

THE VAULTS ON THE ROAD

PEATED

SHRIMPS IN THE SAUNA

CASK NO. 4.339

<i>Aged: 12 years</i>	<i>ABV: 62.7%</i>	<i>£67.20</i>
-----------------------	-------------------	---------------

Region: Highland

1st fill ex-bourbon barrel

TASTING NOTES

We imagined sitting on the top bench of a sauna while water infused with mountain pine oil was poured on to the hot stove creating a spicy, aromatic steam that immediately filled the room. We could feel the heat creeping up, relaxing and invigorating. Following the addition of water, we were moved to a place where mountain pines clung to sand dunes as we made our way down to the bottom bench and enjoyed a sweet smokiness which reminded us of potted shrimps. At eight years of age, we combined selected hogsheads from the same distillery into a variety of different casks to develop further. This is one of those casks.

LIGHTLY PEATED

HIGH PLAINS DRIFTWOOD

CASK NO. 4.342

<i>Aged: 12 years</i>	<i>ABV: 62.8%</i>	<i>£67.20</i>
-----------------------	-------------------	---------------

Region: Highland

1st fill ex-bourbon barrel

TASTING NOTES

Brandy snaps, gingerbread and marmalade on toast were bookended by driftwood bonfire smoke and embers, and salty sea kelp. The palate majored on tangy, salty smoke, but earthier elements emerged – pickled ginger, roasted parsnips, smoked ham and yeast extract on a leather boot, with a finish of ash and brine. The reduced nose gave us kippers with tartare sauce and wrestling with a live lobster near a bonfire of old fish boxes. The palate now had perfumed smoke, dark chocolate with raspberries, ginger sweets and chewing on Tuscan cigars (like a man with no name). After eight years in ex-bourbon wood we transferred this into a first fill bourbon barrel.

OILY & COASTAL

WINTER'S GREEN LICHEN

CASK NO. 10.256

<i>Aged: 9 years</i>	<i>ABV: 58.0%</i>	<i>£79.20</i>
----------------------	-------------------	---------------

Region: Islay

2nd fill ex-PX hogshead

TASTING NOTES

We followed our noses to a large bowl of breakfast cereal, seasoned with sea salt and enveloped with a lichen-born smoke. The earthy and coastal nose was matched by the palate, full of burnt cherries, seaweed and wintergreen mint. Water introduced a sooty coal fire to both the nose and the palate, while the latter also enjoyed the introduction of clove, cinnamon and a retained fresh, minty finish. After five years in an ex-bourbon hogshead, we transferred this to a second fill PX hogshead for the remainder of its maturation.

SPICY & SWEET

AROMATIC MENTHOL MOUTHWASH

CASK NO. 44.113

Aged: 12 years

ABV: 59.9%

~~£56.00~~

Region: Speyside

Refill ex-bourbon barrel

**DISCOUNTED
PRICE
£40.00**

TASTING NOTES

The nose is immediately fragrant with vapour rubs, crushed aspirin, hessian cloth and tea tree oil. There follows some baked banana, fruit jellies and soft waxes. Water brings toasted pumpkin seeds, lemon jelly, rose petals, toasted hazelnuts, damp earth and pipe tobacco. A vegetal aspect like grilled asparagus emerges with time. The palate is sweet and peachy to begin; notes of banana extract, hardwood resins, dolly mixtures, cough syrup and aniseed balls. Becomes more mentholated and medical with notes of herbal liqueurs and mouthwash. Reduction brings Turkish delight, Fisherman's Friend menthol lozenges, dried mint and wild blossoms. A lingering sense of sooty fireplaces and warm campfires in the aftertaste.

PEATED

SWEET AND SMOKY MAYO

CASK NO. 16.91

Aged: 9 years

ABV: 62.4%

£60.00

Region: Highland

Refill re-charred hogshead

TASTING NOTES

We imagined German-style pan-fried potatoes seasoned with salt and rosemary, as well as sautéed bacon and onions, until everything had a golden-brown colour, and was then garnished with parsley. A surprising sweetness on the palate evoked chocolate finger rolls and smoked nougat de Montélimar, home baked with roasted almonds, pistachios, orange blossom honey and vanilla extract. Following the addition of water we found singed sprigs of rosemary, camphor and menthol balm, and a bacon and sour cream jacket potato. To taste, sweet and smoky mayonnaise on rye bread next to blackcurrant jelly, peanut butter and, in the finish, cinnamon-flavoured herbal liqueur.

YOUNG & SPRITELY

HOT POTATO!

CASK NO. 28.61

Aged: 7 years

ABV: 60.9%

~~£49.00~~

Region: Highland

1st fill ex-bourbon barrel

**DISCOUNTED
PRICE
£40.00**

TASTING NOTES

A young, punchy and immediately charismatic example of this left-field Highlander. We found the nose to be riddled with hessian cloth, lamp oil, old toolboxes, steel wool, young furniture, canvas, vapour rubs and mineral oil. Hints of young calvados and tart gooseberry. Reduction brought out baking powder, cornflour, oatmeal, sandalwood, oily rags and old workshops. Unusual notes of bison grass and potatoes roasted in goose fat. The palate was initially warming and spicy with herbal cough medicines, salt-baked vegetables, oatcakes spread with butter and dry roast peanuts. Water brought out olive oil grassiness, mustard powder, lime pith, putty, white wine vinegar and lanolin.

DEEP, RICH & DRIED FRUITS

SOY SAUCE ON CHRISTMAS CAKE

CASK NO. 35.384

<i>Aged: 9 years</i>	<i>ABV: 62.3%</i>	<i>£60.00</i>
----------------------	-------------------	---------------

Region: Speyside

1st fill Spanish oak ex-oloroso hogshead

TASTING NOTES

This was a headlong dive into a world of intense sherry aromas. We got beef extract, cured game meats, and burnt brisket ends slathered in barbecue sauce, plus sticky malt loaf, Christmas cake and some deeply umami notes of nori and soy sauce. With water it became woodier but in a wonderfully complex and spicy way. There were also more dark-grained breads on display, along with tobaccos and spiced dark fruit chutney. The palate showed intense and concentrated sherry influence, with loads of sultanas, raisins, clove, cinnamon and nutmeg. With water it veered into green walnut liqueur and natural tar extracts, with some ruby ales and pickled fruits in the aftertaste. This was matured in a bourbon hogshead for five years before being transferred to a first fill Spanish oak oloroso hogshead.

JUICY, OAK & VANILLA

“AMUSE YOUR BOUCHE”

CASK NO. 71.83

Aged: 10 years

ABV: 56.7%

~~£48.40~~

Region: Speyside

1st fill ex-bourbon barrel

**DISCOUNTED
PRICE
£40.00**

TASTING NOTES

The aroma was that of a creamy dessert called verrines, layers of melon and mango panna cotta separated from a topping of juicy diced fruit by a band of crunchy crushed cookies and served with an almond tuile. The taste was a gentle sweetness, light and creamy like a lemon and prosecco syllabub with deeper notes of maple syrup and chestnut flower honey in the finish. After the addition of water, we imagined sitting under a magnolia tree in full bloom enjoying slices of light and airy Genoise sponge cake, Belgium white chocolates, blueberry cream puffs and Vimto millions chewy sweets.

SPICY & DRY

REVENGE OF THE SHUTTLECOCKS

CASK NO. 95.22

Aged: 11 years

ABV: 58.0%

~~£51.70~~

Region: Speyside

Refill ex-bourbon hogshead

**DISCOUNTED
PRICE
£40.00**

TASTING NOTES

This one opened on barley sugar car sweets, pink peppercorns and wild mint according to the panel. They also added river reeds, herbal tobacco, crushed ivy, lemon drizzle cake, tropical trail mix and a 'slap' of hessian. Water revealed chamois leather, fermenting wash, damp hay, granola, clover, suncream, green malt and a 'tube of shuttlecocks'. The palate was fruity and punchy with notes of vanilla essence, pineapple jelly, damp earth, cod liver oil, baked apples and a few white jelly beans. With water the panel found milk bottle sweets, dried papaya, plasticine, lemon tea, gomme syrup and chamomile.

HEAVILY PEATED

A BOLD SMOKY AFFOGATO

CASK NO. 53.465

<i>Aged: 15 years</i>	<i>ABV: 56.9%</i>	<i>£109.90</i>
-----------------------	-------------------	----------------

Region: Islay

1st fill American oak ex-PX hogshead

TASTING NOTES

Boom! Oh, my goodness – what a punch of sherry-soaked smoke! Had someone lit a peat incense stick and then waved it about? These were just some of the comments nosing neat. A big, powerful beast on the palate, yet beautifully balanced. We got peppered mackerels in a smoky balsamic dressing and cardamom-spiced prawns. Water added mussels in white wine with chillies, heavily charred prawns, lobster tails and singed salty bacon. The taste was still full of smoky delight, with a decadent coffee dessert called affogato but this time not made with Italian liqueur but an Islay dram. Following 11 years in an ex-bourbon hogshead, we transferred this whisky into a first fill American oak PX hogshead.

DEEP, RICH & DRIED FRUITS

SIRTAKI TIME

CASK NO. 68.111

<i>Aged: 14 years</i>	<i>ABV: 59.4%</i>	<i>£89.50</i>
-----------------------	-------------------	---------------

Region: Highland

1st fill ex-PX bodega barrique

TASTING NOTES

Our mezze platter overflowed with pork souvlaki skewers, lamb kofta, kalamata olives, tzatziki and muhammara (red pepper and walnut spread) for pitta bread. On the sweet and herbaceous palate we enjoyed a sip of krasomelo, a Greek mulled wine made with Metaxa brandy. After reduction we stayed in the Mediterranean with classic Neapolitan wafer biscuits and saffron buns on the nose, while to taste a sweet vibe of whipped Greek-style yoghurt with crunchy honey fudge clusters. After 11 years in a bourbon hogshead, we transferred this whisky into a first fill barrique from a privately owned small bodega, now in its ninth generation, that focuses exclusively on the Pedro Ximénez grape.

DEEP, RICH & DRIED FRUITS

NAAN'S COAL SCUTTLE

CASK NO. 78.71

Aged: 9 years

ABV: 66.8%

£72.00

Region: Highland

2nd fill ex-oloroso butt

TASTING NOTES

A slab of toffee was being consumed by the soot from a volcanic eruption, joined by smouldering hay bales and a new first aid kit. The palate was sooty, buttery, rich and served to us from within a medicine cabinet. Water introduced Madras spices, poppy seeds, pecan pie and walnuts to the nose, with the palate now a warm naan bread smothered in toffee sauce and topped with coal dust.

SPICY & DRY

HERBAL TITILLATION

CASK NO. 95.35

Aged: 8 years

ABV: 66.3%

~~£44.80~~

Region: Speyside

2nd fill ex-bourbon barrel

**DISCOUNTED
PRICE
£40.00**

TASTING NOTES

Caressed by floral bouquets we commenced with roses, lavender and carnations on a bed of dry sawdust and vanilla pods. The palate brought forth a cabaret of fresh ginger with walnuts and brioche bread that caressed the tongue with elements of red wine and dry cough syrup. With water we found ourselves amongst the dry earth of a pine forest as an abundance of herbs teased the senses and started with fennel seeds, cloves and cumin. Then a fresh and lively burst of peppermint and menthol cooled and warmed at the same time to provide a lively sensation that lasted onto the finish where they were joined by dry bark and oats.

YOUNG & SPRITELY

CHILD OF NATURE

CASK NO. 105.28

Aged: 8 years

ABV: 63.6%

~~£44.80~~

Region: Speyside

2nd fill ex-bourbon barrel

**DISCOUNTED
PRICE
£40.00**

TASTING NOTES

This one displayed a lovely elegance at first nosing. Clean fabrics and linens with pontefract cakes, sorrel, sandalwood, parsley, icing sugar, cake mix and underripe melon. With reduction the floral aspects were elevated - carnations and geraniums - and there were notes of white chocolate, pistachios, young calvados and farm style perry. The mouth was full of tart raw rhubarb coated with brown sugar, sour cherry beer, mint tea, lemon verbena and sweetened herbal teas. With reduction the profile was easy, mellow and fruity. Lots of pink wafer biscuits, lemon lozenges, milk bottle sweets, lemon barley water and pear cordial.

SPICY & SWEET

JELLY BABY MASSAGE OIL

CASK NO. 107.20

Aged: 7 years

ABV: 65.3%

~~£48.00~~

Region: Speyside

2nd fill ex-bourbon barrel

**DISCOUNTED
PRICE
£40.00**

TASTING NOTES

We found a rather spicy hit at first nosing, lots of Chinese duck glaze, five spice, cola syrup, black pepper, sweet malt extract, aniseed and pears in syrup. A little water brought rosehip tea, strawberry fudge, whipped ice cream, Battenberg cake, marjoram and chopped peanuts roasting in cooking oils.

The mouth was initially very lively, hot and prickly. A texture like melting jelly babies, green apple, custard, spiced vanilla cake, rosewater and hot cross buns dusted with cinnamon.

Reduction brought spiced gin, hawthorn and crushed ivy.

Along with geraniums, vase water, mini milk ice lollies, orange water, toffee bonbons and youthful calvados.

SPICY & SWEET

00.30: SPEYSIDE - PEKING DIRECT

CASK NO. 108.12

Aged: 10 years

ABV: 62.7%

~~*£51.20*~~

Region: Speyside

1st fill ex-bourbon barrel

**DISCOUNTED
PRICE
£40.00**

TASTING NOTES

The panel were intrigued to try this lesser seen distillery. On the nose we found vanilla cream, soil, wood spices, flaked almonds and dried apricots. With water this developed into pumpkin flesh, sesame oil, rosewater, perfumed custard, vanilla marshmallows and rhubarb sours. The palate was syrupy in texture with an unexpected richness. It showed notes of cough mixtures, caraway, pine resin, sweetened ointments, spices, chilli pepper, roasted nuts, melon and juicy fruit bubblegum. Water worked a treat and brought forth notes of violets, gomme syrup, damson jam, plum sauce, five spice and crispy duck.

SPICY & SWEET

HERO JUICE

CASK NO. 112.112

Aged: 8 years

ABV: 63.6%

~~£49.80~~

Region: Highland

1st fill ex-bourbon barrel

**DISCOUNTED
PRICE
£40.00**

TASTING NOTES

We hacked our way through forests of tall grass and green tea plantations to discover a forgotten realm of toffee, fudge and tinned fruit cocktail cascading into pools of creamy rice pudding. The tongue tingled with a burst of spicy green papaya salad and apple skins, backed up by chillies and limes. Drops of water took us back to a land of sweetness, where buttered hot cross buns and marzipan were found beneath trees of apples, pears and kiwi fruit. As the spicy haze lifted it revealed a hidden treasure of flambéed banana marinated in hazelnut praline and presented on a plinth of cloves and kaffir lime leaves.

SINGLE CASK SPIRIT

AUTUMNAL UNIVERSITY BONFIRE

CASK NO. A3.3

Aged: 15 years

ABV: 51.7%

~~£97.50~~

Region: Bas Armagnac

Gascon black oak barrel

**DISCOUNTED
PRICE
£40.00**

TASTING NOTES

Deceptively pale and interesting, this youthful student of flavour portrays many a trait of campus life. Wooden refectory tables, laden with ripe green and citrus fruit are placed down wind of the autumnal bonfires. The main course of toasty baked bananas with is served with a satisfying drizzle of toffee caramel. This light, gentle and remarkably soft, yet satisfying repast is brought to a close by gentle soft drying tannins.

SINGLE CASK SPIRIT

A SLICE OF PASTIS GASCON

CASK NO. A4.3

Aged: 15 years

ABV: 47.3%

~~£62.50~~

Region: Bas Armagnac - Baco

Gascon black oak barrel

**DISCOUNTED
PRICE
£40.00**

TASTING NOTES

We began with nostalgic aromas of orange segments at halloween, with sweet treats of chocolate and nougat. “Dookin’ for apples”* exclaimed one panellist, whilst those apples were wrapped up in a luxurious Pastis Gascon** for another. An almost woody nuttiness enveloped the experience, whilst juicy pineapple pastries had the panel floating towards the rewards on a “Disney” inspired cloud of temptation. The body was full, as was the taste. Obvious leather and orange notes were accompanied by Werther's Original and white chilli chocolate nibs. “Easy drinking” was the general vibe, but the complexity made this so much more. If you wish to spend an age enjoying a glass, you shall. *Also known as “bobbing for apples”. The aim is to grab floating apples from a basin of water with your teeth. **A delicious Gascon apple tart made with filo pastry.

SINGLE CASK SPIRIT

BLOOD ORANGE SORBET

CASK NO. C5.3

Aged: 15 years

ABV: 42.6%

~~£160.00~~

Region: Cognac Grande Champagne

Cognac barrel

**DISCOUNTED
PRICE
£40.00**

TASTING NOTES

Immediately inviting, the nose promised to treat us well. Vanilla studded whipped cream, jammy figs, chalky marshmallows and fragrant potpourri. One imagined ripe mangos nestled in a pile of new tennis balls! On the palate, a luxurious velvety texture greeted us, moving to deep notes of brown sugary coffee cups and strawberry sauce over clotted cream ice cream. A little drop of aqua emphasised the fruity notes in the form of blood orange sorbet, custard creams and maybe lavender shortbread. There was a refined “polished antique” note in there too. Very gentle in the mouth, with the chalky sweetness of Edinburgh rock, some orange blossom finishing on an oaty gingery slice of parkin cake.

SINGLE CASK SPIRIT

WOOD FIRED WONDER JUICE

CASK NO. C6.1

Aged: 15 years

ABV: 67.9%

~~£110.00~~

Region: Cognac Borderies

Cognac barrel

**DISCOUNTED
PRICE
£40.00**

TASTING NOTES

This Cognac was distilled in a wood fired still and shows notes of pumpernickel bread, sourdough and toasted seeds on the nose at first. Followed by brioche, freshly churned butter, hessian and warm cereals. With time there is also a light and elegant green fruitiness. With water we get camphor, jelly babies, icing sugar and caraway. The palate is powerful and filled with notes of tar liqueur, white stone fruits, mead, quince paste and hawthorne. Water brings grated nutmeg, olive oil, bracken and mineral oil. An elegant earthiness emerges in the finish.