

TASTING NOTES

ROTARY CLUB OF LINLITHGOW AND BO'NESS

CHARITY WHISKY TASTING FRIDAY 21 APRIL 2017

HIGHLAND PARK - "SVEIN" - AT 40% abv.

Nose: Orange peel, cassia bark, wintergreen, fruity (pineapple and red currants)

Palate: Initially smoky and vanilla, dusty wood (pencil shavings), crème brûlée

Finish: Sweet and spicy (cracked black pepper), oaky and lingering

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

Dalwhinnie Winter's Gold is a 2015 addition to the Highland distillery's range inspired by the chilly climate up in the remote part of Scotland where their single malt Scotch whisky is distilled - as the label remarks, it was "Crafted by the Cold". It's made only with spirit that has been distilled between October and March, and interestingly enough, they suggest that you try serving this expression frozen!

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.

GLENLIVET - FOUNDERS RESERVE - AT 40% abv.

First revealed towards the end of 2014, the Founder's Reserve is now available in the UK and will be replacing the 12 year old in many of the mature markets.

Nose: Some dates, but is better described as a slightly sharp plum and apricot wine note. There's orange zest, toffee, hints of struck match and chocolate raisins, but before this starts to sound 'Sherried' there's also pear drops, a dusting of sweet cinnamon, honeysuckle and sweet pea.

Palate: Fruity, then sweet, more toffee, a touch of anise, then into milk chocolate Flakes, banoffee pie and apple turnovers.

Finish: Creamy toffee to the fore now, a little oak and sweet barley sugar warmth too. Milk chocolate raisins linger.

ARDNAMURCHAN (ADELPHI) - BLEND - “SHYTE 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.

THE YAMAZAKI - DISTILLER'S RESERVE - AT 43% abv.

Released in Spring 2014, this is one of two Distiller's Reserve single malt whiskies from Suntory in Japan. This single malt from the Yamazaki distillery is jam-packed with superb red berry notes, gained from the whisky being matured in Bordeaux wine casks and Sherry casks. It also features malt matured in Mizunara casks, adding subtle fragrant oak notes.

Nose: Classic Yamazaki strawberries and dried fruits with floral notes coming from the Mizunara cask whisky. Fragrant sandalwood and maybe coconut. Certainly a whisky where you could get lost in its nose!

Palate: The dried berries remain lively on the palate (it even develops some raspberry notes along the way), but they're dialled back a bit to make room for light oak, white peach and a small amount of spice.

Finish: Vanilla lasts and lasts, with spicy but sweet cinnamon acting as a final flourish.

Overall: Top quality Japanese whisky, and excellent value too. Can't go wrong with this, really.

PENDERYN - MADEIRA FINISH - AT 46% abv.

The core expression at the heart of the Penderyn range, this was finished in Madeira casks. A beautifully packaged Welsh whisky.

Nose: Sweet, medium body. Herbal, vanilla, sweetness, resin, sultanas, toast. Over-ripe grape.

Palate: Thick and sweet, spices, green, biscuity. Custard.

Finish: Fresh, crisp, spices and stem ginger.

