

MANNERSTON'S WHISKY TASTING FRIDAY 24 FEBRUARY 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.

JOHNNIE WALKER BLACK LABEL - BLEND - AT 40% abv.

A 12 year old blended whisky, one of the world's most famous blends. Johnnie Walker Black is a blend of around 40 whiskies, very well put together.

Nose: There are notes of winter spice and treacle, hints of white pepper and a little citrus.

Palate: is quite rich and full. There are notes of wood smoke and dry spice, hints of barley and cereal with creamy toffee and a distinct herbal note.

Finish: is quite fruity and long with a note of sultanas and mixed peels.

GLENFARCLAS 12 YEAR OLD AT 43% abv.

Nose: Light and creamy with a mix of supple, soft sherry and Manuka honey. Gentle and well-balanced, there are hints of smoke, rich oak, and a little pine resin.

Palate: Medium-bodied, with notes of date and walnut cake, Oloroso sherry and hints of earthy forest floor. A beautiful note of malt, with toffee apple and a touch of smoke.

Finish: Spicy and long, notes of allspice, cinnamon and cloves, with orange zest and sherry.

DALWHINNIE - WINTER'S GOLD - NAS - AT 43% abv.

Nose: Oak spice, pear skins, golden syrup and gristy malt. A touch of peach polish and chewy, sticky toffee. From the freezer it's fruitier, more green apple, apple sauce, toffee apple, sultana, even redcurrant.

Palate: Very honeyed with warming peppery spices, Big Red cinnamon. From the freezer the honey is kept in check much more, as are the spices. Plenty of apple flesh and orange peel.

Finish: Allspice, nutmeg and smoky malt. From the freezer the finish is more about the spicy cinnamon and peppercorn heat that's found on the palate at room temperature.

ARRAN - 1996 - PRIVATE BOTTLING AT 46% abv.

Nose: restrained at first with wood shavings infused with vanilla, toasted brown bread and some bakers yeast. There's tobacco which I wasn't anticipating and apricots with a dollop of marmalade and cinnamon bark.

Palate: its very creamy and flows wonderfully into the finish. Returning for another sip is oranges, juicy fruits and figs, vanilla undoubtedly and plenty of spices with cardamon and cloves.

Finish: Long and sweet with a hint of smoke?

ARDBEG 10 YEAR OLD AT 46% abv.

Jim Murray's 2008 World Whisky of the Year! When Ardbeg 10 was released it was the first expression from the distillery not to be chill-filtered. It's a true classic from Islay, and a must have for any fan of single malt whisky.

Nose: A ridge of vanilla leads to mountain of peat capped with citrus fruits and circled by clouds of sea spray.

Palate: Sweet vanilla counterbalanced with lemon and lime followed by that surging Ardbeg smoke that we all know and love.

Finish: Long and glorious; sea salted caramel and beach bonfire smoke.

