



THE SCOTCH MALT
WHISKY SOCIETY

OUTTURN

Launching on Friday 7 & 21 March • Issue 3, 2025



THE GRAPE AND THE GRAIN

Celebrating International Women's Day and the wider relationship between whisky and wine...

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ALWAYS A TIME TO CELEBRATE

BY ADAM IOANNIDIS

March is a huge month for us this year. Not only do we have some exceptionally tasty casks making their way onto the site on the 7th of March (finally, the S.M.W.S set is complete!), and not only do we have some absolutely killer events taking place across the country, but we also have some really special pieces in this issue that I encourage you to take the time to read — or listen to in the case of Miranda's (Sullivans Cove) candid interview with Heather Tillet (also Sullivans Cove).

This March we're celebrating International Women's Day (IWD) alongside the relationship of Grape & Grain. Yes, you'll find plenty of sherry-matured whisky in this issue, plus a ridiculously tasty Rye matured





“WE’RE ALSO DEBUTING OUR TWO IWD CASKS — TASTED AND APPROVED BY THE SOCIETY’S ALL-FEMALE TASTING PANEL BACK IN MARCH 2024 AND BOTTLED IN COLLABORATION WITH THE OURWHISKY FOUNDATION.”



“THERE’S PLENTY TO READ IN THIS ISSUE AND PLENTY OF CASKS TO EXPLORE — KEEP AN EYE OUT FOR CASK 64.138 AND, OF COURSE, OUR LATEST HERESY RELEASE SHIMMERING SILK.”

in a 1st fill ex-stout cask which will transport you to a desert and have you snacking on a melange of Middle Eastern-inspired pastries and delicacies (a big hit during our Adelaide Partner Bar Launch a few weeks back at Memphis Slim’s). We’re also debuting our

two IWD casks — tasted and approved by the Society’s all-female Tasting Panel back in March 2024 and bottled in collaboration with the OurWhisky Foundation (which you can read more about further along in this issue).

The Society has always been driven by strong females in key positions since its inception in 1983, from Anne Dana who was pivotal in bringing a number of the early Distillery codes into the Society’s portfolio (among other milestones), to Laura Hay who was the first official SMWS National Brand Ambassador in Australia, and of course Suzy Tawse, our very own Membership Services and Operations Director who quite literally makes the Australia branch tick! You can check out previous issues of Outturn and Unfiltered for the stories behind these aforementioned legends.

In this issue I decided to enlist ex-Whisky & Alement Events Manager and current Sullivans Cove Brand & Communications Coordinator Miranda Lidgerwood to have a candid chat with Sullivans Cove's Distillery Manager Heather Tillott with the intent of bringing a fresh perspective to the pages of Outturn. Additionally, I had a chat with Alina Lucia Cichozki from Amsterdam Partner Bar Flying Dutchmen Cocktails ahead of her guest shift at Whisky & Alement to find out a bit more about her history and experiences in the industry and with the SMWS.

There's plenty to read in this issue and plenty of casks to explore — keep an eye out for Cask 64.138 and, of course, our latest Heresy release Shimmering silk (the first Irish Heresy release from the Society). Read the tasting notes, shoot us a message if you have any

questions, get involved in the Outturn chat on the Facebook group/Messenger if you haven't already — members are always happy to help with recommendations or general flavour discussion. That's part of the reason why the Society is such an incredible club, it's the members pitching in and being in it because they're passionate that completes it.

Settle in and enjoy March Outturn.

Cheers.



A.I.

Adam Ioannidis ~
*Marketing Manager
& Outturn Editor,
SMWS Australia*



IT APPEARED IN A BALL OF SMOKE...

SUPERNATURALLY SWEET SMOKE

PEATED

CASK No. 53.485

\$239

REDUCED FROM \$279

REGION	Islay
CASK TYPE	1st fill American oak Oloroso hogshead
AGE	13 years
DATE DISTILLED	27 April 2011
ABV	56.2%
OUTTURN	246 (48 in Australia)

TASTING NOTES

After 10 years in ex-bourbon wood, this was transferred into a first fill American oak oloroso hogshead. The nose combined muirburn, burnt straw and pipe racks (smoke, ash, old wood) with black tea, dark chocolate and sticky honey glaze on roast pork. The smoke intensified on the palate, swirling around with roasting coffee, toasted pistachios and pumpkin seeds, golden syrup on burnt toast and a tingling finish of chilli, cardamom and smoked paprika. The reduced nose found old ship's timbers and hints of plastic on beach bonfires. The palate now had roasted chestnuts, burnt coconut and apple sauce on five-spice belly pork.



FROM THE TEAM

The final of our Winter Series bottlings (actually, this time) is taking place as Malt of the Month this March — a 13-year-old sherried peat bomb from Distillery 53, a distillery which is often referred to as “Mr Consistent”. This one was bottled to celebrate Halloween; we got no word that we were receiving this bottle, yet in a mysterious and haunting turn of events, it suddenly appeared in our warehouse...just begging to be enjoyed by our members! 10/3 year split between ex-bourbon and a 1st fill American oak oloroso hogshead imparts some confectionery breakfast notes that carry onto the late afternoon summer barbecue with honey-soy chicken drumsticks from Woolies and a perfect (yet liberal) peppering of ash on the palate. Available for \$239, down from \$279 on Outturn day — grab yours and complete the S.M.W.S Winter Series set.



THE SCOTCH MALT WHISKY SOCIETY

S

SOCIETY CASK No. E3 485

SUPERNATURALLY SWEET SMOKE

SINGLE MALT SCOTCH WHISKY

52% VOL

YEARS 13 AGED

70cl e

INTERNATIONAL
SUPPORTING
OURWHISKY
FOUNDATION
WOMEN'S DAY 2025



In 2023, the Society formed an all-female tasting panel for two reasons.

1. To promote inclusivity and diversity in an industry that is typically associated with an old boys club, and
2. To see what the result would be given females have more sensitive aural and nasal receptors.

Unfortunately, we didn't see those bottlings in the Australian market. The same exercise was repeated in March 2024 and this time we're lucky enough to have received bottles from two of the casks that make up the 2025 International Women's Day bottlings.

Introducing Cask 71.109 A Nordic cranachan, and Cask 122.78 Divide and conker. These casks were selected by the all-female tasting panel and bottled in collaboration with the OurWhisky Foundation — a non-profit



organisation that recognises, supports and empowers women working in whisky around the world, all whilst advocating for a more inclusive and diverse industry. With that, a portion of the sales of each of these bottlings is donated by the SMWS to the OurWhisky Foundation.

We've got a small selection in the country of these casks available for taste at Whisky & Alement and in our virtual tasting kit, with the rest of the bottlings arriving in May; pre-orders go live on the 21st of March — jump online at midday AEDT and be the first to secure your bottling!

A NORDIC CRANACHAN

SWEET, FRUITY & MELLOW

CASK No. 71.109
\$219

Limit of 1 bottle
 per Member



REGION	Speyside
CASK TYPE	1st fill Bourbon barrel
AGE	15 years
DATE DISTILLED	23 June 2009
ABV	54.3%
OUTTURN	234 (30 in Australia)



So much fruit. Sea buckthorn and cloudberry were met by apples, peaches and pears with sun-warmed raspberries and peppery nettles — all washed down with ice-cold lemonade. Elsewhere there was fresh linen in the sunshine and balls of Arran wool in a wicker basket. With water, we stayed outside in the sunshine, climbing a cherry tree to rub the leaves with our arms wafting freshly applied sunscreen as we rose into the sky. When our feet returned to the ground there were pineapple tarts, raspberries and cream and a cranachan summer trifle — sweet and juicy to the end.

DIVIDE AND CONKER

PEATED

CASK No. 122.78
\$179

Limit of 1 bottle
 per Member



REGION	Highland
CASK TYPE	2nd fill Spanish oak Oloroso hogshead
AGE	8 years
DATE DISTILLED	29 March 2016
ABV	59.3%
OUTTURN	306 (30 in Australia)



The panel hiked deep into the woods for an autumnal barbecue on a conker-littered forest floor that smelt of woody embers. Next a feast of tuna, mackerel and capers with pork sausages. To finish: coffee beans, apple cider and burnt vanilla pods on tea cakes. Reduced the panel were divided, one side favouring sweetness while the other found notes of maritime salinity. There were oyster shells, smoked kippers and anchovies while on the flip side, vanilla pods, tropical fruits and toffee buttons. After six years in a bourbon hogshead, this was transferred to a second-fill Spanish oloroso hogshead.

A FINE MALT FOR ST PADDY'S DAY

SHIMMERING SILK

SMALL BATCH SINGLE MALT

Batch 23
\$199



REGION	Northern Ireland
CASK TYPE	1st fill barrels & hogsheads - Bourbon & PX
AGE	11 years
DATE DISTILLED	30 October 2011
ABV	50.0%
OUTTURN	999 (69 in Australia)

TASTING NOTES

This stunning single malt was created specially for members of The Scotch Malt Whisky Society by our friends at Dunville's Irish Whiskey. Needless to say, our Tasting Panel were bowled over by the quality & complexity on display. Pour a glass and lose yourself in silky opulence. We dipped candied oranges into a chocolate sauce at the same time as baking French blueberry fig tarts and preparing a plum and pear compote with honey. A silly, silky-smooth texture on the palate reminded one Panellist of a honey lavender earl grey latte, while another had a tropical smoothie blending mango, pineapple, banana and coconut milk. Following reduction, we discovered crème Catalan flavoured with citrus peel and cinnamon as well as barbecued mango with macadamia nuts and honey. The taste left us all speechless, truly a knockout!



FROM THE TEAM

Our first-ever Irish Heresy release arrives in Australia. It's been a while since we've seen an Irish malt come through the Aussie branch, and we're super excited to be able to finally offer one up in time for those who celebrate St Patrick's Day. This is a collaboration with the famed Dunville's Irish Whiskey Distillery. Three four-year-old bourbon casks were selected. They were then transferred to fresh bourbon barrels to give them "the best start in life". They matured for eight years in first-fill barrels, developing fresh starburst flavours. Then, they were transferred to PX casks, adding richness. The result is a whisky that always chases sherry but never becomes a sherry bomb. Indulge in this incredible Society first this March — available on Outturn day with a good number of bottles to go around.





SOCIETY CASK NO. 151.4 / OUTFURN: 1 of 286

FROM SWEDEN WITH LOVE

*Easy, bright, fresh and enjoyably
textural which showcases the elegant
sweetness and fruity complexities.
Tropical, herbal and lush!*

13
YEARS MATURE

DISTILLED: 16 MAY 2008
REGION: SWEDEN
CASK: 1ST FILL EX-BOURBON BARREL

SINGLE MALT SWEDISH WHISKY 46.5% VOL 70cl e

THE SCOTCH MALT
WHISKY SOCIETY



FROM SWEDEN WITH LOVE

SWEET, FRUITY & MELLOW

CASK No. 151.4

\$330



REGION	Sweden
CASK TYPE	1st fill Bourbon barrel
AGE	13 years
DATE DISTILLED	16 May 2008
ABV	46.5%
OUTTURN	286 (36 in Australia)

An aromatic and rather entertaining nose we all agreed. Showing such diverse things as peach stones, wet dog, dried herbs, lemon pith and tropical bubble-gum with vanilla pods. Water brought vanilla cream cake, custard, butterscotch, maple syrup and meadow flowers with firmer hint of coconutty gorse. The neat palate opened with pineapple crisps, orange blossom, candied pistachios, tropical fruit syrups and white peach. With water it became greener and more tart with hints of juniper, damsons, cherry schnapps and a nice waxiness in the texture.

CROSS-ATLANTIC DESTINATIONS

SPICY & SWEET

Rare Release 39

\$239



REGION	Speyside
CASK TYPE	Refill & 1st fill hogsheads - Bourbon, oloroso & PX
AGE	15 years
DATE DISTILLED	5 June 2008
ABV	58.4%
OUTTURN	1,459 (90 in Australia)

A new pair of leather sandals baked in the heat of the sand on a sun-drenched beach in the Algarve. The whip of wild fennel, limestone and thyme drifted in the air. The palate took us to the other side of the Atlantic, slicing into a Jamaican ginger cake topped with candied rose petals and toffee, raspberry jam and browned butter. Water pulled the toffee forward and introduced jasmine alongside dark brown sugar on the nose. A gentle oak spice underlined the palate now, complemented by blackcurrants and cocoa powder, chewy pretzels and crème pâtissière.

CUSTOM TANNIN' REGIME

PERFECT FOR TANNIN'

SPICY & SWEET

CASK No. 64.138

\$215

REGION	Speyside
CASK TYPE	1st fill hogshead - Hybrid American & European oak 60-40 split with toasted heads
AGE	13 years
DATE DISTILLED	12 May 2009
ABV	58.1%
OUTTURN	219 (36 in Australia)

TASTING NOTES

A superbly rich, heady and aromatic dram, instantly full of medicinal oils, scented hardwood resins, bow rosin, candied pecan nuts, wormwood, lanolin and sticky cinnamon swirl pastries. Water added the richness of pumpkinseed oil, rice wine and aromatic notes of gorse flower, dried mint, new leather and potpourri. The palate was immediately deep and warming, displaying some intricate wood influences: toasty oak spices, vanillin, winter mulling spices, salted caramel, cinnamon sugar, flower honey and dates. Lots going on! With water we found it became creamier and sweeter, with a wonderfully thick body of cloves, mandarin liqueur, vanilla cream soda, melon cordial and hibiscus flower. Matured for nine years in a bourbon hogshead, this was transferred to a first fill, 60-40 split hybrid American and European oak hogshead with toasted heads.

EXTRA MATURED



FROM THE TEAM

In past instances in which we've received bottlings with this sort of hybrid custom casking, the liquid has been absolutely incredible — just sublime. What we have here is a whisky matured for nine years in an ex-bourbon hogshead and then further matured in a custom commissioned cask (made specifically to the Society's specs) — American & European oak hogshead (60-40 split) with toasted heads. Personally, I think this casking type in the Spicy & Sweet flavour profile absolutely shines and really brings out those mulled spice notes, and real vanillin-heavy flavours. I encourage you to really read the tasting notes on this one as the wood influence just brings so much intricate flavour, making this Speyside dram a winner of a sipper (and at an agreeable sipping strength of 58.1% ABV).



MWS
VAULTS, LEITH



SOCIETY CASK NO: 64.138 / OUTFURN: 1 of 219

PERFECT FOR TANNIN'

Bags of intricate wood influence contribute to a luxuriously creamy, rich and heady dram full of complex spice, chocolate and fruit flavours.

13 <small>YEARS OLD</small>	DISTILLED:	12 MAY 2009
	REGION:	SPYNSIDE
	INITIAL CASK:	EX-BOURBON HOGSHEAD
	FINAL CASK:	1ST FILL HYBRID OAK HOGSHEAD

SINGLE MALT SCOTCH WHISKY 50% VOL 70cl e

THE SCOTCH MALT WHISKY SOCIETY



BURNT RHUBARB AND BUTTERSCOTCH SURPRISE

DEEP, RICH & DRIED FRUITS

CASK No. 95.68

\$225

EXTRA
MATURED



REGION	Speyside
CASK TYPE	1st fill PX ex-Bodega barrique
AGE	14 years
DATE DISTILLED	7 February 2008
ABV	56.7%
OUTTURN	264 (42 in Australia)

The comforting spice of nutmeg, cinnamon and cloves coated warm treacle, rhubarb, plums and black cherries while funky cider aromas mixed with mahogany wood. The powerful palate blended spice with honey, caramel biscuits and sherry trifle before introducing curious notes of root beer, red liquorice and cumin seeds. Water released a wave of butterscotch and salted caramel ice cream before singed orange and tropical fruits, while rhubarb and custard sweets moved towards roast lamb and cured ham glazed with tar and chimney soot. Chewy oak and firm tannins now framed prunes soaked in armagnac, blackcurrant jam and star anise with pecan chocolate cake and burnt lamb chops. Eleven years in an ex-bourbon hogshead before being transferred to a first fill Pedro Ximénez barrique.

FLAVOUR- PACKED!

DEEP, RICH & DRIED FRUITS

CASK No. 36.196

\$199

EXTRA
MATURED



REGION	Speyside
CASK TYPE	1st fill American oak PX hogshead
AGE	12 years
DATE DISTILLED	11 February 2010
ABV	57.0%
OUTTURN	281 (36 in Australia)

On the neat nose, we imagined tucking into either blueberry pancakes with maple syrup and hazelnuts or savoury butter roasted sweet potatoes with brown sugar. On the palate, we enjoyed goose fat roasted new potatoes straight out of the roasting tin, as well as charred pineapple slices. After reduction, we were surprised by the welcoming aroma of a pork roast with crispy crackling and cinder toffee. To taste, a warm roasted salad, red cabbage, butternut squash, slices of orange and goat cheese in a walnut and red wine vinegar dressing – flavour-packed! Following nine years in an ex-bourbon hogshead, we transferred this whisky into a first fill American oak PX hogshead.

BAKED SPICES FOR DR FARADAY

PATCHWORK DRAGON

DEEP, RICH & DRIED FRUITS

CASK No. 128.21

\$199



REGION	Wales
CASK TYPE	1st fill Fino hogshead
AGE	6 years
DATE DISTILLED	1 July 2015
ABV	58.8%
OUTTURN	128 (24 in Australia)

TASTING NOTES

A curious and highly enticing aroma of salted caramel and freshly baked apples - some might call it 'toffee apples'? But also strawberry jam, whisky fudge, brown bread with treacle and winter mulling spices. Aromatic and detailed whisky. Reduction brought medicinal herbs like wormwood and wintergreen. Then hardwood resins, tea tree oil and menthol tobacco with a hint of strawberry shisha smoke. The mouth was immediately rich with peanuts, fruit salad chews, cherry cough medicines and resinous exotic fruit teas. Water converted this to chai tea spices, green walnut liqueur, cocoa nibs, herbal toothpaste and sharp tang of pink grapefruit.

EXTRA MATURED



FROM THE TEAM

Distillery 128, known for its Faraday stills, returns in quite the unique form: matured entirely in a 1st fill ex-fino sherry hogshead — a departure from the ex-bourbon expressions we've been seeing through over the last few years. We still have that alluring peachy aroma coming through but with a larger emphasis on baked spices and salted goods. There's an incredible integration of sweet and savoury (salt) coming together in this one. We have just 24 bottles in the country; if you're part of the cult following for Distillery 128 that has popped up in the local branch, you will not want to miss this one!





ANDALUSIAN DAYDREAM

DEEP, RICH & DRIED FRUITS

CASK No. 24.175

\$345

Limit of 1 bottle per
Member until 14/3

EXTRA
MATURED



REGION	Speyside
CASK TYPE	1st fill Spanish oak Oloroso hogshead
AGE	15 years
DATE DISTILLED	13 October 2008
ABV	62.5%
OUTTURN	322 (30 in Australia)

We found ourselves transported into a world of flavours, as dried figs and dates were served alongside serrano ham and toasted almonds. Standing in the shade of the bodega, the heavy smell of oak mingled with maturing sherry boasting wondrous aromas of dried fruit. With a dash of water we discovered a darker side, however. Now cocoa powder rained down on black forest gateau. The slightest suggestion of coal dust merged into molasses and liquorice, before ginger wine, cinnamon and hot chocolate combined on the finish. At 10 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.

DESSERT MIRAGE

JUICY, OAK & VANILLA

CASK No. 19.74

\$330



REGION	Highland
CASK TYPE	1st fill Bourbon barrel
AGE	19 years
DATE DISTILLED	17 February 2003
ABV	51.3%
OUTTURN	128 (36 in Australia)

A trip to the flower shop presented us with glorious roses, carnations and geraniums with the sweet scent of meringue combined with pistachios, honey and lemon juice on raspberries. Flavours arrived in a box of toasted oak and presented an intense explosion of guava, mango and banana sweets. A distinct change occurred when adding water. The floral notes had developed into fine armagnac with delightfully waxy textures and orange notes before digestive biscuits crumbled amongst travel sweets. Hints of hazelnut now emerged alongside whipped cream as tropical fruit desserts drizzled in caramel sauce finished with pure opulence.

SURF, SEA AND SHORE

OILY & COASTAL

CASK No. 93.195
\$175



REGION	Campbeltown
CASK TYPE	1st fill Bourbon barrel
AGE	8 years
DATE DISTILLED	1 October 2013
ABV	60.4%
OUTTURN	238 (42 in Australia)

The evocative and charismatic nose made us think of swimming pools, rock pools and whirlpools. Hints of sea air, wet rigging, seawater and beach pebbles mixed with wee touches of coal smoke and antiseptic. Water brought out putty, coastal flowers, pink ointment, motor oil, salt-baked cod and creel nets. A deeply and intensely coastal style of dram. The palate continued this vivid theme with malt vinegar on oily chips, soot, satay sauce, miso paste, salty seaweed crackers and green olives in brine. Reduction brought a few white stone fruits, bone-dry riesling, lemon rind and light waxes, yet it remained coastal and hyper-fresh to the end.

HEATHER, HONEYCOMB AND HUMIDORS

OILY & COASTAL

CASK No. 4.354
\$220



REGION	Highland
CASK TYPE	1st fill Bourbon barrel
AGE	13 years
DATE DISTILLED	29 October 2009
ABV	62.7%
OUTTURN	241 (36 in Australia)

At eight years of age, we combined selected casks from this distillery and then transferred the single malt into a variety of casks; this is one. The complex nose had perfume, petrichor and apricot jam; maritime notes, leather and smoke (riding horses along the shore, burning heather on a distant hill). The neat palate was feisty and “delightfully grubby” – freshly laid tar, sea shells, dandelion and burdock, heather honey and chewing a tobacco pipe. The reduced nose had potting sheds, seafood smokers, honeycomb and humidors. The palate delivered dark sweetness – honey and lemon lozenges, black bun, figs in brandy and muscovado with vanilla essence.

CHOCOLATE HABANERO

RYE WHISKEY

CASK No. RW3.7

\$179



REGION	New York
CASK TYPE	1st fill ex-stout barrel
AGE	5 years
DATE DISTILLED	21 July 2016
ABV	58.2%
OUTTURN	198 (42 in Australia)



We were preparing a Jamaican jerk sauce with chocolate habaneros next to rum raisin oatmeal cookies while eating figgy brownies with cacao nibs and Egyptian Dukkha spice sprinkles using pistachios and rose petals next to a variety of Middle Eastern spices. Water added distinct aromas of vanilla and chocolate next to coffee beans, tobacco and gooseberry jam while the taste was now soft and smooth like a cup of Turkish coffee served from a copper Cezve with a sweet Borek - a pie stuffed with chocolate or honey, pistachios and apricots. Following three years in a new charred oak barrel this whiskey was transferred into a Black Ops stout barrel that was previously a freshly emptied bourbon barrel.



AN ABSOLUTE WILDCARD



PEAT IN PARTS PER THOUSAND

HEAVILY PEATED

CASK No. 29.292

\$999

REGION	Islay
CASK TYPE	Refill PX butt
AGE	23 years
DATE DISTILLED	14 February 2001
ABV	58.2%
OUTTURN	581 (6 in Australia)

TASTING NOTES

This one displayed all the usual refinements this distillery is famed for: peat smoke tinged with dried exotic fruits and encroaching waves of iodine, antiseptic, kippers and peppered mackerel for starters. Then, going deeper, we found it gathered complexity with suggestions of smoked olive oil, tarred rope, creel nets and wet beach kelp. Gorgeous! Water brought out big notes of boiler and puffer smoke, eucalyptus oil, more iodine, more antiseptic and more peat. The neat palate opened like taking a big swally of cask-strength German rauchbier, plus some chunks of barbecue-charred pineapple, pure tar extracts and briny olive pickling juices. Some water gave us preserved lemons, herbal ointments, soy sauce, bonfire embers and cornichons dashed on wet beach rocks – like a hyper-real version of this famous Islay distillery. This was matured in an oloroso butt for 20 years before being transferred to a refill PX butt.



FROM THE TEAM

The coveted Distillery 29 appears once again in Aussie Outturns, and it's back with some age behind it! 23 years of full sherry maturation for the Islay monster — 20 years in an ex-oloroso butt and three further years in a refill ex-PX butt. Plenty of brine and charred juicy, tropical fruits, as well as iodine on this one. It's still boasting big with a natural cask strength of 58.2% after 23 years in wood and falling into the Society's 'Heavily Peated' flavour profile at this age, too, is no mean feat. We quite literally only received 6x of these in the country; a serious win for peat lovers.





SMWS WORLDWIDE

**ALINA LUCIA CICHOZKI, FLYING DUTCHMEN
COCKTAILS (AMSTERDAM)**

.....

BY ADAM IOANNIDIS



Al: How long have you been working at the Flying Dutchmen Cocktails, and what is your favourite part about working at the venue?

ALC: I've been working at Flying Dutchmen Cocktails since July 2021. I love many parts about working here, such as the extensive 800+ bottle backbar, the opportunity to learn and now mentor new staff, and the cosy atmosphere we create for our guests. The bar is really intimate, and with only 40 seats, it feels like everyone is just enjoying a nice drink together in our living room.

Al: Will this be your first time in Australia? If not, what are your thoughts on the bar scene (if you've had the chance to experience it before), and how does it differ from Amsterdam and the wider European scene?

Alina Lucia Cichozki has been firmly championing Society spirits for the last few years as a valued member of our Amsterdam Partner Bar Flying Dutchmen Cocktails. In February, Alina will be touching down in Australia for the first time and slotting in a guest shift with some custom SMWS cocktails at beloved Melbourne Partner Bar Whisky & Alement. I caught up with Alina online ahead of the big day to chat a bit about her history in the hospo scene, what about the Society interests her so much, and how the emphasis on diversity is slowly shifting towards a positive goal.







“I LOVE A LOT ABOUT THE SCOTCH MALT WHISKY SOCIETY, BUT THE BIGGEST STANDOUTS FOR ME ARE THE VARIETY IN ITS PORTFOLIO, THE FACT THAT IT GOES BEYOND BRANDS TO COMBINE A FANTASTIC BLEND OF FLAVOURS AND CREATE A WEALTH OF SHARED KNOWLEDGE, AND THE FOCUS ON EVENTS AND COMMUNITY.”

ALC: Yes! It will be my first time in Australia, and I can't wait. I'm visiting with my partner as she is originally from Australia — born in Melbourne and raised in Sydney — so it's really special that I get to come and visit both of these iconic cities and meet her family. While I haven't had the chance to visit any bars in Australia and experience the bar scene yet, I've had some great experiences at takeovers by Australian bars in Europe and the US, and have become good friends with some Aussie bartenders who I can't wait to visit. So overall, expectations are high, and I'm looking forward to finally getting to experience it.

AI: The last few years have seen more awareness for diversity in the hospitality industry than ever before. Do you think a tangible difference has been made? What are some steps that you think need to be taken further in your local scene to really start seeing improvements?

ALC: While I have been seeing some important steps in the right direction, there is still quite a way to go. It's incredible that we have a number of amazing initiatives like the Ada Coleman Project and Celebrate Her, as well as leaders in the industry who speak out about inequalities and stay true to their values of diversity & inclusivity. I'm personally inspired by people such as Thomas Svenson (@theytender), Kate Gerwin (@alchemistkate) and Tiffanie Barriere (@thedrinkingcoach), who — among other things — speak up about inclusive gender & sexuality practices, workers' rights and racial inequalities, respectively. What I think still needs to be done is for security & support to be provided to those who do stand up and a more significant push be made to create more equal opportunities.

Particularly in the local bar scene, I've noticed that most of the people in higher positions, such as bar owners and managers, are men. I know firsthand that this is not due to a lack of brilliant and talented women but that — at least in Amsterdam — the scene is still very male-dominated and can be hard to break into. It starts with seemingly small things like

women and queer people not being invited to certain events because they're not high enough on the career ladder, but it gets worse. For example, I've spoken to bartenders who were flat-out told, "I know you're gay, and you hate all men," when they stood up to a male colleague at work. I've even had someone say to me, "It must be that time of the month," when I corrected them on a mistake they made. Essentially, we need to keep empowering women and queer people in the industry by giving them safe spaces to develop the kind of confidence they need to grow in their careers. We must protect and speak up when we don't see that happening.

AI: What made you want to get into bartending?

ALC: It actually kind of started as a fun way to travel. After finishing high school, I

kept getting ads for a bartending school on Instagram, so I eventually caved and took a course. I was also about to start at university and thought it'd be a great side job during my studies. So, in January 2020 (yes, we all know where this is going), I did a month-long bartending course in Amsterdam. I quickly realised that bartending was actually a lot of fun, and I got my first job in April 2020, which I then quickly lost due to COVID-19.

But as there was nothing else for me to do at the time, I threw myself into learning about the different spirit categories, built a home bar station from scratch (very Nara Smith of me), and kept practising while the real world of bartending was on hold. I was lucky enough to get a job at Flying Dutchmen Cocktails the following year and moved from Germany to Amsterdam in July 2021, where my "real" bartending career finally began.





“I ALWAYS HAVE A HARD TIME PICKING FAVOURITES, BUT I’D SAY MY TOP THREE AT THE MOMENT ARE ‘DEEP, RICH & DRIED FRUITS’, ‘SWEET, FRUITY & MELLOW’ AND ‘JUICY, OAK & VANILLA’, DEPENDING ON MY MOOD.”

Al: What do you love about The Scotch Malt Whisky Society?

ALC: I love a lot about the Scotch Malt Whisky Society, but the biggest standouts for me are the variety in its portfolio, the fact that it goes beyond brands to combine a fantastic blend of flavours and create a wealth of shared knowledge, and the focus on events and community.

Al: Do you remember what your first SMWS experience was?

ALC: I remember finding some bottles on our top shelf soon after I started working at Flying Dutchmen Cocktails, and because I was still new to the industry, I asked my manager to tell me more about them. I was immediately intrigued by the playful descriptions, which made them more accessible for people who, like me at the time, didn’t know much about whisky.

Al: What’s your go-to Society flavour profile?

ALC: I always have a hard time picking favourites, but I’d say my top three at the moment are ‘Deep, Rich & Dried Fruits’, ‘Sweet, Fruity & Mellow’ and ‘Juicy, Oak & Vanilla’, depending on my mood.

Al: What’s your favourite cocktail to make at the moment?

ALC: Again, it’s hard for me to choose just one. However, one of my all-time favourites

is a Vieux Carré, as it allows me to play around with more whisk(e)ys than just the classic Rye. I also love any drink whose prep I can play around with beforehand.

Al: Do you have any set-in-stone rules that you follow when creating a cocktail with cask-strength whisky?

ALC: Not really, as I think ‘set-in-stone rules’ are often more of a restriction than a help. What’s more important is to figure out what your goal is with each cocktail and then find ways to make that happen. Cask-strength whisky is super fun to work with, though, as it usually doesn’t take a lot of effort to make it a highlight in any drink.

Al: What are some goals you would like to achieve over the next year?

ALC: I want to continue travelling and dedicate more time to researching spirits and developing as a bartender. The past few years have been quite full because I was studying, but now that’s done, I’m looking forward to having the time to just nerd out and learn about niche topics & random techniques. I’d also love to advance my career by participating in more competitions, growing my network and working on my social media presence. Like a lot of bartenders, it’s also a dream of mine to open my own bar, but for now, I’m happy at Flying Dutchmen Cocktails.

STAY TUNED FOR MORE CONTENT AROUND ALINA'S GUEST BAR SHIFT AT WHISKY & ALEMENT COMING SOON!





SAVE THE DATE

19.07.25

GRAND HYATT, MELBOURNE

WIN A VIP PACKAGE TO CHAMPS 2025

The Australian Malt Whisky Tasting Championship returns for 2025! That's right, the oldest and largest malt whisky tasting championship in Australia is back and for **the first time since its inception in 1989, it's being hosted in Melbourne!** To celebrate this monumental milestone, we're giving 1x lucky winner a chance to win a VIP Champs package. The 2025 AMWTC will take place on the 19th of July at the Grand Hyatt in Melbourne, so the winner must be available for this date to claim the prize, which includes:

- ✓ 1x night's accommodation at the Grand Hyatt on Russell St (King Room),
- ✓ 2x tickets to AMWTC 2025 for yourself and a friend/partner; and
- ✓ A \$120 SMWS voucher.

All you have to do to win this prize is tell us in 30 words or less who your ultimate dramming partner would be and why. Scan the QR code and fill in the submission form (one submission per person) and we'll pick a lucky winner by the first week of April. Join us for this historical event as we celebrate 36 years of Champs with its first appearance in Melbourne.



1x submission per member. Entries close on Monday, 31st of March at 11:59pm AEDT. Competition is only open to current members of SMWS Australia. Prize cannot be exchanged for vouchers. Accommodation is for 1x night on the 19th of July and cannot be moved or changed.

TICKETS ON SALE APRIL 7, MIDDAY AEST VIA HUMANITIX

VIRTUAL TASTING



JUST
\$99
+ DELIVERY

GRAPE & GRAIN

TUESDAY 25 MARCH @ 7PM AEDT

In case you hadn't noticed, we're celebrating not just International Women's Day in March Outturn — and the incredible women and female identifiers who make this industry tick — but also the beautiful relationship between grape & grain. Tune in on Tuesday the 25th of March at 7pm AEDT to catch Lachie, Andrew, and a special guest discussing drams, the industry, wine maturation, and the usual incredible banter.

5x drams in your virtual tasting kit including the two International Women's Day bottlings (which will be available for pre-order on the 21st of March)! Join the team on Tuesday the 25th and indulge in some incredibly full-flavoured Society drams.



SMALL BATCH SINGLE MALT

SHIMMERING SILK



DEEP, RICH & DRIED FRUITS

CASK 128.21
PATCHWORK DRAGON



PEATED

CASK 53.485
SUPERNATURALLY SWEET
SMOKE



SWEET, FRUITY & MELLOW

CASK 71.109
A NORDIC CRANACHAN



PEATED

CASK 122.78
DIVIDE AND CONKER

GRAB YOUR VIRTUAL TASTING KIT AND JOIN IN: [SMWS.COM.AU/SHOP](https://smws.com.au/shop)

SOCIETY EXPERIENCES

CANBERRA

SMWS PAIRED DINNER

A fine evening of sensory indulgence with a multi-course dinner paired with Society malts at the gorgeous Vincent Restaurant. Tickets are on sale now.

Wednesday 26th March
Vincent Restaurant.

MELBOURNE

EXPLORING ELGIN

It's a Distillery 35 years in the making. Ian Watt will take you on a journey of more spirit and showcases how diverse it can be.

Tuesday 4th March, 6:30pm
Whisky & Alement Upstairs.

SYDNEY

NEW JAPANESE CODE LAUNCH: PRIVATE OMAKASE EXPERIENCE

A private Omakase dining experience to launch **two** new Japanese whisky codes with the Society — **Castle Cask 160.1**. An eight-course whisky dinner with 4x Japanese whiskies on pour, led by National Ambassador Lachlan Watt. Tickets are on sale now.

Wednesday 19th and Thursday 20th March,
5pm and 8:15pm
Bar Besuto, NSW.



SYDNEY

AN EVENING WITH IAN MCWILLIAM FROM GLENFARCLAS

Join us for a very special evening of drams and tales as we welcome Ian McWilliam (Glenfarclass Distillery) for a SMWS tasting. More details to be announced in early 2025, but this is one not to miss!

Friday 7th March
The Royal Automobile Club of Australia.

ALWAYS MORE EVENTS BEING ADDED ON [SMWS.COM.AU/EVENTS](https://smws.com.au/events)

HEATHER

— X —

MIRANDA

**A CANDID CHAT ABOUT WOMEN IN WHISKY,
THE AUSTRALIAN LANDSCAPE, AND BEYOND...**

.....
BY MIRANDA LIDGERWOOD



Heather Tillott



Miranda Lidgerwood



In this long-form interview and charming, candid exchange, Miranda Lidgerwood (Sullivans Cove Brand and Communications Coordinator, and ex-Whisky & Alement legend) chats with Sullivans Cove Distillery Manager Heather Tillott about her career, experiences, and the Australian Whisky Landscape for International Women's Day. A huge thanks to both parties for agreeing to do this.

ML: Hi, Heather.

HT: Hi, Miranda.

ML: Thank you so much for joining me today. We're here to chat for The Scotch Malt Whisky Society's International

"I HAD A VERY, VERY STRONG REALISATION THAT WHISKY IS NOT WHAT I THOUGHT IT WAS AT ALL. IT HAS THAT THING THAT WINE HAS — IT CAN MOVE YOU."

Women's Day Outturn and I'm really delighted to be speaking with you, Heather Tillott, Distillery Manager of Sullivans Cove.

Heather, you've spent years walking the line between art and science in whisky making and ensuring that every bottle captures the essence of Sullivans Cove.

So, today we'll be reflecting a little bit on your evolution, the evolution of the Australian whisky industry, the journey of your own distillations and some broader shifts in just a little bit of chit-chat. So, thank you so much for joining me.

HT: This is exciting. Thank you so much, Miranda. I'm very pleased to be here.

ML: It's great and it's actually really apt we're doing this now because when I was preparing for this interview, I happened to stumble upon an SMWS livestream that you'd done with Matt Bailey four years ago. So we get to link back to that today, which will be really interesting. Before we do, though, let's set the stage. Distillery Manager now — but it didn't start that way.

You've been with the company for an incredible nine years this week, right?

Can I ask where you began?

HT: That's correct. It's funny. I was actually thinking "How long have I been with Sullivans?" and I realised it was actually this week, nine years ago, that I joined the team. So, how exciting. I began distilling and you know, some Cellar Door stuff like we all did back then. And uh, I think it was about 2017 I stepped up into the Production Manager role and then again in about 2019, 2018 – 2019 I stepped up into the Distillery Manager role, so it's been a really awesome journey with Sullivans and...it's a...It's a family as well. It's a wonderful community.



...YOU HAVE TO SEE OPPORTUNITY AND THE ONLY WAY THAT WILL BE SUSTAINABLE IN OUR INDUSTRY IS IF WE TAKE THAT APPROACH AND SAY “WHERE IS THE OPPORTUNITY? LET’S DO THIS AND DO IT TOGETHER”.

ML: And you’ve had a hell of a journey just this past year with everything that’s been going on, you know, huge distillery renovation you’ve been overseeing and reopening.

HT: Look, it’s been a huge journey for all of us and I think, we have all survived the site works. The commissioning of the new plant and equipment and it’s been a really, really intense period. I’m so proud of how we’ve all worked together as a team and grown together through that massive teamwork so much.

Respect for everybody, I’m so proud. Huge effort and you know, we’ve got some amazing site upgrades as far as the plant, the equipment in the production space goes, the visitor experience is stunning and tours are open. It’s a wonderful experience, and yes, we’re all very, very happy to be growing and learning our new space.

ML: Oh, wonderful. And then hats off to you for your leadership. During that time, when I was at the distillery at the end of last year, it was commissioning and things were going wrong, as you say, because that’s how commissioning goes. But you were cool, calm, collected, and you were just like “we expected this”. I’m so glad to hear it’s gone well and congratulations on pulling off the big commissioning.

So, a little bit of background. I know that you started out in winemaking, then there is the story of you riding your bike around Cambridge and you happened to stumble upon a wonderful distillery. Is that how it goes?

HT: Yes, it was. It was so fortuitous and unexpected. I was hellbent on wine. I mean, I still love wine. How it’s made, the branding, the stories, the piece of art that wine is — people, place and art all in a glass. Obviously, I’m hellbent on pursuing that within Tasmania, but totally stumbled across whisky and I guess it kind of just got me — got its hooks into me — and I had a very, very strong realisation that whisky is not what I thought it was at all. It has that thing that wine has — it can move you. You know it? It’s all the things; story,



people and place, and it can genuinely move you and I just think that's incredible. To be able to experience that in whisky, and then to be part of crafting whisky that you can share with people and they get moved is phenomenal.

ML: Oh absolutely.

HT: It never gets old. Never ever gets old.

ML: So what you've said there with 'whisky just got its hooks into you' reminds me of something when I was getting into the whisky industry. I've got this theory that there's kind of two main ways how people get into the whisky industry.

One is you fall in love with the community first — you love the bars, the people, you go to these events, and then you realise "Ohh my gosh, this actually does smell like roses. This does smell like orange". That's real. So, you can fall in love with the community and then have your 'aha' whisky moment.

Or, like yourself, you fall in love with the liquid first. Maybe you found it, stumbled upon it in a bottle shop, maybe you had a brother who shared a bottle with you that sparked an interest one day, and you find yourself with an innate curiosity, and you need to understand the magic, the flavour, and then you find the community while doing that. But, it's kind of community first or liquid first is how I've seen people crack in, and it's funny because each leads to the other eventually anyway.



HT: Yes, I think that's a brilliant, brilliant way to put it. It's spot on. And as you said, it was liquid for me. It was that moment where I was moved. And you know everything. The universe stops moving or something weird, and like existential happens, you know, and you think "Oh man, there was everything before this moment in my life and now there's the rest of my life". It sounds really kind of tacky, you can't unsay it when you've had that kind of moved experience and it's from a sensory experience.

ML: That's real passion. Like, a mind-blowing moment?

HT: Massive, huge light bulb ping.

ML: So, that SMWS livestream with Matt Bailey that I mentioned from four or so years ago. Watching that, there were

some really interesting insights that I just loved seeing. It was 2021, so it was kind of that COVID-era where everybody was online and socialising through these virtual tastings and connecting with the industry through these screens. So, if you wouldn't mind, I'd like to revert back to some questions that Matt asked you four years ago and follow on and see how the crystal ball has fared. So, four years ago.

HT: Oh dear (laughs).

ML: Great. Four years ago, you spoke about the Australian whisky industry entering a crucial phase where the spectrum of style, scale and business approach was really fleshing out, with bigger companies and blends emerging alongside the premium end and the middle end of the market growing to support industry longevity.



Do you think that balance has taken shape like we expected? And just to make it really wordy: as the industry continues to evolve, what do you think is most important for producers to focus on to ensure its sustainability?

HT: Well, look, it has, that balance has kind of grown. I think it has. We've got more single-malt whisky. Like Australian, sorry, Australian-made products, Australian brands on shelves in, in venues on people's mantle pieces, in people's glasses and that's fantastic.

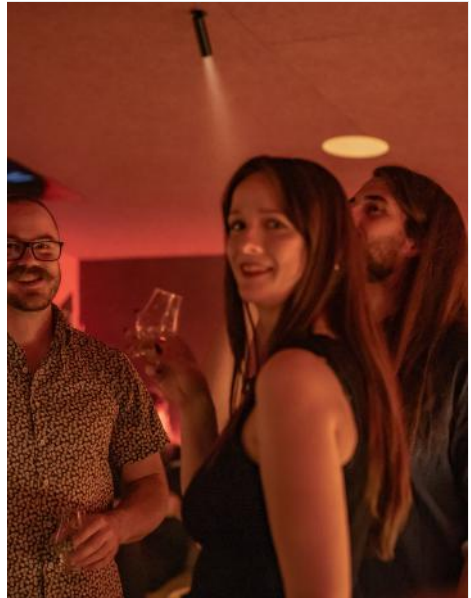
That's saying, yes. Yes, it has. I think there's more to go. We haven't stopped because, you know, you can't just build a distillery and turn it on in three months. It takes time to establish a brand, etcetera, etcetera. That takes time, so there's so much more in the wings to come, which is really exciting.

It's a wonderful time to be a part of the industry, and if I were to look into the crystal ball again and make another five-year prediction, I would say more of the same, you know? And we're growing as part of that global community.

Where is the market? Where is the consumer base? How do we make really delicious and really inclusive drinks for our people? I think as a bit of bonus material to answer that question, I think we already are seeing it. I mean, we've got the likes of Diageo all over it already, with their low and no alcohol offerings across the drinks industry and I think that this will continue a — really at face level — a bizarre melding with the Wellness industry.

The Wellness industry is huge and people across all generations are genuinely starting to think, "Hey, holistic health is a thing, you know?" It's becoming more mainstream and alcohol consumption is part of that.

It's a scary thing to talk about as alcohol producers. Whenever there's fear, whenever there's a threat, a perceived threat, or a risk, you have to see opportunity and the only way that will be sustainable in our industry is if we take that approach and say "Where is the opportunity? Let's do this and do it together".



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**YOU CAN READ THE FULL INTERVIEW
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