

LINLITHGOW GOLF CLUB SIXTH ANNUAL WHISKY TASTING

FRIDAY 28 OCTOBER 2016

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.

Overall: An assertive, spicy, honeyed Dalwhinnie with enough sweetness and character to be served straight from the freezer (as intended).

OLD PULTENEY 12 YEAR OLD AT 40% abv.

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

Palate: Balanced with medium body. Smooth Honey and Cream, Musty, nutty, sultana, toffee, spices.

Finish: Medium, oak, spices. Long finish.

HIGHLAND PARK 18 YEAR OLD AT 43% abv.

A superb 18 year old from the Highland Park distillery and a winner of a Gold Medal at the 2005 San Francisco World Spirits Competition.

Nose: A profusion of ripe floral notes and fresh blossom with a delectable fruit salad. Notes of honeyed exotic fruits with a little botrytis.

Palate: Creamy and full with fruit conserves and espresso. A creaminess with cinnamon and allspice. Notes of toffee with thick black forest honey with a touch more citrus.

Finish: Long and well sugared with a herbal edge.

MANNOCHMORE SMWS 64.77 AT 57.5% abv.

Nose: was clean and creamy (milk chews), with plentiful fruit (candied orange, stewed apple, bitter lemon) freshly cut wood, beeswax, vanilla and hinted mint.

Palate: (with good viscosity and decent weight) was attractively sweet (brown sugar, honey, tinned mandarins, vanilla yoghurt) with a counter-balancing lively astringency of wood, crystallised ginger, red chilli and menthol. On the reduced nose, fruit salad chews and strawberry laces sat beside leather, pine, thyme and tiger balm.

Finish: The palate retained some menthol and tannins, but vanilla slices, pineapple cake and flying saucers brought the whole thing to a satisfying balance and conclusion.

THE BALVENIE CARIBBEAN CASK 14 YEAR OLD AT 43% abv.

This whisky has been matured for 14 years in traditional oak casks before being transferred to Caribbean rum casks to impart some extra flavour. This process has created a well-rounded and drinkable whisky with notes of fruit and vanilla.

Nose: The aroma is rich with notes of tropical fruits, namely passion fruit, and creamy toffee.

Palate: Sweet vanilla forms a creamy palate with notes of apples and mangos with a hint of orange in the background.

Finish: The finish lingers with a vanilla focussed character.

Overall: Mouth-coating and fruity with superb balance, this is an excellent new release from the chaps at Balvenie.

TAMNAVULIN DOUBLE CASK AT 40% abv.

Double Cask matured for a classic Speyside taste; rich, smooth and mellow. The distillery at Tamnavulin was opened in 1966 on the banks of River Livet, deep in the heart of Speyside, the most celebrated whisky producing region in Scotland.

Nose: Rich warm aroma 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.

