

41 CLUB LINLITHGOW AND DISTRICT WHISKY TASTING WEDNESDAY 8 MARCH 2017

STRAIGHT FROM THE CASK - BRUICHLADDICH 11 - SHERRY HOGSHEAD AT 60.4% abv.

Nose: Sweet, sherried smooth with a hint of toasted oak and dark chocolate. A distinct sulphurous note of burnt matches, aka Mortlach!, with spicy overtones.

Palate: Smooth, rich, spicy fruit with vanilla tones and rich sultanas and raisins. A peppery note also detected and black cherry with an oily mouthfeel.

Finish: Again smooth and peppery with a long warming finish. Better with a touch of water to bring down to around 55% abv.

THE ONE - LAKESIDE DISTILLERY KESWICK - AT 40% abv.

Nose: Slightly smoky

Palate: sweet and fruity, nutty, with hints of spice.

Finish: Short and smooth.

THE GLENLIVET - 12 YEAR OLD AT 40% abv.

Nose: Sweet creamy vanilla, honey, pineapple, vanilla, pressed apples and a little cinnamon.

Palate: Apple cores, fresh and fruity trifle and creamy citrus.

Finish: Long and delicious, almonds and apple.

Overall: One of the best selling malts in the world, well-worth re-visiting.

ABERLOUR 15 YEAR OLD - SELECT CASK RESERVE- AT 43% abv.

A 15 year old Aberlour single malt, usually found on mainland Europe but some of these tasty rascals have drifted out to our little island. Matured in a mixed of sherry and bourbon casks, lending fruity sweetness to the whisky.

Nose: Masses of sherry influence. Plump raisins and thick honey.

Palate: Heavy vanilla and more honey-dipped raisins. A little hint of almond and orange peel.

Finish: Refreshingly drying. Citrus lasts.

HIGHLAND PARK - 12 YEAR OLD - AT 40% abv.

Nose: Fresh, clean and very aromatic. Floral notes abound the senses with a light grassiness. Notes of creamy Manuka honey and a touch of juicy citrus with cream and a well-balanced sweetness.

Palate: Rather full with a pleasant depth. Lurking somewhere in the substratum a grilled orange lies. Notes of granary toast and green tea with jasmine. A touch of sweetness.

Finish: Quite long with peppery spice and wood shavings.

GLEN MARNOCH - ISLAY VERSION - AT 40% abv.

Nose: a really nicely seasoned level of peat here just right for my preference not overpowering. A splash of saltiness as well, with a rugged coastal feel, moss, plenty of seaweed. A touch of bonfire, coarse mint and sherbet. Not a hugely rich or layered nose but does what it says on the tin; this is Islay. A touch of water brings out more sweetness in the form of butterscotch.

Taste: the palate doesn't match up to the promise of the nose; you can certainly feel an oily texture and the essence of a robust dram watered down to 40%.

Finish: Even without water the finish is short but satisfying.

TALISKER STORM - NAS - AT 45.8% abv

Talisker Storm is a new no age statement whisky released at the beginning of 2013. It offers up plenty of distillery character alongside some smokier depth and complexity.

Nose: Initial brine, but not as abrupt as the 10 Year Old, quite creamy by comparison. Banana. Banana angel delight? Window putty, hint of sticking plasters and barbecues, citrus. White pepper develops towards the bottom of the glass.

Palate: Thick and mouth-coating with wood smoke, brine, some tin and chilli heat too.

Finish: Red chilli peppers and oak dryness with a hint of embers.

Overall: A welcome addition to the Talisker range, and probably the smokiest whisky to be produced on the Isle of Skye.

TAMNAVULIN - DOUBLE CASK MATURED - NAS- AT 40% abv

Nose: Rich, warm aromas of apple, toffee and honey with sweet marzipan and subtle tangy marmalade notes.

Palate: Fresh, mellow notes of pear, creamy peaches. pineapple and a hint of Demerara sugar.

Finish: Rich, smooth and refreshing.

MYSTERY DRAM?????