

QUEST CORPORATE WHISKY TASTING - 1/12/16

Tasting notes and chocolate matching!

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.

Match: Green and Black's Dark Chocolate.

BALBLAIR 2005 VINTAGE AT 46% abv.

Nose: Full bodied with the classic aromas of fresh green apples, ground spices and honey. The American oak, ex bourbon barrels used in maturation, impart notes of oaky vanilla, leather and oranges with a hint of fragrant cut flowers and smoke.

Palate: Balblair's signature style of citrus orchard is followed by intense sweetness, toffee and vanilla.

Finish: A deliciously spicy and long finish.

Match: Terry's Chocolate Orange

ADELPHI BLENDED SCOTCH WHISKY AT 40% abv.

This blended whisky was made at the Adelphi distillery, excitingly this new distillery will begin distilling their own whisky in 2013!

Nose: The aroma is a pleasing fusion of salty peat and estery fruitiness. If you like your big fruits Speysiders and your peaty Islays this could be just your thing!

Palate: The palate takes on a coastal quality with an all-round nuttiness and a medium-body.

Finish: The finish is long with beach bonfire notes and some pear-drop flavours.

Overall: This blend takes the best of Scotland and fuses it into something new. A truly excellent blend.

Match: Dark chocolate and chilli

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).

Match: Milk Chocolate with toffee,fruits?

ROCK OYSTER CASK STRENGTH AT 57.4% abv.

We absolutely loved the regular 46.8% Rock Oyster embracing the character of Jura, Islay, Arran and Orkney, which makes this limited edition punchier cask strength version a very exciting release! The tube features some fisherman out at sea, one of whom looks suspiciously like that Big Peat fellow...

Nose: A big hit of coastal peat, tarry rope, tobacco, lime zest, candied fruit, white pepper and sea spray.

Palate: Quite tumultuous with hints of all sorts: capers, starfruit, seaweed, vanilla, honey, citrus, green wood, perhaps some heather? Evocative stuff.

Finish: Brine, citrus, dying smoke.

Match: Milk Chocolate with sea salt.