



**Another great
premiere!**

OUTTURN

May 2012 Bottling List

Issue 8



**THE SCOTCH MALT
WHISKY SOCIETY**

Welcome to the May 2012 Outturn!

outturn n. **1** The number of Society bottles produced from a single cask. Varies from cask to cask. A finite number that will, sooner or later, run out. ☹️
2 The name given to Society bottling lists, containing Tasting Notes for each recently released Society bottling of which only a limited number are ever available (see above).

How to use Outturn

Each Society bottling is unique. And each can be identified by its markings. The tasting notes give you an insight into the characteristics of each whisky, and are the best place to start.

You may find yourself drawn to ‘flowers on a breakfast table’ or have a preference for something ‘immense, manly, meaty and peaty.’ Maybe your instincts lead you to a dram that’s more ‘well-integrated, dignified and gentlemanly’ or perhaps like ‘Sophia Loren in a mink coat.’

These curious descriptors are your best clue to what you’ll find within each bottle, and are at the heart of The Society’s raison d’être.

With The Society’s monthly selection of single cask malts it’s not surprising that some members find it hard to focus on their perfect bottlings. Thankfully it’s not cheating to ask for help. Just call Kensington Wine Market at 403-283-8000 (within Calgary) or at 1-888-283-9004 (outside Calgary) or email us at curious@smws.ca or scotchguy@kensingtonwinemarket.com for advice of an expert nature.

Speyside (Spey)

Long, hot sweet delights

Cask No 30.68

Salty, dry and **earthy** - this really didn't hide its cask influence; we were getting treacle toffee, **chestnuts**, polished leather, **mushrooms**, smoked almonds, raisins, **sandalwood** bark, ink, dark Indonesian soy sauce, and **matchboxes**. The taste revealed savoury **meaty** notes of Szechuan **peppered steak**, wild mushrooms and tuna steaks but also the sweet delight of **peaches** in Sauternes. Water released Pedro Ximenez soaked **prunes**, more matchboxes, hot **sandpaper**, root veg (beetroot), electric storms (!), sticky **dates** and raspberry syrup. Long, hot, **tannic** to taste with dark chocolate, pine trees and **raisins**. From the distillery that is vintage bottled by its London owners.

Drinking tip: Too big to take lightly

Colour: Ripe apricots

Date distilled: March 2001

Cask: Refill gorda, ex-sherry

Alcohol: 60.6%

Age: 10 years

Outturn:

816 bottles

Bottle price
\$121.99

Speyside (Lossie)

Old jazz bar

Cask No 35.53

A **mellow** nose with Calvados, baked banana and apple crumble with caramel, **almonds** and **ground nutmeg** on top, consumed in an old jazz bar with **polished brass** and leather straps. The taste was rich, smooth and velvety with **liquorice root**, juicy **sultanas**, **ginger** biscuits and **fruitcake**. On reduction, the nose became richer with burnt **raisins**, **rum**, **chocolate** and Victoria **plums**, alongside linseed oil polish and new cricket bats. The reduced palate had **banana skins**, **pastry** and **walnut** slice with traces of Calvados. This distillery is situated under the shadows of Gallow Hill where executions were carried out until the end of the 17th century.

Drinking tip: When relaxing, chilling out and listening to jazz.
Drink neat - or take care with water!

Colour: Antique gold

Date distilled: December 1984

Cask: Refill butt

Alcohol: 40.6%

Age: 26 years

Outturn:

426 bottles

Bottle price
\$182.99

26 years
old!

Highland (Southern)

Rhubarb and custard

Cask No 123.6

Creamy vanilla custard/crème brûlée on the nose to start with, with the brûlée bit increasing to crystalline sugar in espresso coffee and then the custard being joined by raspberry, plum and rhubarb crumble. Behind all this is a light winey note. At unreduced strength, the taste is sweet and tannic – Assam tea leaves and red fruits (plums?) with some tobacco in the aftertaste. Water suggests European oak: gunpowder, scorched fruitcake, over-caramelised buttery sugar. Now it has an oily texture; sweet then tannic, spicy and acceptably bitter (burnt sugar again). The distillery, on Loch Lomondside, has enjoyed a considerable revival since being acquired by Ian Macleod & Co.

Drinking tip: With rhubarb crumble

Colour: Pale amber with pink lights Date distilled: April 2001
Cask: Refill port pipe Alcohol: 59.5%
Age: 10 years Outturn: 728 bottles

Bottle price
\$115.99

Highland (Northern)

Complex, captivating and Christmassy

Cask No 26.85

The complex nose captivated us immediately – sand candles, jasmine, musk, orange blossom, butterscotch, dark chocolate-dipped cherries, green fruits, cedar and wool carpets. The mouth-coating palate had myriad fruits (melon, star-fruit, peach, cherry lips) and ginger, wasabi heat later. The reduced nose was still lively, with a light fruit top note, but also deeper swirls and eddies of mint, oak and candles on Christmas trees. The palate was rewarding and enjoyable, with waxy textures, the cooling of mint and something that reminded us of Christmas preparations – sweet home baking, the cosy hearth and wintery weather outside. The distillery is in Brora.

Drinking tip: While preparing for Christmas, perhaps

Colour: Shiny button gold Date distilled: May 1992
Cask: Refill barrel Alcohol: 58.7%
Age: 19 years Outturn: 220 bottles

Bottle price
\$160.99

Christmas
in May!

Highland (Northern)

Expanding universe of flavour

Cask No 125.60

The nose conveyed the sweetness of dark honey, **toffee popcorn**, caramel and barley sugars and the richness of **plain chocolate**, prunes, tarte tatin and hot cross buns. The palate was exciting – an **expanding universe** of texture and flavour – **sticky toffee pudding**, treacle, banana chips, dried figs, **vanilla** and pepper. The reduced nose elicited **brandy snaps**, bread and butter pudding, **medjool dates**, fruit cake, black tea and dark wheat beer. The palate delivered a fine balance of **sweet barley tones** and deeper resonances of oak, with a warming **nutmeg spice** after-glow. From the distillery that stands in the Vale of Tranquillity .

Drinking tip: While watching a good film

Colour: **Autumn leaf**

Date distilled: **November 2001**

Cask: **Refill hogshead**

Alcohol: **60.8%**

Age: **10 years**

Outturn: **273 bottles**

Islay

A big eye-watering slap

Cask No 23.72

The nose forced **shotgun shells** and fireworks on us – but also gave **barley sugars**, custard and chocolate-coated **foamy bananas**; peppermint tea, liquorice, smoked ham and **old bonfires**. The palate's big, **eye-watering**, sherry slap took our breath away – sweet red liquorice, **cinder toffee**, crème brûlée, treacle, **cooked apples**, ash and peat. The reduced nose suggested **barbecued lamb chops** dripping on embers, singed mint leaf and **burnt lemon** skin. Water definitely improved the palate – now sweeter (**toasted coconut**, vanilla, golden syrup, raisins, cherries) – also woody spices, crispy sage, and **grilled lobster**. The distillery is on the road from Port Charlotte to Bridgend.

Drinking tip: Let some water open it up and don't rush it

Colour: **Golden mother hen**

Date distilled: **July 2002**

Cask: **Refill butt, ex-sherry**

Alcohol: **66.4%**

Age: **9 years**

Outturn: **607 bottles**

Bottle price
\$121.99

Bottle price
\$116.99

Islay

Oak and smoke intensity

Cask No 29.109

Most of us found this **outstanding**, but not all! The nose suggested a **mechanic's hands** (oil, swarfega) and **new cars** in a freshly-painted showroom. We also found prunes, dates, **figs in syrup**, walnut oil and TCP. The unreduced palate had **oak and smoke** intensity – treacle, syrup and **worn leather** ('a lion-tamer's whip'). The reduced nose was aromatic, savoury and mechanical – **blackened chicken**, cinder toffee, mushrooms in a basket, cloves, **molasses** and 'diesel-soaked cherries'. The reduced palate had ferns, **sugar-coated fennel seeds**, turmeric, liquorice and onion bhajis – sweet and smoky but with deep **swirling undercurrents**. The distillery has a Royal Warrant.

Drinking tip: A late evening dram, perhaps while watching 'Pimp My Ride'

Colour: Grade 1 maple syrup

Date distilled: October 1990

Cask: Refill butt, ex-sherry

Alcohol: 59.2%

Age: 20 years

Outturn:

619 bottles

Bottle price
\$174.99

Refill butt,
ex-sherry!

How to order from Friday May 4th

Through **The Scotch Malt Whisky Society** website at www.smws.ca, which will then take you through to the **Kensington Wine Market** website for final purchase.

Through the Kensington Wine Market website at www.kensingtonwinemarket.com - search for 'The Scotch Malt Whisky Society' under the Scotch tab.

By phoning Andrew Ferguson at the Kensington Wine Market at **(403) 283-8000** (within Calgary) or at **1-888-283-9004** (outside Calgary).

In person at Kensington Wine Market, located at

1257 Kensington Road NW, Calgary, AB, T2N 3P8.

Remember, you have to be a member to purchase, so please have your membership number handy!

www.smws.ca

Past Bottlings



But not forever!

Here's a chance to sample some rare treats from our bottle bank of past Society releases. Remember, Society whiskies are bottled from single casks, so they don't last forever. As the number of remaining drams decreases, their rarity increases.

Speyside (Lossie)

Rabbit, ginger & treacle tart

Cask No 71.34

Big rich sweet aromas accosted the Panel – ginger cake, strawberry Chewits, treacle tart, cinnamon, malt loaf but also earthy mushrooms, Marigolds (the gloves not the flowers), leather and musky horses; this was when one Panellist pictured herself riding a spice-bag-laden Andalusian horse through orchards wearing leather chaps. Warm, sweet, savoury on the palate, hot and tannic with rosemary & sage, saddle polish, rabbit paella, warm chocolate sponge, dried cranberries and hazelnuts. Diluted, aromas of olive groves, red apples, hay and grilled rabbit with smooth, creamy tastes of oranges, prunes, strawberries, apricots and more rabbit. Founded as Kinflat distillery in 1810.

Drinking tip: While riding through the orchard on hot summer days

Colour: Veiled bronze

Date distilled: March 1998

Cask: First fill sherry butt

Alcohol: 56.8%

Age: 13 years

Outturn: 830 bottles

Not for swigging, glugging or knocking back!

Bottle price
\$121.99

Speyside (Lossie)

Antics of a prankster

Cask No 64.33

This dynamic nose started out with pears, **fabric cleaner** and swimming pools – then opened up genially – **ginger and cinnamon cake**, tablet, toffee, fudge, Battenberg cake and a **bower of roses** – eventually tobacco and oily rags appeared. The palate was **enjoyably big and complex** – sweet barley, **green apple** and sherbet stood beside dry sawdust and **menthol and tobacco heat**. With water the nose turned more citric, also uncovering vanilla, **unripe bananas and tarry ropes** – very interesting! The reduced palate seemed very **tasty for its age** – its youthfulness suggesting a teenage prankster's **forgivable antics**. Bottlings from this 1971 distillery are very uncommon.

Drinking tip: For frivolous moments - like going out to a fancy dress party

Colour: Mustard gold

Date distilled: June 2003

Cask: First fill barrel, ex-bourbon

Alcohol: 62.3%

Age: 8 years

Outturn: 218 bottles

Bottle price
\$199.99

Speyside (Spey)

Satisfyingly sweet

Cask No 48.29

Powerful sweetness hit the nose to start with. It became set **honey**, vanilla pods and **toffee bonbons** and then lavender freshness with **herbal** notes of thyme and cut grass. To taste it was hot and sweet. The herbal notes were there too along with orange **marmalade** bitterness, **tobacco** and cooling **menthol** eucalyptus. A good length of finish too. With water the aroma becomes sweeter: **baking** (pastries, cakes & marzipan), sherbet, lemon icing sugar, rhum agricole, but also an **earthy** note that took us to summer gardens. Water calms down the taste and offers **cake mixture** dough, sweet tobacco and **orange pith** in the finish. From the distillery that is the closest to Grantown on Spey.

Drinking tip: For when you are in search of satisfaction

Colour: Sunlight reflecting on gold

Date distilled: September 1999

Cask: First fill barrel

Alcohol: 61%

Age: 12 years

Outturn: 182 bottles

Bottle price
\$121.99

Speyside (Spey)

A tonic to lift the spirits

Cask No 105.15

Clean, fresh and simple on the nose, with saddle soap and leather polish to start, then dentists' mouthwash, pine needles and tonic water, with 'Daim Bar' (praline covered with chocolate) after a while. Not as sweet a taste as expected; cooling mint and liquorice; slightly salty, but with chocolate in the aftertaste. The cooling effect becomes more pronounced with water – minty and mentholated ('Hoola-Hoola Ice Powder', for those who have been to Thailand); caramel, tobacco and nasturtiums. Now much sweeter to taste, though still lightly mouth-cooling, with dark chocolate in the finish. The distillery, built in the 1950s, was designed by a Past President of the Royal Academy.

Drinking tip: A chill-out dram after dangerous sports

Colour: Deep amber

Date distilled: September 1983

Cask: First fill sherry hogshead

Alcohol: 55.4%

Age: 28 years

Outturn:

306 bottles

Highland (Southern)

Dichotomy of sweet and savoury

Cask No 16.31

Sweet and savoury aromas greeted the Panel – tinned fruit, cinder toffee, honeycomb, Rumtopf peaches, grapes, tomato vines, Vosene shampoo and roast pork & cranberry; although there was a slight butyric whiff. The palate was more of the same although nutty with cinnamon, slightly burnt caramel and strawberry cider with added pineapple sherbet fizz. Water introduces strawberry strudel, sandalwood church pews, rum-soaked-oranges and grease paint, while to taste it was sickly sweet with liquorice rolling papers, over-ripe plums and incense but a bitter dry finish reminiscent of peanut skins balanced it out. From Scotland's oldest distillery that is home to the Famous Grouse.

Drinking tip: For reflection of fruity memories

Colour: Strawberry syrup

Date distilled: March 2001

Cask: Refill sherry gorda

Alcohol: 55.7%

Age: 10 years

Outturn:

816 bottles

Bottle price
\$199.99

Bottle price
\$107.99

*only
one left!*

Armagnac

Soft, spicy, rich and intense

Cask No A4

Wonderfully soft and perfumed yet **spicy, deep, intense** on the nose - hints of sandalwood, **dark cherries**, toasted apple, candyfloss, **oranges** and spices transported us to a late autumn **bonfire** (not Guy Fawkes or Halloween though). On the palate initial intense spicy **perfumed woody notes** gave way to a soft **creamy** taste with a hot spicy almost tannic finish. Water (and it didn't really need it) made it waxier with **church candles** and **saddle soap**, sweet caramel and rich apple **tarte tatin**. To taste it seems even spicy - cinnamon, aniseed and clove but still **very soft** and supple with a long sweet **unctuous** finish.

Drinking tip: **A perfect autumnal dram but would be fantastic as a digestif**

Colour: **Orange copper with sparkling lights**

Date distilled: **January 1983**

Cask: **Refill ex-bourbon hogshead**

Alcohol: **47%**

Age: **22 years**

Outturn: **434 bottles**

Bottle price
\$170.99

*Perfect for
Mother's
Day!*

In the upcoming *Unfiltered* magazine:

The Society is excited to announce a new partnership with luxury travel experts **Dream Escape**. The Edinburgh-based company specializes in creating custom travel experiences and they can help Society members with their own unique whisky tours, all with a Society twist.

Along with insider access to normally hidden whisky experiences, Society members can receive special privileges, including complementary hotel upgrades, SWMS gifts and luxury activities.

Details in the April 2012 *Unfiltered*, coming your way soon!

Upcoming tastings and events!

- Sunday, May 13 - special day for all the Moms in your life!
- Friday, June 1 - First Friday tasting - sign up now!
- Friday, June 1 - "A Dram to Remember" in support of the Vancouver Writer's Festival - Vancouver, B.C. (www.writersfest.bc.ca)
- Thursday, June 14 - Kensington Wine Market Spring Whisky Festival - get your Dad a Society membership or a lovely bottle from The Society!
- Sunday, June 17 - Dad's Day!

Fabulous SMWS whiskies coming in June...

"Peeling tangerines in a hospital"

"Tar, tea chests & engine oil"

"A lady of the night"

and...

...the first grain whisky for the Canadian branch!

Not for swigging, glugging or knocking back!

www.smws.ca



**THE SCOTCH MALT
WHISKY SOCIETY**

Curious? Read on!

The Scotch Malt Whisky Society, founded in 1983 in Edinburgh, Scotland, is the world's largest single malt whisky club, with 26,000 members in 16 countries. The Society bottles in excess of 300 casks each year from up to 128 distilleries, all at cask strength, and available exclusively to members.

Members also receive The Society's award winning magazine, *Unfiltered*, and have access to member's venues in Edinburgh, London, Tokyo and elsewhere.

The Canadian branch releases new single malt whiskies every month on the first Friday of the month ("First Fridays!").

In Canada, The Society's exclusive retailer is Kensington Wine Market in Calgary. Membership can be purchased for \$230 plus GST (which includes the new member's kit, pictured above) by calling Kensington Wine Market at 403-283-8000 or visiting KWM's website at www.kensingtonwinemarket.com.

Annual renewals are \$120 (plus GST).

Only single cask, single malt whiskies that promise to intrigue, entertain and delight