



## PLEASANT AFFAIR

### SWEET, FRUITY & MELLOW

#### CASK NO. 108.30

A real fresh pear aroma on the nose neat with some lemon and honey as well as the soft fragrance of white roses and white macarons made this a very pleasant affair. On the palate creamy sweet mango lassi with a dash of cardamom and ginger while in the finish subtle oak flavours. With the addition of water further aromas of orange syrup, sponge, banana custard and strawberries dipped in dark chocolate appeared. Heading off for a walk, the taste now fresh as a mountain stream as we all imagined having a full hip flask in our rucksack next to malted milk biscuits and an apricot Danish.

REGION	<i>Speyside</i>
CASKTYPES	<i>1st fill Bourbon hogshead</i>
AGE	<i>14 years</i>
DATE	<i>01/02/2007</i>
OUTTURN	<i>1 of 215 bottles</i>
ABV	<i>59.5%</i>
BOTTLE PRICE	<i>£ 59.20</i>

## PONDERING THOUGHTS

### SPICY & DRY

#### CASK NO. 36.219

For us this one was all over the place! Mothballs in a drawer, wax crayons in a plastic tub, stripping wallpaper and how about a bruschetta with anchovies and burrata? The taste was no different as we got baklava drenched in syrup and chilli flakes on sweet lemon lozenges but also a Trappist beer called Belgian quad as well as a red wine onion gravy. Following reduction, we trimmed a hedge while, from the nearby kitchen, the smell of hot curried carrot and turnip soup made us feel hungry. On the palate it was now curiously sweeter, bringing out pastry such as putizza triestina – an Italian nut plait.

REGION	<i>Speyside</i>
CASKTYPES	<i>1st fill Bourbon hogshead</i>
AGE	<i>11 years</i>
DATE	<i>09/02/2012</i>
OUTTURN	<i>1 of 270 bottles</i>
ABV	<i>58.3%</i>
BOTTLE PRICE	<i>£ 55.00</i>

## SLICE OF REMINISCENCE

### SPICY & SWEET

#### CASK NO. 59.79

As we dipped rice paper in strawberry sauce and heavy cream, we sliced into a lemon cheesecake topped with mango. The palate and nose were near one and the same, albeit with a peppery spice emerging in the palate. Water brought spice to the nose, while strawberry remained the prevailing, sugar-sweet note. The palate returned to cheesecake, crowned now with mint and hemp leaves.

REGION	<i>Highland</i>
CASKTYPES	<i>1st fill Bourbon hogshead</i>
AGE	<i>13 years</i>
DATE	<i>11/01/2011</i>
OUTTURN	<i>1 of 231 bottles</i>
ABV	<i>54.6%</i>
BOTTLE PRICE	<i>£73.50</i>



# THE SCOTCH MALT WHISKY SOCIETY

## SIRTAKI TIME

### DEEP, RICH & DRIED FRUITS

#### CASK NO. 68.111

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.

REGION	Highland
CASK TYPES	1st fill PX ex-Bodega barrique
AGE	14 years
DATE	18/08/2008
OUTTURN	1 of 281 bottles
ABV	59.4%
BOTTLE PRICE	£ 89.50

## FURTIVE GHERKIN

### OILY & COASTAL

#### Rare Release Distillery 149 Highland Festival 2024

The Panel were immediately plunged into scrubbing an old barbecue grill. But on the side were lemons, buttery samphire, tangy pickles and chutney, and crackers with sea salt and black pepper. We also got whiffs of smoked ham and a summery coastal tang. Reduction brought out delicate threads of smoke, distant beach bonfire embers, engine oil and kippers smashed on to toasted brioche. When neat, the palate was sweetly lemony and smoky, with fish pâté, pickled cornichons, charred fennel, jalapeños in brine and clam broth. Water added layers of texture and thickness in the mouth, while bringing out gristy porridge notes, and other elements including lavender honey and a gherkin lurking in a dirty martini.

REGION	Highland
CASK TYPES	1st fill Bourbon barrels
AGE	8 years
DATE	11/09/2015
OUTTURN	1 of 1764 bottles
ABV	62.4%
BOTTLE PRICE	£ 80.00

## SMUGGLERS' BACON

### HEAVILY PEATED

#### Rare Release Distillery 10 Islay Festival 2024

A rather more elegant and structured aroma than we are used to from these younger peated batches of this very particular distillery. Up front we noted Sudocrem, hand lotion, bandages, seawater, antiseptic and oily sheep wool with cough mixtures dotted about the place. Refined but still rather funky and charismatic. With water we got smoked strawberries, lanolin, coal tar soap and chimney smoke. Rather lovely! The initial palate opened with medicinal smoke, warming black pepper, medical vapour rubs, smoked heather beers and gentian root eau de vie. Some soot-infused lobster bisque we mused? Reduction offered us smoked almonds, pickled mackerel, charred oysters, malt vinegar and that classic hallmark of this make: pickled gherkins in their own juices! Fabulous stuff!

REGION	Islay
CASK TYPES	Refill & 2nd fill Bourbon & PX hogs-heads
AGE	10 years
DATE	24/10/2013
OUTTURN	1 of 1839 bottles
ABV	58.4%
BOTTLE PRICE	£ 85.00