



THE SCOTCH MALT
WHISKY SOCIETY

September Outturn: Hot stone therapy?

Pair Recommendation: 29.86 & 44.46 for only £89

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September Outturn:

Highland Island

4.143 Honey on hot stones

£81.10 inc. P&P

From the first sniff we noticed warming aromas – rich **toffees**, hot **coffee**, buttered **toast** with **acacia honey** and syrup; then it changed to **cotton** and eiderdown, wallpaper paste, **stripped floors** and **ink** in an old house. The neat palate had **hot stones**, honey and **barley sugar**; maritime salt, **raspberry leaf** and dark **chilli chocolate**. With water, the aroma opened to ocean spices and **rock gardens** by the shore; flinty beaches and maram grass alongside salted honeycomb. The reduced palate had minty freshness, like a summer's breeze, and layers of **apple pie** and **coconut milk**. A Chablis-like minerality was left lingering on the tongue.

A superb example from Orkney's best-known distillery.

Colour: Barley sugar

Date distilled: May 1989

Cask: Refill ex-bourbon hogshead

Alcohol: 51.4%

Drinking tip: Enjoy outdoors by the coast

Age: 20 years

Outturn: 241

121.37 Very tasty Danish pastry

£45.70 inc. P&P

The nose, interesting to say the least, had grass, coriander, **white grape** and felt tip pens, then tinned fruit, **Victoria sponge**, Danish pastries with apricots and **marzipan** and Locketts (menthol and **honey**). The palate confirmed the **Locketts**, with puff candy, **vanilla** and woody spice (coriander seed, **cinnamon sticks**, **sandalwood**). The reduced nose had **fruity** kitchen smells, like peach or **apple crumble** with runny custard, turning slightly **savoury** (apple sausages?). The reduced palate was perfectly balanced; very tasty **Danish pastry**, this time with **cold custard** and apricot. Made us want to go back for more. The distillery is near Lochranza Castle.

Colour: Desert sun

Date distilled: Nov 1995

Cask: Refill ex-bourbon hogshead

Alcohol: 55.4%

Drinking tip: In the kitchen, impersonating a 1980's Keith Floyd

Age: 14 years

Outturn: 353



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Speyside Spey

9.53 A peppery explosion

£57.30 inc. P&P

The nose had the sharpness of **lime**, Evo-Stik, furniture polish and **Vic** nasal spray but also many other delights, including **mango**, puff candy, shortbread, **Brazil nuts** and nutmeg. The unreduced palate was remarkably **hot** – a peppery explosion; flavours of black **cherry** and dry wood, but predominantly a **burn** sensation. Adding water brought a real fruit and nut character to the nose – cranberry, **raisin**, blackberries, apricot and **walnuts**. ‘The nuts are just leaping out’ someone said. The palate was more interesting and **rewarding** with water – **figs**, apricots, heather, **liquorice** allsorts, then **aniseed** in the finish. From the oldest distillery in Rothes.

Colour: Dandelion gold

Date distilled: Apr 1991

Cask: Refill ex-bourbon hogshead

Alcohol: 56.8%

Drinking tip: To warm you up on a cold day

Age: 19 years

Outturn: 256

44.46 Mouth-watering, lip-tingling, heart-warming

£40.50 inc. P&P

(Buy with 29.86 for £89)

The initial nose was **stimulating**, with orange, chocolate limes and sweet **chilli**. Once settled, its **richness** (Ambrosia custard, Werther’s Originals, **caramel**, toffee) was more **calming**. Meaty hints appeared (brown sugar-glazed gammon) making it inviting and **tantalizing**. A little water brought out various fruits (apple, pear, **rhubarb crumble**). The unreduced palate was deliciously **appetising** with cinder toffee, **orange zest**, oregano on roast meat and the **gentlest** reminder (struck matches) of its cask provenance. We found the reduced palate **satisfyingly** sweet (**expensive** chocolate orange creams) with a lip-tingling, heart-warming, slightly salty finish; a mouth-watering, **moreish** dram from the erstwhile White Horse distillery.

Colour: Attractive bronze gold

Date distilled: Aug 1999

Cask: Refill ex-sherry butt

Alcohol: 58.6%

Drinking tip: Make a lazy weekend even more indulgent

Age: 10 years

Outturn: 515

Islay

29.86 When the locket bursts

£60.50 inc. P&P

(Buy with 44.46 for £89)

The nose was reminiscent of **barbecued bananas** with **chocolate** sauce by a dusty **coal** cellar. Medicinal fruit sweets came next with **cherry** tunes and **menthol-eucalyptus** lozenges; smoked **sandalwood** and **honey glazed** gammon. The unreduced palate was immense with a burst of **honey** and **lemon** lockets, and baked **apple**, becoming savoury with smoked German **sausage**, **tarragon**, dill and bean curd. The reduced nose produced saddle soap, hot **candlewax** and iodine tincture. Then, it became dry with hessian sack, scorched heather and dog hair. The reduced palate was of charred banana skin and mild **curry** powder with **lemon** soap and **acacia honey** on charred prawns. The distillery name is Gaelic for the ‘beautiful hollow by the broad bay’.

Colour: Copper gold

Date distilled: Nov 1993

Cask: Refill ex-bourbon hogshead

Alcohol: 52.2%

Drinking tip: To warm you up at a beach barbecue

Age: 16 years

Outturn: 241

33.91 Barbecue on the beach at sundown

£57.30 inc. P&P

We imagined a barbecue at sundown with hickory **smoked bacon** and **pork ribs** garnished with hot **chilli peppers** and **lime juice**; **oyster sauce** and **French onion soup**; the kick of **earthy tequila**. The unreduced taste was explosive – **smoked paprika** on **chalk**, Frazzles, **graphite**; honeycomb wax. With water, the nose evoked the coast- **iodine** and **seaweed**; **pebbles**, **Machair** and marram grass; then, **toasted marshmallow** sweetness. Someone said ‘it’s like holding a shell to your ear for your nose – the aromas just keep rolling in’. The reduced palate was of **barbecue** after rain, **ashy** yet sweet, with **peat cones** burning into the night.



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Colour: Pinot Grigio

Date distilled: March 2000

Cask: Refill ex-sherry puncheon

Alcohol: 64.4%

Drinking tip: Drink at sundown on the beach on Islay

Age: 10 years

Outturn: 410

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SMWS Tastings & Events this September

New Outturn Open Tasting:	19 Greville Street, London – Sat 4
Highland Connoisseur Tour:	28 Queen Street – Sun 5
New Outturn & Sunday Roast Tasting:	The Vaults – Sun 5
Fire, smoke and earth! Ardbeg Tasting:	28 Queen Street – Tue 7
Innis & Gunn Tasting:	19 Greville Street, London – Thu 9
The Ultimate No. 1 Tasting:	28 Queen Street – Fri 10
Glenkinchie Tour with Bowls & BBQ:	28 Queen Street – Sun 12
Islay Tasting in the Subterranean Vaults:	The Vaults – Wed 15
Glasgow Preview Tasting:	One Devonshire Gardens – Thu 16
Mix it up! (Whisky Cocktails):	28 Queen Street – Fri 17
Food of love & water of life (Dinner):	28 Queen Street – Mon 20
Steak & Chips Tasting:	The Vaults – Wed 22
Dalmore Tasting with Richard Paterson:	28 Queen Street – Thu 23
Dunfermline Preview Tasting:	Garvock House Hotel – Thu 23
Manchester Preview Tasting:	Malmaison – Fri 24
Brighton Preview Tasting:	Hotel du Vin – Fri 24
Sherried Whisky Experience:	The Old distillery, London – Fri 24
Pan-Asian Curry Experience:	19 Greville Street, London – Sat 25
Daftmill Distillery Tour:	28 Queen Street – Sun 26
World Whisky Tasting 1:	The Vaults – Mon 27