

TASTING NOTES

LINLITHGOW GOLF CLUB

WHISKY TASTING FRIDAY 1 DECEMBER 2017

GLEN SCOTIA - DOUBLE CASK - CAMPBELTOWN - AT 46% abv.

The Glen Scotia range has had a bit of a redesign! They've gone for quite a classic, refined design this time, and have even introduced a selection of new expressions, including the Glen Scotia Double Cask! This Campbeltown single malt is finished in a combination of first-fill bourbon barrels and Pedro Ximénez Sherry casks.

Nose: Vibrant fruit emerges first (peach flesh and green apple peels), followed by chewy vanilla fudge, a hint of salinity, then an array of oak-y spices including some char.

Palate: Opens with more fudge with a little dusting of powdered sugar. Powerful, oily and a touch herbaceous with some German brandy character.

Finish: Sherried notes come through more on the finish.

DUNSTONE - BLENDED WHISKY - GERMANY - AT 40% abv.

This is not whisky! Toilet cleaner perhaps?

Spiritwalker

A lot better than I was expecting. On a par with the normal Famous Grouse. Maybe even better, very decent for a blend.

KAVALAN - SINGLE MALT - TAIWAN - AT 40 % abv.

King Car distillery is located in Yilan County, Taiwan, and the single malt whisky produced there is named after the indigenous people who originally inhabited this northeastern corner of the island: the Kavalan.

Although the distillery was only brought on stream in 2005, the warm sub-tropical climate means that the whisky effectively matures more quickly and an impressive range of whiskies are available (now finally in the UK too!). This Kavalan Single Malt Whisky, for example was awarded a Gold Medal at the 2011 International Wine & Spirits Competition.

Nose: Fragrant and tropical fruits with floral notes, vanilla and mango.

Palate: There's mango throughout, spicy barley, gentle oak and creamy richness.

Finish: A touch of allspice, vanilla and fragrant pear skin.

REDBREAST - SINGLE POT STILL WHISKEY - IRISH— 12 YEAR OLD - AT 40% abv.

A delightful single pot still Irish whiskey, Redbreast 12 is highly praised by Jim Murray and a host of other notable critics. Named 'Overall Irish Whiskey of the Year' at the 2013 Irish Whiskey Awards, we can't get enough of it.

Nose: Nutty, rich and oily. There are notes of dried peels, ginger, linseed and cut fruits including a touch of melon.

Palate: Spicy with great body. Nuts and citrus (peel and juice) with hints of marzipan, dried fruits and a hint of Sherry. You turn it over in your mouth forever.

Finish: Long and creamy with custard and spice.

THE CHITA - SINGLE GRAIN WHISKEY - JAPAN - AT 43% abv.

Japanese single grain whisky from the Chita distillery, one of the selection of fantastic distilleries owned by Suntory. This is their main expression - a whisky matured in a combination of Sherry, bourbon and (interestingly) wine casks. Good whisky for the summer months.

Nose: Honeydew melon, citrus and honey'd cereal. Creme brûlée and cardamom.

Palate: Vanilla sponge cake and more honey. A touch of orchard blossom and mint.

Finish: Medium length, rather zesty with subtle bittersweet notes..

**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.

**WOODFORD RESERVE - KENTUCKY STRAIGHT BOURBON WHISKEY - USA
AT 43.2% abv.**

The mashbill for Woodford Reserve features a high percentage of rye: 72% corn, 18% rye and 10% malt. Unusual also for being triple distilled and having the lowest proof upon entering the barrel where it matures for at least six years. A must have Kentucky bourbon. Makes a wonderful Old-Fashioned cocktail!

Nose: quite thick and creamy. There are notes of honey and spice, leather, a touch of cocoa, a little smoke, toasty oak and vanilla cream with a hint of butterscotch.

Palate: thick and full. There are notes of espresso beans, winter spice, cereal sweetness, plenty of rye, ground ginger, almond oil, toasty oak and a little rum.

Finish: long and mature with notes of cereals and toasty oaken spice.

PAUL JOHN - EDITED - SINGLE MALT - INDIA - AT 46% abv.

'Edited' is an Indian single malt whisky created by Master Distiller Michael John using Indian 6-row barley as well as peated Scottish barley. The final vatting contains 15% of the peated spirit with maturation taking place in bourbon casks.

Nose: Toasted cereal, big barley and honey notes, Hob Nobs! Slightly vegetal peatiness, lemon and seaweed. Some beach bonfire but the peat isn't overpowering. Malty.

Palate: Wood spices, a bowl of porridge with honey and then demerara whilst sat beside a fireplace.

Finish: A touch of mocha, oak and perhaps old fashioned liquorice.

