



THE SCOTCH MALT  
WHISKY SOCIETY

# OUTTURN

Celebrating on Friday 4 April • Issue 4, 2025

## MUSIC & MALTS

The best whisky pairing returns with A Major  
dramming upgrade!



TURN THE MUSIC UP HERE: [SMWS.COM.AU](https://www.smws.com.au)

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# BEYOND SMELL — AND — TASTE

.....  
BY LACHLAN WATT

**I**t isn't the first, nor will it be the last time I say that no matter the quality of the whisky, the experience you have surrounding the liquid can make or break a dram. This experience can boil down to the people you share the whisky with, the location in which you enjoy it, or even something as simple as an event that has occurred earlier in the day. However, we can curate our whisky experience quite simply. We have five senses that shape our experiences around whisky — not just smell and taste, but also sight, touch, and sound.

“I FIND INTRODUCING MUSIC  
TO MY TASTING EXPERIENCE  
INCREDIBLY EXCITING, AS IT OPENS  
UP SO MANY FUN COMBINATIONS”





I find introducing music to my tasting experience incredibly exciting, as it opens up so many fun combinations. We're all familiar with the pairings of beer and whisky, wine and whisky, and, of course, food and whisky, but I find adding that extra sensory experience to be incredibly holistic and satisfying — especially when I find the right song or album to pair with a special whisky.

In the past, I've had quite a bit of fun pairing unusual combinations of whisky and music. For example, I paired cask 112.69 Scotch goes west (Indies) with the track "Can't Stand the Strain" by Funkadelic, and a personal favourite was the cask 143.1 Sea buckthorn tea with honey paired with the track "What's Up?" by 4 Non Blondes.

**"THESE MUSIC PAIRINGS CAN COME TOGETHER IN THE STRANGEST OF WAYS — WHERE YOU MIGHT FIND A BIG, EARTHY, AND SMOKY WHISKY PAIRING WITH A TRACK BY AQUA, OR SOMETHING LIGHT AND DELICATE PAIRED WITH A NORDIC BLACK METAL BAND."**

These music pairings can come together in the strangest of ways — where you might find a big, earthy, and smoky whisky pairing with a track by Aqua, or something light and delicate paired with a Nordic black metal band. This is the journey we can take to truly explore the experience we build with these whiskies.



“A PERSONAL FAVOURITE WAS THE CASK 143.1 SEA BUCKTHORN TEA WITH HONEY PAIRED WITH THE TRACK “WHAT’S UP?” BY 4 NON BLONDES..”

In April, we’re celebrating Music and Malt, so let me throw out a few bottlings I would love for you to experiment with. First, we start with the first cask from Distillery 159, an incredibly exciting new Japanese distillery for us. Cask 159.1 Zen and the art of tiramisu has deep mocha and coconut notes running through it, with elements of fruit and smoke swirling, making me want to throw on “Brain Damage” by Pink Floyd. Instead of going straight to flavour, we can stick to a theme related to the cask or the name of our casks. For example, we have 66.238 Blackbeard’s booty, a cask that has undergone a second maturation in an ex-Trinidad rum cask, and we could pair it with either a fun surf rock track or something with an airy seaside vibe.

Our Malt of the Month, 78.63 Seriously big flavours, could be fun to explore while listening to something deep, funky, and jammy, like “Bertha Butt Boogie” by The Jimmy Castor Bunch ft. The Everything Man,

which adds a bit of richness to this spicy & dry dram. You could even go for something moody and chunky like “This Corrosion” by the Sisters of Mercy.

For the April outturn, I implore you to challenge your whisky journey and expand your musical palate. Let us know how these whiskies fare against the breadth of the music industry.

Slàinte.



**Lachlan Watt** ~  
SMWS Australia  
Brand Ambassador

# IT'S A BIG ONE!

## SERIOUSLY BIG FLAVOURS

SPICY & DRY

CASK No. 78.63

**\$189** REDUCED FROM \$219



REGION	Highland
CASK TYPE	2nd fill Oloroso hogshead
AGE	9 years
DATE DISTILLED	22 November 2012
ABV	59.5%
OUTTURN	271 (42 in Australia)

### TASTING NOTES

We found on the neat nose apple, flavoured tobacco in a leather pouch and bramble liqueur poured over rum and raisin ice cream. On the palate we grabbed a handful of Bombay spice mix before we bit into a grilled, spiced lamb kebab. After the addition of water, we prepared crispy salt and pepper-shredded beef with oyster sauce, sesame oil and red wine vinegar. To taste, hazelnut chocolate spread on heavily burnt toast and dark bitter chocolate with sour cherries! Following six years in an ex-bourbon hogshead, we transferred this whisky into a second fill oloroso hogshead which previously matured whisky from Society distillery 125.

### FROM THE TEAM

It's always a treat seeing sherried whisky assigned by our panel to the Spicy & Dry flavour profile... why not Deep, Rich & Dried Fruits? You just have to read the notes and have a taste to find out! Cooked meat spices and that popular note of *tobacco in a leather pouch* are rife across the palate. It's also worth considering that this is not just one of the drier sherries around (oloroso), but also from a 2nd fill cask which previously matured a Society whisky from Distillery 125... and it's been quite some time since we've seen a 125. 42 bottles landed in Australia and we're offering it up as Malt of the Month for just \$189. On sale on April 4th — don't miss it!



→ From April Outturn, the way we approach Malt of the Month will be changing slightly. The specially advertised, discounted price stated in Outturn magazine will only be applicable for the release month and will revert back to its original price in following months. Be sure to jump on the limited price while it lasts!





MWS  
VAULTS, LEITH



SOCIETY CASK NO: 78.63 / OUTFURN: 1 of 271

### SERIOUSLY BIG FLAVOURS

*Bramble liqueur over rum and raisin ice cream, crispy salt and pepper-shredded beef, and dark bitter chocolate with sour cherries: a flavour punch.*

THE SCOTCH MALT WHISKY SOCIETY

<b>9</b> YEARS OLD	DISTILLED:	22 NOVEMBER 2012
	REGION:	HIGHLAND
	INITIAL CASK:	EX-BOURBON HOGSHEAD
	FINAL CASK:	2ND FILL EX-OLOROSO HOGSHEAD

SINGLE MALT SCOTCH WHISKY 50.9% VOL 70cl e

# RIPE FOR THE PICKING



## SWEET SERENITY AND TEASING MUSK

SWEET, FRUITY & MELLOW

CASK No. 5.112

**\$330**

<b>REGION</b>	Lowland
<b>CASK TYPE</b>	1st fill Bourbon barrel
<b>AGE</b>	19 years
<b>DATE DISTILLED</b>	27 January 2003
<b>ABV</b>	58.5%
<b>OUTTURN</b>	205 (18 in Australia)



### TASTING NOTES

The nose combined a sweet serenity (honey, fudge, honeycomb bars) with an aromatic rhapsody of hothouse flowers, eucalyptus, pine needles and tobacco, plus a sharper shaft of sherbet fountains, lemongrass and rhubarb. The palate was sweetly tropical, with soothing spice – playful, yet mature at the same time – butterscotch, stone fruits, sandalwood and a finish of gingerbread, dark chocolate and tobacco strands. The reduced nose gave us marzipan, honey menthol throat sweets and teasing musky floral incense smoke. The palate still had a broad spectrum, from light and breezy (lime juice, perfume, cherries in syrup) to spicy Christmas sweets and exotic wood.

### FROM THE TEAM

Distillery 5 gets overlooked occasionally, and whilst some OBs have left little to be desired to some, we're lucky enough to receive these single-cask, cask-strength expressions from what is really incredible spirit that truly shines at this high-teen age bracket. This is juicy and rich in flavour with some ripe stone fruits mixed in with a melange of fragrant, biscuity notes (some might even be reminded of gingerbread, butterscotch, and some other Christmas-adjacent flavours). This was first featured in our January virtual tasting line-up and was a stand-out on the evening — available now in limited quantities.



MWS  
VAULTS, LEITH



SOCIETY CASK NO: 5.112 / ODTURK 1 of 205

### SWEET SERENITY AND TEASING MUSK

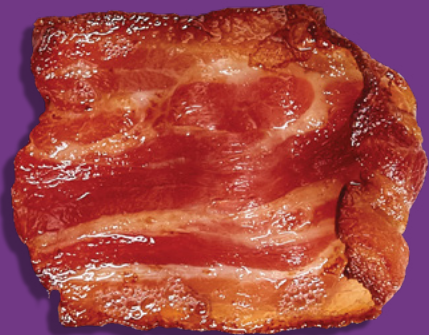
*Sweet serenity and teasing aromatics on the nose. The palate is amusingly tropical with soothing spice; playful yet mature at the same time.*

<b>19</b> <small>YEARS OLD</small>	DISTILLED:	27 JANUARY 2003
	REGION:	LOWLAND
	CASK:	1ST FILL EX-BOURBON BARREL

SINGLE MALT SCOTCH WHISKY

50.5% VOL 70cl e

THE SCOTCH MALT  
WHISKY SOCIETY



SOCIETY CASK NO: 68.97 / OUTFURN: 1 of 262

### THE JOY OF JOSTLING FLAVOURS

*We prepared a turnip gratin with smoky bacon while drinking a classic cola float. Diluted, gingerbread, plum sauce and beef olives with prosciutto.*

<b>14</b> YEARS OLD	DISTILLED:	24 AUGUST 2007
	REGION:	HIGHLAND
	INITIAL CASK:	EX-BOURBON HOGSHEAD
	FINAL CASK:	1ST FILL EX-PX HOGSHEAD

SINGLE MALT SCOTCH WHISKY 56.8% VOL 70cl e

THE SCOTCH MALT WHISKY SOCIETY

## THE JOY OF JOSTLING FLAVOURS

SPICY & SWEET

CASK No. 68.97

\$240



REGION	Highland
CASK TYPE	1st fill American oak PX hogshead
AGE	14 years
DATE DISTILLED	24 August 2007
ABV	56.8%
OUTTURN	262 (24 in Australia)

We imagined preparing a hearty dish of turnip gratin in a creamy gruyere cheese sauce with smoky bacon. While in the oven bubbling and turning golden, we enjoyed a classic cola float and a slice of malt bread with raisins which we dipped into a peppercorn sauce. After the addition of water, sweet spices were released reminding us of gingerbread and cinnamon spekulatius next to plum sauce and dry-roasted peanuts. On the palate, beef olives with prosciutto and potato dumplings were washed down with a dandelion and burdock shandy. Following 11 years in an ex-bourbon hogshead, we transferred this whisky into a first fill American oak PX hogshead.

## 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)

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. 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.



# WORTHY OF PRAISE

## ZEN AND THE ART OF TIRAMISU

DEEP, RICH & DRIED FRUITS

CASK No. 159.1

**\$329** *Ballotted release*

REGION	Japan
CASK TYPE	Refill American oak hogshead
AGE	5 years
DATE DISTILLED	14 July 2017
ABV	62.6%
OUTTURN	342 (42 in Australia)

### TASTING NOTES

Smoke from smouldering coconut shells wafted through the branches of oak trees, bringing light notes of tobacco and leather. With a few drops of water from the bubbling spring, layers of sticky jam between vanilla sponge cake beckoned sweet butterscotch, while chocolate-coated nuts danced with tiramisu in an old coal skuttle. This whisky has had a slightly unconventional story. In early January 2020, 13 casks of whisky distilled at Shinshu distillery in July 2017 were vatted together. Among them, four were new American white oak heavily toasted hogsheads, each able to host approximately 250 litres of whisky, and nine were former bourbon barrels with a capacity of about 200 litres each. On the 11 January 2020, this single malt was used to fill new casks, including this refill American oak heavily toasted hogshead, which hosted the whisky for just over three years before being sent to Scotland in the summer of 2023.



### FROM THE TEAM

There is absolutely no doubt in anyone's mind about this cask. This is Cask 159.1 – it is a Japanese whisky from a new distillery code for the Society and we are hugely lucky to be able to get the .1 here in Australia (an honour that would generally have been reserved for the Japan branch). This bottle was launched during an Omakase dinner in Sydney last month to much praise and we're super excited to be able to launch it here in April Outturn. Due to the limited local outturn of this bottling, it will be available exclusively through a ballot, which you can enter using the QR code below.



*Successful entrants will be notified by 3pm AEST, Friday April 11. If you are not successful, you'll be notified shortly after the draw. Good luck!*



SOCIETY CASK NO. #59.1 / OUTFURN 1 of 342

### ZEN AND THE ART OF TIRAMISU

*Smoke from smouldering coconuts wafts between oak trees, espresso, and marmalade in a chocolate sponge cake, with tiramisu as a side dish.*

<b>5</b> YEARS MATURED	DISTILLED:	14 JULY 2017
	REGION:	JAPAN
	INITIAL CASK:	BOURBON BARRELS & HOGSHEADS
	FINAL CASK:	REFILL AMERICAN OAK HOGSHEAD

SINGLE MALT JAPANESE WHISKY 62.6% VOL. 70cl e

THE SCOTCH MALT WHISKY SOCIETY



SOCIETY CASK NO. 96.38 / OUTFURN: 1 of 250

## SLAPPED BY A SLAB OF FRUITCAKE

*Heavy fruitcake, cocoa and marmalade exploded amid ginger, cinnamon and inped raisins on mint chocolate with mince pies and brandy butter.*

<b>13</b> <small>YEARS MATURE</small>	<b>DISTILLED:</b>	30 OCTOBER 2008
	<b>REGION:</b>	HIGHLAND
	<b>INITIAL CASK:</b>	EX-BOURBON HOGSHEAD
	<b>FINAL CASK:</b>	1ST FILL EX-OLOROSO HOGSHEAD

**SINGLE MALT SCOTCH WHISKY** 50.6% VOL 70cl e





## SLAPPED BY A SLAB OF FRUITCAKE

DEEP, RICH & DRIED FRUITS

CASK No. 96.38

**\$240**

Limit of 1 bottle per Member until 11/4



REGION	Highland
CASK TYPE	1st fill Spanish oak Oloroso hogshead
AGE	13 years
DATE DISTILLED	30 October 2008
ABV	58.6%
OUTTURN	258 (30 in Australia)

An unctuous amalgamation of heavy fruitcake, cocoa nibs and marmalade on toasted malt loaf mixed with creamy butter and plum and apple chutney. Like the fruitcake, the palate was heavy and rich. Mince pies and black bun (pastry-covered fruit loaf) joined ginger, cinnamon and singed raisins alongside oak staves dipped in brandy and honey. More fragrant aromas emerged with water of creme caramel, tangy orange and sandalwood with more bitter citrus notes suggesting old fashioned cocktails served with mint chocolate cookies and fudge. Chocolate now melted on the palate as zesty marmalade returned, bringing with it a bundle of herbs and a pleasingly dry finish.

## DANGEROUSLY GORGEOUS

SPICY & SWEET

CASK No. 63.105

**\$299**



REGION	Speyside
CASK TYPE	1st fill Bourbon barrel
AGE	20 years
DATE DISTILLED	9 May 2002
ABV	53.8%
OUTTURN	180 (24 in Australia)

The neat nose suggested to us honey on sandalwood, wintergreen, dusty flower pollens, fir wood sap and flowers in vase water. Holding everything together in the background: a lovely brittle waxiness. A distinctly old school profile we agreed. With water we noted mentholated tobaccos, dried mango, heather honey and hints of traditional IPA hops and limoncello. The mouth opened with a superbly vivid waxy texture and flavour. Some wonderfully honeyed qualities, herbal mouthwash, mothballs, citrus curds and exotic fruit teas. Gorgeous stuff! With reduction we found it became more medicinal and showcased a more balanced sweetness with herbal extracts, olive oil, resinous wood oils and lime cough drops.



# CHALLENGE ACCEPTED

## I CHALLENGE THEE ... TO A DUEL!

DEEP, RICH & DRIED FRUITS

CASK No. 18.52  
**\$230**



REGION	Speyside
CASK TYPE	1st fill Spanish oak Oloroso hogshead
AGE	15 years
DATE DISTILLED	18 September 2007
ABV	60.0%
OUTTURN	248 (42 in Australia)

### TASTING NOTES

At first we got initial notes of Jamaica ginger cake, cedarwood cigar boxes, liquorice, pipe tobacco and damp dunnage funkiness. We also found some sleek aromas of coconut husks, slightly salty old sherry vibes and fruit loaf. With water, the damp, earthy and mulch cellar notes were enhanced, along with further aromas of graphite oil, crushed walnuts and petrichor. The neat palate opened with big flavours of walnut wine, old furniture and leather – like being slapped in the chops with an old leather driving glove. With water we found dates in syrup, brown bread spread with treacle and more notes of tobacco laced with eucalyptus. Matured for 12 years in a bourbon hogshead, this was then transferred to a first fill Spanish oak oloroso sherry hogshead.



### FROM THE TEAM

An ever-popular 12/3 year split of maturation from ex-bourbon wood to Spanish oak oloroso — this stunner from Distillery 18 definitely leans harder into the dried nuts aspect of the Deep, Rich & Dried Fruits flavour profile with some dunnage funk, oily textures and walnuts crushed outside on a rainy day — at least on the palate. The nose will draw you in with some funky, Christmas cake sweetness. Layers of complexity surround this dram — you'll certainly need a bit of time with it to really let its true colours show.



SOCIETY CASK NO. 18.52 / ODTURN: 1 of 246

### I CHALLENGE THEE TO A DUEL!

*A lovely balanced sherry profile that veers from the saline and mineral to the animalistic, malchy and leathery. Big, hefty and delicious.*

<b>15</b> YEARS OLD	DISTILLED:	18 SEPTEMBER 2007
	REGION:	SPYNSIDE
	INITIAL CASK:	EX-BOURBON HOGSHEAD
	FINAL CASK:	1ST FILL EX-OLOROSO HOGSHEAD

SINGLE MALT SCOTCH WHISKY

60.0% VOL 70cl e

THE SCOTCH MALT WHISKY SOCIETY



## UNTO THINE OWN CASK BE TRUE

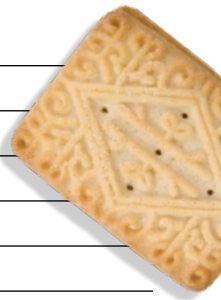
JUICY, OAK & VANILLA

CASK No. 73.143

\$199



<b>REGION</b>	Speyside
<b>CASK TYPE</b>	1st fill Bourbon barrel
<b>AGE</b>	11 years
<b>DATE DISTILLED</b>	25 March 2011
<b>ABV</b>	62.7%
<b>OUTTURN</b>	215 (30 in Australia)



The panel found a warm and inviting nose that expressed toasted coconut, cask char and a playful note of pocket-warmed softmints. We also noted coconut milk, gorse flower and a stodgy lump of oatmeal flapjack. Water brought out freshly varnished oak, satsumas, wintergreen and herbal teas. A kiss of menthol tobacco beneath! In the mouth we got mini milk ice lollies, dried pineapple slices and a touch of aniseed distillate. Beyond that some custard cream biscuits and a gentler note of chamomile tea. Water revealed cherry lip balm, sour apple liqueur, peppery watercress and things like sandalwood, muddled mint leaves and white pepper.

## SALTED CARAMEL AXLE GREASE

PEATED

CASK No. 16.77

\$169



<b>REGION</b>	Highland
<b>CASK TYPE</b>	Refill re-charred hogshead
<b>AGE</b>	9 years
<b>DATE DISTILLED</b>	4 July 2013
<b>ABV</b>	64.2%
<b>OUTTURN</b>	279 (42 in Australia)

Aromas suggested a filthy rebellion that supported tar, creosote and engine grease on an old fishing trawler with cured salmon, candyfloss and burnt caramel. The palate followed the crowd with black axle grease coating burnt raisins, liquorice and navy rum on a bed of chimney soot. Water enhanced the tar with a sweet nuttiness and caramel brittle, while perfumed pipe tobacco merged with smouldering bonfires and molasses. Thick plumes of black smoke now engulfed the palate, covering tar-covered ship's ropes, lobster nets and smoked mackerel beside burnt orange skin and smoky bacon dipped in dark chocolate.



# “AARGHH! TREASURE AHEAD!”

## BLACKBEARD'S BOOTY

PEATED

CASK No. 66.238

\$199



REGION	Highland
CASK TYPE	Refill Trinidad Rum barrel
AGE	11 years
DATE DISTILLED	27 September 2011
ABV	62.3%
OUTTURN	215 (36 in Australia)

### TASTING NOTES

Oooh-aaargh – Captain Blackbeard's cheroot-slavered, rum-soaked whiskers shook as canons fired from the ship's deck – quick, fetch the apothecary! Battle over – time for barbecued prawns on the beach. The palate gave us sugar-coated fennel seeds, jellied liquorice, banana fritters, cough sweets and “drinking piña colada from a farmer's welly boot” – only distant memories of gunpowder. The reduced nose had engine oil, putty, vanilla fudge and “wiping up spilled rum with a chamois cloth”. The eminently quaffable palate now combined garibaldi and brown sugar with sweet smoke, tar and ash. After eight years in ex-bourbon wood we transferred this into a refill Trinidad rum barrel.

EXTRA  
MATURED



### FROM THE TEAM

It's been a minute since we've seen a Distillery 66 bottling at this age, and I would dare say that this was worth the wait. The three years of further maturation in a refill Trinidad rum barrel has delivered a perfect integration of tropical notes and typical 66 smoke: banana ice cream and pina colada on the beach with the saltwater blowing past in the breeze thanks to that pirate ship creating choppy waves off the coast. A bit of dry smoke (ash and honey-glazed smoke) which showcases the distinct qualities that Highland peat holds compared to a mossy, boggy peat. Bacon charred to a crispy quality next to a leaking engine. An absolute steal at \$199 and perfect for sharing amongst friends.







## SALTED MARZIPAN SANDWICH

PEATED

CASK No. 155.5

\$220



REGION	Israel
CASK TYPE	1st fill Bourbon barrel
AGE	4 years
DATE DISTILLED	25 July 2018
ABV	65.2%
OUTTURN	180 (36 in Australia)

A heavy slab of marzipan found itself wedged tightly in a madeira cake soaked in calvados and Jamaican rum while crispy seaweed was fried in tempura batter. On the palate a wave of drying spice wove a smog of smoked paprika and cinnamon around singed porridge with salt and a life-affirming dash of sweet marsala wine. Adding water encouraged us to clean a barbecue with half a lemon before serving green peppercorn salami and oysters with a bouquet garni and bay leaves. Now sweeter flavours combined almond oil, hazelnuts and salted peanuts with subdued smoke wafting over spearmint and chamomile tea.



## WHISKY BABA

BLENDED MALT

Batch 30

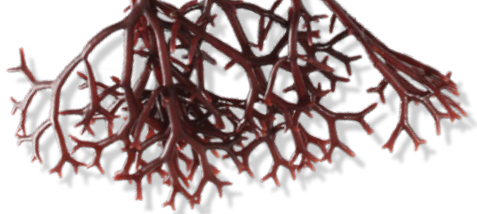
\$160



REGION	Blended Malt
CASK TYPE	Refill hogsheads & 1st fill barriques - Bourbon and French oak Jamaican rum
AGE	12 years
DATE DISTILLED	20 January 2010
ABV	58.6%
OUTTURN	2016 (60 in Australia)

To create this expression, we opted for some rather unusual casks. Crafted from French oak, these barriques had previously been used to mature Jamaican rum in the Cognac region of France. We filled them with a selection of Speyside malts for a period of 28 months of additional maturation. We then blended selected casks together to create this intensely fruity dram. On the neat nose we poured golden syrup and honey on to wheat biscuit breakfast cereal. Some indulged in chocolate-coated marzipan and slices of rich madeira cake, while others baked a golden syrup sponge that was heavy on orange peel and dried papaya. The taste was an explosion of rum-soaked pineapples while the French oak contributed spices such as anise and cinnamon. A satisfying toasty oak note evolved into vanilla pods, mace, nutmeg, orange oil and mango.





# PEAT AND SHERRY FROM THE VAULTS

## GOODNIGHT AND JOY

PEATED

CASK No. 53.389

**\$999** REDUCED FROM \$1,395

REGION	Islay
CASK TYPE	Refill Sherry butt
AGE	30 years
DATE DISTILLED	21 June 1991
ABV	55.5%
OUTTURN	499 (30 in Australia)

### TASTING NOTES

A haunting and evocative nose that brimmed with undulating and soft notes of seawater, green olives, red diesel, mercurochrome, Fisherman's Friends, eucalyptus throat sweets, peppered mackerel, natural tar extracts and smoked German beers. Water brought the warmth of mustard seed, gorse, heather ales, dried wildflowers, smoky struck minerals, aged Geuze beers, salted almonds and steel wool. The neat palate unspooled like a morass of salted mead, herbal vinaigrette, smoked olive oil, hot smoked sardines, salted butter, chicory, fish sauce, petrol and fresh oysters smothered in lime juice. Reduction brought a hyper-fresh and pure, almost crystalline minerality. Salinity, petrol jelly, crushed aspirin, sun-dried seaweed, rock pools encrusted with fizzing barnacles and simmering pasta water.



### FROM THE TEAM

An eye-opener to all who have tasted it, we're offering up this outstanding single-cask, cask-strength sherried expression from the highly respected Islay powerhouse for just \$999 this month. Honey-glazed pork over a bonfire + salted almonds and freshly caught mackerel. This single cask expression also took out Gold at the 2022 World Spirits Competition. Vaults collection bottlings are our most special and prestigious bottlings and are shipped in a bespoke black, wooden box along with printed tasting notes.

### SPECIAL LIMITED PRICE

*Celebrate Music & Malts this month!  
Grab this gorgeously aged, peated  
sherry release before it sells out!*





BOTTLE/CASK NO. 66.171 / OUTFLOW: 1 of 242

## ROCK, PUNK AND FUNK

An electric emulsion of grass, stiped thack and marshmallows in chimney soil joined a funky boss-line of damp wool, salt and shortbread.

8	DISTILLED	27 SEPTEMBER 2011
	REGION	HIGHLAND
	CASK	DN2 FILL XX-BUCKHORN ABBEY

SINGLE MALT SCOTCH WHISKY

62.5% VOL (125°)

JUST  
**\$99**  
+ DELIVERY



VIRTUAL TASTING

# CASKS WORTHY OF A TUNE!

WEDNESDAY 23 APRIL @ 7PM AEST

Huge flavours, hypnotic tunes, and pure vibes; join Adam, Andrew and Alex on Wednesday, the 23rd of April, at 7pm AEST for an evening of flavour as we celebrate this month's Outturn theme Music & Malts by pairing each of the featured drams with a song. An exercise we've featured in various formats throughout the years, but, this will be the first time the team will attempt to pair a dram to a tune on the fly, live on YouTube and Facebook! Grab your tasting packs on Outturn day — April 4th, midday AEDT — and tune in live on Wednesday the 23rd!



SPICY & DRY

**CASK 78.63**  
SERIOUSLY BIG  
FLAVOURS



SPICY & SWEET

**CASK 68.97**  
THE JOY OF JOSTLING  
FLAVOURS



JUICY, OAK & VANILLA

**CASK 19.74**  
DESSERT MIRAGE



DEEP, RICH & DRIED FRUITS

**CASK 18.52**  
I CHALLENGE THEE...TO  
A DUEL



PEATED

**RR3**  
THE FINESSE OF A  
FRAGRANT FURNACE

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



# #1 BARTENDER IN AUSTRALIA

LEAH DUNNIGAN,  
SAVILE ROW

.....  
INTERVIEW BY ADAM IOANNIDIS

In February, Leah Dunnigan, the Bar Manager of our Brisbane Partner Bar Savile Row, was crowned the #1 bartender in Australia at the T25 Bartenders Awards, a stunning accolade as voted by fellow bartenders (after an initial Top 100 list was provided by several Brand Ambassadors). I reached out to Leah shortly after the awards ceremony, and they were kind enough to offer some insight into their career and what it felt like to receive such a prestigious honour.



“DO THIS BECAUSE YOU LOVE IT. DO THIS BECAUSE YOU LOVE THE INTERACTION OF MAKING A GUEST’S DAY BETTER BECAUSE AT THE CORE THAT IS HOSPITALITY.”



**AI: So, T25 winner — the #1 top bartender in Australia as voted by your fellow industry legends — what was going through your mind in the moments leading up to the announcement vs. just after you'd been crowned?**

LD: I think the day of the awards I had talked myself completely out of the possibility — after meeting and speaking to all of the amazing people on the list, it felt extremely unlikely I would win. Despite knowing how much work I had put into the project, classic imposter syndrome got the better of me.

However, because of that I definitely felt much more at ease talking about harder topics in the interview sections because I knew I would only have a small opportunity to touch on them and they were too important for me not to bring up.

I think it was pretty clear how taken aback I was when my name was called out! My emotions overwhelmed me and I felt so grateful to win an award that was not only voted by my peers but the wonderful guests I get the pleasure of meeting every day. It became a wave of years of myself and others doubting me, hurdle after hurdle and years of hard work coming to fruition, and feeling like I maybe finally had a place in this whirlwind of an industry.



**“IF I WERE TO SUMMARISE WHAT MY CREATIVE JOURNEY IS; IT WOULD BE THAT EVERY DRINK IS AUTHENTICALLY ME. AS MUCH AS I TAKE INSPIRATION FROM TECHNIQUES AND TALENTS WITHIN THE INDUSTRY, I LIKE TO BE CREATIVE IN THE WAYS THAT ARE TRUE TO ME — UNIQUE AND WILD.”**

**AI: Are you able to provide a brief snapshot of your career for our readers?**

LD: I started off in the hospitality industry when I was 19 at my local pub in Western Sydney, I had become very isolated and socially anxious after I lost my dad and wanted to meet new people and come out of my shell. At first, it was just a way to get through University but like most of us I fell absolutely in love with the craft — so one Bachelor's (degree) and half a Master's later, here I am! I worked up the ranks across many of their venues and even started a side hustle of training venues and young bartenders on the basics, classics and service.

Classic, stubborn me always wanting to learn more, thankfully got offered to help open a new venue in the city “The Barrie” and definitely got a wake-up call on the standards within cocktail bars in the city, but they taught me so much within my year there, I left as their Assistant Manager! Thankfully with my passion and admiration for Whisky, I eventually got a job at The Baxter Inn and was the Head Bartender for two years — during that period I got nominated for Rookie of the Year and had a baby! With life and schedules being very different with a 6-month-old, I followed the incredibly talented Rocky Hair over to the Mucho Group and became the Assistant Venue Manager of Bar Planet (or as the resident Scorpino Chick and Martini Goblin haha!) and focused heavily on the training and the growth of our team.

Still struggling with the balance of being a mother within this industry but determined more than ever to prove it was possible, after a takeover in Brisbane — I fell in love with the bar scene up there. I reached out to Savile Row and they helped me move and gave me a place as Bar Manager. That was eight months ago and a lot has happened since and boy oh boy have I loved every second.

**AI: You've been incredibly vocal in thanking and dedicating the award to all the people around you, how do you feel Savile Row and these people in your life have inspired your creative journey recently?**



**“I HAVE BEEN INCREDIBLY BLESSED TO HAVE BEEN SURROUNDED AND MENTORED BY SOME HUGE TALENTS WITHIN THIS INDUSTRY AND I HAVE LOVED LEARNING DIFFERENT ASPECTS FROM EVERY SINGLE ONE OF THEM.”**

LD: I have been incredibly blessed to have been surrounded and mentored by some huge talents within this industry and I have loved learning different aspects from every single one of them so it made it very, very hard to pick a few, so why not thank them all!? Savile Row has made the biggest impact in helping me manage being a mother and being so unbelievably motivated to keep pushing. They lead with such empathy and healthy communication within their team, they have understood that despite my daughter being the ultimate priority to me, that does not detract from my ability to do my job to the best of my ability and if anything continuously motivates me to do better.

If I were to summarise what my creative journey is; it would be that every drink is authentically me. As much as I take inspiration from techniques and talents within the industry, I like to be creative in the ways that are true to me — unique and wild. I love to give drinks an identity and a whole service experience (we all know I love

to yap) and believing in my capability is what inspires my process. However, I wouldn't be like that if it wasn't for the belief system William Beverley and Jacob Cohen have provided me at Savile Row.

**AI: Moving from Sydney to Brisbane was a bit of a whirlwind, impulsive decision, correct? How do you feel the Brisbane bar scene compares to Sydney's looking through your creative lens, and how has Savile Row played a hand in it all?**

LD: Absolutely impulsive but the best decisions are (don't quote me on that hahaha)! Well, size definitely plays a huge part in the difference between the two, the sense of community and support between venues I found a lot closer. I am originally from a very small town in Scotland so I definitely found the hustle and bustle overwhelming at times. At The Baxter Inn, we were busy seven days a week from open to close and it took a lot out of you. I love the variety in service in Brisbane, the people you experience during the week are so different from the weekend — it provides new experiences and you can get totally creative in the style of service you provide day to day.

I have found a huge difference when it comes to takeovers and events, it often feels like the whole city shows up to every event! Savile Row for me was a bar that could provide all the things I loved: in-depth and personalised service, knowledge-intensive and variety of spirits (especially whisky — YUMMY), high-volume cocktails and on the weekends I could have a bit of a boogie behind the bar and get everyone laughing. I no longer had to choose and could do every aspect of that with my all. However, I will add that it was the best move for me and for what I wanted, different people thrive in different environments.





**AI: This award is an incredible recognition of your skills, passion, and dedication to the craft, how do you think this new accolade will better position you as a role model for other non-binary people and females in the hospitality industry?**

LD: First and foremost, representation. I'm queer, non-binary and a mother — like, what? I want these spaces to be an opportunity for everyone but more importantly, be SAFE SPACES. There have been times in my career when I had no idea who to ask for advice because I genuinely didn't know anyone in my situation — and that has almost made me quit. I have been told multiple times that I only got a job or opportunity for a quota or have been asked if I am trying to fulfil a “brand”, completely robbing me of the hard work I have put into everything I have done and I was just being my authentic self. So, winning an award voted by peers and guests felt incredible. I don't know if role model is a term I am familiar with yet, but I am always an open ear for anyone and will always make time for people who care and just want advice. If anything, just keep going, always keep going.

**AI: What is some advice you'd give to aspiring bartenders just beginning their hospitality journey?**

LD: Do this because you love it. Do this because you love the interaction of making a guest's day better because at the core that is hospitality. I know so many young bartenders come into this wanting to be the best bartender and be a huge name, but don't enjoy actually working on the bar and speaking to guests. When you love this, you get so much fulfillment every single day and that's why I love this job so much. Also, accept the fact you are never at the ceiling of your learning and neither are your mentors and idols. The beauty of this industry is that it is ever-growing and always evolving — lean into that and enjoy the ride.



**SR**  
SAVILE ROW

.....  
**BE SURE TO DROP PAST SAVILE ROW, OUR BRISBANE PARTNER BAR, AT 667 ANN STREET IN FORTITUDE VALLEY (BEHIND THE ORANGE DOOR) FOR SOME INCREDIBLE HOSPITALITY FROM LEAH AND THE TEAM (AND DON'T FORGET THAT SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP CARD FOR 20% OFF THE ENTIRE BACKBAR)!**  
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# THE 2025 AUSTRALIAN MALT WHISKY TASTING CHAMPIONSHIP



**TICKETS ON SALE APRIL 7TH**



# AUSTRALIA'S LARGEST WHISKY TASTING CHAMPIONSHIP

## TICKETS ON SALE APRIL 7TH

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The Australian Malt Whisky Tasting Championship returns for its 36th year in 2025; and for the first time in its history, **we'll be hosting Australia's largest whisky tasting championship in the jewel that is the Melbourne CBD at the Grand Hyatt.**

We'll be taking over the Mayfair ballroom for the competition where guests will have 30 minutes to taste 8x whiskies and match them to the correct answers before we retreat to The Residence where the afterparty begins with unlimited canapes and free-flowing drinks from some of our incredible sponsors including Glendronach, Monkey Shoulder, Starward, and of course The Scotch Malt Whisky Society at the single-cask whisky stand.

The top prize this year will be a 40-year-old Society whisky: Cask 72.121 All the right steps (valued at \$1,799), plus our Whisky for a Year membership — total prize value of \$4,398. Not to mention bragging rights as the winner will be the whisky tasting champ of Australia!

We will once again be partnering up with Humanitix for all tickets and add-ons where all ticket processing fees are donated to children's charities.

**Tickets will go on sale April 7th at midday AEDT, and start at \$209 for full competitor and drink pass early bird tickets.**

**We'll see you at CHAMPS 2025!**

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LOCATION	DATE
Grand Hyatt, Melbourne	Saturday 19th July, 6:00pm

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**TICKETS: [HUMANITIX.COM](https://www.humanitix.com)**

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# IT RETURNS

## GUARANTEED PREMIUM MALT

WITH EVERY SIX-PACK MYSTERY MALT ORDER!\*



### OUR MOST EXCITING MYSTERY MALTS OFFER IS BACK FOR 2025!

After its hugely popular inception last year, we're bringing this unbeatable offer back for April. We're including a **Premium-livery SMWS bottle** as part of **EVERY Mystery Malt six-pack** ordered throughout the month. PLUS, we're slashing the \$1,074 price tag to **just \$999**.

That's six single-cask, cask-strength Society bottlings (one of which is **GUARANTEED** to be a Premium bottling) for just \$999.

Our Premium-livery bottles are something a bit special that tow the line between a core-range bottling and a top-shelf Vaults Collection/Creators Collection release, starting at around \$429 each.

Every six-pack of Mystery Malts ordered until the 30th of April is guaranteed to have a Premium SMWS bottle in it, valued up to \$899 for the one premium bottle included, OR up to \$2,000 worth of whisky in each box!

What are you waiting for? Roll the dice and discover some full-flavoured whisky today!

*\*Limited availability, while stock last. Limit of one bundle per Member. Don't snooze on this one!*



# BONUS THREE- DRAM FESTIVAL TASTING PACK

WITH EVERY NEW  
MEMBERSHIP!

All new members who join up this April will automatically receive a bonus three-dram Festival tasting pack! That's 3x 30ml samples of some of our finest exclusive whiskies bottled to celebrate Fèis Ile and the other whisky region's festivals. Not a bad deal for joining the world's leading whisky club?

Join now using any of our fantastic membership types — like Membership + Bottle of the Moment or Membership + Whisky for a Year — and we'll throw in a three-dram festive tasting pack on us! Offer is only applicable for April 2025, though, so be sure to jump on it as we begin our journey to the 2025 whisky festivals!

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*New members must have joined between the 1st of April and 30th April 2025, 11:59pm AEDT. 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. Three-dram pack will be shipped separately to the membership package.*

INCLUDES  
3X30ML  
SAMPLES



# SOCIETY EXPERIENCES

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## SYDNEY

### SYDNEY FÈIS EXPERIENCE

Our triumphant whisky festival returns in 2025 with a full-day takeover of the RACA's members bar to celebrate the Scotch Whisky regions and their national festivals — free flowing drinks and food included + optional masterclasses throughout the day. The only place to try a wide range of official 2025 whisky festival bottlings in Sydney at similar times that they're tasted in the UK. Tickets will be available online soon.

**Saturday 28th June, 2:00pm**  
**Royal Automobile Club of Australia, Sydney.**

## MELBOURNE

### MELBOURNE FÈIS EXPERIENCE

Our triumphant whisky festival returns in 2025 with a full-day takeover of the Kelvin Club to celebrate the Scotch Whisky regions and their national festivals — free flowing drinks and food included + optional masterclasses throughout the day. The only place to try a wide range of official 2025 whisky festival bottlings in Melbourne at similar times that they're tasted in the UK. Tickets on sale soon..

**Saturday 21st June, 1:00pm**  
**Kelvin Club, Melbourne.**



## MELBOURNE

### THE AUSTRALIAN MALT WHISKY TASTING CHAMPIONSHIP 2025

30 minutes to taste and match eight core range whiskies in front of you and then a whisky party for the ages — CHAMPS IS BACK FOR 2025! Grab your tickets to Australia's largest whisky tasting experience on April 7 via Humanitix.

**Saturday 19th July, 6:00pm**  
**Grand Hyatt, Melbourne.**

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## LAUNCESTON

### LAUNCESTON'S WONDROUS FESTIVALS EXPERIENCE

A two-course dinner and 5x single-cask drams celebrating the 2025 whisky festivals at the incredible new Lonnie hotspot that is Nomy Bar & Kitchen hosted by your local ambassador Mr Tom Rofe. Join us for a journey through the five regions of Scotland as we celebrate the incredible Uisge beatha.

**Thursday 26th June, 6:30pm**  
**Nomy Bar & Kitchen, 91 George St, Launceston.**

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## HOBART

### A FESTIVAL CASKS DINNER IN HOBART

The SMWS festival casks are coming to Hobart with 5x single-cask drams (that's right, single cask festival releases are back) and a delicious three-course dinner all hosted by local Ambassador Tom Rofe. Journey through the five regions of Scotland as we celebrate the incredible Uisge beatha.

**Saturday 28th June, 6:30pm**  
**Ball & Chain, 87 Salamanca Pl, Battery Point.**

## PERTH

### THE SWEETEST MAY OUTTURN PREVIEW

Perth is BACK! Join us at the end of April for a special sneak peek at some upcoming May Outturn bottlings downstairs at Terrarium with a chocolate twist...5x Society drams, custom J.G. Thomson Sweet highball, and paired chocolates. Tickets on sale now!

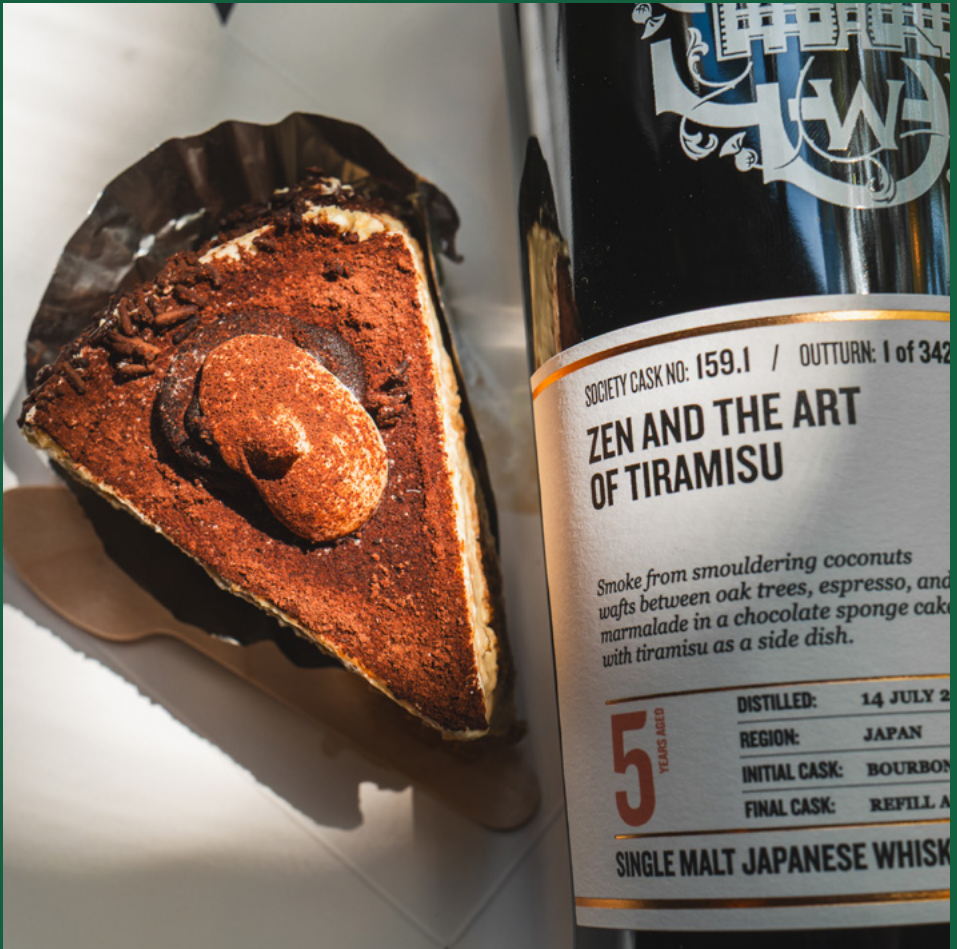
**Wednesday 30th April, 6:00pm**  
**Terrarium, 99 St Georges Terrace, Howard St, Perth WA 6000**

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

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02 9974 3046

Mon-Fri 9.00am - 5.00pm AEDT

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