

# CLUB ENOLOGIQUE

  
DOMAINE  
BONNEAU DU MA  
CORTON-CHARLE  
GRAND CRU  
APPELLATION D'ORIGINE PROTÉGÉE  
Mis en bouteille  
au Domaine  
2017  
PROPRIÉTAIRE À PERNAND-VERGELESSES & ALORE-COUR

  
DOMAINE  
BONNEAU DU  
MARTIN

## Burgundy of dreams

THE CHARDONNAY ISSUE

Irish whiskey | Vegan fine dining | Wine and the metaverse



# Irish Whiskey

The renaissance of Irish whiskey has led not only to an increase in distilleries but a greater diversity of styles – as evidenced by the stars of this year's IWSC, introduced by Joel Harrison

The Irish whiskey scene has, like a good barrel of spirit, matured well over the past decade or so. Drawing on a history rich in whiskey-making (see feature, p.66) the island is once again reaching a point at which distilleries are producing first-class spirit from north to south, east to west. This renaissance – coupled with healthy stocks of aged liquid from the stalwart distilleries of Bushmills, Midleton and Cooley – has allowed historic producers greater creative freedom for blending and bottling, while giving new distillers the opportunity to showcase their whiskeys, and independent bottlers and blenders the chance to innovate.

Today, there is a broad church of whiskey styles on offer under the Irish flag – from Teeling's award-winning grain, to the complex flavours in pot-still whiskey from labels such as Redbreast, as well as blends like Midleton, which combine the two. More classic styles can be seen in single-malt releases (often triple-distilled) and the more traditional blending style that brings together

both malt and grain. These latter two renderings are more in keeping with the Scottish style of whisky, yet the Irish versions maintain their own flavour, which is generally lighter and often more approachable. Peat smoke is seen only in dispatches (as here in Bart's blend), with the overall direction towards more heathery, fruity, flowery notes.

Innovation and flavour are also driven by the use of different types of wood, a notable difference from other whiskey-making regions, which call for only oak maturation. The Kasc Project B from independent blender and bottler Kinahan's is a fine example of just that, using hybrid casks made from different oak styles, as well as chestnut wood.

The Irish whiskey scene is an exciting one right now, producing fantastic liquids with a kaleidoscope of flavours, yet all linking back to a classic style that has endured for generations. Across the following pages are the standout performers from this year's International Wine & Spirit Competition.







98

**Redbreast, 27-Year-Old**

A single-pot-still whiskey, Redbreast is a renowned bottling from the Midleton Distillery in County Cork; it's no surprise seeing it at the top of the tree here. This expression is aromatic, with red fruits, mango, guava and Christmas cake. The palate boasts a rich, beautiful texture of red cherries, red apples and cinnamon spice. A subtle fieriness punctuates the decadently long finish. Luxurious, and exceptionally well made. 53.5%

£420 Master of Malt, The Whisky Exchange

98

**Redbreast, 21-Year-Old**

Redbreast is made using a heavier, oily weight of spirit from copper pot stills and is often matured in heavy, rich Sherry casks and well aged. At 21 years, this showcases an elegant nose of peach, apricot, pineapple and lychee. These are balanced by a smart woodiness and tarte tatin on the palate, with a floral finish, and a pinch of baking spice that leaves you wanting more. 46%

£220 Hedonism Wines, The Whisky Exchange

98

**Teeling, 30-Year-Old Single Malt**

Teeling's 30-year-old single malt was matured initially in bourbon casks before an additional maturation in ex-Sauternes wine barrels. This has given the very old single malt a complex aroma with an abundance of sweetness. The flavour profile is broad, with a core of beautifully integrated spice, orange, burnt wood, old leather and honey. Sweetness lingers on the finish. 46%

£777.95 Master of Malt

98

**Teeling, 32-Year-Old Single Rum Cask Maturation Single Malt**

Teeling has bottled some of the oldest Irish single malts ever made available, and this 32-year-old is up there with the oldest of them all. Distilled in 1988 and matured in rum casks, it lends the whiskey aromas of intense apple backed with a Cognac nuance. Tropical fruits on the palate – with pineapple and apricot – give it depth and a rich, warming, oily finish that is elegantly earthy. 46%

£1,799.95 Master of Malt

96

**Yellow Spot, 12-Year-Old Single Pot Still**

Yellow Spot is special in that it contains whiskey that has been matured for a full 12-year period in three oak casks: American bourbon barrels, Spanish Sherry butts and, unusually, Spanish Malaga casks. This yields a whiskey that has beautifully integrated aromas of pineapple, marzipan and vanilla on the nose, weaving into layers of succulent dried sultanas, golden syrup and baking spices on the palate. Full-bodied and balanced, with a long, resounding finish. 46%

From £68 Harrods, Hedonism Wines

95

**Knappogue Castle, 16-Year-Old Single Malt**

Knappogue Castle is an independent bottler with a focus on flavour. Its 16-year-old is initially matured in bourbon barrels and then transferred for a finishing period into casks seasoned with Oloroso Sherry. The full spectrum of fruit on the nose grows in complexity. Divine sweet notes develop into rounded tropical tones, with undertones of coconut and even some vanilla sweetness on the palate. It is all integrated together so impressively that it becomes a seamless drink. 43%

£86.09 Master of Malt



95

**Midleton, Very Rare 2022**

This famous blend brings together both pot still whiskey and grain whiskey, all from the Midleton Distillery in County Cork, now under the guidance of master blender Kevin O'Gorman. This vintage draws on casks that date back as far as 1989. In the glass, the aromas are of dried, ripe tropical and orchard fruits. Bourbon and caramel aromas come through on the palate, combining into a well-balanced spirit overall. Cocoa and burnt sugar appear towards the finish, which ends warmly, with lingering baking spices. 40%

From £200 Amathus, Celtic Whiskey Shop

95

**Powers, John's Lane, Single Pot Still**

Named after the location of the old Powers distillery, this is aged in a combination of bourbon and Oloroso Sherry casks and is a minimum of 12 years old. So loved in Ireland, the brand used to go by the tag line 'Powers, it's ours'. Expressive, complex aromas of pineapple, apricot jam, Danish pastry, cherries and plums. The palate is fruity and easy to drink, with notes gradually evolving into a long, pleasant and easy-going finish. 46%

From £52.95 Harrods, The Whisky Exchange



95

**Teeling, 13-Year-Old Single Grain**

Teeling is doing what it does best here, with something of a rarity in the Irish category. This whiskey was made using a mash bill of 95% corn and 5% malted barley, triple distilled and matured initially in ex-bourbon casks before being given extra maturation for a further four years in former Bordeaux red wine casks. This yields a nose with a rye-like spiciness. Well balanced on the palate, with vanilla and oak married with hazelnut, peach and apricot; it evolves into a long, generous finish with hints of clove. An excellent example of an Irish single grain. 50%

£74.95 Master of Malt

95

**Rademon, Irish Whiskey Bonding Company, Blended Irish Whiskey**

Rademon Estate was founded in 2012 by husband-and-wife team Fiona and David Boyd-Armstrong. Distilled at the couple's historic family estate just outside Downpatrick, County Down, this whiskey has lovely fruit and citrus on the nose and is full and fruity on the palate. A very drinkable blend, with a delightful rich cereal sweetness reminiscent of oat and wheat. Well-integrated oak with gentle spice. An elegant blend, floral and feminine. 43%

£35 Rademon Estate Distillery



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95

**Waterford Distillery, Organic Gaia Edition 2.1 Single Malt**

A trailblazer in the world of both organic Irish whiskey and the use of traceable single-estate barley, Waterford is breaking new ground not just in Ireland but in the whole whiskey world. This edition has a multifarious nose, with beautifully combined orchard aromas on a wonderful blend of well-integrated flavours. Think chewy toffee, banana bread, pastry and rich vanilla. There is a hint of head on the finish that continues long after the last sip. 50%

From £77 Hedonism Wines, The Whisky Exchange

95

**The Irishman, Caribbean Cask Finish**

Walsh Whiskey Distillery, the team behind the popular Irishman and Writers' Tears ranges, has produced a rum-finished version of the latter blend. The whiskey spends the final six months of its life maturing in casks from St Lucia's Chairman's Reserve rum distillery. This is light on the nose, floral, with hints of candied tropical fruit. A delicious, rich palate with seductive notes of caramel, malt, sugar and more tropical fruits. A lovely, long, spicy finish on an excellent example, typical of this kind of blend. 46%

£59.95 Hard to Find Whisky

95

**Kinahan's, The Kasc Project M Single Malt**

Kinahan's is a genuinely innovative whiskey company, essaying cask maturation that no others would dare to try. Project M is a single malt matured in casks made with staves from oak grown in Portugal, America, France and Hungary – with a portion of chestnut wood, too. This gives a bold nose that is reminiscent of a bourbon but develops into a rye whiskey on the palate. With rich notes of caramel, black pepper, spices, balsamic and eucalyptus, there is some unique sweetness on the finish, with hints of florality. 45%

£50 Master of Malt

95

**Teeling, Single Pot Still**

Aiming to capture a true sense of what Irish pot-still whiskey is all about, the Teeling family has sourced casks to create a brilliant benchmark for the category, made with a combination of malted and unmalted barley. It has a delicate and elegant nose, revealing superb aromatic complexity and intertwined layers of orchard and tropical fruit. There is a grainy complexity to the palate and smoky undertones. Smooth and soft, with fabulous length to the finish. 46%

From £46.90 Hedonism Wines, Master of Malt

94

**Clan Colla, 19-Year-Old Single Malt**

An extremely limited single-malt release from Galway's Ahascragh Distillery, using whiskey made elsewhere and selected from its Family Bond, this was distilled in 2001 and spent 19 years in first-fill American white oak bourbon casks. It was then finished in Spanish Oloroso Sherry butts. The pleasant nose keeps on developing, with coffee, toffee, caramel and chocolate in a mix of rich flavours. Very attractive on the palate, with powerful honey aromatics. 46%

€215 Celtic Whiskey Shop

93

**Fercullen, Limited Edition, 20-Year-Old Single Malt**

There are few whiskey-makers who have left a legacy on the Irish whiskey scene quite like Noel Sweeney, one of only two Irish distillers to have been inducted into the *Whisky Magazine* Hall of Fame. From the desk of his sample room comes this 20-year-old single malt, a marriage of five different cask styles, where a 16-year-old bourbon barrel-matured malt has been finished for four years in Oloroso Sherry, Pedro Ximénez, Marsala and Muscatel casks. It has a delightful and lightly aromatic nose of red fruit, cherry wood, nuts and toffee. With aniseed notes on the palate, it is bright, bouncy and very fun to drink. 46%

£143 Hedonism Wines

92

**Kinnitty Castle, 10-Year-Old Blended**

From Kinnitty Castle in County Offaly comes this 10-year-old blended whiskey matured in ex-bourbon casks,

before a year in a European oak Oloroso Sherry butt. The aroma is initially of rum, with brown sugar and spicy nutmeg on the palate. Hints of banana and pineapple give a good balance. A fine blend, enjoyable on the finish. 43%

£48.50 Irish Malts

92

**Sailor's Home, Caravelle, 10-Year-Old**

Named after the sailing ship used in the 16th century, this blend of malt and grain whiskeys has been matured for at least 10 years in American bourbon casks before a finish in selected Martinique rum casks. This gives spicy pepper on the palate, with notes of tropical fruit and apricot. There is a hint of almond on the palate lending a delicate character, with hints of cinnamon on the long finish. 46%

£55.95 Master of Malt, The Whisky Exchange

91

**Glendalough Distillery, Single Pot Still**

Glendalough, in the Wicklow Mountains just outside Dublin, had this whiskey made elsewhere to their own specifications: a 1:2 mash bill of malted and unmalted Irish barley. Matured in bourbon casks, it was finished for 12 months in Irish virgin oak casks, selected (sustainably) from the 140-year-old trees in the hills around the distillery. Each bottle is numbered and traceable to each cask and even to the tree it came from. It has a creamy and rich nose, with plenty of sweet, oaky aromas alongside layers of toasted grains. Vanilla and stone-fruit flavours sit upon a well-rounded palate. The finish is lingering and fruity. 43%

From £47 Master of Malt, The Whisky Exchange



91

**Waterford Distillery, Biodynamic Luna Edition 1.1 Single Malt**

More fun from the good folk at Waterford, who have made the first ever whiskey from biodynamic barley, showcasing their commitment to a terroir-based approach. A deep, dark, dank nose, backed with sweet malty notes that develop into milk chocolate, butter and croissants. The palate is elegant yet robust, and the finish is long and lingering. 50%

£89.95 Hedonism Wines, Royal Mile Whiskies, The Whisky Exchange

90

**Clan Colla, 11-Year-Old**

This blend combines single malt and grain whiskey. The malt, unusually double distilled, is blended with grain and then matured in ex-bourbon barrels, Oloroso Sherry butts and casks that held peated whiskey. Aged for 11 years, it is a rarity in Irish whiskey, carrying notes of smoke that are evident on the nose, with inviting tones of warm wooded aromatics, vanilla, fudge and delicate spice. The palate is pleasantly smoky and takes you on a trip of fruit, spiked grain and wood. 46%

€80 Celtic Whiskey Shop



90

**Kinahan's, The Kasc Project B Single Malt**

Pushing the boundaries of innovation, Kinahan's Project B single malt combines different oaks and woods into one cask, giving myriad flavours manifested as a warm nose with intense aromas of oak. A creamy and rich palate with herbal sweet spices and cinnamon leads to a good, spicy finish. A characterful blend. 43%

£33.95 Master of Malt

89

**Fercullen, 18-Year-Old Single Malt**

Another from master whiskey-maker Noel Sweeney, this time sourcing single malts that are at least 18 years old and matured in ex-bourbon barrels. This yields ripe fruit with honey, wood and cassia bark on the nose. Hints of dry orange and marmalade on the palate and a lovely soft finish. 43%

£125 Master of Malt

87

**Bart's, Blended Irish Whiskey**

Straight out of County Longford, this blend of grain, pot still and peated malt has a distinct smoky note on the nose, with red flowers and a soft, caramel note on the palate. The finish is easy-going and lingering. 46%

£40 Celtic Whiskey Shop, Irish Malts, Lough Ree Distillery