

BLAIRLOGIE WHISKY FESTIVAL

SATURDAY 14 OCTOBER 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 BALVENIE “DOUBLEWOOD” AT 40% abv.

Nose: Gristy, supple nuttiness intertwined with spices. Honeyed sultanas and grapes. Hugely inviting.

Palate: Sweet with good body. The bourbon characters develop; gentle spice with a little vanilla, a hint of balancing peat lurking quietly in the substrata. Dried fruit too, combining with nuts, nutmeg, cinnamon, back into the bourbon notes - so well integrated.

Finish: Spicy, slightly drying, still sweet.

AUCHENTOSHAN “BLOOD OAK” AT 46% abv.

One of a pair of Travel Retail releases from the Auchentoshan distillery in the Lowlands - Blood Oak is a rather dramatically-named single malt in a combination of bourbon casks and red wine casks.

Nose: Juicy and rich, raspberry and plums with elegant wine notes, joined by a touch of golden barley and maraschino cherries.

Palate: Some classic red-wine spiciness starts to ramp up on the palate, with a little bit of Christmas-y clove. Citrus sits in the background. Blood orange with nutmeg and ginger.

Finish: Spicy and drying on the finish maybe redcurrant with lingering oak spice.

THE MACALLAN - DOUBLE CASK - 12 YEAR OLD - AT 40% abv.

An exciting new age statement expression from Macallan that's matured in a combination of American and European Sherry oak for a minimum of 12 years. Here, the proportion of American oak ex-Sherry casks is higher than in the 12 Year Old Sherry Oak, but no ex-bourbon casks are used as they are in the 12 Year Old Fine Oak release.

Nose: Classic dried fruit territory, if less intense than the Sherry Oak expression. Aromatic butterscotch too.

Palate: Creamy and honeyed with some thick-cut marmalade, cinnamon and warm pastries.

Finish: Fruity with vanilla and sultana.

DALARUAN - LOST DISTILLERY - CAMELTOWN - AT 43% abv.

Dalaruan was once one of the many distilleries in Campbeltown (1825/1925) - now only a small handful remain. This is a blended malt from The Lost Distillery Company, created following plenty of research into Dalaruan as an interpretation of what their whisky could have tasted like.

Nose: Earthy/herbaceous peat smoke, paired with juicy orchard fruit.

Palate: The smoke notes become more coastal on the palate. Remains filled with apple and apricot in the background.

Finish: Herbaceous once again, with a touch of sea breeze.

OLD PULTENEY - 12 YEAR OLD - AT 40% abv.

Matured in ex-bourbon casks for 12 years, this Old Pulteney malt was a Double Gold winner at the 2006 San Francisco World Spirits Competition.

Nose: Crisp and clean. Great balance reveals notes of herbs and grist. Parsley, almond.

Palate: Balanced with medium body. Musty, nutty, sultana, toffee, honey, spices. Oak.

Finish: Medium, oak, slightly spicy note and a sweet long finish.

MACKINLAY'S SHACKLETON - BLENDED MALT AT 40 % abv.

Inspired by the whisky left behind by Antarctica by Sir Ernest Shackleton in the early 1900s and discovered frozen but intact over 100 years later, this blended malt continues in the footsteps of The Discovery and The Journey. It's created once again by Master Blender Richard Patterson based on the flavour profile of Shackleton's favourite tippie, though now more accessible than the aforementioned limited edition releases.

Nose: Golden Grahams and crunchy brown sugar. A hint of cinnamon-dusted malt.

Palate: Juicy apple and orange, with contained honey richness.

Finish: Lingering butterscotch and waxy orange.