. The reduced nose was of sweet putty, **treacle toffee** and **black cherry** yoghurt. The reduced palate brought **cherry cola**, Dr Pepper and powdered Rain Drops (puffed sweets). This distillery, founded in the 1820s, was rebuilt three times (without disturbing the cobwebs!).

Colour – Ginger gold

Cask – Refill ex-bourbon hogshead

Drinking tip

To wake you up

Age: 27

Date distilled: Oct 1982

Strength: 55.1%

Outturn: 232

### Speyside Lossie

#### 85.21 Fruitcake in an old theatre

The nose was evocative of times gone by – “grandma’s **syrup sponge** pudding” someone said; wool tapestries and **leather** upholstered seats, soft leather gloves and **sweet tobacco**; **fruitcake** and preserved plums. The palate was sweet, creamy and fudgy with spicy **Madeira cake** served with **crème caramel**. “An old still house” the Whisky-scientist said. The reduced nose brought **Jaffa cakes** and dusty **marshmallows**; Jack fruits and sour **green apples**. Water softened and dried out the palate revealing **ginger** fruitcake and Irish soda bread. The Poet was transported to old theatre seats in Orkney with metal frames. Richness from this Elgin distillery with wormtubs.

Colour – Tuscan olive oil

Cask – Refill ex-sherry butt

Drinking tip

A cosy night in as Autumn begins



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Age: 10      Date distilled: Sept 1999      Strength: 60%      Outturn: 576

### Campbeltown

#### 27.83 Time warp

A dense, **meaty/cheesy** nose – one said “**anejo tequila**” – with **char** and **steam engines** in the background. The meat is **mutton fat** (with **lanolin/wool**) and traces of **sheep dip**, which becomes **mineral-like** and **chalky**. Nose drying overall. The taste is **grubby** – **biltong**, **blood sausage**, **hessian sacks**, **coal dust** (especially in the aftertaste – the texture **chewy**). Water raises more **fat** and **lanolin**, then **treacle toffee** and **machine oil**, but behind this **dried fruits**, **cedar-wood** and **teak oil**. Now the texture is **smooth** and **oily**; the taste **sweet**, and lightly **herbal**, with **coal smoke** and **hessian** in the long finish. A whisky of the old days, and a classic example of the make from Campbeltown’s oldest distillery.

Colour: Polished mahogany

Cask: First-fill ex-sherry hogshead

Drinking tip: As a reviver, after a fight

Age: 10      Date distilled: Mar 2000      Strength: 51.5%      Outturn: 267

### Islay

#### 3.168 After Dark

The nose brought dark **caramelised** notes of **syrup**, **treacle** and **Nicaraguan rum**. We found ourselves transported to the East Indies via Islay; **molasses**, **dates**, **raisins** and prunes with a dusting of Jamaican **spices**. The neat taste was big and tannic, filling the entire palate **with leather**, dates, **chocolate** and rolling **tobacco**, progressing to a long taste of **wood smoke** and charred staves. With water, the nose opened up and became more spicy and nutty, like **fruitcake** and Jamaican **ginger** cake. A plethora of nuts emerged from the glass; **hazelnuts**, **walnuts** and macadamia nuts, all smothered in layers of milk and dark chocolate. The reduced taste was an unusual mix of caramelised pork, roast lamb and Nutella. This distillery hosted the RAF Coastal Command operating flying boats from Loch Indaal.

Colour – Blue Jamaican coffee

Cask – First-fill ex-sherry butt

Drinking tip

When you want to surprise after dark

Age: 11      Date distilled: Feb 1999      Strength: 58.1%      Outturn: 269



THE SCOTCH MALT  
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## NEW DISTILLERY

One bottle per member...until 8/10/10

TELEPHONE ONLY, 10AM 1/10

### Islay

#### 127.1 Harbourside barbecue

The nose brought us straight to fishing boats and ferries – **coal tar**, **salted herring**, **barbecued shrimps** and mussels, traces of naphtha. **Blueberries** appeared unexpectedly with **vanilla** and **carbolic soap**. The neat taste had a mind-blowing heat, red hot **chilli peppers**, capsicum and Pepperami, tempered by **tarry charred pork** (char sui), like "licking the kiln" said the Whisky-scientist, and barbecued lamb; also sweet **maltiness** with toffee. The reduced nose became waxy and **flinty**; barnacles and hot **stones** in **briney rockpools**. The reduced palate was creamy with layers of **salted honeycomb**, sweet **chilli** and vanilla pods on dry rocks. Also known as the Lochindaal distillery, it opened in 1829 and closed 100 years later.

Colour – Flint gold

Cask – Refill ex-bourbon barrel

Drinking tip

To make an average day incredible

**Age:** 8 **Date distilled:** Dec 2001 **Strength:** 66.5% **Outturn:** 231

## NEW DISTILLERY

One bottle per member...until 8/10/10

TELEPHONE ONLY, 10AM 1/10

### Islay

#### 127.3 Beach BBQ for older boy scouts

On the nose we identified **singed** hemp rope and **wood smoke**, suggesting boy scouts rubbing sticks together; it also had **dark honey**, leather, cigars, **washing powder** and hints of hot-smoked salmon. Adding water turned it sweeter (**butterscotch**, heather honey) and more **perfumed** (lavender). The undiluted taste was somewhat **tongue-burning**, but with pleasant sweetness (lemon cough sweets, **dolly mixtures**) plus ash, char, smoke and **bandages**. With water however, the **coastal** elements surfaced (seared **scallops**), while spicy ribs with barbecue sauce, **cannabis** resin, **old leather** and clean smoke combined to produce smiles all round. A medium-peated expression from this 1881 Rinns distillery.