



THE SCOTCH MALT
WHISKY SOCIETY

OUTTURN

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WHISKY WITH
A MAP IN HAND

ADVENTURES OFF THE BEATEN TRACK AT SMWS.COM



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EXPLORE OUR
AUGUST OUTTURN ➔

WHISKY BY ANY MEANS NECESSARY

This month's theme might seem like a literal one – after all, whisky adventures often do require a map in hand – especially if you're heading to a far-flung distillery. But adventurers know there's always more to the story when you look beyond the map. And the Society is no different. You might be heading on a visit to the north coast of Scotland with Cask No. **52.50: Saltwater symphony** with its notes of oilskins, tea chests and fishing boats. Or perhaps you're looking for something to drink after a journey down the long and winding roads of the Kintyre peninsula, in which case Cask No. **93.225: Shoreline fisticuffs** might be a good sundowner with Tasting Notes such as beach pebbles and fresh linens. However you choose your next Society dram, our labels function as a map of their own – if that's what you're looking for. Choose by flavour profile, name, Tasting Note,

region, or even the whisky's creation date. Or discard the map completely and go for a wander. Ask for a recommendation or order something you haven't tried before. Maybe it's Cask No. **59.98: Walk past a tapas bar** with its teasingly delicate sherry influence. Or perhaps it's a first foray into the delights of grain whisky with **G15.40: Well-packed satchel** with its woody perfume and energising finish. Whatever you choose, you're in good company on this whisky journey. After all, you never know what you might find along the way.



Mads Schmoll
European content manager
#MYWHISKYADVENTURES



MARBLE CHALICE

YOUNG & SPRITELY

CASK No. 8.52
£59.00



REGION	<i>Speyside</i>
CASK TYPE	<i>1st fill ex-bourbon barrel</i>
AGE	<i>9 years</i>
DATE	<i>19 November 2015</i>
OUTTURN	<i>1 of 168 bottles</i>
ABV	<i>59.8%</i>
DRAM	<i>B</i>

Bitter lemon soda cascaded down a cedar plank towards a marble chalice full of watermelon. The nose was fresh, woody and effervescent. To taste, we enjoyed a cream cracker loaded with bubblegum and nettle jelly, citrus curd and crystallised fruits.

Water offered a cup of delicate white tea on the nose, stirred with a chamois leather-clad silver spoon dipped in malt extract and lemon and oregano syrup. The palate returned to the bitter lemon we began with, now with mint and dark chocolate, vanilla and clove.

TICKS THE BOXES

SPICY & DRY

CASK No. 11.53
£55.00



REGION	<i>Highland</i>
CASK TYPE	<i>1st fill ex-bourbon barrel</i>
AGE	<i>9 years</i>
DATE	<i>18 September 2015</i>
OUTTURN	<i>1 of 234 bottles</i>
ABV	<i>61.9%</i>
DRAM	<i>B</i>

TAKE ME TO THE
BOTTLE
SHOP

Initially the Panel detected jelly beans, pineapple, star fruit, and camphor and menthol balm – all very in keeping with this distillery's usual fruit-forward profile we agreed. The neat palate was nicely peppery and green, with grassy, citrus and muddled fresh herbal notes, plus an encroaching sweet, creamy vibe.

With some water this developed very encouragingly with mango coulis, pineapple yoghurt, fruity compote, coffee beans and grapefruit. Reduction brought green apples, jasmine flowers, sandalwood and yellow fruits such as plum and apricot. A lovely, vivacious and fruity finish followed on.

FRUIT GUMMIES AT HIGH TEA

SWEET, FRUITY & MELLOW

CASK No. 18.70
£70.00



REGION	<i>Speyside</i>
CASK TYPE	<i>Refill HTMC hogshead</i>
AGE	<i>13 years</i>
DATE	<i>12 March 2012</i>
OUTTURN	<i>1 of 284 bottles</i>
ABV	<i>56.9%</i>
DRAM	<i>C</i>

We began by pouring cold pear juice over the morning newspaper, rummaging through a bag of fruit gummies and dusting the air with lavender talc. A mellow cocktail of pear, evaporated milk, vanilla pudding and cherry pie delighted our palates.

With water, the nose turned to sugar snap peas, tea cakes and crème caramel. The palate offered sugared almonds, honeyed nuts and a delicate hint of ginger. After eight years in an ex-bourbon hogshead, we transferred this to a heavily toasted, medium charred refill hogshead for the remainder of its maturation.

DON'T HURRY THIS ONE ...

DEEP, RICH & DRIED FRUITS

CASK No. 35.410
£100.00



REGION	<i>Speyside</i>
CASK TYPE	<i>1st fill ex-oloroso barrique</i>
AGE	<i>19 years</i>
DATE	<i>28 February 2006</i>
OUTTURN	<i>1 of 271 bottles</i>
ABV	<i>55.8%</i>
DRAM	<i>E</i>

Initial nosing revealed roasted red peppers, mango salsa, hints of cocoa infused with chilli, freshly brewed black coffee and prune eau de vie. A splash of water gave the Panel a more fruit-forward side, with candied citrus peels, marmalades and lemon curd, then unlit cigars in a humidor and crushed walnuts. The neat palate was quite punchy, bringing herbal cocktail bitters, wormwood, clove oil and resinous pinewood notes.

Water brought a leafier, more elegant and herbal profile, with notes of bay leaf, bergamot, salted treacle and touches of game meats and soy sauce. This was matured in an ex-bourbon hogshead for 15 years before being transferred to a first fill oloroso-seasoned STR barrique.

CASK NO. 39.319 A FRAGRANT CASK FROM A FAMED DISTILLERY

Speyside has to be one of the best places to explore whisky distilleries. There are over 50 distilleries in this region, making it the highest concentration of distilleries in Scotland. The spirit from this distillery is known for adding the fragrant and sweet elements to one of the biggest names in blended Scotch. This cask is noteworthy having spent nine years in an ex-bourbon hogshead before being moved to a first fill ex-moscateal barrique. Moscatel is a sweet dessert wine from Portugal, produced in a similar way to Pedro Ximénez. In terms of flavour, it offers a fresh taste with more floral sweetness on the palate. Expect great things from this member-favourite distillery!

THE HONEY FARMER'S FLAME

SWEET, FRUITY & MELLOW

CASK No. 39.319
£75.00



REGION	<i>Speyside</i>
CASK TYPE	<i>1st fill ex-moscateal barrique</i>
AGE	<i>13 years</i>
DATE	<i>30 January 2012</i>
OUTTURN	<i>1 of 184 bottles</i>
ABV	<i>57.1%</i>
DRAM	<i>D</i>

Woven with burnt honeycomb and apple sauce, the nose was accented with black sesame seeds, treacle tarts and peanut butter. The palate opened with peanuts and was followed by runny marmalade stirred with a cinnamon stick, fruity chewing gum and lemon curd.

Water served the Panel a slice of hot buttered toast on the nose, with a cup of Vietnamese coffee, parma violet liqueur and a sprinkle of sawdust. The palate finished with a splash of peach syrup, custard and juicy mango chunks. After nine years in an ex-bourbon hogshead, we transferred this to a first fill moscateal barrique for the remainder of its maturation.

FULL SCOTTISH DESAYUNO

DEEP, RICH & DRIED FRUITS

CASK No. 46.160
£60.00

TAKE ME TO THE
BOTTLE
SHOP



REGION	<i>Speyside</i>
CASK TYPE	<i>1st fill ex-bodega PX barrique</i>
AGE	<i>11 years</i>
DATE	<i>3 April 2014</i>
OUTTURN	<i>1 of 295 bottles</i>
ABV	<i>58.7%</i>
DRAM	<i>B</i>

The sweet-scented nose delivered figs, dates, sultanas and chocolate raisins, toffee fudge ice cream, maple syrup and coffee liqueur. The palate was a rather delicious melange of pastel de nata, jam sponge and fig rolls, with spicy hits of sugar-coated fennel seeds, crystallised ginger and nutmeg.

The reduced nose suggested breakfast – honey and marmalade, orange juice and sugary espresso dregs. The palate, even tastier than before, gave us treacle scones and iced gingerbread, brown sugar and stewed plums, with gentle spices warming the finish. After eight years in ex-bourbon wood, we transferred this whisky into a first fill ex-bodega PX barrique.



SALTWATER SYMPHONY

OILY & COASTAL

CASK No. 52.50
£68.50



REGION	<i>Highland</i>
CASK TYPE	<i>1st fill ex-bourbon barrel</i>
AGE	<i>11 years</i>
DATE	<i>27 August 2013</i>
OUTTURN	<i>1 of 232 bottles</i>
ABV	<i>55.7%</i>
DRAM	<i>C</i>

The nose gave individual Panel members suggestions of apple turnover, clover honey and candle wax, but we all got onshore sea breezes, oilskins, crab claws and fishing boats. This was understated but undeniably maritime. The palate, quite bold of body, had sugared almonds, bubblegum and strawberry tarts, leading to digestive biscuits and rosemary crackers, before finishing with aniseed, lemon rind, balsamic and oak.

After initial peanut brittle sweetness, the reduced nose majored on woody notes. The palate held on to that oaked character but also found pie crusts, pumpernickel, liquorice and candied fennel seeds.



MEMBER PROFILE: GUILLERMO KOHN

Lawyer by trade but explorer at heart, Guillermo Kohn leads quite the adventurous lifestyle. As one of the first Society members in Mexico, discovering single cask whisky has helped mould his approach to life, as Mads Schmoll writes.

While lawyer and outdoorsman might seem like contrasting titles, they both offer a certain degree of uncertainty. For Society member Guillermo Kohn, also known as Billy, venturing into the unknown is a big part of his professional and personal life, as he explains: "I'm a Mexico City native, which means I grew up surrounded by brilliant food and relentless traffic. By profession, I'm a lawyer; by passion (and often with muddied wellies) I'm an enthusiastic, if not always graceful, outdoorsman."

"For many years, I served as a senior law clerk at the Supreme Court of Mexico, specialising in constitutional, human rights, and criminal law. Outside the courtroom, I found myself irresistibly drawn to the wild. My first husky, an inexhaustible bundle of fur, led me down a path of hiking, camping, and off-roading adventures."

Combined with a love of bushcraft cooking, Billy's outdoor adventures grew to include some magnificent slow-cooked feasts: "Give me an open fire, something sizzling (ideally still vaguely mooing), and a dram of peated whisky. As soon as I hear that sacred 'pop!' of the cork, I'm in my happy place."

FROM ONE SOCIETY TO ANOTHER

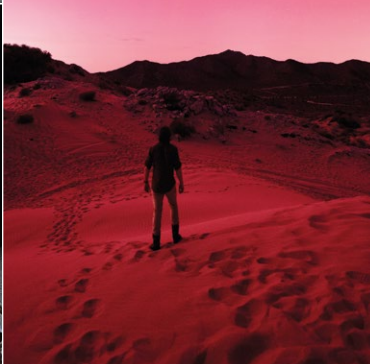
Although Billy had enjoyed the odd dram of blended Scotch as a university student in Mexico, it wasn't until he moved to Edinburgh in 2017 that he began to learn more about the liquid. Outside of the coursework for his master's in criminal law and justice, he found community in Edinburgh University's Water of Life Society (WOLS). "I would never miss 'Whisky Thursdays,' he says.

"That's where I received a proper whisky education: Scotland's distilleries, flavour profiles, whisky regions, the history behind the labels, and even the geeky bits – caramel colouring, cask classifications, how the shape of the still influences flavour." It's also where Billy first came across the Society, he explains: "I vividly remember the night we sampled a bottle from the SMWS that had apparently been salvaged from a sunken ship. To this day, I've no idea if the saltiness came from the whisky profile or the salty water. I remember that my favourite dram that night was the marvellous Cask No. **41.96: White chocolate beneath the fruit trees.**"

The timing wasn't quite right for Billy to join the Society, as he was heading back to Mexico in a few months. But as luck would have it his friend Israel was a member, leading to a few visits to The Vaults in Leith.

'A FAITHFUL COMPANION'

Adventures are often in-the-moment experiences, but they also have the power to bring clarity and insight to other parts of our lives, as Billy found: "I stepped away from the Supreme Court and granted myself a gap year – part soul-searching, part forest-bashing. I trekked fog-laced forests and active volcanoes in the State of Mexico, camped under star-splattered skies in the Sonoran Desert, watched killer whales hunt in the Gulf of California, dived with whale sharks near Cancún, and even did some night diving in the Caribbean. At one point, I crossed a canyon in Querétaro in my rusty-but-trusty old Jeep Wrangler."



Reinvigorated, he shifted his focus to a slower pace, launching his own private law practice and moving to a small forest house outside Puebla City earlier this year. “It’s just me, my partner, our three dogs, towering cedar trees, and a vegetable garden in the works. Honestly, I’m living the dream. Occasionally with mud on my boots and sap in my beard, but the dream, nonetheless.”

“Whisky is a faithful companion on nearly all my adventures. Every mountain I’ve climbed has been toasted at the summit admiring the view with a dram from my trusty leather hip flask. Every camping trip ends the same way – friends huddled around the fire with stories flowing and Glencairns in hand.”

THE SOCIETY LANDS IN MEXICO

Billy heard about the Society’s new Mexican branch from a friend shortly after their launch in 2022. “The very next morning, I signed up. I’m member number 32, according to my card,” he says. “Since then, I’ve not only enjoyed some phenomenal whiskies, but also made brilliant friends, like Katri and Hardey – fellow dram lovers and adventure-seekers. Proof, if ever it were needed, that whisky is best enjoyed in good company, preferably with a ridiculous tasting note and a good measure.”

It’s the sense of community that Billy loves about the Society, he explains: “It instantly levels the playing field. No one’s pretending to be an expert. It’s not about showing off – it’s about opening a bottle, telling a story, and watching someone’s face light up with the first sip.”

For Billy, whisky isn’t just a hobby, it’s a way of life. “It’s woven into my identity. Whisky gave me a framework to understand my own tastes. It helped me learn how to listen to my palate, to be curious, and to explore with intention. That mindset of curiosity, patience, and appreciation has travelled with me far beyond the glass. It’s shaped how I approach new places, new ideas, and new passions. Because if whisky has taught me anything, it’s that the more you know, the more you enjoy. No one starts out as an expert, it’s okay to be a beginner. In fact, it’s the best place to start.”

Words: Mads Schmoll

Photos: Guillermo Kohn

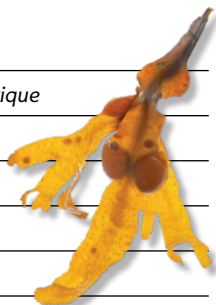
TWO KINDS OF PUFFER

PEATED

CASK No. 53.473
£86.00



REGION	Islay
CASK TYPE	Refill ex-red wine barrique
AGE	12 years
DATE	24 January 2011
OUTTURN	1 of 268 bottles
ABV	58.4%
DRAM	D



The nose evoked the seashore – tarry driftwood, rock pools, seaweed and beach bonfires – with puffer boats in a harbour nearby. On the palate we got more prominent smoke, some briny and savoury notes and delicious sweetness.

The reduced nose gave us toasted marshmallows, cherries, lamb on the barbecue and old guys smoking cheroots in a bodega courtyard. The palate now had clean peat smoke, singed rosemary, candy floss, pomegranate and ash. After 10 years in ex-bourbon wood, this matured further in a charred red wine refill barrique.

WALK PAST A TAPAS BAR

LIGHT & DELICATE

CASK No. 59.98
£80.00



REGION	Highland
CASK TYPE	2nd fill ex-oloroso hogshead
AGE	13 years
DATE	8 September 2011
OUTTURN	1 of 288 bottles
ABV	54.7%
DRAM	D



Ten years in ex-bourbon wood preceded a further spell in this second-fill oloroso hogshead. The sherry influence is present but teasingly delicate. The nose gave us candyfloss, crema catalana, toasted almonds, orange peel and 'walking past a tapas bar'. The palate had positive impact and plenty of fruit – dried figs and marmalade, pineapple, mango and raspberry brownies, finishing with molasses, cheroots, cinnamon and clove.

Water brought orange blossom, parma violets, red apple and a whisker of white pepper to the nose. The palate now held a delightful combination of prunes, pickled ginger and orange peel, Turkish delight, liquorice and heather.



CASK NO. 60.50 A RICHLY TAWNY ADVENTURE

Perthshire is an area well known for its stunning forests, glens, rivers, and waterfalls making it the very popular destination for holidaymakers and their outdoor pursuits. And let's not forget the whisky tourists! This whisky was transferred to an Australian Tawny cask after eight years. What is Australian Tawny you might ask? In simple terms, is it an Australian equivalent to Port. Apart from the country of origin, another difference is that it is made with different grape varieties using shiraz, grenache, and Mataro. This results in even more of those lovely caramel and toffee flavours.

COLOUR COORDINATION

DEEP, RICH & DRIED FRUITS

CASK No. 60.50
£70.00



REGION	<i>Highland</i>
CASK TYPE	<i>1st fill Australian Tawny</i>
AGE	<i>11 years</i>
DATE	<i>10 September 2013</i>
OUTTURN	<i>1 of 292 bottles</i>
ABV	<i>57.0%</i>
DRAM	<i>C</i>

After eight years in ex-bourbon wood, we transferred this whisky into a first fill Australian tawny cask. The hue is a giveaway and the Panel were unsurprisingly colour coordinated on the nose 'Cripps pink' apples, red laces, redcurrants, strawberry jam, rosé wine and almond blossom. The palate opened floodgates to sweet, delicious flavours of nougat, toasted coconut, golden syrup and blossom honey, berry granola and boiled sweets.

The reduced nose discovered cherry bakewell, almond frangipane, oat biscuits and damson crumble, plus a floral waft of geranium, rose, heather and gorse. The jam-and-coconut palate had kir royal, toffee apples and peshwari naan.

WOOD-SMOKED WALNUT GÂTEAU

LIGHTLY PEATED

CASK No. 66.258
£195.00



REGION	Highland
CASK TYPE	2nd fill ex-shiraz barrique
AGE	26 years
DATE	27 May 1998
OUTTURN	1 of 237 bottles
ABV	51.2%
DRAM	H

Heather honey and rosemary-infused olive oil melded seamlessly with the toasty aroma of fermenting beer, creating a fragrant ointment to be drizzled over fresh kelp. A layer of coal tar was artfully added to the mix before being served on sunflower seed crackers adorned with fresh thyme and caraway seeds.

With a splash of water, the vibrant fruitiness of juicy brambles on black forest gâteau, sea buckthorn jam and a glass of sticky shiraz dessert wine emerged. After spending 24 years in an ex-bourbon hogshead this was transferred to a 300-litre shiraz red wine cask for the remainder of its maturation.

FRESH OUT THE OVEN

SPICY & SWEET

CASK No. 71.110
£74.50



REGION	Speyside
CASK TYPE	1st fill ex-oloroso barrique
AGE	13 years
DATE	29 June 2011
OUTTURN	1 of 262 bottles
ABV	61.2%
DRAM	C

TAKE ME TO THE
BOTTLE
SHOP

Chocolate muffins straight out of the oven, the charred topping of a crème brûlée, orange candied jelly fruits and ginger biscuits. On the palate, toasted crumpets with raspberry preserve, flapjacks with red berries, warm cinnamon swirls, caramelised honey almonds and, in the finish, chilli flakes on a chicken breast with sweet barbecue sauce.

With the addition of water we opened the oven again, this time taking out a sourdough loaf with a lightly burnt crust next to a Chinese five spice and blackberry-glazed ham. Following nine years in an ex-bourbon hogshead, we transferred this whisky into a first fill shaved, toasted and re-charred oloroso-seasoned barrique.



CASK NO. 78.90 A HIGHLAND JOURNEY IN EVERY DRAM

Where does this distillery sit?

- A.) In the shadow of Scotland's biggest hill
- B.) In the heart of the outdoor capital of the UK
- C.) At the gateway to the Scottish Highlands?

The answer is, all of the above! Despite all the action nearby, due to its slow and steady distillation the robust spirit style from distillery 78 is perfect for sherry cask maturation. In this case at four years old we transferred the whisky into a first fill ex-oloroso hogshead. In comparison to other sherries, oloroso is much darker and richer. As a result, this whisky is full of those lovely notes making for a great end of the day dram.

TEMPURA GÂTEAU TRAIN RIDE

DEEP, RICH & DRIED FRUITS

CASK No. 78.90
£72.50



REGION	Highland
CASK TYPE	1st fill ex-oloroso hogshead
AGE	10 years
DATE	19 June 2014
OUTTURN	1 of 192 bottles
ABV	57.9%
DRAM	C



As we sat in the carriage of an old steam train, a glass of cold-brew coffee cascaded over a glossy magazine and a leather satchel full of sultanas, cassia and chunks of Turkish delight. Stewed exotic fruits danced on the palate, balanced by a robust chewing tobacco, dates and black forest gâteau topped with singed raisins.

Water gave both the nose and palate calligraphy ink, bramble jelly, enoki mushroom tempura and treacle tart, fudge and ginger. After four years in an ex-bourbon hogshead, we transferred this to a first fill oloroso hogshead for the remainder of its maturation.



THE SCOTCH MALT
WHISKY SOCIETY

WHISKY WITH A BITE

Each of our three Scottish Members' Rooms has its own personality – and now they have seasonal menus to match. It's all part of the vision created by the Society's new Group Head Chef, Nick Fulton.

Whether it's a quick lunch, a bar snack, or a three-course dinner, expect dishes that pair perfectly with your favourite Society dram while championing Scottish produce.

Discover our new menus in Glasgow, Edinburgh and Leith.



A TASTE OF CHARACTER

SMWS.COM

f THESMWSUK i SMWS_UK v WHISKYTALK





SERIOUSLY SCRUMPTIOUS

SWEET FRUITY & MELLOW

CASK No. 85.109
£92.50



REGION	Speyside
CASK TYPE	1st fill ex-bodega PX barrique
AGE	16 years
DATE	10 March 2009
OUTTURN	1 of 240 bottles
ABV	56.3%
DRAM	E

We were met by a super fresh, fragrant scent of cut grass, vanilla and orange blossom perfume, honeydew melon, pure squeezed pineapple juice and coconut water. Sweet and creamy on the palate, we tucked into white chocolate, lime butterscotch, peach-flavoured fruit tea and almond cream-filled croissants, with a crisp green apple in the finish.

After reduction the freshness had a steely edge of slightly unripe stone fruits that was soon superseded by pine resin, toasted coconut and Madagascan bourbon vanilla pods. Following 13 years in an ex-bourbon hogshead, we transferred this whisky into a first fill PX ex-bodega barrique.



SHORELINE FISTICUFFS

OILY & COASTAL

CASK No. 93.225
£69.50



REGION *Campbeltown*

CASK TYPE *1st fill ex-bourbon barrel*

AGE *10 years*

DATE *10 June 2014*

OUTTURN *1 of 211 bottles*

ABV *59.2%*

DRAM *C*



The neat nose revealed a taut, brittle and highly mineralic profile – with lovely, tense elements of chalk, fresh linens, beach pebbles and sea-air freshness. We found further impressions of creel net rope, plus some lovely olive oil and waxy combinations too.

Water brought out a savoury and salty element, with crushed oatcakes, pressed gorse flower and camphor. The neat palate was sweeter than expected up front, with many lemon bonbon notes and herbal teas full of honey. It was still quite coastal though, with flowers, aniseed and seaweed crackers.

ALMOST ANGELIC

JUICY, OAK & VANILLA

CASK No. 112.144
£55.00



REGION *Highland*

CASK TYPE *1st fill ex-bourbon barrel*

AGE *9 years*

DATE *2 October 2015*

OUTTURN *1 of 244 bottles*

ABV *57.7%*

DRAM *B*



The initial whiff of nail polish remover soon faded as fruits galore – gooseberries, kiwi, green grapes, melon, apples and banana, all doused in strong peach schnapps – came to the fore. This was mouth puckering, like a spicy Thai chicken stir fry, with the sweet fruitiness of mango and serrano ham in the finish.

The addition of water caused some perplexion as the aroma changed completely and we found ourselves walking down a fragrant jasmine blossom-framed garden pathway on a moonlit night – almost angelic! To taste, we found vanilla pudding with fresh blueberries as well as a fruit salad with whipped cream and honey.

PEAT SMOKE TRILOGY

£260
AVAILABLE
NOW

ONE
TRIO
PER MEMBER



THE MALTSTER'S LITTORAL LATTE

PEATED

CASK No. 10.283



REGION	<i>Islay</i>
CASK TYPE	<i>1st fill ex-bourbon hogshead</i>
AGE	<i>11 years</i>
DATE	<i>24 October 2013</i>
OUTTURN	<i>1 of 248 bottles</i>
ABV	<i>56.7%</i>

Autumn leaves and coffee beans fell into tar pits as coal soot dusted the thick head atop a pint of milk stout. One Panellist described this as “the maltster’s equivalent to latte art”. The nose was earthy, while the palate was sweeter: crème brûlée with beechwood-smoked liquorice and lemon-infused evaporated milk.

A drop of water took us to the top deck of a Scottish ferry, our noses soaking up salty moss and custard, with the palate now a salty pine syrup and a warm cup of sweet tea.

MOSS, MACKEREL AND MEDICINE

HEAVILY PEATED

CASK No. 29.298



REGION	Islay
CASK TYPE	2nd fill ex-oloroso hogshead
AGE	11 years
DATE	15 October 2013
OUTTURN	1 of 284 bottles
ABV	58.3%



The nose struck with an intense wave of smoked cheese, salami and creosote, followed by hints of first aid kits, antiseptic cream and earthy moss on a crackling fire. A playful blend of kimchi, smoked mackerel and a truffled brie toastie emerged, creating a vibrant, smoky harmony.

With water, barbecued sausages and smoked lobster came to the fore, leaving behind a finish of soy sauce, smoked prawns and smoky pickles. After spending eight years in an ex-bourbon hogshead, this was transferred to a second fill American oak oloroso hogshead for the remainder of its maturation.

PEAT IN THE PANTRY

PEATED

CASK No. 53.502



REGION	Islay
CASK TYPE	1st fill ex-bourbon barrel
AGE	16 years
DATE	5 March 2009
OUTTURN	1 of 255 bottles
ABV	55.6%

TAKE ME TO THE
**BOTTLE
SHOP**

First impressions were of stirring a glass of fine red wine with a stick of peat that had been marinated in smoky barbecue sauce. The nose was rich, with coal smoke, seaweed and charred spices from the pantry.

The palate remained in the pantry, with vegetable stock and fennel, refried beans and tortilla chips, a splash of mezcal and salted rice pudding. On the nose, water introduced wintergreen mint, cranberry sauce and black tea enveloped by a peat fog. Burnt orange and nutmeg emerged on the palate, as did cinnamon pastries crowned with fried seaweed.



TALES OF THE WORM TUB

Tales of the worm tub: Celebrating the bold, the rich and the robust, is the ultimate flight in worm tub whiskies. Join Julien Willems as he uncovers the intricacies behind the Society's latest Creators Collection.

AN ANCIENT TALE

Transporting you back in time the Society's latest Creators Collection, *Tales of the worm tub*, lets you experience a different era of Scotch whisky distillation. Since shell and tube condensers came to dominate Scotland's distilleries in the late 1960s, worm tub condensers have become somewhat of an anomaly in today's whisky landscape. However, not everyone has been won over by the more efficient lure of the shell and tube condenser – a select few choose to embrace the untamed nature of this old-school distillation technique.

There is beauty in the worm tub's simplicity. The vapours from distillation sneak over the neck of the still and run into a copper coil – curled like an extended worm or snake – which is submerged in a tank of water, condensing the vapours into a spirit. In one form or another, they've likely been around for as long as distillation itself. You would have found them used in early distillation units for perfume, but also notably in illicit stills used by bootleggers scattered around Scotland who used the worm tub without the tub.

Although still used throughout Scotland's whisky production, the implementation of worm tubs has become somewhat of a rarity. Many distilleries now strive for a very fruity and clean spirit character, making shell and tube condensers the more sensible option. As a result, where worm tubs are still in use, there tends to be good reasoning behind it. Though they're often the ideal device to create heavier, meatier spirit, tweaks in distillation allow worm tubs to offer a wide range of spirit character.

Tales of the worm tub: Celebrating the bold, the rich and the robust, offers three fascinating takes on

the use of this traditional distillation technique. The Society's head of whisky creation, Euan Campbell, explains: "Here we have three whiskies from the same region, in the same flavour profile, yet each with their unique take on this old style of condenser."

He continues: "In each case, the maturation journey has imbued the whiskies with autumnal fruits, think bruised apples with brown sugar. These weightier spirits stand up well to such cask types, with their oily, nutty spirit character shining through. For me, the worm tubs add a deep and robust bass line, upon which the complex elements of each dram can be built."

THE SNAKING COIL

Cask No. **36.228: *The snaking coil*** is 28-years-old and spent around 26 of those years in a bourbon hogshead before being rehomed in a first fill American oak Pedro Ximénez hogshead. This dram is a relic of the past and not just because the worm tubs. Distillery 36 used to partially triple distil their malts up until 2007, after which they switched to double distillation, as is customary in today's industry. Though the distillery itself remains open, this style of spirit is no longer produced.

Having fallen to a natural cask strength of 47% abv its hallmarks of age are layered with tremendous complexity. The nose is absolutely stunning, with aromas of dark chocolate, leather, cocoa powder and dried apricots. Meanwhile the palate is balanced with notes of Manuka honey, dried fruits, baking spices, armagnac-soaked prunes and beeswax.



BEHOLD THE BEAST

Cask No. **76.157: *Behold the beast*** is also an example of partial triple distillation, though in this case it's a little more complex and uses five different stills. Without getting into the details, it provides a very punchy, robust distillate that's very well known. At 54.3% abv this 18-year-old is noticeably heavier than Cask No. **36.228: *The snaking coil***. Despite spending its entire maturation in a first fill oloroso butt, the cask doesn't overpower this meaty and earthy spirit. Beautifully balanced, the distillate shines through admirably, giving you plenty to unpack in this delightful dram.

On the nose there's lots of dried fruits alongside a tiny kick of gunpowder and hints of serrano ham. There's also a lovely biscuity aspect to it which complements the meatier notes well. As expected, there's power and heft on the palate that's well matched with soft red fruits. You could spend hours dissecting the layers of complexity in this dram, uncovering plenty of tangy spices and old leather antiques.

UNLEASH THE SERPENT

Cask No. **44.190: *Unleash the serpent***, in my opinion, is one of the punchiest worm tub expressions you can find. It is very characterful – meaty and sulphurous but quite delicious.

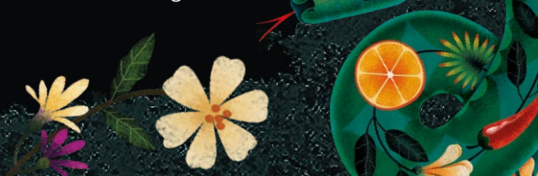
At 21-years-old this dram offers an incredible complexity that not many whiskies can achieve. This new oak cask was treated with a heavy char, smoothing over any rough edges or impurities the distillate might have had. The result is a rich, fatty, nutty and meaty dram where you can really appreciate the significant time it has spent in cask. After this much time, some of the heavier compounds break down and react together, giving a more robust and waxy style to the spirit.

This is also a great example of how regional character in whisky can be very deceptive.

A region like Speyside has such a wealth of distilleries and techniques at hand that you cannot expect every dram to conform to its regional expectation. This dram in particular is very much removed from what we would describe as a traditional Speyside, though it's still well within the expected norms of this distillate. It's very textural with lots of bruised apples, shisha tobacco and cinnamon buns.

Words: Julien Willems

Photos: Peter Sandground





£540

OUR LATEST CREATORS COLLECTION
**TALES OF THE
WORM TUB**
CELEBRATING THE BOLD, THE RICH AND THE ROBUST

TRIO AVAILABLE FRIDAY 15 AUGUST

Our 'Tales of the Worm Tub' Creators Collection celebrates this old-school approach to whisky making and the bold, rich and robust flavours that this ancient form of condenser contributes to the final flavour of these drams. Near one of our Members' Rooms? Pop in and discover our three-dram flight for just £79.

THE SNAKING COIL

DEEP, RICH & DRIED FRUITS

CASK No. 36.228
£220.00

THE CREATORS
COLLECTION

AVAILABLE TO BUY
FRIDAY 15 AUGUST



REGION	Speyside
CASK TYPE	Sherry 1st fill American oak PX hogshead
AGE	28 years
DATE	12 March 1996
OUTTURN	1 of 222 bottles
ABV	47.0%
DRAM	H



Divine aromas of marzipan, dark chocolate and apple shisha tobacco combined to form a golden halo above rose petals dipped in allspice and sherry. Then on a throne of leather and polished mahogany sat an apparition of plums, bananas and fudge, sipping sticky dessert wine from a golden grail.

A little water beckoned figs and apricots to fall from the heavenly oak tree. Now, raindrops of ginger wine, manuka honey and whisky liqueur splashed on to the pages of antique library books. After spending 26 years in an ex-bourbon hogshead, this was transferred to a first fill American oak PX hogshead for the remainder of its maturation.

UNLEASH THE SERPENT

DEEP, RICH & DRIED FRUITS

CASK No. 44.190
£165.00

THE CREATORS
COLLECTION

AVAILABLE TO BUY
FRIDAY 15 AUGUST



REGION	Speyside
CASK TYPE	1st fill #4 char bourbon hogshead
AGE	21 years
DATE	27 June 2003
OUTTURN	1 of 192 bottles
ABV	56.7%
DRAM	G



Big aromas caused a deluge of bramley apples, plum jam and assam tea to crash through the chocolate soil and leaf mulch on a forest floor. Beetroot brownies, treacle tarts and chestnuts became caught in the waves as they cascaded between oak trees and sappy pines.

Adding water delivered sticky cough syrup packed with orange oil, lavender and cooling camphor before heavy black forest gateaux landed alongside prunes, cherries and sultanas soaked in armagnac. After spending 18 years in an ex-bourbon hogshead this was transferred to a first fill hogshead for the remainder of its maturation.

BEHOLD THE BEAST

DEEP, RICH & DRIED FRUITS

CASK No. 76.157
£155.00

THE CREATORS
COLLECTION

AVAILABLE TO BUY
FRIDAY 15 AUGUST

1
BOTTLE
PER MEMBER



REGION	<i>Speyside</i>
CASK TYPE	<i>1st fill ex-oloroso butt</i>
AGE	<i>18 years</i>
DATE	<i>7 December 2006</i>
OUTTURN	<i>1 of 534 bottles</i>
ABV	<i>54.3%</i>
DRAM	<i>G</i>



Bruised apples landed with a splash into vats of brandy, treacle and funky rum, causing droplets to spray on to dried figs and banana bread dipped in soft brown sugar. A spicy warmth washed over the fruit, cascading ginger, chillies and white pepper into apple chutney, sultanas and coal tar blended with orange bitters.

Water encouraged the emergence of strawberry daiquiri and French martini cocktails, garnished with tinned peaches and sticky fresh pine wood. With its fruity spirit character taking centre stage, rich sherry notes stood their ground towards the end – where nutmeg, ginger beer and dried fruits combined with chocolate orange biscuits.





CASK NO. 121.118 THE PERFECT DRAM FOR HIGHLAND WANDERERS

If you're looking for a Scottish adventure but you only have a few days then get your hiking boots, map and compass at the ready and head west. A short ferry ride away there are mountains, lowlands, forests, beaches, and glens – a bit of everything. This full maturation sherry cask would be the ideal dram to be sipping on whether you're there in person, or merely in spirit. When in Rome!

UNDULATING UNCTUOUSNESS

DEEP, RICH & DRIED FRUITS

CASK No. 121.118
£64.50



REGION	<i>Highland</i>
CASK TYPE	<i>1st fill ex-sherry hogshead</i>
AGE	<i>9 years</i>
DATE	<i>2 December 2015</i>
OUTTURN	<i>1 of 284 bottles</i>
ABV	<i>61.1%</i>
DRAM	<i>B</i>



This was a really wonderful nose, full of robust aromas of polished leather, pipe tobacco, camphor and precious hardwoods full of resins. We also got sultanas, raisins, prunes and dark, boozy fruit cake. A great sherry profile, we all agreed.

With water it evolved beautifully, revealing chen pi orange peels, five spice, tangerines and highly resinous and herbal complexities. When neat, the palate showed immediate, superb sherry influence. It was rich and balanced, with old-style weight and earthy depth. Water made everything perfect, as dark fruit intensity harmonised with nuts, cocoa, dark chocolate, tobacco and some ancient Fins Bois cognac. Lush and wonderful stuff!

CAPTIVATING AND ENTHRALLING

SPICY & SWEET

CASK No. 122.73
£74.00



REGION	<i>Highland</i>
CASK TYPE	<i>2nd fill ex-bourbon barrel</i>
AGE	<i>12 years</i>
DATE	<i>27 December 2012</i>
OUTTURN	<i>1 of 139 bottles</i>
ABV	<i>59.5%</i>

Looking at the comments from the Panel members, the aroma neat was hard to pin down: rubber and glue, polish and caramel, but also overripe pineapple, red apples, key lime pie and rosehip tea. On the palate, overripe bananas were being barbecued, as grilled pears were served with honey and chilli powder, while in the finish we found butterscotch and toffee.

Following reduction, canapés of savoury choux buns filled with chervil and chives arrived, along with rosemary and thyme. To taste, the mild flavour of aniseed came from the chervil but with a sweet, fresh spearmint mixed in with cracked black pepper and sour apple hard candies, making this a captivating experience.

DRAM - Cierge

TO DRAM, TO SERVE

MEET YOUR DRAM-CIERGE

To help you make the most of your SMWS membership, we've introduced a whole new level of tailor-made member services and personal guidance. With our members at the heart of everything we do, our DRAM-cierge is here for friendly advice, whether it's a question about us, your membership or if you'd like us to share some whisky wisdom and recommendations. And if we don't know the answer – we'll track it down like a whisky ninja!

GET IN TOUCH

We promise we're not robots. We're a small team, all of us members, and would love some chat from kindred spirits – if only to hear what you've been doing and what you're drinking.

Call us on **0131 555 2929** or email **dram-cierge@smws.com**

TOP BANANA

JUICY OAK & VANILLA

CASK No. 138.26
£89.00



REGION *Taiwan*

CASK TYPE *2nd fill ex-charred bourbon*

AGE *6 years*

DATE *31 March 2017*

OUTTURN *1 of 192 bottles*

ABV *56.9%*

DRAM *D*

TAKE ME TO THE
**BOTTLE
SHOP**

A heavenly mix of dried cherries, nuts and berries mingled with fragrant bergamot, rose petals and pipe tobacco. It wasn't long before banana fritters arrived in a crispy batter, served with tangy green apples and a fresh fennel salad. As an accompaniment, a small glass of fine armagnac was just the ticket.

Adding water placed the ripe bananas centre stage, amid an arrangement of tropical delights that included mangoes, lychees and eucalyptus leaves on coconut rice. Smashed banana was then mixed with creamy butter before being spread on brown toast, with a little coconut milk and a few hazelnuts, and served on a stave of charred oak.

OUT WITH THE GHERKIN, IN WITH THE BRINE

PEATED

CASK No. 149.19
£84.00



REGION *Highland*

CASK TYPE *1st fill ex-bourbon barrel*

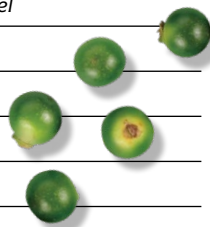
AGE *9 years*

DATE *14 September 2015*

OUTTURN *1 of 190 bottles*

ABV *61.7%*

DRAM *D*



The neat nose was immediately crisp and pure, with vibrant peat smoke, beach pebbles, smoked cereals, mineral salts, smouldering pine wood, and delicate farmyard and bonfire inclusions.

Water brought dunnage earthiness, smoked oatmeal, salted porridge and medical notes of bandages, hessian and green peppercorns in brine. The neat palate was petrolic in texture and heavily medicinal; lots of notes of bandages, gauze and mercurochrome were detected. It then took an umami swerve towards squid ink, smoked mussels and menthol and camphor balm.



SOCIETY CASK NO. 615.40 / OUTFURN: 1 of 202

WELL-PACKED SATCHEL

Strawberry tea is stirred with lemongrass and sweetened with pine resin. Find the woody perfume of a new leather satchel, plus redcurrant jelly and ginger.

10
YEARS AGED

DISTILLED: 10 JUNE 2014
REGION: HIGHLAND
CASK: 1ST FILL EX-BOURBON BARREL

SINGLE GRAIN SCOTCH WHISKY

61.7% VOL. 70cl e

THE SCOTCH MALT
WHISKY SOCIETY

WELL-PACKED SACHEL

SPICY & SWEET

CASK No. G15.40
£50.00



REGION	Highland
CASK TYPE	1st fill ex-bourbon barrel
AGE	10 years
DATE	10 July 2014
OUTTURN	1 of 202 bottles
ABV	61.7%
DRAM	A

The nose was a mug of hot strawberry tea, stirred with lemongrass and sweetened with pine resin and pear. We found the palate richer than the nose suggested, as chocolates and raspberries intertwined with sesame oil, honey and crumble mix.

Water gave a burst of lemon sherbet on the nose, plus the woody perfume of a new leather satchel and redcurrant jelly, while the palate – supplemented with ginger and mace – offered an energising finish, accompanied by lasting hints of sweet malt biscuits and peanuts.





WHISKY AT THE FRINGE

Whether you're a local or just visiting, don't miss our Fringe events at Queen Street or at The Mother Superior in Leith.

A DRAM IS WORTH A THOUSAND WORDS

28 Queen Street (Festival Venue 182)

Two sessions every day throughout August
(Tuesday – Sunday): 12.30pm - 1.15pm
and 5.30pm - 6.15pm

£15 Open to members and non-members

Immerse yourself in the world of exceptional whisky during this 45-minute guided session. You'll enjoy three specially selected single malt whiskies, each showcasing unique flavours and character.



PURCHASE TICKETS HERE
or visit www.edfringe.com

WHISKY & WITCHES: AN IMMERSIVE MAGICAL MUSICAL WHISKY TASTING

The Mother Superior (Festival Venue 626a)

1, 2, 7, 8, 14, 15, 22, 23, 24 August
7pm - 9.30pm

£55 Open to members and non-members

Five whiskies, five stories and ten haunting songs. This experience stimulates all the senses to create the ultimate experience of the water of life.



PURCHASE TICKETS HERE
or visit www.edfringe.com

SMWS.COM



THESMWSUK



SMWS_UK



WHISKYTALK

TASTING EXPERIENCES & EVENTS

**SNEAK
PEEK**



THE VAULTS

The Vaults, 87 Giles Street, Leith EH6 6BZ

WHISKY WEDNESDAYS: BURGERS & DRAMS

Every Wednesday 7pm – 9pm

Members & Guests: £35

Now open to non-members: £37

Every Wednesday at The Vaults, treat yourself to the perfect pairing: a juicy steak or vegan burger served with a flight of three carefully selected drams – all for just £35. This weekly event celebrates bold, handpicked whiskies, expertly matched with the rich, smoky taste of a steak (or vegan) burger. If there are six or more people joining on the night, the experience will include a guided tasting led by one of our whisky experts. For smaller groups, you'll still receive a warm introduction to the drams and enjoy the full flight and burger – ideal for a more laid-back midweek moment.

HOLY TRINITY: CAMPERVAN BREWERY

Thursday, 28 August 7pm – 9pm

Members & Guests: £45

Roll up for a flavour road trip as The Vaults teams up once again with Edinburgh's own Campervan Brewery – small-batch pioneers turning heads with every pour. This month's Holy Trinity brings together five of Campervan's finest, from juicy pale ales to rich, roasty dark beers. Each one is paired with a carefully selected Society dram to find harmony between cask and keg. We'll round off the night with our signature Society curry, bold, warming, and full of character.



**SCAN HERE TO SEE THE FULL
LIST OF SOCIETY EVENTS
AND WHISKY EXPERIENCES.**

**SNEAK
PEEK**

TASTING EXPERIENCES & EVENTS



QUEEN STREET

28 Queen Street, Edinburgh EH2 1JX

QUEEN STREET TAKEOVER - THE WHISKY TRAIL

Monday, 25th August

5 sessions between 1pm – 4.30pm

Members: £30 Guests: £35

Step inside our Queen Street Members' Room for an immersive whisky experience of flavour and discovery as we guide you on a journey through Scotland's five whisky regions. Led by our Society Ambassadors, we will take you through the Lowlands, Highlands, Speyside, Islay, and Campbeltown. Each region will be brought to life in a different space within our historic townhouse. In each room, you'll savour a specially selected Society dram that captures the essence of its region, perfectly paired with a complementary canapé to elevate every sip. This is a unique opportunity to explore the diversity of Scotch whisky in true Society style. Tickets include five whisky samples and five canapés. Finish with a final dram on us in our Kaleidoscope bar, stay on and enjoy **10% off food and drinks**.

GREVILLE ST

19 Greville Street, London EC1N 8SQ

WHISKY & ICE CREAM

Tuesday, 19 August 6.30pm – 8pm

Members & Guests: £35 Non Members: £45

Imagine we brought a Whippy Truck indoors and served you some ice cream to tackle the heat, but better, for this time you'll get to enjoy whisky with it. In this delicious tasting, attendees will be treated to three different ice creams, paired with three lovely whiskies.

BATTLE OF THE BOTTLERS: SMWS VS THE WHISKY BARON

Wednesday, 27 August 6.30pm – 8pm

Members & Guests: £52 Non Members: £60

In the right corner, the world champion of whisky clubs, spanning a whopping 160 distilleries under its belt over a 40 year history, The Scotch Malt Whisky Society. In the left corner, the nobility of indie bottlers, the gentleman and the scholar of malts, WHISKY BARON. This tasting will see JP presenting three of our finest liquids against three of Whisky Baron's superb bottlings.

**FOR ALL OUR EVENTS AT GREVILLE STREET,
PLEASE ARRIVE AT 6.15PM FOR A 6.30PM START**



TASTING EXPERIENCES & EVENTS

**SNEAK
PEEK**



BATH STREET

40 Bath Street, Glasgow G2 1HG

THREE-DRAM TASTING AND SUNDAY ROAST

Sunday, 17 August 2pm – 4pm

Members & Guests: £35 Non Members: £40

Sunday roasts and drams, need we say more? If you're looking for an excuse to savour the last of the weekend ahead of the new week this three-dram experience is for you. Enjoy a relaxed Sunday afternoon tasting followed by the chef's roast of the week. We can't think of a better way to end the weekend.

LAST DROPS FIVE-DRAM TASTING

Thursday, 28 August 7pm – 9pm

Members & Guests: £45 Non Members: £50

Last chance to taste these amazing whiskies. Join us for a special five-dram tasting featuring the final few bottles of some truly unique single cask whiskies. This is your opportunity to savour these rare drams before they're gone for good. Plus, enjoy **10% off** any of the whiskies you try on the night, only while stocks last. Don't miss out on our final drops tasting – once they're gone, they're gone.



SCAN HERE TO SEE THE FULL
LIST OF SOCIETY EVENTS
AND WHISKY EXPERIENCES.

SMWS ON THE ROAD

*You can't visit our Members' Rooms? No problem!
Our SMWS Ambassadors are always out and about,
so come and see us when we're on the road!*

**SNEAK
PEEK**

VAULTS ON THE ROAD

Members: £35 Guests: £45

Join us this August as Vaults on the Road brings the spirit of the Society to five cities across the UK:

SHEFFIELD

Wednesday, 20 August 7pm – 10pm

WOKINGHAM

Thursday, 21 August 7pm – 10pm

SOUTHAMPTON

Friday, 22 August, 7pm – 10pm

CHELTENHAM

Saturday, 23 August, 2pm – 5pm

OXFORD

Sunday, 24 August, 2pm – 5pm

Led by our expert SMWS Ambassadors, this exclusive tasting experience offers a guided journey through a handpicked selection of six exceptional drams, drawn from our 2025 Festival Releases. Each whisky is a unique celebration of single cask character and flavour.

You'll have the opportunity to sample from a wider selection of 18 remarkable whiskies, with bottles available to purchase on the day at exclusive event prices.

Discover what makes the Society unlike any other and enjoy an unforgettable afternoon or evening of exploration and flavour.



**FOR TICKETS AND
MORE INFORMATION,
EXPLORE OUR WEBSITE.**



**ADVENTURES OFF THE
BEATEN TRACK AT
SMWS.COM**

August Outturn is available
from Friday, 1 August

0131 555 2929

Mon-Fri 9.00am – 4.45pm