

Single Malt Scotch Whisky Flights

Scotch Whisky

Scotch means simply that the whisky was distilled and matured in Scotland. Whiskies are made in other countries, notably Ireland and Japan. They are whiskies, and good ones even, but Scotch they are not. Scotch comes from Scotland.

The climate is cold and wet and though this is tough on the natives, they are a tough lot, traditionally given to strong drink, dancing, music, literature, science, religion, philosophy, warfare, strenuous sports, and annoying their southern neighbours. Many of these things are interchangeable. All the others are facilitated by the strong drink. Fortunately the cold, wet climate is suited to the growing of barley, a cereal whose virtues have been exploited, as follows.

The origins of malt whisky distilling in Scotland are lost in the mists of antiquity. They date back at least to the monks of the 15th century and probably long before.

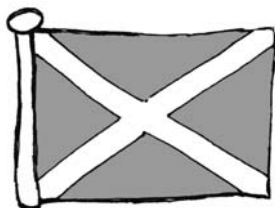


The Lowlands (Lowland Ladies) tend to produce whiskies in which the softness of the malt is evident.

The Highlands is the largest, and naturally produces more variations.

Speyside is in the northeast Highlands, the home of malts that are smooth and drinkable, with a fruity sweetness.

Islay (eye-lay) is the greatest of the whisky islands. It has more distilleries than schools. Much of the island is deep in peat, lashed by wind and rain, and pummeled by the sea.



Making the Water of Life

In the production of Malt Scotch Whisky, the basic raw materials are few: barley, water, and yeast. That's it. The rest is magic. Although the distillers' art has been understood since earliest times, the subtle aromas and flavours of whisky have never been fully explained, even today.

Malt whisky is the ancient hard liquor of Scotland. It's produced from an ale made of malted barley (which is often dried over peat) and water, fermented by the addition of yeast. The ale is distilled in a copper pot-still, a process that has remained unchanged for hundreds of years.



Our Single Malt Scotch Flights

Welcome to our flights. They're our way of presenting a tasting sampler at a special price. Our flights consist of one-ounce pours of three whiskies you select from our collection.

Our Single Malt Scotch Collection

Dalwhinnie 15 year old
Glenmorangie 12 year old
Glenkinchie 10 year old
Lagavullin 16 year old
Laphroaig 15 year old
Macallan 18 year old



Cask Aging

The distillate is typically matured in casks for anywhere from five to twenty-five years. The aging phase is critical to the taste and appearance of the final whisky.

Single Malt Scotch

Single Malt Scotch Whisky is the product of one unique distillery and has not been mixed with whisky from any other distilleries. Single Malt Scotch is classified by region. Each has its own particular distinctive style of malt whisky:



Most distilleries age the whisky ten years in American White Oak Bourbon casks, and then finish the aging in Oloroso Sherry, Madeira, or Porto Fino casks.

When it reaches its peak of the aging process, it is bottled. Once the whisky is bottled, it does not change, provided the bottle is kept sealed.



Tasting - A Total Experience

Tasting Single Malt Scotch is a total experience involving all the senses. However, remember it's largely subjective. It's your palate and it's unique. So trust your initial impressions and your gut instincts.

Think about taking notes to serve as a reference point for future flights. Also, take a look at our Scotch Flight tasting notes on the inside. Notice the words we use in our descriptions. Compare our notes with your impressions.

Let the tasting begin!



Tasting - A Total Experience

Your Eyes - Appearance

Look first at the colour of the whisky against the light. A young, single malt will be bright and translucent. Deeper colour will usually indicate longer maturation as well as cask finishing. Colours range from sunlight, pale straw, gold, Sauternes, Madeira, mahogany, treacle.



Your Nose - Fragrance

Tasting is primarily done by "nosing." So don't skip over it. Take short, sharp sniffs rather than a full inhalation. You'll pick up more of the fragrances.

First, try it straight. Swirl it in the glass and sniff it cautiously. Notice the initial fragrances. Try to describe them. Now add a drop of water and again swirl the whisky. This little amount of water frees up the fragrances. Sniff gently at first, and then more deeply into the glass. Again, try to describe the fragrances you notice. It's usually difficult to put words to smells, but it's great fun when you let go.



Sense of Touch - The Feel

Even though you're doing it with your tongue and mouth, you want to "feel" the liquid. Focus on what is called "mouthfeel" - its smoothness, viscosity, and texture. Also notice its pungency - Is it dry, astringent, prickly. How would you describe it?



Your Tongue - Flavor/Taste

Now at last, take a sip and allow it to lie on your tongue and coat the sides of your mouth. Roll the spirit around so that it comes into contact with all your taste buds. What is the primary taste? There are only four: **sweetness** at the tip of the tongue, **saltiness** along the sides, **sourness** on the edges, and **bitterness** at the back.

Now notice how the taste develops, does it unfold itself in complex layers or does it give its all immediately. What flavours can you detect?

Finish

Finally, notice the finish. Does the flavour linger in your mouth like a Northern Michigan sunset, or does it fade quickly like a shooting star?

Do other flavours develop in the process?

Are there any echoes of former tastes or aromas?

Is there any aftertaste, pleasant or unpleasant?



Your Ears - Sound

Finally, don't forget the sense of sound. Pay attention to the sounds around the table of those in your company. Their "oohs" and "aahs." Their impressions, the words they use to describe the aromas and flavours. Listening to their comments can sometimes get you unstuck, and set you off in new areas of exploration.



Johnnie Walker Black

John Walker's modest beginnings clearly fostered an ambitious nature. He was born a farmer's son. When his father died, he seized the opportunity to leave the farm and set himself up in business in the nearby town. At the age of 15, he was already the proprietor of a small grocery shop in Kilmarnock, the start of what would later become an international business empire.



Early on, he dreamed of blending the perfect whisky. Constantly experimenting, he eventually applied tea blending principles to whisky with great success. Walker's Highland Whiskies were created and launched to much acclaim. John's reputation as an expert blender spread throughout the West of Scotland.

Johnnie Walker Black has a unique complexity that is achieved by expertly blending an extremely diverse, but complementary range of malt whiskies, each of which has been matured for a minimum of 12 years and some for much longer. In total, up to 40 malts and grain whiskies make up the Johnnie Walker Black Label blend. **Island and Islay** malts deliver spice, richness, and lingering peat. **Speyside** malts make an important contribution to the depth of taste, bringing smoky malt, fruitiness, apple freshness and a rich sherry character to the blend. At the heart of Black Label lies 12 year-old **Cardhu**, an outstanding malt from **Speyside**, which imparts silkiness, a characteristic which has made it as famous as any Single Malt Scotch.

Our Mixed Scotch Drinks

Unless otherwise requested, we serve **Johnnie Walker Black** in all of our mixed Scotch drinks.



SLainte

Cheers. We hope you appreciate the full pleasure of "tasting" and comparing these fine whiskies using these tasting notes. Whether you are a novice or a connoisseur, it will enhance the pleasure of drinking.



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