



THE SCOTCH MALT  
WHISKY SOCIETY

# OUTTURN

Celebrating on Friday, February 6 & 20 • Issue 2, 2026

## SHERRY MAYHEM!

Celebrating the sweetest month of the year  
with thick, syrupy, full-flavoured drams that  
celebrate sherry casks and their impact.



EMBRACE THE SHERRY CASK: [SMWS.COM.AU](https://smws.com.au)

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# DIVE INTO JEREZ....

.....  
BY MATT BAILEY





**Sherried whisky. It evokes a sense of taste, time, and style of whisky that is hugely desirable to whisky lovers, so let's dig a bit deeper on sherry casks, and how they work.**

Simply put, sherry casks are desirable, but sherry isn't. I often like asking a room full of members "who here drinks sherry" and in a room of 40+ guests, I'll see barely 1 or 2 hands go up. Those who do throw their hands up are usually super enthusiastic sherry drinkers who obsess over obscure sherries and styles, but that's it. It's not regularly reached-for on the shelf like wine or whisky is. I think we should all drink more sherry: not necessarily for the casks, but because it's bloody delicious!

But how did we get to this point? Let's rewind a bit. If people aren't drinking sherry, then where are the sherry casks coming from?

Sherry casks are supposed to all come from the legendary 'sherry triangle' in southwestern Spain, between Jerez de la Frontera, Sanlúcar de Barrameda, and El Puerto de Santa María in the province of Cádiz. This region is best known for producing sherries in the solera process, which uses fractional blending of new and old sherries in a series of triangular-stacked barrels. Everything changed in



1986 when a new law came in banning the export of sherry in the actual wooden casks, mandating that it must be shipped either in giant food-grade plastic intermediate bulk containers (IBC's) or in glass ready to go.

Before 1986, these barrels were mostly shipped to the UK, bottled as sherry there, and then the leftover casks would be used to mature whisky. They were plentiful, cheap, and distillers loved using them for their rich, treacly, Christmas-cake-in-a-glass style of whisky maturation. After 1986 however, these laws meant the supply of sherry casks basically choked overnight, and then shortly after in 1990 the Scotch Whisky Association (SWA, who are basically the grand whisky police) outlawed the use of artificial flavouring agents in Scotch whisky, which included paxarette, or sweetened concentrated sherry, for that purpose. This change, along with the downturn in Scotch at the time, would have created quite a tumultuous time in the trade.

Fast forward forty years to 2026, and the sherry trade is only about a fifth as big as it was back then, but the whisky trade has exploded in size and popularity. As a result, a large portion of the sherry trade in Spain basically exists to service the Scotch trade. However, with the export of full sherry casks outlawed, it meant that seasoning casks to create sherried wood spawned a whole industry behind it. That doesn't mean we don't see ex-bodega casks anymore (which we do, just take a look at some of our labels), but it means the supply of well-seasoned sherry casks that have had on average 18-24 months of pre-seasoning, are now more available, and people love a good sherried whisky.

Are seasoned casks better or worse than old-school bodega ones? They are more consistent, which always helps, and provide a clean, uniform, sherry profile to an interesting new make, or finish. Bodega casks are often better for finishing or extra-maturation rather than full-term. I suppose if I was to go on a "Bailey rant" here, is to utterly dispel the notion that bodega casks are in anyway superior to seasoned. In fact, given the rules around minimum maturation from the 80's and usage of transport casks, a good case could be made that the sherry casks being produced now from this industry are far superior in their usage for whisky production than ever before.

So how do you find which whiskies are sherried in Outturn or on our site? Just because it's sherried, doesn't automatically mean it'll be in our Deep Rich & Dried Fruits profile: flavour profile isn't dictated by the cask, it's dictated by flavour. Keep an eye out for casks like ex-Oloroso (dry sherry, often quite nutty, rich, and rounded), or ex-PX (Pedro Ximinez, a sweet sherry that gives more Christmas-cake, soaked raisins, and sweet wine notes).





I hope this gives you a brief bit of history and insight into sherry casks, and their impact. Speaking of which, we have the Creator's Collection Diptych being released this month: two casks from absolute superstar distillery 96, distilled on the same day in 1994, with both casks wholly-matured in ex-Oloroso, before an additional maturation in ex-American, and ex-Spanish oak PX casks. A fascinating side-by-side, and extremely rare allocation to get. I personally get a bit fatigued by all the "oldest this" or "exclusive that", but in reality, I really don't know where



else you'd find 60 years of combined sherried maturation from this distillery, in one set, from two single casks... HENS TEETH. Available in Feb Outturn, on the 20th at midday AEDT.

Cheers.



**MATT BAILEY ~**  
MANAGING DIRECTOR,  
SMWS

**PS: KEEN TO LEARN EVEN MORE ABOUT HOW WE WORK WITH SHERRY CASKS AND THEIR IMPACT IN SCOTCH WHISKY? THERE'S SOME FANTASTIC CONTENT ON OUR SMWS AUSTRALIA YOUTUBE CHANNEL FOR PRECISELY THIS.**

# IT'S (SHERRY) SKOOSH TIME!



I magine you're in Den Haag, Netherlands, on a bright sunny day in Spring. The old tram bells ring, the rich aroma of coffee wafts over you as you walk down the old canals, but one aroma rises above all others: the smell of rich toffee, caramel, and stroopwafle. Two thin crisp waffle layers, sandwiched with a gooey caramel and toffee-like filling, sometimes with a dusting of cinnamon on top. It's a truly decadent experience. Now, take that whole experience, and bottle it. That's what our latest heretical single malt tastes like: Skooshy Stroopwafel is a wafer caramel treat in a glass, without any artificial flavours added: all 100% single malt whisky.

While we can't disclose the distillery for this single malt, we can guarantee members have in the past absolutely RUSHED this whisky in single cask form on our site upon release. Don't miss this lovely summertime sipper, specially selected for both Malt of the Month, AND for our focus on sherry casks this month with this incredible PX-cask matured 11yo+ single malt whisky bottled at a very quaffable 50% ABV (please dram responsibly).



## WHAT IS HERESY?

You might be wondering what our clear-glass bottles are, vs our traditional green ones. If you're newer to the SMWS, these are our 'Heresy' range of us trying new things, experimenting a bit, and creating flavour explosions that members have been absolutely loving. They aren't single cask, but they are often single malt (from one distillery) and sometimes blended malts so far. They are designed for member feedback, fun 'drinking strength' of 50% most of the time, and just delicious weekday drammers.



# IT'S (SHERRY) SKOOSH TIME!

## SKOOSHY STROOPWAFEL

SMALL BATCH SINGLE MALT

Batch 30

\$159

REDUCED FROM \$199 FOR FEBRUARY

REGION	Single Malt
CASK TYPE	Refill ex-bourbon hogsheads & 1st fill ex-European oak PX butts
AGE	11 years
DATE DISTILLED	8 April 2013
ABV	50.0%
OUTTURN	1,671 (72 in Australia)

### TASTING NOTES

For this special renewal small-batch single malt, we sourced some top-notch European oak sherry butts from our friends at Tonelería Juan Pino in the south of Spain. The butts were seasoned in the sherry triangle for 13 months with syrupy sweet PX wine, before coming to Scotland to be filled with a wonderfully fruity Speyside single malt, which we are now proud to present to you. We were reminded of popping the cork of an orange muscat wine bottle, with those typical aromas of apricots, oranges and pears next to toasted almonds



on brioche and fragrant exotic wood. At first on the palate we found tingling spicy fruit flavours before we had a sip of very pleasing hot mulled white wine made with fresh orange juice, star anise, honey and cinnamon. Following reduction, we opened a tin of amaretto-infused mince pies – sweet, spicy and tart yet perfectly balanced, with mellow almond notes emanating from the liqueur. To taste, this was like a pumpkin-spiced iced coffee and "skooshy" (a very 'technical' Scottish term for cream in a can) cream on a stroopwafel.





# REBELLIOUS RAISINS

SPICY & SWEET

CASK No. 161.2

\$199



REGION Highland

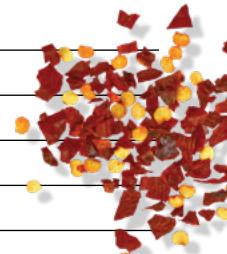
CASK TYPE 1st fill STR barrique

AGE 5 years

DATE DISTILLED 6 September 2018

ABV 58.7%

OUTTURN 294 (36 in Australia)



Raisins rolled in cinnamon caused mischief on buttered bagels, spilling red wine, kicking over bags of spice, and throwing apricots about willy-nilly. Peach yoghurt did its best to quell the uprising, but chilli jam and ginger turned up the heat on top of fruit scones rich with golden sultanas. Adding water instigated the involvement of sticky dessert wine paired with chocolate crèmeux. The commotion had caused orange blossom to fall from the trees, and peaches to land heavily on brioche and panettone. Mace now joined the raisins for a post-malarkey party, dancing alongside hazelnut liqueur, malt loaf and sweet-scented tobacco.

# MOROCCAN PASTILLA ANYONE?

SPICY & SWEET

CASK No. 18.76

\$225

EXTRA MATURED



REGION Speyside

CASK TYPE Ex-bourbon Hogsheads into a New American oak HTMC hogshead and a 1st fill Spanish oak oloroso hogshead

AGE 15 years

DATE DISTILLED 19 February 2009

ABV 55.4%

OUTTURN 468 (36 in Australia)

The aroma conjured up memories from a well-known American sitcom where a Thanksgiving beef trifle (half a British trifle and half a shepherd's pie) was prepared. On the palate it turned out to be more like an American favourite, key lime pie. Following dilution, we stepped into a humidor to eat spatchcock poussins with orange, sage and ginger. The starting point for this small batch was two bourbon hogsheads of single malt Scotch whisky. One was transferred at 10 years old to a first-fill Spanish oak oloroso hogshead, while the other was transferred at 13 years old to a new American oak hogshead with a heavy toast and a medium char. The casks were then married together before bottling.

# MIGHT MAKE YOUR YEAR

## PASSION FRUIT COUGH SWEETS

SPICY & SWEET

CASK No. 95.76

\$239

REGION	Speyside
CASK TYPE	Ex-bourbon hogshead into a Refill ex-Spanish oak oloroso hogshead
AGE	15 years
DATE DISTILLED	31 October 2007
ABV	57.5%
OUTTURN	250 (24 in Australia)

### TASTING NOTES

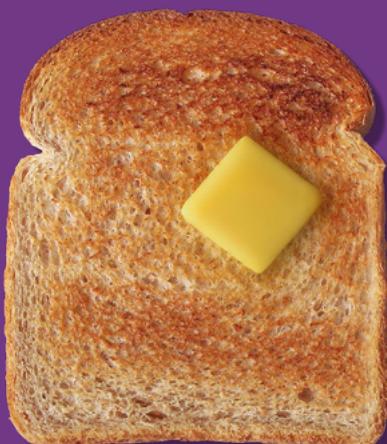
Fresh oranges and thick-cut marmalade mixed with fig rolls, cherry sweets and buttery almond croissants served with rose petals in a glass of sticky pudding wine. In the mouth, big and chewy flavours combined maple syrup, dark chocolate and tamarind paste with roasted almonds and tinned fruit salad in an oak bowl. Water brought out the oxidised notes of bruised apples and pears, again with marmalade but now with cinnamon butter on toast and passion fruit in a white chocolate mousse. Mint flavours on the palate merged with cloves and liquorice stick to give a cough sweet sensation, while cinnamon pastries and raisins stuck to grapefruit skin on the dry finish. After 12 years in a bourbon hogshead, this was transferred to a Spanish oak oloroso hogshead.



### FROM THE TEAM

Early last year, prolific international SMWS taster and collaborator Ryan Sweeney named Cask 95.68 Burnt rhubarb & butterscotch surprise, their top whisky of the year, out of 645+ whiskies tasted. Was it a superstar code? Was it a rare cask type? Nope to both. Just a sleeper code from a distillery that doesn't get nearly enough love elsewhere. Let's shine a light on incredible distillate, incredible cask management, and in the end result: whiskies that amaze and delight in the glass. Maybe Cask 95.76 will make your year?







# CHOCOLATE CRÈME BRÛLÉE WITH REDCURRANTS

SPICY & SWEET

CASK No. 55.90

\$240

EXTRA  
MATURED



REGION	Highland
CASK TYPE	Ex-bourbon hogshead into a 2nd fill STR barrique
AGE	15 years
DATE DISTILLED	21 September 2007
ABV	55.2%
OUTTURN	278 (30 in Australia)

The nose neat had aromas of charred carrots with apple and brown butter vinaigrette made using pine nuts and thyme next to sweet and sour candied plums, as well as linseed oil and Jamaican sorrel syrup. To taste, how about crème brûlée al cioccolato con ribes rosso – sounds a lot better than chocolate crème brûlée with redcurrants! After reduction, we discovered apricot jam, hazelnuts and treacle tart, as well as walnut and raisin bread. To start it was spicier on the palate, as apple mustard with a hint of lemon peel ushered in sweeter notes of sugared cranberries and a sweet PX sherry-vinegar glaze. Following 12 years in an ex-bourbon hogshead, we transferred this whisky into a shaved toasted and re-charred second fill barrique.

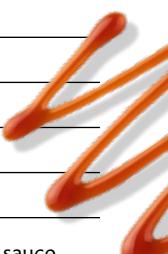
# ORGANISED ARTISTRY

DEEP, RICH & DRIED FRUITS

CASK No. 11.46

\$179

EXTRA  
MATURED



REGION	Highland
CASK TYPE	Ex-bourbon hogshead into a 2nd fill ex-oloroso hogshead
AGE	8 years
DATE DISTILLED	26 September 2014
ABV	56.7%
OUTTURN	267 (30 in Australia)

Hot buttered almond croissant, dunked in toffee sauce and encrusted with freeze dried cranberry & blackberry. The palate matched the nose, but with a considerable base note of wood sap and milled oak timber with a layer of lightly beechwood smoked blackcurrant jam on top. Mint followed. Water brought a leather satchel full of toffee, blackberry jam, a wedge of grapefruit and a splash of peach iced tea to the experience. After 4 years in an ex-bourbon hogshead, we transferred this to a second fill Oloroso hogshead for the remainder of its maturation.

# BODEGA BUSTER

## THUNDER CHOPS

DEEP, RICH & DRIED FRUITS

CASK No. 85.100

\$220

REGION	Speyside
CASK TYPE	Ex-bourbon hogshead into a 1st fill ex-Bodega PX barrique
AGE	13 years
DATE DISTILLED	26 April 2011
ABV	57.2%
OUTTURN	260 (36 in Australia)

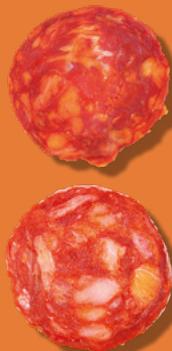
### TASTING NOTES

A downpour of rich rioja red wine poured over figs, dark chocolate and dried prunes wrapped in serrano ham. Apricot schnapps tumbled over spicy chorizo, while on the palate a lightning bolt of chilli jam electrified pork cheeks braised in Pedro Ximénez sherry. With water added to the mix the nose tingled with orange sherbet. Like walking into an oriental bodega, the distinctive aroma of sangria and sherry mingled with lemon chicken and Chinese five spice. The spices merged with vanilla chocolate cake, filled with a layer of lavender and blackberry jam and served with grilled pork chops. After spending 10 years in an ex-bourbon hogshead, this was transferred to a first fill PX barrique for the remainder of its maturation.



### FROM THE TEAM

Flip back a few pages to Matt's column to spot the differences between ex-Bodega casks and seasoned sherry casks. While seasoned casks take up the bulk of the trade now and are praised for their consistency, old ex-bodega casks are rich, rare, and provide an insight into old-school production flavours and styles. We've finally hit the century with distillery 85, one of our favourites, known for its heavy distillate, worm tubs, with a filling into this ex-PX bodega cask. The lengths our team go to for casks of this quality is second to none.





## COBBLERS AND CONFECTIONERS

DEEP, RICH & DRIED FRUITS

CASK No. 63.118

\$240

EXTRA  
MATURED



## PEAK SHERRY

DEEP, RICH & DRIED FRUITS

CASK No. 78.92

\$199

EXTRA  
MATURED

AUSTRALIA  
EXCLUSIVE



REGION	Speyside
CASK TYPE	Ex-bourbon hogshead into a 1st fill ex-Bodega PX barrique
AGE	15 years
DATE DISTILLED	2 September 2009
ABV	58.2%
OUTTURN	297 (36 in Australia)

The Panel stepped into a hybrid workshop as cobblers and confectioners crafted their next commissions; a place where leather and orange oil mingled in the air, accented with pear drops and sugar-roasted hazelnuts. The palate was treacle with coconut shavings, a tickle of mace, cinnamon buns and gingerbread. Water gave us kiln-dried firewood on the nose, joined by green apple, sugar snap peas and cinnamon honey. The palate finished with toasted raisins and treacle stirred into warm custard. After 12 years in an ex-bourbon hogshead, we transferred this to a first fill, ex-bodega PX barrique for the remainder of its maturation.

REGION	Highland
CASK TYPE	1st fill Spanish oak Oloroso hogshead
AGE	10 years
DATE DISTILLED	19 June 2014
ABV	58.6%
OUTTURN	291 (291 in Australia)

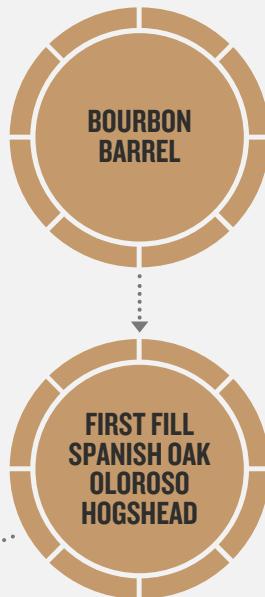
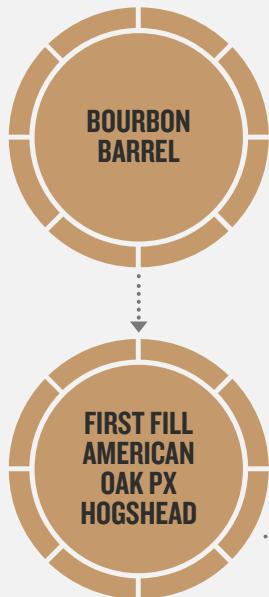
At first nosing the Panel detected prunes, plums and various other sticky dark fruits soaking in armagnac. We then felt it developed more towards spicy pumpernickel bread, pumpkinseed oil and heavier notes of camphor. Water brought out salted dark chocolate, hessian and classical sherry aromas of rancio and walnuts. The palate was wonderfully dense and full of old-school sherry characteristics such as sweet plum jam, strawberry wine and walnut oil. A few wee meaty touches also showed through after a while. Water made it wonderfully rich in the mouth, adding notes of beefy gravy, dried cranberries and more preserved dark fruit vibes. This was matured in a bourbon hogshead for five years before being transferred to a first fill Spanish oak oloroso hogshead.





# ULTRA SMALL-BATCH SERIES

**SOCIETY NO: 1.293**  
**A CREAM SHERRY**  
**BY WAY OF WHISKY**



# A CREAM SHERRY BY WAY OF WHISKY

DEEP, RICH & DRIED FRUITS

CASK No. 1.293

\$220



REGION	Speyside
CASK TYPE	Ex-Bourbon barrels into a 1st fill ex-American oak PX hogshead & a 1st fill ex-Spanish oak Oloroso hogshead
AGE	11 years
DATE DISTILLED	26 February 2013
ABV	59.7%
OUTTURN	398 (36 in Australia)

First nosing suggested a rich and aromatically detailed dram, with polished mahogany, rapeseed oil, manilla envelopes and hazelnut skins, plus a touch of rye spice and fresh dill. Water brought out toasted coconut, strawberry jam sponge and rosewater. The neat palate opened with sugar puff sweetness, runny honey, maple syrup, rum and raisin fudge, and lovely, earthy bodega funk with a hint of dried marjoram. Reduction made it richer and thicker in texture, with a burst of fruit liqueurs, melon, strawberry wine, caffÈ latte, a tingle of red chilli and loads of spiced vanilla custard. The starting point for this small batch was two bourbon barrels of single malt Scotch whisky. They were each transferred to new casks at nine years old. One cask was a first fill American oak PX hogshead, while the other was a first fill Spanish oak oloroso hogshead. The casks were then married together before bottling.





## ALMOST ANGELIC

JUICY, OAK & VANILLA

CASK No. 112.144

\$179



REGION	Highland
CASK TYPE	1st fill ex-bourbon barrel
AGE	9 years
DATE DISTILLED	2 October 2015
ABV	57.7%
OUTTURN	224 (36 in Australia)

The initial whiff of nail polish remover soon faded as fruits galore – gooseberries, kiwi, green grapes, melon, apples and banana, all doused in strong peach schnapps – came to the fore. This was mouth puckering, like a spicy Thai chicken stir fry, with the sweet fruitiness of mango and serrano ham in the finish. The addition of water caused some perplexion as the aroma changed completely and we found ourselves walking down a fragrant jasmine blossom-framed garden pathway on a moonlit night – almost angelic! To taste, we found vanilla pudding with fresh blueberries as well as a fruit salad with whipped cream and honey.

## AEROPLANE ELEVATION

JUICY, OAK & VANILLA

CASK No. 6.80

\$169



REGION	Highland
CASK TYPE	1st fill ex-bourbon hogshead
AGE	9 years
DATE DISTILLED	13 February 2015
ABV	59.2%
OUTTURN	304 (36 in Australia)

Wandering through the mist of perfumes in duty free, we made a beeline for the candy section before boarding a vintage aeroplane: tutti frutti gummies in cardboard boxes, foam bananas, vanilla and lemon bonbons, and spiced cookies. To taste, we found all of the above, plus baked apples with ginger, raspberries atop clotted cream on warm scones, and rhubarb with custard. A splash of water elevated the vanilla on the nose and added melted beeswax and cola candies. The palate was now creamy and sweet, with maple sponge and toffees, a dusting of mace, and tropical bonbons.

# A DRAM FOR GARDENING

## POTTING SHED CUISINE

LIGHTLY PEATED

CASK No. 135.69

\$320

REGION	Highland
CASK TYPE	Ex-bourbon barrel into a 1st fill HTMC barrel
AGE	19 years
DATE DISTILLED	18 March 2005
ABV	55.2%
OUTTURN	192 (36 in Australia)

### TASTING NOTES

In a mélange of cookery and horticulture, we found cornbread, barbecue burnt ends and lemons wrapped in a bitumen tortilla, served in a greenhouse full of roses and cut peat. Venison grill steaks followed on the palate, with green peppercorns, figs and cranberries in clarified butter. Water introduced smoked cloudberry, fennel and pine to the nose, while the palate offered birch sap, orange and wintergreen mint to finish. After 16 years in an ex-bourbon barrel, we transferred this to a first fill heavily toasted, medium charred barrel for the remainder of its maturation.



### FROM THE TEAM

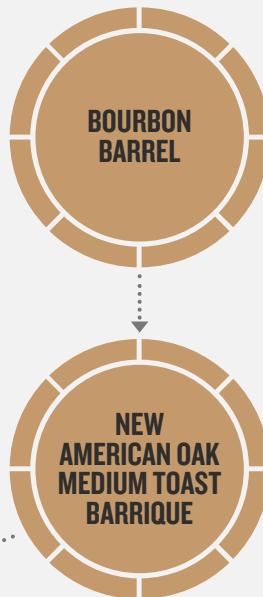
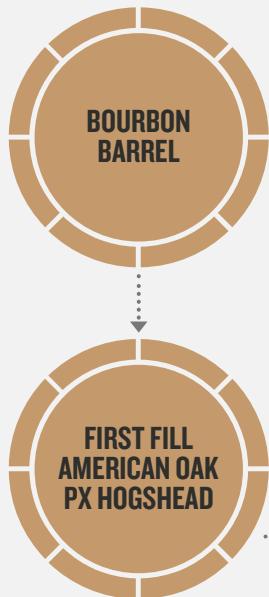
Distillery 135 has to be one of the most versatile malts out there. Peated, unpeated, young, old, short or long ferments. We love the team at this Highland site, and we love the diversity of flavour we see from them. Cask 135.69 is older, peated, and has this lovely earthy potting shed style of whisky going in the glass: rich soils, basil leaf, delightful sipper. If you think you know delicate peated whisky that's still cask strength, think again. Absolute sleeper.





# ULTRA SMALL-BATCH SERIES

**SOCIETY NO: 10.284**  
**GINGER ROLLMOP**  
**PHANTASMAGORIA**



# MOINE MY SHERRY!

## GINGER ROLLMOP SUSHI PHANTASMAGORIA

PEATED

CASK No. 10.284

\$220

REGION	Islay
CASK TYPE	Ex-bourbon hogsheads into a 1st fill American oak PX & 2nd fill oloroso hogshead
AGE	11 years
DATE DISTILLED	17 October 2013
ABV	59.1%
OUTTURN	501 (36 in Australia)

### TASTING NOTES

Treacle scone topped with hot-smoked salmon: that was the first impression of the Panel! This quickly evolved to include raw ginger cake batter, sauna wood, smoked almonds and shellfish broiled with seaweed. Water brought pickled sushi ginger, smoked sea salt and a sharp, mineral edge, plus lots of Asian vibes such as soy sauce, eel sushi, bonito flakes and wasabi. The neat palate detonated with wakame, balsamic, smoked prawns, ginger biscuits, barbecue-charred plums and seared beef. Water made it really fantastic, with brined herring, toasted sesame and a lovely, drying waxiness. The starting point for this small batch was two bourbon hogsheads of single malt Scotch whisky. They



were each transferred to new casks at five years old. One cask was a first fill American oak PX hogshead, while the other was a second fill oloroso hogshead. The casks were then married together before bottling.

### FROM THE TEAM

Peated Islay whisky at cask strength with a name and taste that will warp your mind inside out? YES. An expert usage of ex-sherry casks for this incredible Two To One release, where the expert whisky team have created this creamy, smoky, and phantasmagoria of a release with the hint of ginger on the tail. Best served with a plate of fresh sashimi!

# CREATORS COLLECTION

# DIPTYCH

A WORK OF LIQUID  
BEAUTY IN TWO PARTS



*The Society's latest Creators Collection tells a 30-year-old tale of two sherry cask-matured whiskies from distillery 96, as Mads Schmoll from SMWS UK writes...*



**T**he Creators Collection is a series that brings liquid storytelling to life, curated to create the ultimate whisky flights. Each release celebrates unique flavour stories, presenting whisky as a creative work of art in beautifully designed one-of-a-kind bottles.

Nowhere is this more apt than in ***Diptych: A work of liquid beauty in two parts***, which draws inspiration from the art world to create the ultimate flight in symmetry and contrast. Traditionally, a diptych is a work of art presented in two panels, often hinged, designed to be viewed side by side. Each part is distinct, but together they tell a richer tale. In whisky, we see the same story when casks diverge, evolve and then come together again.

This collection brings together two casks from distillery 96. The whisky in both Cask No. **96.41: The Iberian** and Cask No. **96.42: The American** was filled to cask on 18 November 1994 and matured for 28 years in oloroso sherry butts. After 28 years we decided to send them on separate journeys, with a period of additional maturation in two first fill Pedro Ximénez casks — one in American oak, the other in Spanish.

These final years of maturation reveal the contrast in oak character through the lens of our (new) Dried Fruits & Spices flavour profile. While Cask **96.42 The American** leans into soft orchard fruits, pastry, and honeyed warmth, Cask **96.41 The Iberian** offers rich spice, dark berries, sandalwood, and leather. Each whisky can stand alone — but side by

side, they form a portrait: one distillery, one age and two sherry paths that create one complete picture.

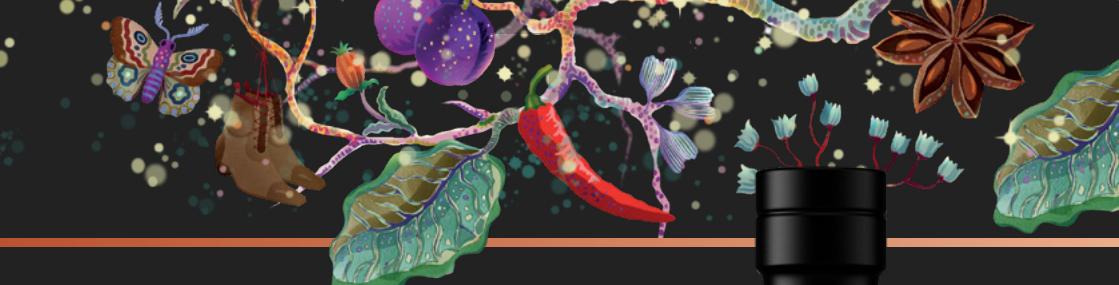
While both whiskies have sweet, woody, spicy and fruity notes, these are different in each whisky. To understand why, you need to understand the differences between the two oak species used in this collection. Spanish oak and American oak have unique compositions, which, in turn, will affect flavour. American white oak is higher in oak lactone and lignin and lower in tannins. The resulting flavours are sweet and can include coconut, vanilla and baking spices. In contrast, Spanish oak is lower in lactones and higher in tannins, resulting in a more 'woody' character that's spicy, wine-like and more structured on the palate. With this in mind, it's easier to understand the synergy between these two whiskies and why they are a pair to be poured side by side.

*"This pair is perfect to compare and contrast,"* says Head of Whisky Creation Euan Campbell. *"Higher tannin content in the Spanish oak brings deep spices, exotic woods and a 'sugar puff' sweetness, while the American oak offers more custardy desserts, tropical fruits, and Black Forest gateau."*

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**DIPTYCH: A WORK OF LIQUID BEAUTY IN TWO PARTS** WILL BE AVAILABLE MID-MONTH ON FEBRUARY 20TH, AT MIDDAY AEDT IN LIMITED QUANTITIES. MEMBERS WILL BE ABLE TO PURCHASE THE BOTTLES INDIVIDUALLY AS WELL AS IN A DUO SET.

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CASK 96.4I

# THE 'IBERIAN'

DRIED FRUITS & SPICES

\$975

REGION	Highland
CASK TYPE	Ex-Oloroso then into an ex-PX hogshead.
AGE	30 years
DATE DISTILLED	18 November 1994
ABV	52.2%
OUTTURN	375 (24 in Australia)

An intriguing melange of aromas excited the Panel. The scent of sandalwood and cedar was joined by well-brushed leather boots, tobacco and aged plum brandy. On the palate we found layer upon layer of dark fruits such as blackcurrants and blackberries spiced with a chilli jam of cloves, ginger, star anise and demerara sugar. Following a drop of water we were served a slice of toasted stollen with butterscotch sauce next to spiced sultana griddle scones. To taste, damson and sloe gin jam accompanied maple syrup on thick American pancakes. Following 28 years in an ex-oloroso butt, we transferred this whisky into a first fill Spanish oak PX butt.





CASK 96.42

# THE 'AMERICAN'

DRIED FRUITS & SPICES

\$975

REGION	Highland
CASK TYPE	Ex-Oloroso then into an ex-Oloroso hogshead.
AGE	30 years
DATE DISTILLED	18 November 1994
ABV	50.9%
OUTTURN	452 (24 in Australia)

This was transferred from an oloroso butt into a first fill American oak PX butt after 28 years. Amazingly, the sherry influence is not overstated – it seemed to occupy ëa day in the lifeí (happy version); a breakfast of mango slices, cinnamon buns and coffee, then to work – pencil case and writing bureau (on waxed parquet flooring). A walk in the country (earthy, distant wood smoke) to have tea with a friend. After dinner an opulent dessert (chocolate cake, pear frangipane tart) rounded off with a sip of calvados and a rummage in the tobacco pouch. Not a bad day, all in all. Night night.



# SOCIETY EXPERIENCES

## SYDNEY HEAVY HITTERS

A fun and casual night of trivia, whiskies, food, and good banter. Join Andrew Derbidge and take your teams, this will be a cracking night out.

**Thursday, 5 March**  
**Royal Automobile Club of Australia, Sydney**

## SYDNEY THE GRAND TOUR OF SCOTLAND

The grand tour of Speyside events sold out from 2023 & 2024, now Andrew ramps it up for an incredible Grand Tour of Scotland. There's no other greater presentation of the whole continent and their home spirit out there than this. Save the date!

**Friday, 15 May**  
**Royal Automobile Club of Australia, Sydney**



## SYDNEY FRANZ RETURNS X LENNOX HASTIE

The master of the open flame has a new venue, and we're hosting an exclusive dinner there guided by the master himself, Franz Scheurer. Gildas is Sydney's most in-demand basque-inspired sherry bar & restaurant, where owner and head chef Lennox Hastie is opening the doors to the SMWS to pair a dinner & experience like no other. This will be the dinner of the year not to miss. Save the date!

**Tuesday, 2 June**  
**Gildas, Sydney**

## MELBOURNE DIPTYCH LAUNCH PREVIEW NIGHT

Two sherry bombs. 60 years of combined maturation. 6 x drams & light supper. It's almost like we're kicking off our events calendar for 2026 with an absolute blast. Will sell out fast.

**Tuesday, 10 February**  
**Whisky & Alement**

## MELBOURNE FLAVOUR PROFILE DEEP DIVE – JUICY OAK & VANILLA

Two sherry bombs. 60 years of combined maturation. 6 x drams & light supper. It's almost like we're kicking off our events calendar for 2026 with an absolute blast. Will sell out fast.

**Tuesday, 3 March**  
**Whisky & Alement**

## MELBOURNE WHISKY & BREAD

In 2017, Andrew Derbridge hosted our 'Whisky & Bread' night in Sydney. It was easily one of the best events of the year. 2026, Alex Moores brings the famed carbohydrate to our tables along with a stellar lineup.

**Saturday, 21 March**  
**Venue TBA**



## MELBOURNE FLAVOUR PROFILE DEEP DIVE – SWEET FRUITY & MELLOW

Alex Moores' deep dives into the archives and upcoming Sweet Fruity & Mellow casks continues with the SFM session. Sweet, delightful, hugely enjoyable and super-popular profile, join us at our 'home base' again for this one.

**Tuesday, 7 April**  
**Whisky & Alement**

## MELBOURNE FLAVOUR PROFILE DEEP DIVE – PEAT

Peated whiskies. Old, young, Scottish, mainland, international. Peated whisky has a lot of hype and for good reason: the diversity of the offering is mind-blowing. Join Alex for his latest instalment of flavour profile deep dives, covering one of the widest of our profile ranges, peated!

**Tuesday, 5 May**  
**Whisky & Alement**

Music and malts. Yes, it's back. Our 4th year of collaboration with the audio masters at Addicted to Audio in Melbourne returns for an auditory bang, listening to incredible music, deep audience participation, and incredible single cask whiskies paired along the way.

**Wednesday, 15 April**  
**Addicted to Audio, 453 Church St,  
Richmond VIC**

**STAY TUNED TO THE WEBSITE FOR THE LATEST EVENTS IN OTHER CITIES:  
MORE BEING ADDED EVERY WEEK! [SMWS.COM.AU/EVENTS](http://SMWS.COM.AU/EVENTS)**



# VIRTUAL TASTING SHERRY MADNESS!

WEDNESDAY 25 FEBRUARY @ 7PM AEDT

It's Sherry Madness this month at SMWS Australia with five incredible Society malts that have seen either full or partial sherry maturation; of course, the big one this month is our next Creators Collection: Diptych! A mix of flavour profiles (which is slowly turning into the new flavour profiles) to round-out our second virtual tasting of the year. Grab yours on Outturn Day for just \$169 per pack (strictly 1x pack per person).

Join the team live on YouTube and Facebook (plus our watch-along voice channel in the members-only Discord server) on Wednesday, February 25 at 7pm AEDT.



SPICY & SWEET



DEEP, RICH & DRIED FRUITS



PEATED



DRIED FRUITS & SPICES



DRIED FRUITS & SPICES

**CASK 18.76**  
MOROCCAN PASTILLA  
ANYONE?

**CASK 11.46**  
ORGANISED ARTISTRY

**CASK 10.284**  
GINGER ROLLMOP SUSHI  
PHANTASMAGORIA

**CASK 96.41**  
THE 'IBERIAN'

**CASK 96.42**  
THE 'AMERICAN'

GRAB YOUR VIRTUAL TASTING KIT AND JOIN IN: [SMWS.COM.AU/SHOP](http://SMWS.COM.AU/SHOP)

A

12½

SMWS

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SMWS

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SMWS

22



# SHERRY MONTH GIVEAWAY!

It's a whole month of celebrating incredible sherry casks and their impact on whisky, so we're giving away a bottle of **Cask 12.80** **Heaven in a leather hammock**, an incredibly rich and decadent 34 year old single cask from distillery 12 in Speyside. Quietly maturing away since 1989, this whisky is one of the best sherried whiskies we've tasted this past year. Valued at \$1,399, this bottle will be won by one lucky member in February.

## HOW TO WIN?

- Any transaction over \$300<sup>^</sup> automatically goes in the draw.
- Any successful membership referral<sup>^^</sup> goes into the draw.

There's no limit to the number of times you can enter, and a winner will be randomly selected on livestream after the promotion.

<sup>^</sup>\$300 must be the minimum total transaction size, and can include all SMWS bottlings, events, and merchandise, but excludes membership and/or membership renewal products.

<sup>^^</sup>Successful referral confirmed when new member joins, and lists a valid member referrer's name in the 'Name of referrer' box upon checkout, with completion of checkout.

*Promotion runs from 01/02/2026 until 13/03/2026 inclusive. Not to be used with any other offer or promotion, and prize is drawn at random on Monday 16/03/2026 at midday AEDT. Prize is not transferrable for any other product, nor redeemable for cash.*

# AMNESTY UPGRADE!

UPGRADED

Been on the fence about upgrading your membership to our Yearly Bottle of the Moment? It's a no-brainer: full membership (valued at \$120), a bottle sent on renewal each year (value of at least \$180), for just \$199. Join the hundreds of members who've already taken advantage of this offer, and upgrade your membership so you get a tasty single malt delivered every year you renew.

Wanted to upgrade but haven't yet? From the 1st of Feb until the 13th of March, we're offering a special membership amnesty for those who haven't taken the leap yet: upgrade to yearly bottle of the moment membership for \$199, and we'll throw in a full membership rebate voucher for \$120 as a one-off to your account.

How do I do this?! Drop a note to our friendly Member Experience Manager, Zac Stanley, expressing a big "YES I'D LOVE TO UPGRADE" in the subject, and he'll gladly look after it – [admin@smws.com.au](mailto:admin@smws.com.au).

Voucher not redeemable for cash, and offer is not transferrable to any other promotion. Offer runs from 01/02/2026 until 28/02/2026 inclusive. Limit of one voucher per/member.



**MEMBERSHIP +  
YEARLY BOTTLE = \$199  
(SAVE AS MUCH AS \$119 EVERY YEAR)**





**0455 233 465**

Mon-Fri 9.00am - 5.00pm AEDT

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