



THE SCOTCH MALT WHISKY SOCIETY

VISCOUS VELVET

OLD & DIGNIFIED

SPEYSIDE FESTIVAL BATCH 2023

A dark and heady brew! "Luscious!" noted one Panellist. The nose bloomed with kirsch, damson jam, roasted figs in honey and prunes soaked in armagnac before delicate soot and camphor touches added firmness and depth. A little water revealed a superbly dank dunnage earthiness, lots of sticky fruit cake, damp pipe tobacco in an old leather pouch and hints of cured meats, toasted nuts and winter mulling spices. The neat palate had the immediate thickness and presence of clotted cream, along with notes of blueberry ham, stroopwaffels, salted caramel ice cream and classical flavours of sultanas, ginger, liquorice and cola syrup. Water revealed darker tones of coffee grounds, toasted pecans, dried orange peel and herbal liqueurs.

REGION	<i>Speyside Lossie</i>
CASK TYPES	<i>1st fill & refill Spanish oak oloroso, American oak PX & bourbon hogsheads</i>
AGE	<i>15 years</i>
DATE	<i>25/09/2007</i>
OUTTURN	<i>1 of 2119 bottles</i>
ABV	<i>53.1%</i>
BOTTLE PRICE	<i>£ 85.00</i>

POWDER PUFFS

SWEET, FRUITY & MELLOW

CASK NO. 38.40

We imagined lying on grass, looking dreamily towards the blue sky where a few fluffy white clouds floated effortlessly. The palate was amazingly elegant, with a lovely fizz like a fresh bellini cocktail made with ripe, juicy white peaches and prosecco. With a tiny drop of water, the scent of clotted cream fudge, custard creams, banana parfait and sweet tangerines graced the room. To taste, lemon powder puffs with plenty of double cream, lemon curd and icing sugar. At 26 years of age, we combined selected casks from the same distillery. We then returned the single malt into a variety of different casks to develop further. This is one of those casks.

REGION	<i>Speyside</i>
INITIAL CASK	<i>Refill Bourbon Hogshead</i>
FINAL CASK	<i>2nd fill Bourbon Barrel</i>
AGE	<i>30 years</i>
DATE	<i>17/06/1992</i>
OUTTURN	<i>1 of 250 bottles</i>
ABV	<i>50.3%</i>
BOTTLE PRICE	<i>£ 595.00</i>

A WARLOCK WITH ELBOW PATCHES

DEEP, RICH & DRIED FRUITS

CASK NO. 44.168

At first nosing we found heather honey, menthol tobaccos, aged sweet wines and old leather, plus mineral oil, sultanas, rancio and dark honey. Water evolved things nicely towards polished shoe leather, hickory smoke, game meats, herbal cough syrups and spiced honey cake; rich, robust and complex. The palate evoked damp, earthen-floored wine cellars, leaf mulch, aged black tea, pipe tobacco and beef stock, with a tang of camphor and crushed peanuts in the background. Water brought out exotic hardwood resins, long-aged sweet chenin blanc, white mushrooms, overripe oranges and lanolin. After maturing for 17 years in a bourbon hogshead, this was transferred to a first fill Spanish oak oloroso hogshead.

REGION	<i>Speyside</i>
INITIAL CASK	<i>Refill Bourbon Hogshead</i>
FINAL CASK	<i>1st fill Spanish oak Oloroso hogshead</i>
AGE	<i>20 years</i>
DATE	<i>06/11/2002</i>
OUTTURN	<i>1 of 270 bottles</i>
ABV	<i>58.1%</i>
BOTTLE PRICE	<i>£ 150.80</i>



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CHERRY CHANTILLY CAKE

DEEP, RICH & DRIED FRUITS

CASK NO. 112.118

The aroma was that of cinnamon-spiced plum jam on hot buttered toast, teacakes and the Belgium brioche with raisins called kramiek. This was followed seamlessly by the taste of plum chutney and manchego cheese on toast. We also found flavours of peaches soaked in red wine, coffee mocha ice cream and mince pies with cashew brandy cream. After the addition of water, we detected barbecue ribs, a cured meat selection and sticky toffee pudding with a glass of high-grade sake. On the palate, it was now sweet and smooth, like a tiramisu or a cherry chantilly cake accompanied by a glass of dark coffee liqueur. Following 15 years in an ex-bourbon hogshead, we transferred this whisky into a #4 heavy char first fill hogshead.

REGION	<i>Highland</i>
INITIAL CASK	<i>Refill Bourbon Hogshead</i>
FINAL CASK	<i>1st fill Heavy char #4+ hogshead</i>
AGE	<i>18 years</i>
DATE	<i>26/11/2004</i>
OUTTURN	<i>1 of 297 bottles</i>
ABV	<i>54.6%</i>
BOTTLE PRICE	<i>£ 117.00</i>

GLADRAGS OF YESTERYEAR

LIGHTLY PEATED

CASK NO. 3.350

The primary impression upon initial nosing was of outdoor swimming pools by the sea, perhaps ones full of star anise, with a tang of camphor and menthol ointment and plasters in the background. Underneath this we noted a more assertive fruitiness of pineapple syrup, heather honey, kelp and flower blossoms. Reduction brought brand new bike tyres, mothballs in a hessian jacket pocket, cedarwood cigar boxes and aromatic wafts of sappy rosemary oil. To taste, this one was wonderfully sweet and smoky, with a silky, honeyed peat profile, delivering notes of heather honey riddled with orange zests, peach schnapps, coal dust and toasted fennel seed. With water the texture was enhanced and became wonderfully mouth coating; more pineapple, mango, salted toffee and medicinal birch syrup. Outstanding!

REGION	<i>Islay</i>
CASKTYPE	<i>2nd fill Bourbon hogshead</i>
AGE	<i>19 years</i>
DATE	<i>16/02/2004</i>
OUTTURN	<i>1 of 234 bottles</i>
ABV	<i>57.1%</i>
BOTTLE PRICE	<i>£ 179.50</i>

THE SPANIARD, THE AMERICAN AND THE ILEACH

PEATED

CASK NO. 33.140

A deep and distinctly peaty nose – as expected, we agreed – but this example of the cult southern Islay make really did brim with peat embers, burning gorse wood, coal tar, smoked paprika and spiced beef stroganoff. Fathomless and massive. With water we got sweeter tones of soy sauce, charred meats, black bean sauce and nori, plus touches of dunnage funk, along with rock pools and creosote. The palate was superbly carbolic and peaty, like sipping cask-strength peated wash direct from the tun room. Hot coal and embers were also noted, along with biltong and charred lobster. With water it gathered depth and showed notes of roast coffee beans, PX sherry glaze, smoked fish in molasses glaze and blowtorched dark chocolate with a yeasty tang. This was matured in an American oak ex-oloroso sherry butt for 13 years before being transferred to a Spanish oak ex-oloroso sherry butt that had previously been used to mature SMWS bottling 149.1.

REGION	<i>Islay</i>
INITIAL CASK	<i>Refill American oak Oloroso Butt</i>
FINAL CASK	<i>2nd fill Spanish oak Oloroso Butt</i>
AGE	<i>16 years</i>
DATE	<i>24/05/2007</i>
OUTTURN	<i>1 of 615 bottles</i>
ABV	<i>60.7%</i>
BOTTLE PRICE	<i>£ 395.00</i>