

## TASTING NOTES

### WINSTON'S

#### WHISKY TASTING FRIDAY 26 MAY 2017

##### **HIGHLAND PARK - 12 YEAR OLD - AT 40% abv.**

**Nose:** Fresh, clean and very aromatic. Floral notes abound the senses with a light grassiness. Notes of creamy Manuka honey and a touch of juicy citrus with cream and a well-balanced sweetness.

**Palate:** Rather full with a pleasant depth. Lurking somewhere in the substratum a grilled orange lies. Notes of granary toast and green tea with jasmine. A touch of sweetness.

**Finish:** Quite long with peppery spice and wood shavings.

##### **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.

## **DALARUAN - BLENDED MALT - AT 43% abv.**

**New concept of “lost” Distilleries by The Lost Distillery Company, Ayrshire.**

**Nose:** Aroma of spice, fruits and maritime.

**Palate:** delivers sweet ripe fruits and smoke.

**Finish:** you get smoke leading to sea salt.

A marriage of 100% aged Single Malt Scotch Whiskies, a modern interpretation of the legendary Dalaruan Distillery.

## **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.

## **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.

