

**NEW
RELEASES**
ONLINE MIDDAY AEST
FRIDAY 6 SEPTEMBER

OUTTURN

Celebrating on Friday 6 September

Issue 9, 2024



**AUSTRALIA,
LET'S GATHER!**

The September Global Gathering has arrived down under! Come join the world's leading whisky community and make the most of the 2024 Gathering.

GATHER HERE: [SMWS.COM.AU](https://smws.com.au)

CONTENTS

Welcome to the Gathering! Matt Bailey	4
Mighty Oaken Cask Part #5: Bourbon barrel invasion Chris Middleton.....	30
Your Local Partner Bars Adam Ioannidis.....	38



OUR BOTTLINGS

YOUNG & SPRITELY

Cask No. 35.330 <i>"I never promised you ..."</i>	13
------------------------------------------------------------	----

SWEET, FRUITY & MELLOW

Cask No. 38.38 <i>Chestnut forest confections</i>	14
------------------------------------------------------------	----

SPICY & SWEET

Cask No. 59.86 (Malt of the Month) <i>The beneficence of bees</i>	10
Cask No. 95.62 <i>Sugar coated mint leaves</i>	13
Cask No. 77.73 <i>Waxy McSherryface</i>	17
Cask No. 140.12 <i>Little dram on the prairie</i>	17

SPICY & DRY

Cask No. 26.208 <i>Supper sipper</i>	18
-----------------------------------------------	----

DEEP, RICH & DRIED FRUITS

Cask No. 157.1 <i>Toasty, roasty and oaky</i>	20
--------------------------------------------------------	----



YOUR SOCIETY



Your membership

WIN 3x golden tickets to our end-of-year Christmas party 45

It's Gathering month!

WIN a 20th Anniversary Whisky Box Set 46

Virtual tasting

The Gathering 48

Mystery Malts

Mystery malts are here to stay 49

Society experiences

See you at our events 50



OLD & DIGNIFIED

Cask No. 42.76
Simply irrefutable 23

JUICY, OAK & VANILLA

Cask No. 113.66
Rose petals, ice-cream and birthday cake 23

Cask No. 9.227
Chill-time 24

PEATED

Cask No. 16.76
Peat-smoked porter 27

Cask No. 10.233
The shanty o' sherry an' peat 27

BOURBON

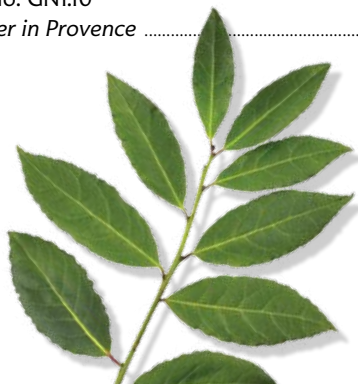
Cask No. B5.9
Midnight grits 28

RUM

Cask No. R11.19
Rumbustious 28

GIN

Cask No. GN1.10
Summer in Provence 29





WELCOME TO THE GATHERING

Long-term members might already know this one, but those who are a bit newer to the SMWS might not know what the Gathering is, so allow me to explain.

Every year, we find there are a few things that resonate really well with members, which we're always keen to keep running on a yearly basis, and the Gathering is no exception. Each year you'll spot things like our chocolate month, our music month, our Fête Île 'festival' casks month, our big Xmas gifting double Outturn in November, BUT also the Gathering in September. ▶



“THE CASKS PICKED FOR THE GATHERING ARE A LABOUR OF LOVE FOR EUAN CAMPBELL ON OUR SPIRITS TEAM: HE REALLY DOES SEND THE ABSOLUTE CREAM OF THE CROP FOR SELECTION.”

So, what is it? A global Gathering is that perfect time of year when the weather gets better, the social get-togethers get stronger, and we get to work with our team and members around the world in picking out some phenomenal casks to share around. It's a gathering of like-minded members who love to nose, taste, drink, and enjoy whisky. It really is quite simple when you break it down, but we really do think September is just that magical time of year around the world to host it. Here in Australia, we can start to feel the weather warming up, and in Scotland, they can enjoy the tail of any semblance of good weather they had in their “summer”.





So, what is this year's cask? Well, I can proudly say this is one I picked out personally. The casks picked for the Gathering are a labour of love for Euan Campbell on our spirits team: he really does send the absolute cream of the crop for selection. Something that our 2023 selector Alex Moores with his 94.43 can attest to here.

I picked out this 59 as it had that lovely immediate whiff of spice, maple, beeswax, French furniture polish, and this lovely burnished copper, honey, and earthy notes of potted plants. That delicate moment of old-school whisky production that I yearn for. It's also nicely aged out to 13 years in oak, and just absolutely sings for these nicer weather

moments. Don't miss out on this year's Gathering cask. I'm super excited to bring this to life for you and hope to share a dram with you all soon.

Cheers.



Matt Bailey ~
Branch Director,
SMWS Australia

THE GATHERING



Bathe in the beneficence of bees! Our yearly Gathering cask has landed. It's one cask — a limited number of bottles from a single cask — and we're sharing it with the whole membership of Australia.

Our very own Branch Director, Matt Bailey, personally selected this cask as it was a standout offering from the tasting panel and, from Distillery 59. This is a workhorse distillery that is unique in its production methods and ability to create a rich, spicy, and distinctive spirit profile. This distillery, along with this cask, is utterly unique in its production values and setup through its use of a hammer and mash filter, which is one of a kind in Scotland, and quite large stills that produce an oily and charismatic malt quality that is hugely-desirable to blenders and bottlers alike. Spirit from Distillery 59 is rarely seen as a single malt, and even rarer seen regularly independently bottled, so we're all in for a treat this month.

Wholly matured in a 1st fill ex-bourbon hogshead for 13 years, this cask found the perfect mix of being both fun and approachable in profile (and price) but also carries this lovely old-school charisma and complexity that oozes out of the spirit. It drinks like a mid-century single malt with dark chocolate coconut bars, sugared almonds, and digestive biscuits that's then been extra-filtered through a beehive, and then bottled at natural cask strength of that lovely mid-50's realm of 55.7% ABV.

Of course, we never actually add flavours like this to a whisky. All the flavour comes entirely from that perfect combination of where spirit character meets cask



THE BENEFICENCE OF BEES

\$199

See following page for further details

maturation. All these lovely flavours emanate from the depths of the wood and the unique nature of every cask. That marvel in and of itself is worth celebrating this Gathering month, so we encourage you to tuck into a glass of the official 2024 Gathering cask: 59.86 The beneficence of bees.



THE BENEFICENCE OF BEES



MALT OF THE MONTH

THE BENEFICENCE OF BEES

SPICY & SWEET

CASK No. 59.86
\$199

GATHERING 2024

BAILEY'S PICK



REGION	Highland
CASK TYPE	1st fill bourbon hogshead
AGE	13 years
DATE DISTILLED	11 January 2011
OUTTURN	286 bottles
ABV	55.7%
AUS ALLOCATION	286 bottles

The initial nose was dominated by bakery notes, from well-fired rolls and treacle scones to sugar buns. We also got heather honey, peach melba and new cask staves. The attractive and inviting palate had us smacking our lips to the sweet flavours of dark chocolate coconut bars, digestive biscuits, rice pudding and chocolate-coated brazils; the finish was a warming flourish of black pepper, chilli and cardamom. The reduced nose encountered iced caramels, marshmallows and sugared almonds, perfumed candles and pine sawdust. The palate now combined waxy honeycomb and iced gingerbread with liquorice, linseed oil, paprika and oak.

Bottles will be available to purchase on the first Friday of the month, 6th September at midday, but we're still waiting for the full allocation to arrive from the UK. Expect orders to start shipping out from October. Secure yours in Outturn and we'll send it out as soon as it arrives.





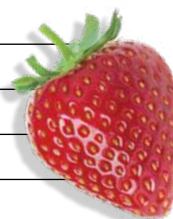
“I NEVER PROMISED YOU ...”

YOUNG & SPRITELY

CASK No. 35.330
\$149



REGION	Speyside
CASK TYPE	1st fill bourbon barrel
AGE	8 years
DATE DISTILLED	1 August 2013
OUTTURN	237 bottles
ABV	57.7%
AUS ALLOCATION	36 bottles



We imagined sitting on a newly varnished wooden bench in a rose garden in full bloom eating caramelised figs with honey, thyme and yoghurt while drinking ginger wine. On the palate we added dried sour cherries to a bag of trail mix – a tasty combination of sweet, savoury and sour. Following reduction, the nose turned sweeter like a walnut whip or a rhubarb sorbet with pistachio brittle; to taste, apricot ice cream with caramelised almonds and strawberry milkshake jelly sweets. A line from Lynn Anderson’s song Rose Garden came to mind: “So smile for a while and let’s be jolly”.

SUGAR COATED MINT LEAVES

SPICY & SWEET

CASK No. 95.62
\$179



REGION	Speyside
CASK TYPE	Refill Panamanian rum barrel
AGE	11 years
DATE DISTILLED	14 September 2010
OUTTURN	211 bottles
ABV	62.5%
AUS ALLOCATION	36 bottles

A sinus clearing waft of menthol vapour rub readied the senses for mulchy green leaves, camomile and sugar cane with creamy vanilla. Flavours however were sweet and juicy with caramelised brown sugar on baked apples and a sprinkling of cinnamon and cayenne pepper. Sweet chilli sauce then joined white chocolate and poached pears in custard. After a dash of water the minty and green freshness remained but was now joined by bakewell tarts with coconut, butter and wood char. Waxy textures from lemon skin coated the tongue alongside heather honey, pineapple tarts and banana sweets. Matured for 8 years in an ex-bourbon barrel before being transferred to a Panamanian rum barrel.



DELVE INTO THE FOREST...



We're fast approaching the last time we'll likely see Distillery 38 bottled — perhaps forever. But we're not there, yet, so let's welcome Cask 38 from Distillery 38, a rich and rare treat of forest sweets from this demolished distillery. A distillery that for years had the sole purpose of replicating the single malt profile from its sister site across the road, but never could match it, and to the minds and palates of many people, actually beat it. This spirit, and with age, was always marvellously bubble-gummy, delicate, tropical, and just a delight. 25 years of slumbering maturation from mid-1996 has finally landed in Australia, and is being offered up in our special September Outturn.

CHESTNUT FOREST CONFECTIONS

SWEET, FRUITY & MELLOW

CASK No. 38.38
\$895



EXTRA MATURED

PREMIUM BOTTLING

DEMOLISHED DISTILLERY

REGION	Speyside
CASK TYPE	2nd fill bourbon barrel
AGE	25 years
DATE DISTILLED	26 July 1996
OUTTURN	232 bottles
ABV	51.6%
AUS ALLOCATION	24 bottles

The nose, elusive at first, took us through a chestnut wood to a confectioner, where we saw marzipan petits fours, jammy dodgers and chocolate honeycomb bars displayed on wooden shelves. The palate (beautifully matured) offered juicy kiwi and lemon, vanilla ice cream, and raspberry, coconut and dark chocolate bars, plus lingering tingles of ginger and nutmeg. With water (careful!) – lemon tart, butterscotch, popcorn, and strawberries and cream on the nose; liquorice allsorts, green apple and macadamias on the palate. At 21 years of age, we combined selected casks from this distillery, and then returned the single malt into a variety of different casks to develop further. This is one of those casks.





WAXY MCSHERRYFACE

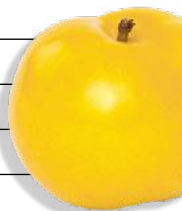
SPICY & SWEET

CASK No. 77.73
\$225

EXTRA
MATURED



REGION	Highland
CASK TYPE	2nd fill Oloroso hogshead
AGE	13 years
DATE DISTILLED	7 April 2009
OUTTURN	164 bottles
ABV	57.4%
AUS ALLOCATION	42 bottles



First nosing suggested to us waxed jackets, pine needles and spice, plus raisins, mint julep, malted milk biscuits and old-school dunnage warehouses. Some water added many notes of walnuts, tobacco pouches, dried tarragon, mushroom powder and cookie dough. The palate was initially full of mineral oils, waxes, putty, chai tea, spiced winter ales and smooth notes of old calvados and sultanas. Water brought milk chocolate sweetness, fruit loaf, yellow plums, olive oil cake, pistachios and caramel sauce. This matured for 10 years in a bourbon hogshead before being transferred to a second fill oloroso hogshead.

LITTLE DRAM ON THE PRAIRIE

SPICY & SWEET

CASK No. 140.12
\$199

EXTRA
MATURED



REGION	Texas
CASK TYPE	2nd fill Port barrique
AGE	4 years
DATE DISTILLED	10 May 2017
OUTTURN	172 bottles
ABV	62.0%
AUS ALLOCATION	36 bottles

After one year in a French oak barrique which previously contained Baby Blue Corn Whiskey, this whiskey was transferred into a second-fill port barrique. The nose holds definite port, plum jam, toffee apples, cherries and raspberry jam tarts as well as funky rum, raisins, molasses, Demerara and new leather. The palate, initially chalky, radiates warm cinnamon and chilli spice, before settling to toffee, sweet bourbon, toasted coconut and vanilla ice-cream, with leather and tobacco to finish. The palate now delivers buttery pancakes, honey, stewed fruit, Golden Virginia, hickory, chicory and sour cherry – remarkable.



WAXY SUPPER



I've already started to hear the line. You know the one. "Where are all the 26s now?" Everything comes in waves. Sometimes, getting spirit out of certain distilleries can be tough, though — their cult-like status comes into play, and demand for their incredible output goes through the roof. Yes, it's been a while between 26s, and we know they are popular, but here we are! A lovely spicy & dry example with oodles of candle wax, dried white flowers, and earthy mulch, but as always that signature waxy brown leather and candle is still there. Don't snooze — sip it over supper!

SUPPER SIPPER

SPICY & DRY

CASK No. 26.208
\$199



REGION	Highland
CASK TYPE	1st fill bourbon barrel
AGE	9 years
DATE DISTILLED	23 October 2012
OUTTURN	237 bottles
ABV	61.5%
AUS ALLOCATION	36 bottles

The panel got the initial impression of sugar in a coal scuttle from this neat nose. We also noted heather sprigs, myrtle, dried white flowers and vase water, plus lots of earth, mulch and fresh air. We also noted some cluttered beach pebbles, canvas and freshly muddled green herbs. Reduction brought notes of peanut brittle, lemon thyme, white stone fruits and crushed grass. In the mouth initially we got drying chalky vibes, then plum eau de vie, light aniseed notes, eucalyptus oils and some fruitier touches of lychee, quince and kumquat. With water it became gentler and more floral — some light green tea with lemon slices, citronella wax, barley water, oatcakes and yellow plums.



A FRENCH FIRST!



Hot off the heels of our Paris Olympiad, where Australia more than kept its fair share of the medal tally, we're releasing the first-ever French whisky bottled by the SMWS. Welcome Distillery 157 hailing from Lannion on the north coast of Brittany, this is the newest kid to the Society story, but far from the newest to whisky. Often when you see 'dot ones', they are new distilleries. Not the case with 157, who've been distilling for 100+ years now. This .1 is the first ever cask from the SMWS from this iconic French distillery, fully matured in a 1st-fill Spanish oak ex-Oloroso cask for 8 years. *This release is strictly limited to one bottle per member.*

TOASTY, ROASTY AND OAKY

DEEP, RICH & DRIED FRUITS

CASK No. 157.1
\$249



REGION	France
CASK TYPE	1st fill Spanish oak Oloroso butt
AGE	8 years
DATE DISTILLED	31 August 2014
OUTTURN	622 bottles
ABV	60.8%
AUS ALLOCATION	24 bottles

We unwrapped a stick of cinnamon chewing gum and poured root beer into a glass, filling the room with myriad aromas such as liquorice root, nutmeg, acacia, anise, clove, molasses, eucalyptus and, of course, cinnamon. On the neat palate, we sipped a cup of oolong tea with that typical brown sugar sweetness, as well as toasty, roasty and oaky flavours, with a finish of melon jam with vanilla and lime. When we carefully added water, the nose turned into chocolate-and-yoghurt-coated raisins, candied orange slices and freeze-dried strawberries. To taste, there were plenty of toasted oats and nuts, honey granola, peach yoghurt and an apricot danish.





THE SCOTCH MALT WHISKY SOCIETY

SOCIETY CASK NO: 42.76 / OUTFURN: 1 of 237

SIMPLY IRREFUTABLE

Calm and elegant. On the palate roasted nectarines with labneh, herbs and honey - the kind of combination that simply cannot fail to please.

26	DISTILLED:	5 APRIL 1995
	REGION:	HIGHLAND
	CASK:	1ST FILL EX-BOURBON HOGSHEAD

SINGLE MALT SCOTCH WHISKY 53.0% VOL 70cl e



SIMPLY IRREFUTABLE

OLD & DIGNIFIED

CASK No. 42.76
\$649



REGION	Highland
CASK TYPE	1st fill bourbon hogshead
AGE	26 years
DATE DISTILLED	5 April 1995
OUTTURN	237 bottles
ABV	53.0%
AUS ALLOCATION	48 bottles



The nose neat had that sense of calmness and elegance which is simply irresistible. There was chamois leather, ginger sponge cake, cinder toffee, baked apples plus hints of hazelnuts, figs, nutmeg and exotic wood – the list could go on and on! On the palate, rich, mellow and smooth, gentle, refined and sublime. We had to go exotic here, like roasted nectarines with labneh, herbs and honey – a combination that simply cannot fail to please. The tiniest drop of water, if you wish, and you will be rewarded with the scent of heather, bergamot and candied brazil nuts while to taste Samai salted plantain chips.

ROSE PETALS, ICE-CREAM AND BIRTHDAY CAKE

JUICY, OAK & VANILLA

CASK No. 113.66
\$180



REGION	Speyside
CASK TYPE	1st fill bourbon barrel
AGE	13 years
DATE DISTILLED	23 Apr 2009
OUTTURN	144 bottles
ABV	62.6%
AUS ALLOCATION	36 bottles

On the nose, some sharp fruity notes (strawberry, gooseberry and cranberry) were appeased by softer aromas of toasted coconut and flaked almonds, mashed banana, rose petals and white chocolate. The palate was mainly a biscuit feast of coconut protein cereal bars, flapjack digestives and ginger snaps, with ginger and pepper spices building over time to dominate the finish. The reduced nose was a bit of a re-run – freeze-dried strawberries and raspberries and fruit pastilles alongside chocolate-coated peanuts, caramel, toffee and toasted oak. The palate was now lightly creamy and waxy – lemon bonbons, Kendal mint cake, vanilla ice-cream and birthday cake candles.



PERFECT SLEEPER SPIRIT



You know what's fashionable? I mean, I certainly don't. Not really anyway. Everyone loves a big sherry bomb. Everyone wants big peat monsters. Code hunters seek out certain numbers with ferocious voracity. Do you know what's not fashionable? A 14-year-aged, 1st fill, Juicy Oak & Vanilla, balanced and delightful whisky from Distillery 9. Tropical smoothies, coconut yoghurt, whipped cream and biscotti. Take a bottle of 9.227 to your Sunday lunch. Take a quiet moment out with this delightful underdog that isn't very sexy, isn't a peat bomb, isn't a superstar distillery. It's just damn good whisky. Nuff said.

CHILL-TIME

JUICY, OAK & VANILLA

CASK No. 9.227
\$179



REGION	Speyside
CASK TYPE	1st fill bourbon barrel
AGE	14 years
DATE DISTILLED	28 February 2007
OUTTURN	169 bottles
ABV	59.9%
AUS ALLOCATION	42 bottles



We started with a little ray of sunshine; a tropical smoothie packed with mango, pineapple, passion fruit and creamy coconut yoghurt, we might even have added a little ginger and turmeric. Smooth, thick and rich on the palate neat like an Italian custard dessert called Zabaglione made with egg yolks, sugar, cinnamon, grated lemon peel and Marsala wine, served with whipped cream and a biscotti. Water added a walnut whip, black currant coulis, caramel popcorn and clotted cream fudge on the nose. The taste was a sip of banana daquiri: light rum, lime juice, banana liqueur and sugar syrup all in a chilled cocktail glass.





PEAT-SMOKED PORTER

PEATED

CASK No. 16.76
\$169



REGION	Highland
CASK TYPE	Refill re-charred hogshead
AGE	8 years
DATE DISTILLED	1 October 2013
OUTTURN	206 bottles
ABV	63.0%
AUS ALLOCATION	36 bottles

We made beef brisket with burnt ends on a smoker and threw in some crunchy thick-cut potato chips, plenty of brown sauce, added a tankard of rich and peat-smoked porter, and for some this was heaven on earth. On the palate, dark and sweet, warm and smoky, molasses, peanut butter, chilli barbeque sauce and a slice of black bun. Following reduction, we smoked bananas over a peat fire with dark bitter chocolate and pistachios, while to taste, surprisingly soft and smooth with honey nut bars and smoked chocolate mousse before the smoke started to build up again rising to a delicious crescendo.

THE SHANTY O' SHERRY AN' PEAT

PEATED

CASK No. 10.233
\$199



REGION	Islay
CASK TYPE	1st fill American oak PX hogshead
AGE	9 years
DATE DISTILLED	17 October 2013
OUTTURN	264 bottles
ABV	59.0%
AUS ALLOCATION	36 bottles

At first we noted buttery smoke, root beer and black pepper; a big, hearty fusion of peat and sherry influences. We also found suggestions of biltong, liquorice, burning sage and tarred hessian, plus some boot polish and smoked peanuts in the background. Water brought through lovely notes of pickling juices, malt vinegar, ointments, black olive tapenade and game salami, along with a furl of cigar smoke. The palate opened with lots of peppered smoked mackerel oils, hot smoked chilli, paprika, natural tar, sweet liquorice, malt loaf and smoked heather beers. This was matured for five years in a bourbon hogshead before being transferred to a first fill American oak Pedro Ximénez hogshead.



MIDNIGHT GRITS

BOURBON

CASK No. B5.9
\$189



REGION	Tennessee
CASK TYPE	1st fill charred barrel
AGE	6 years
DATE DISTILLED	22 March 2016
OUTTURN	195 bottles
ABV	63.5%
AUS ALLOCATION	42 bottles

Our initial notes included maraschino juices, sweet orange wines, aged triple sec, nutmeg, liquorice and treacle spread on hot cross buns. It also brought to mind molten chocolate marshmallow and jam biscuits, dark honey and date molasses. Reduction made it more complex and we found notes of sunflower oil, shoe polish, cream soda and Turkish delight – thicker, deeper and darker. The palate when neat was peppered with cloves, crystallised satsuma chunks, runny honey, herbal wines and spiced blood orange liqueur. Some water made everything easier and brought out lemon cough drops, cherryade, eucalyptus resin and notes of birch beer and red liquorice.

RUMBUSTIOUS

RUM

CASK No. R11.19
\$180



REGION	Jamaica
CASK TYPE	Refill bourbon ex-Islay barrel
AGE	9 years
DATE DISTILLED	1 June 2013
OUTTURN	181 bottles
ABV	67.1%
AUS ALLOCATION	24 bottles

Initially plenty of fruity aromas, bananas and pineapples complemented by a vanilla sweetness and hint of macadamia nuts. There was smoke lingering in the background, growing in time. To taste, boisterous and unruly, heavily ashy and peppered, smoked jerk chicken and biltong. After reduction the scent was that of ash rolled watermelon, varnished fences, or indeed varnished pineapple cubes, while to taste there was sweetness and smoke in perfect harmony, with fruity mild ancho chillies in the finish. Following five years in an ex-bourbon barrel, we transferred this whisky into a refill barrel that previously held 20-year-old whisky from distillery 29.

SUMMER IN PROVENCE

GIN

MIX
IT UP

CASK No. GN1.10

\$139

REGION	Glasgow
CASK TYPE	1st fill bourbon barrel
AGE	1 year
DATE DISTILLED	16 December 2020
OUTTURN	252 bottles
ABV	49.2%
AUS ALLOCATION	24 bottles

Our nasal gintelligence accounted thus – orange blossom, lemon groves, olive oil and rosemary savon de Marseille, with additional gindications of liquorice root, pine and perfumed cigarettes. The palate ginitially gave a swipe of citrus (orange peel, lemon and dark chocolate biscuits) followed by sea buckthorn, pine, rosemary and juniper; the suitably dry finish rested on sturdy pillars of peppercorn and redcurrant. The reduced nose was an Arabian prince's tent where new carpet bags, straight from the camel, contained dried flowers sprayed with patchouli oil. The palate now ginspired us with perfumed ginsinuations of rose, vanilla, vetiver and blackcurrant – summer in Provence.





MIGHTY OAKEN CASK

**PART #5: BOURBON
BARREL INVASION**
BY CHRIS MIDDLETON



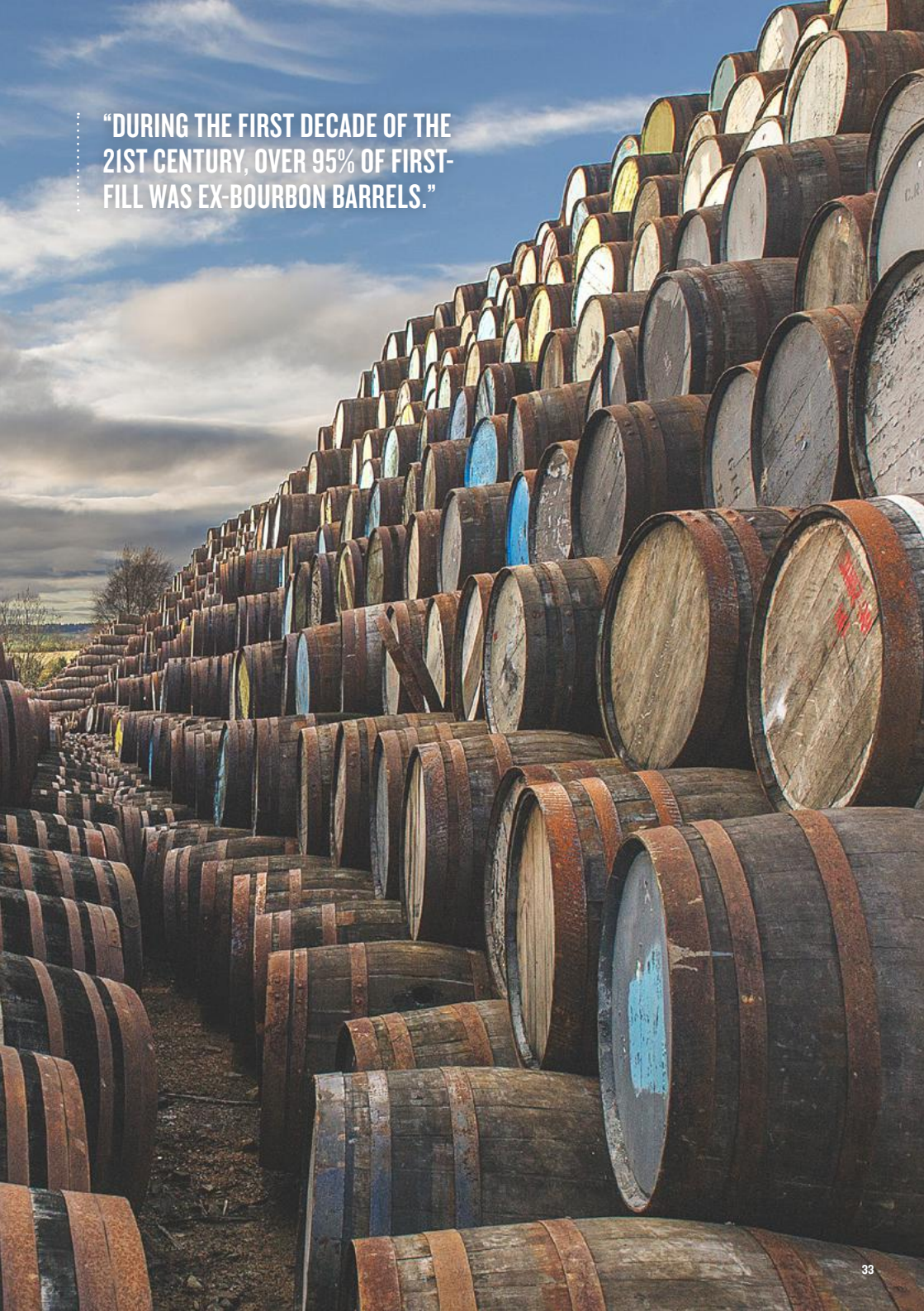
During the first decade of the 21st century, over 95% of first-fill was ex-bourbon barrels. Sherried whisky had defined Scotch and Irish whisky for over two hundred years, but now ex-bourbon reigns supreme.

The most radical sensory change affecting Scotch and Irish whisky happened during the past fifty years. The bourbon barrel invasion usurped sherry casks as the primary maturation container. As the oaken cask is the main source of whisky flavour, shifting to ex-bourbon profoundly modified whisky's historical character. Since the 1960s, as sherry wood became even more difficult and expensive to procure, ex-bourbon wood inexorably filled the void.

Two cask factors conspired to make this change. Since the 1880s, Britain's sherry consumption had been in decline, reducing the quantum of butts for the whisky industry. When Spain joined the E.U., the government had banned the shipping of bulk butts and casks in 1986. The cask trade had already begun to dry up as bodegas increasingly bottled their sherry to prevent fraud overseas. Responding to a scarcity of casks, whisky distillers began new cask treatment programs by filling virgin oak containers with sherry wine for a year or two in the late 1970s.



“DURING THE FIRST DECADE OF THE
21ST CENTURY, OVER 95% OF FIRST-
FILL WAS EX-BOURBON BARRELS.”





This led to another discernible sensory shift, increasing oak-derived flavours in sherried whiskies.

The other factor was that a year before the Second World War began, the U.S. Congress passed an Act mandating straight whisky ‘must be stored in a charred white oak container’, effective July 1938. Prohibition’s repeal in January 1934 left the U.S. with a shortage of bonded bourbon whisky barrels, lasting until after the Second World War. In North America, dumped barrels were in demand for domestic reuse to age the more popular new class of spirits known as (American) blended whiskey, neutral grain spirit with 20% or more straight whisky. The first experimental shooed (broken down) ex-bourbon barrels

“BY THE LATE 1950S, EX-BOURBON WOOD WAS DEEMED A VIABLE ALTERNATIVE TO SHERRY. TWO-YEAR-OLD, FOUR-YEAR-OLD, AND OLDER ONCE-USED BOURBON BARRELS BEGAN SERVING SCOTLAND’S DISTILLERIES.”

sent to Scotland departed from Brooklyn’s Maslow cooperage on VE Day 1945. By the late 1950s, ex-bourbon wood was deemed a viable alternative to sherry. Two-year-old, four-year-old, and older once-used bourbon barrels began serving Scotland’s distilleries. By 1965, two and a half million staves were landing in Britain, scraped of charcoal and reassembled as larger hogsheads by adding several staves with greater capacity to acclimatise the

higher proof whisky for longer, cooler and slower maturation. As America's burgeoning domestic bourbon industry grew from the late 1950s, millions of unwanted barrels became available to Scotch distillers. Ex-bourbon was proving to be a worthy alternative to replace traditional sherry casks in Scotland and Ireland, and relatively inexpensive compared to sherry casks.

American oak was not new to the whisky industry; it had been the preferred cask wood by Spanish sherry wineries since the early 1700s. White oak exports to Europe have been a major source of colonial trade since the 1680s. In 1807, Don Esteban Boulelour wrote, "*They (bodegas and cooperages in Jerez and Sanlucar) use oak almost exclusively; they esteem more than any other that which comes from the United States of America,*" "*next Northern Baltic oak, then Italian, and lastly, Spanish oak.*" The sherry butts arriving in Scotland in the late 18th century were mainly American white oak.

North America's *Quercus alba* white oak species are less tannic, with pleasing lactone and lignin flavour compounds and sweeter to taste, complementing sherry and whisky. After the 1860 Amended Excise Act opened the floodgates for blended Scotch, production tripled over the next four decades, while sherry imports fell from a peak of 40 million litres in 1873 to 23 million in 1893, with export butts declining by half. In 1900, 49,497 butts of sherry were imported into Britain; however, sherry's Jerez de la Frontera ports reported their total worldwide exports at 42,565 butts. Spain's export agents had long sold comparable wines from neighbouring regions as sherry. Not until 1933 did Jerez de la Frontera gain geographic protection for its sherry denomination.





“IN THE 1980S, THE GROWING DOMINANCE OF EX-BOURBON BARRELS BEGAN TO INSPIRE NEW MATURATION PROGRAMS, REPEATING TECHNIQUES OF THE LATE 19TH CENTURY BY OFFERING CONSUMERS NUANCED FLAVOUR DIFFERENTIATION EMPLOYING SHERRY CASK FINISHING OR DOUBLE-CASKING.”

Rum puncheons and port pipes also declined as whisky consumption soared. Distilleries shunned these two cask types as sherry was universally regarded as the superior cask flavour for ‘genuine Scotch whisky.’ Even seasoned new American oak casks, purged of tannins and oaken flavours by steam, chemical washes and other treatment methods, were preferred to other wine or spirit casks.

As sherry’s custom declined, further adverse events reduced production. Phylloxera reached the Jerez district in 1894, devastating harvests for years, followed by trade restrictions caused by the Great War, the Spanish Civil War and the Second World War, all driving down sherry production. As sherry casks became a dwindling resource, ex-bourbon barrels ably served distilleries in the British Isles.

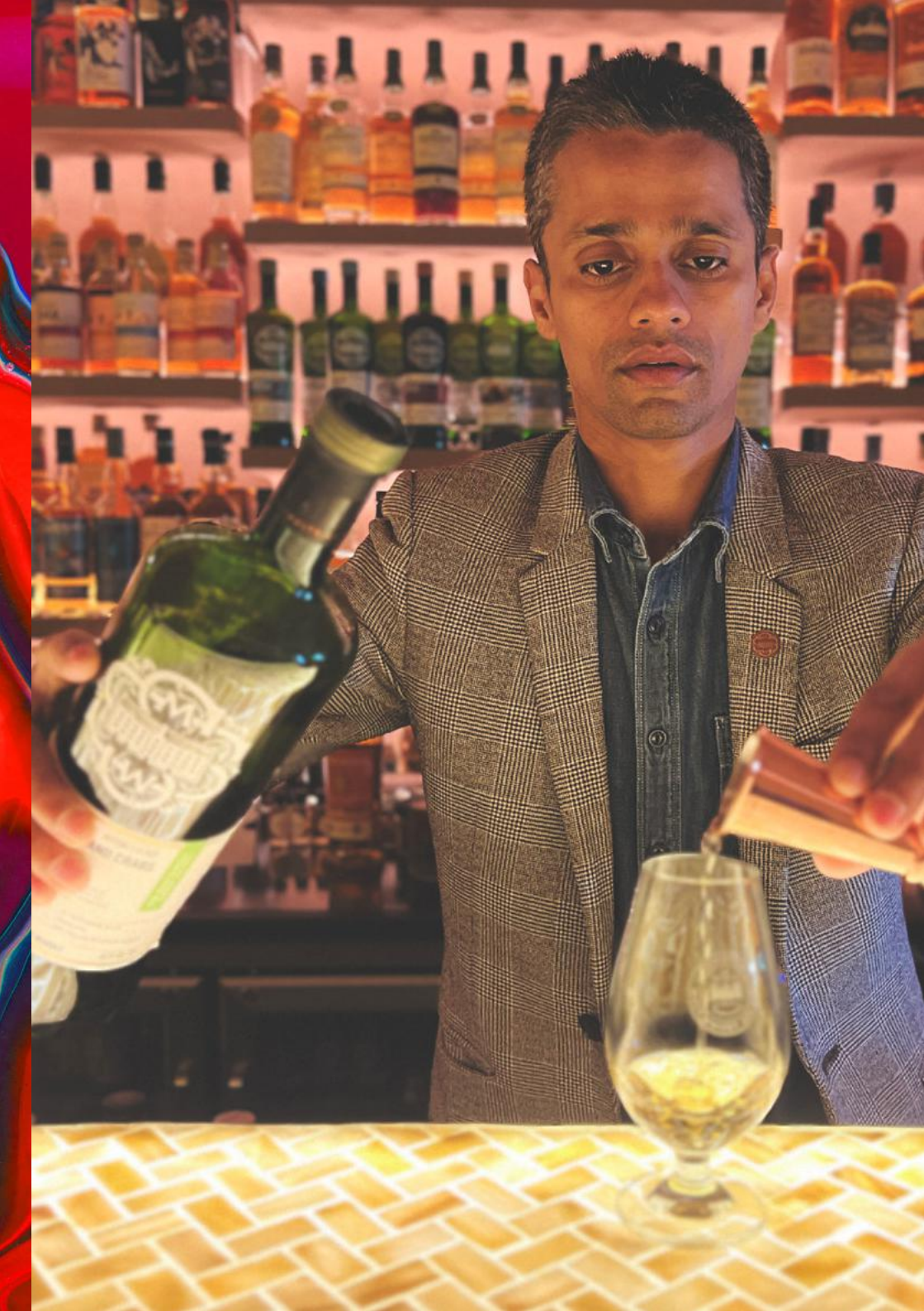
In the 1980s, the growing dominance of ex-bourbon barrels began to inspire new maturation programs, repeating techniques of the late 19th century by offering consumers nuanced flavour differentiation employing sherry cask finishing or double-casking. Another 19th-century ‘sherry wine treatment’ banned after 1988 (paxarette cask) is the subject of the next instalment.

Contracting supply of ex-bourbon barrels has become an increasing concern to the Scotch industry. Over the past two decades, the total

production of the traditional Scotch malt distilleries has increased from 111 million litres of pure alcohol in 1981 to 284 million in 2014, estimated in 2023 at 330 million litres. Additional demand comes from over 2,000 new whisky and rum distilleries since 2005. In recent years, the increasing demand for the once bountiful bourbon barrel pipeline has caused prices to double, impacting whisky’s cost of goods. Unlike the annual cycles of barley and other cereals, oak tree and cask maturity is measured by the lifespan of the species that drink whisky.



THIS IS THE 5TH INSTALMENT IN THE MIGHTY OAKEN SERIES BY CHRIS MIDDLETON. THE SERIES CAN BE READ ONLINE AT [SMWS.COM.AU/NEWS](https://smws.com.au/news)





YOUR LOCAL PARTNER BARS

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It's been a busy year for the SMWS Australia branch! Among the incredible releases and experiences we've been preparing, we've also partnered with a great selection of new bars, which have made fantastic additions to our ever-growing portfolio of Australian Partner Bars. Partner Bars are a great way to connect with like-minded flavour enthusiasts in person (whether it's a chance meeting or a planned catch-up), as well as taste some incredible Society spirit at discounted prices.

Check out some of the latest Partner Bar additions and find out more about their offerings to members. ►

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Terrarium — WA

Entry via, Tenancy 2, 99 St Georges Terrace, Howard St, Perth WA 6000

A Partner Bar like no other! Terrarium is like stepping into a literal terrarium with greenery lacing the walls and lush blue lounges lining the floor-to-ceiling windows overlooking the streets below. A wacky and experimental cocktail list will keep you entertained whilst the backbar's spirit selection will allow you to take it down a notch and appreciate the surrounding atmosphere. Owned and managed by our WA State Ambassador, Xander Stucken, the bar also boasts an ever-growing line-up of Society drams.

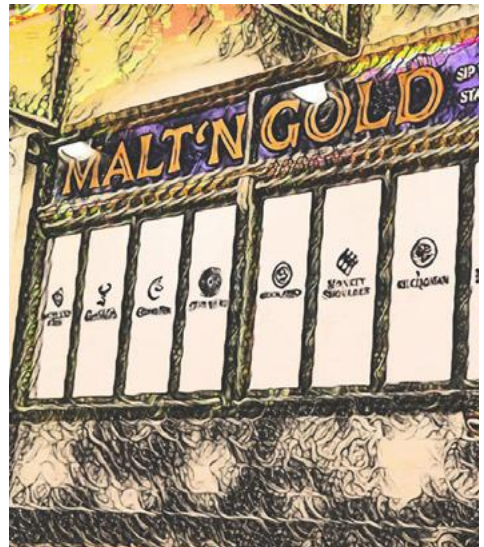
See what all the fuss is about and bring your SMWS membership card to **receive 10% off all Society drams on the bar.**

Malt'n Gold — WA

20 Wray Avenue, Fremantle WA 6160

Malt'n Gold is Western Australia's biggest little whisk(e)y bar. With over 500+ whiskies pouring (not counting the dozens of agaves, rums, and gins) and space for only 20 guests, this is the old-school whisky bar that you see in movies and TV. Soft rock, jazz, and classical tunes fill the background, so you can talk to your companions in the foreground uninterrupted.

Drop into Malt'n Gold for a dram or two; don't forget to bring your Society membership card as **SMWS members receive a 10% discount on all Society drams.**





Eau De Vie — NSW

**285 George Street (enter via Wynyard Lane),
Sydney, NSW 2000**

From the Speakeasy Group comes a lavish addition to The SMWS Australia Partner Bar family. We are very excited and proud to have Eau De Vie Sydney stocking an extensive range of SMWS bottlings for members and guests to enjoy at their leisure. A lush cocktail bar located in the Sydney CBD, EDV is perfect for a night out with friends or a solo tippie, with plenty of delicious bar snacks, small plates, and signature cocktails to choose from to complement your Society drams.



Bar 26 — NSW

Unit 2/26 – 30 Halloran St, Lilyfield NSW 2040

Bar 26 is Otter Craft Distilling's speakeasy-style urban distillery bar. A Whiskey & Cocktail bar to showcase OCD's internationally award-winning spirits — each one distilled onsite — in addition to similar wines & spirits. Bar 26 is a brilliant spot to enjoy a curated selection of SMWS bottlings from

recent and past Outturns, whether it be over a snack at the bar or alongside a more substantial dinner in their dining room.

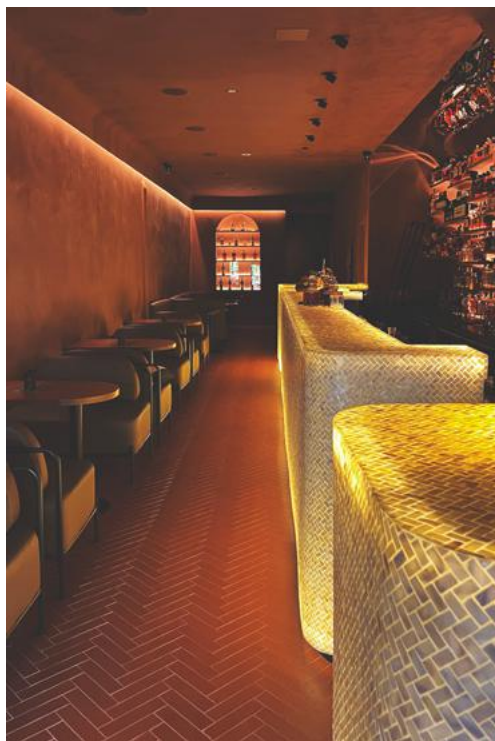
Bring your SMWS membership card with you to enjoy 20% off all drinks from the bar (excludes food and bottle sales).

The Captain's Balcony Crows Nest — NSW

**116 Willoughby Road, Crows Nest,
NSW 2065**

As if one wasn't already exciting, there is now a second Captain's Balcony venue in NSW! Nestled in Crows Nest, The Captain's Balcony Crows Nest is a lush place for a dram, beer, or cocktail, with a healthy repertoire of SMWS bottlings on the back bar. The venue itself takes design cues from modern architecture and is a marvel to experience — it truly is a space to sit with a dram and soak up the atmosphere.

Flash your SMWS membership card to receive 10% off all SMWS drams; plus, if you're around on a Wednesday, the bar offers 10% off all backbar drams.



Spier & Wright — SA

U1/151 King William Road, Unley 5061

Spier & Wright Whisky Merchants is a bottle shop, bar, and haven for flavour enthusiasts. A brilliant space with a carefully curated backbar and selection of Society whiskies. On a sunny day, the rays will pour in through the front windows, bathing the space in natural light; it's a fantastic way to enjoy a good dram.

If you're in the area, don't forget to show the staff your SMWS membership card to receive discounts off SMWS drams.



The Crypt — VIC

**14 Camp Street, Ballarat Central,
VIC 3350**

The Crypt has been an SMWS Partner Bar for a while but has recently rebranded under new management into something unlike anything in our portfolio. Located in Ballarat, The Crypt is a gothic cocktail bar with an emphasis on providing an immersive experience through various productions and thematically-true cocktails. If that doesn't speak to your style, don't worry, because the bar is still accessible to those just looking to have a relaxing Society dram on a comfortable couch.

Members receive exclusive discounts on all SMWS drams when they show their membership card.

The Whiskery at Bellarine Distillery — VIC

**2102-2120 Portarlington Rd, Drysdale,
Australia**

The Whiskery is Bellarine Distillery's cellar door located in Greater Geelong's Drysdale. It's a cosy little spot to enjoy a gin, cocktail and, of course, a Society dram. Feeling a bit peckish? You can always order a grazing plate, or one of their delicious pizzas for something more substantial. Bellarine Distillery is doing some fantastic things right now in Aussie spirits and is run by great people; we're very proud and excited to be collaborating with them to bring single-cask flavour to a wider audience in the area.

Bring your SMWS membership card when you drop past The Whiskery to receive exclusive discounts on SMWS drams.



SHOW US YOUR FAVOURITE GATHERING!

WIN
3 X GOLDEN TICKETS
TO OUR CHRISTMAS
PARTY



In the spirit of Gathering month, we're offering up 3x golden tickets to our end-of-year Christmas party in your state to three lucky members! All you have to do is post a photo of your most memorable whisky gathering moment (it could be a quiet drink with friends, or a whisky party you've hosted over the summer), tell us why it's so memorable, and you could win one of three golden tickets!

Post a happy whisky moment with friends to your Instagram (and tag us) or our Facebook group, tell us a little bit about why it's so significant to you, and we'll pick three winners on Tuesday, 1st of October on our YouTube Channel.

Embrace the gathering season — share the love — share the whisky!

IT'S
GATHERING
MONTH



As you've no doubt read in the earlier pages, this is the month where we get together in person and virtually to celebrate our shared passion, love, and appreciation for the incredible Uisge Beatha — the water of life — whisky!

To celebrate the launch of the 2024 Aussie Gathering cask, we're giving away an incredibly rare and valuable set from our 20th anniversary with a triple bottle set in a handcrafted Huon pine box, valued at \$1,499!

This box set contains 3x bottles which were hand-selected by our own Australia Branch executive team to celebrate the 20th Anniversary of SMWS Australia, complete with a handmade Tasmanian Huon Pine box, and we're giving one away to a lucky new member.



WIN
A 20TH-ANNIVERSARY
WHISKY BOX SET



To win this exclusive set, just join the SMWS in the month of September, the month of our global gathering, with our **Membership + Bottle of the Moment** membership.

That's an extra \$1,499 in value that you could win JUST by joining the Society this September!

Embrace the Gathering spirit this coming September and embark on a flavour journey of your own.

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New members must have joined between the 1st of September and 30th of September (11:59pm AEST). Offer is limited to new members, not renewals. Offer is not available to those who've previously been a member in the last 3 months of the SMWS, regardless of branch. Offer not transferrable, or redeemable for any other offer. No vouchers or further discounts apply.

JUST
\$99
+ DELIVERY

VIRTUAL  TASTING

THE GATHERING

TUESDAY 17 SEPTEMBER @ 7PM AEST

The Gathering is upon us. A global get-together of members and friends celebrating the like-minded love of whisky and the flavour journey it takes us on. If you can join us for an in-person Gathering, then you must, or if virtual suits your locale or circumstance, then we promise to bring the Gathering spirit energy to our monthly tasting this month.

Join us on Tuesday the 17th of September for a fun virtual where we'll be tasting the new Gathering cask exclusive to Australia, along with other rarities and goodies from September Outturn. Just \$99 per set, with no less than \$1,678 worth of incredible spirit being opened and shared around!



SPICY & SWEET

CASK 59.86
THE BENEFICENCE OF BEES
(GATHERING 2024)



JUICY, OAK & VANILLA

CASK 9.227
CHILL-TIME



SPICY & SWEET

CASK 77.73
WAXY MCSHERRYFACE



SWEET, FRUITY & MELLOW

CASK 38.38
CHESTNUT FOREST
CONFECTIONS



RUM

CASK R11.19
RUMBUSTIOUS

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

MYSTERY MALTS

ARE HERE TO STAY

Our SMWS mystery malt offers are here to stay! After the immense popularity, beyond even our wildest expectation, we're moving our once 'limited time' mystery malt bundles into the 'staying around' realm.

When you purchase an SMWS mystery malt:

The value of the bottling we send you will always be on, or above, the price paid.

The bottling will be, as always, panel-approved by our expert panel, so the quality of the liquid will always be top notch.

We will do our best to make sure you don't receive a bottling you've previously purchased, so you avoid double-ups.



SOCIETY EXPERIENCES

SMWS EXPERIENCES IN YOUR AREA

SYDNEY

SYDNEY GATHERING

The full Gathering experience with our own Gathering cask and several other tasty Society bottles in a STEPS-style, free-roam party format. Tasty food, great drams, and incredible people.

Saturday 14 September, 2:30pm
The Captain's Balcony Partner Bar,
Crows Nest, NSW.

MELBOURNE

MELBOURNE OUTTURN PREVIEW

A sneak peek at some upcoming bottles in September Outturn upstairs at Whisky & Alement.

Tuesday 3 Sept, 6:30pm
Whisky & Alement, Melbourne, VIC.

MELBOURNE

MELBOURNE GATHERING

The full Gathering experience with our own Gathering cask, other September Outturn releases, and a two-course sit-down dinner at the beloved Kelvin Club.

Thursday 12 September, 6:30pm
The Kelvin Club, Melbourne, VIC.

MELBOURNE

MELBOURNE LONG-LUNCH SERIES

Alex Moores' Long-Lunch Series kicks off this October with an intimate sit-down dinner in Smith Street Bistro's private dining room complete with VC and Premium bottlings, wine pairings, and a multi-course lunch.

Saturday 12 October, 1:00pm
Smith Street Bistro, Melbourne, VIC.

PERTH

PERTH GATHERING AND OUTTURN PREVIEW

The full Gathering experience with our own Gathering cask + an exclusive September Outturn preview line-up alongside great company.

Thursday 5 September, 6:30pm
Terrarium Partner Bar, Perth WA.

BRISBANE

ONE NIGHT ONLY: BASIK X SMWS LIVE IN BRISBANE

Join Krsna Rajalingam for the only live BASIK x SMWS incredible whisky and chocolate pairing experience of 2024. Last seats!

Thursday 5 September, 6:30pm
Common Vice, New Farm, QLD

MORE EVENTS ARE BEING ADDED, SO KEEP AN EYE ON
SMWS.COM.AU/EVENTS FOR ALL THE LATEST UPDATES.





SMWS.COM.AU

02 9974 3046

Mon-Fri 9.00am - 5.00pm AEST

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