

WINTER WHISKY WONDERS

SMWS York

Friday, 12 December 2025



THE SCOTCH MALT
WHISKY SOCIETY

UNDERSTATED OPULENCE

LIGHT & DELICATE

CASK NO. 39.198

An air of understated elegance, a subtle tropical floral scent with a very soft richness like a Hawaiian lei garland presented to us as a symbol of affection. On the palate, like a vintage pipe pouch made of leather in a rustic Kodiak brown oil finish, holding well-used pipes and a variety of tobacco next to all the other utensils. With a drop of water, a lovely burst of sweetness - a frangipani tree in full bloom and to taste now like a hummus dip served with pitas. After 27 years in an ex-bourbon hogshead, this whisky was transferred into a 2nd fill toasted oak hogshead for the remainder of its maturation. This toasted cask was previously used to mature Society cask 35.181.



REGION	Speyside
INITIAL CASK	Refill Bourbon hogshead (27 years)
FINAL CASK	2nd fill Toasted hogshead
AGE	30 years
DATE	16 October 1989
OUTTURN	1 of only 197 bottles
ABV	49.2%
PRICE	TO SAMPLE ONLY

VISIONS OF THE BASQUE COUNTRY

SWEET, FRUITY & MELLOW

CASK NO. 115.29

Our noses offered visions of Basque tart, mango cubes and mandarins drizzled with linseed oil and decorated with a fan of exquisitely thin red apple slices and quince paste. The palate was cocoa nibs, tobacco, quinine and a citrus Thai salad. Water provided fresh floral notes on the nose, along with lime leaves in a linen-lined cigar box. To finish, the palate was a sweet vermouth, hazelnut cream and tarragon.



REGION	Speyside
CASK TYPE	2nd fill Bourbon barrel
AGE	32 years
DATE	20 February 1991
OUTTURN	1 of only 152 bottles
ABV	47.4%
PRICE	TO SAMPLE ONLY

COCKTAILS NEARBY

JUICY, OAK & VANILLA

CASK NO. 72.122

A cocktail of grapes, sour plum candy and evaporated milk was being shaken nearby, its scent mingled with the bouquet of luxury floral hand cream. The palate was mouthwatering, with sherbet lemons and orange, clove and toffee, and rose jelly doughnuts. Water introduced plums to the nose, along with hot linoleum, vanilla and oregano biscuits, cut grass and paraffin candles. We could now taste rum 'n' raisin ice cream, pencil shavings soaking in coconut milk, and lemon curd.



REGION	Speyside
CASK TYPE	1st fill Bourbon hogshead
AGE	21 years
DATE	07 October 2002
OUTTURN	1 of only 226 bottles
ABV	54.2%
PRICE	TO SAMPLE ONLY

GALLOVIDIAN RHAPSODY

OLD & DIGNIFIED

CASK NO. 50.119

A complex orchestration of honeysuckle, pomegranate and earl grey tea harmonised with sizzling pork chops, glazed with manuka honey and served with sweet apple sauce on an antique writing desk. Base notes of candied orange peel, smashed hazelnuts and virgin olive oil created rich yet silky textures that perfectly carried the other flavours. A small dash of water established an ensemble of sweet ginger wine, maple syrup and marmalade, alongside a quartet of cassia bark, marzipan, Christmas cake and pineapple flambéed in armagnac. The sticky, syrupy notes reached a delightful crescendo before an encore of dark chocolate, toasted almonds and tobacco. At 28 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	Lowland
FINAL CASK	Refill Bourbon barrel
AGE	34 years
DATE	26 January 1990
OUTTURN	1 of only 232 bottles
ABV	53.6%
PRICE	TO SAMPLE ONLY

NOSTALGIA WAS BETTER IN THE OLDEN DAYS

DEEP, RICH & DRIED FRUITS

CASK NO. 46.150

The warm and deeply nostalgic nose was filled with rhubarb and apple crumbles, boozy trifle, quivering fruit jellies and lovely notes of marzipan, fruit scones slathered with blackcurrant jam and a hint of beurre noisette. Water brought out peach blinis, caramelised strawberries and a densely booze-sodden black forest gâteau. The neat palate had the seductive ease of a mature sweet wine, with delicate tannins, light red fruit acidity, peaches flambéed with armagnac, orange liqueurs and dark chocolate. Water brought a more chiselled impression of aged dry chenin blanc, then dried mint, cinnamon warmth, pipe tobacco and a gentle mineral oil note in the finish. This was matured for 26 years in a bourbon hogshead before being transferred to a first fill STR oloroso barrique.



REGION	Speyside
INITIAL CASK	Refill Bourbon hogshead (26 years)
FINAL CASK	1st fill STR Oloroso barrique
AGE	31 years
DATE	17 November 1992
OUTTURN	1 of only 225 bottles
ABV	51.3%
PRICE	TO SAMPLE ONLY

HEATHER EMBER

LIGHTLY PEATED

CASK NO. 4.396

We all agreed this one was immediately stunning, as wispy Orcadian peat smoke mingled with impeccable, old-style sherry. It was observed more than once that this whisky was highly reminiscent of MUCH older official bottlings from this distillery. The nose evolved with beautiful and generous aromas of waxes, dried mushrooms, hessian, lapsing souchong tea and flinty coastal notes. Water brought peppery pastrami meatiness, black pepper, game salami, haggis nachos and dark fruits pickled in ancient balsamic. The palate was once again heavily old school in profile. Loads of gamey, leathery and salty sherry vibes met natural tar extracts, medicines and gorgeous, dry, heathery Orkney peat low down in the mix. With water we found such wonders as chip-shop brown sauce, layers of pipe tobacco and heather honey. This profile lingered long into the stunning aftertaste; rich with verbena, aged herbal liqueurs and old-school shilling ales. At 19 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	Highland
INITIAL CASK	Refill Bourbon hogshead (19 years)
FINAL CASK	1st fill Oloroso ex-Bodega butt
AGE	25 years
DATE	09 June 1999
OUTTURN	1 of only 591 bottles
ABV	49.5%
PRICE	TO SAMPLE ONLY