

"A Taste of Scotland's 6 Whisky Regions" Single Malt Tasting

4/1/20 (Wednesday @ 7:00 PM) - 6 Single Malt Whiskies & Small Plate Charcuterie - \$35 Pay at the Door

The Vineyard Wine Bar & Trattoria - 2920 George Busbee Pkwy #101 - Kennesaw, GA 30144 - Ph: (678) 401-3108

#1 LOWLAND AUCHENTOSHAN Single Malt / 'American Oak' / NAS / 40% ABV / OB / Dist Owner: Beam Suntory UK Ltd. (Suntory Holdings Ltd.) / Scotland (Lowland)



Auchentoshan Distillery

Highway A82 (by Dalmuir), Clydebank, Glasgow G81 4SJ

SCOTLAND

Pronunciation: 'OCK-un-tosh-un' - Translation: 'Corner of the field' - SWA Whisky Map Location: #98

Slogan: "Glasgow's malt whisky", "The breakfast whisky" & "Making it all worthwhile"

Region (District): Lowlands (West) - Neighbors: Glengoyne, Littlemill, Loch Lomond

Established: 1823 is the date of official licensing (some prefer 1800 as there is evidence that distillation was taking place in 1800). Founder: Unknown, but John Bullock, a corn merchant, licensed the distillery.

Status: Active/Producing

Location: Located at Dalmuir, in suburban Glasgow, Auchentoshan Distillery is set in a valley between the foot of the Old Kilpatrick Hills overlooking the famous River Clyde, once renowned as Scotland's 'Gateway to the World'. As the river is navigable, there are extensive dock/warehouse complexes along it.

House Style: Classic Lowland whisky. Light and elegant, apples often come up in tasting notes. The Classic is great as an aperitif, but this light whisky performs remarkably well in sherry casks too. Only remaining triple distillation distillery.

Water Source: For mashing: Loch Katrine in the Trossachs; For production: Cochno Loch in Kilpatrick Hills; For cooling, rainwater from the Kilpatrick Hills collected in the distillery's WWII bomb crater.

Barley: a mix of Optic and Chalice barley (exclusive use of Scottish malt)

Malt Spec (Phenols): 0-ppm (unpeated malt) from maltsters - Gristmill: 1 Porteus Mill

Mashing Equipment: 1 s/s semi-Lauter tun (6.825-ton); 35,500-L of wort (8-hours per cycle)

Washbacks: 4 Oregon pine & 3 s/s @ 38,000-L (6m deep); 3 outside/4 inside; yielding wash @ 7-8% ABV

Fermentation: 50-hours (short); 120-hours (long) - Yeast: 100% dried distiller's yeast

3 Pot Stills: 1 Wash @ 17,500-L (charged @ 17,300-L), 1 Intermediate/Low Wines @ 8,200-L (charged @ 8,000-L), 1 Spirit @ 11,500-L (charged @ 11,000-L).

Average Strength: 81.5% ABV (highest in Alba) - Entry Strength: 68% ABV (reduced with deionized water. Casks: 80% WT Bourbon (1st & refill) & 20% Oloroso and Pedro Ximénez Sherry (1st & refill).

Warehouse: 5 WH's (3 small dunnage WH mainly for SM + 2 large racked WH for blends); 18,500 casks. Distilleries

Owned (12): Suntory, Hakushu & Chita (JP); Ardmore, Auchentoshan, Bowmore, Laphroaig & Glen Garioch (SC); Cooley & Kilbeggan (IR); Maker's Mark & Jim Beam (US); Hiram Walker Canadian Club & Alberta Distillery (Canada).

Parent-Owned Other Brands/Blends: Teacher's HL Cream (Scotland); Kilbeggan & Concannon (Ireland); Chita, Hibiki & Kakubin (Japan); Jim Beam, Basil Hayden, Knob Creek, Bakers, Bookers, Maker's Mark (USA); Canadian Club (Canada).

Former Names: 'Duntocher Distillery', recorded as an on-going operation in 1800 (thus it must have been founded prior to 1800). 'Auchintoshan Distillery' until 1834 when the spelling was changed.

Vatting & Bottling: Centralized MBD facility in Spring Burn (metro Glasgow)

Capacity: 2.0-Mlpa per year - Current Output: 1.5-Mlpa (2019)

Visitor Center/Tours: Yes (attracting circa 80,000 tourists per year)

OBs: Core: American Oak, 12, Three Wood, 18 and 21; GTR: Blood Oak, Noble Oak & Bartender's Malt. Blending

Role: 40% Single Malt, 60% Blends Blend Partner: Rob Roy, Islay Legend, Ballantine's, Royal Chalice & McClelland's (4 regional single malts; un-named distilleries)

Distilleries Owned (14): Suntory, Hakushu & Chita (JP); Ardmore, Auchentoshan, Bowmore, Laphroaig & Glen Garioch (SC); Cooley & Kilbeggan (IR); Maker's Mark & Jim Beam (US); Hiram Walker Canadian Club & Alberta Distillery (Canada).

Parent-Owned Blends: (Scotland) Blended Malt: McClelland's; Blended Scotch: Clanroy, Islay Legend, King's Pride, Rob Roy, Swords & Teacher's Highland Cream; (Ireland) Kilbeggan & Concannon; (Japan) Chita, Hibiki & Kakubin; (USA) TBD; (CN) Canadian Club.

Former Names: 'Duntocher Distillery', recorded as operational in 1800. Thus, Auchentoshan must have operational prior to 1800. - Former Names: Auchintoshan Distillery, until 1834

MANAGEMENT TEAM:

Distillery Manager: Alistair McDonald - Senior Manager - Distillation & Maturation Ops: Alistair Longwell

Master of Malts: Iain McCallum - CEO: Mike Keiller (US) - Chairman: Nobutada Saji - President: Takeshi Niinami

Legal Name of Distillery: Auchentoshan Distillers Ltd.

Owner (Parent): Beam Suntory UK Ltd. (Suntory Holdings Ltd.), since 1994

Distiller Licensee: Morrison Bowmore Distillers Ltd.

U.S. Importer: Beam Suntory Import Co. (Beam Suntory Inc.), since July 1, 2014

Elevation: 104m MSL (341 feet above mean sea level)

OFFICIAL TASTING NOTES:

Casks: Ex-bourbon barrels & HHs of charred American white oak (exclusively 1st fill). After reaching maturation, the casks are married in a large tun to develop its crisp citrus nose and remarkable smoothness. - Age: NAS - Malt Spec: 0-ppm (unpeated) - Style: A medium-bodied, all-rounder.

EYE: Bright gold (from 1st fill casks). NOSE: Bourbon vanilla and coconut with layers of zesty citrus fruit. PALATE: Refreshingly smooth yet lively with vanilla cream, coconut and white peach. FINISH: Crisp with sugared- grapefruit and a hint of spice.

#2 SPEYSIDE MacLEOD'S Single Malt Scotch Whisky / 'Speyside' / NAS / 43% ABV / IB / Dist Owner: Tamdhu Dist / Brand Owner: Ian Macleod and Co. Ltd. (Peter J. Russell & Co.) / Scotland (Speyside)



Tamdhu Distillery
Knockando, Aberlour, Moray AB38 7RP
SCOTLAND

Pronunciation: 'tham-DOO' - SWA Whisky Map Location: #93

Translation: 'Little black hill'

Slogan: "Excellence of Quality" & "The Can-Dhu-Spirit"

Region (District): Speyside (Central)

Neighbors: Knockando, Cardhu and The Macallan

Established: 1897

Status: Active/Producing

Location: Located on a steep bank high above the River Spey in the parish of Knockando between the villages of Knockando and Archiestown. Its upper Spey Valley site was locally known as "The Smuggler's Glen".

House Style: Fruit and vanilla linger, becoming pleasantly drying. Finally unveiling the merest wisp of peat smoke.

Water Source: Tamdhu Spring (Production); Knockando Burn (Cooling).

Barley: Optic and Concerto.

Maltings: Its formerly vast Saladin Box Maltings (1950-2009) are no longer in operation.

Malt Spec (Phenols): 2-ppm (Lightly peated)

Gristmill: 1 Porteus Malt Mill (12-ton) - Boiler: Converted from heavy fuel oil to natural gas (2016)

Mashing Equipment: 1 s/s full-Lauter tun (11.85-ton); 53,500-L of wort (8-hr).

Mashing Waters: 64°C, 78°C and circa 90°C.

Washbacks: 9 Oregon pine washbacks @ 60,000-L (charged @ 53,500-L).

Yeast Pitch Strike Temp: 17-18°C

Yeast: 200-kg (8 bags @ 25-kg) of dry Distillers Yeast per washback

Fermentation: 59 hours (yields wash @ 8-9% ABV)

6 Pot Stills: 3 Wash @ 17,000-L (10,000-L); 3 Spirit: 1 @ 22,000-L + 2 @ 16,000-L (12,000-L)

Middle Cut: 75% to 66% ABV

Average Strength of New Make: 70% ABV

Casks: Upon resuming production in late 2012, Tamdhu instituted a strict wood policy based on exclusive use of only the finest sherry casks (mostly refills).

5 WH's: 1 two-story, 3 three-story stone dunnage & 1 racked (14,500 casks)

Bottling & Vattin: Broxburn Bottlers, near Edinburgh (a bottling operation set-up by owner Ian Macleod and J. & G. Grant in 1984).

Capacity: 4.0-Mlpa per year - Current Output: 3.1-Mlpa (2019)

Visitor Center: No - Tours: No (IMD doesn't anticipate opening for visitors)

OB's: 10-yr & 10-yr Limited Edition.

Blending Role: 10% Single Malt, 90% Blends - Blend Partner: IMD Blends

Parent-Owned Distilleries: Glengoyne (2003), Tamdhu (2011) & Rosebank (2018).

Parent-Owned Blends: Dunfife, Glenshire, Hedges & Butler, Isle of Skye, King Robert II, Lang's, Marshal, Moffat Springs & Queen Seal.

Parent-Owned Malts: As We Get It, Chieftain's, Dun Bheagan, Glengoyne, Macleod's, Six Isles, Smokehead & Tamdhu.

Management Team: Distillery Manager: Sandy Coutts - Group Distillation Mgr: Robbie Hughes

Director of Whisky Operations: Gordon Doctor - Bulk Sales Director: Gavin Durnin

Managing Director: Leonard Russell - Chairman: Peter Russell

Legal Name of Distillery: Tamdhu Distillery Company Ltd.

Owner (Parent): Ian Macleod Distillers Ltd. (the Russell family)

GA Distributor: Atlanta Beverage Co.

Elevation: 123m MSL (404 feet above mean sea level)

JWS: Probably Tamdhu which is owned by the Ian MacLeod & Company Limited.

An excellent single malt from an undisclosed Speyside distillery and bottled by Ian Macleod. It represents a great introduction to the Speyside region, capturing the elegant, refined features Speyside is known for. Plenty of Sherried goodness up front on the nose, which develops into subtle smoke, golden barley and sultanas on the palate, leading to a drying, floral finish.

TASTING NOTES: Bursting with fruit and spice; gently yielding to toffee & sherry oak with the merest wisp of peat smoke. Casks: Spanish Oak Sherry butts 500-L (refill). Malt Spec: 2- ppm. Style: Delicate Speyside; refreshing fruitiness. EYE: Dark amber; medium-to-full bodied. NOSE: Very appealing and fragrant; sugar syrup with delicate peach & orange, mixing with fresh oak, cinnamon and leather, sugared almonds and vanilla. PALATE: Fruit-iness and spice blend brilliantly with pleasing toffee and sherry richness building as it is held on palate. FINISH: The fruitiness and vanilla linger then become pleasantly drying with hint of distant peat smoke.

#3 HIGHLAND MacLEOD's Single Malt Scotch Whisky / 'Highland' / NAS / 43% ABV / IB / Dist Owner: Glengoyne Dist / Brand Owner: Ian Macleod and Co. Ltd. (Peter J. Russell & Co.) / Scotland (Highland)



JWS: Surely it's Glengoyne which is owned by the Ian MacLeod & Company Ltd.

Selected to represent all the excellent aspects of glorious Highland whisky, namely their elegance, complexity and dry, smoky notes, the Macleod's Highland single malt Scotch whisky is the perfect whisky to introduce someone to Highlands whisky with. Macleod's deserves a round of applause for this one.

Malt Spec (Phenols): 0-ppm.

Style: Delicate Sherry influences with aromas of toasted malt and citrus fruit, hints of white pepper, orange and strawberry on the palate with a lingering milk chocolate edge.

EYE: Pale gold.

TASTING NOTES-WhiskyJub.com **WITHOUT WATER** - **NOSE:**

Subtle Sherry influences with butter-scotch and raisin notes. A hint of chocolate is present.

PALATE: Smooth with hints of pepper initially. Cinnamon, prune, and ripe banana flavours develop, followed by hints of fresh raspberry and dark chocolate. **FINISH:** Subtle charred oak.

WITH WATER - **NOSE:** Soft vanilla and Sherry aromas mingle with brown sugar and dried fruits with a fresh lemon peel edge. **PALATE:** Smooth and sweet with orange zest, banana and cinnamon flavours are complemented by a touch of oak and grapefruit. Body Light. **FINISH:** Medium in length with a lingering spicy edge.

Glengoyne Distillery
Dumgoyne, Near Killearn G63 9LB
Glasgow, SCOTLAND

Pronunciation: glen GOIN - SWA Whisky Map Location: #29

Translation: 'Valley of the wild geese'

Slogan: "Taking time and care"

Region (District): Highlands (Western)

Neighbors: Auchentoshan, Loch Lomond, Deanston, Littlemill

Established: 1833

Status: Active/Producing

Founder: Glengoyne was founded by the Edmonstone family which owned of the site's grain mill. John MacLelland, a local businessman, and then son Archibald owned and operated the distillery from 1851 to 1876. It was under Lang Brothers ownership until 1965 when Robertson & Baxter (later known as The Robinson Trust/Edrington). In 2003, it was purchased by Ian Macleod Distillers. IMD (an independent, family-owned local firm) is the perfect owner with a fine reputation for industry savvy, financial means, and long-term commitment.

Location: Glengoyne Distillery lies in a tranquil wooded glen on the western edge of the Campsie Fells. It takes its name from Glen Guin, or 'Glen of the Wild Geese', and sits at the foot of a small waterfall tumbling from the volcanic plug of Dumgoyne Hill. The Highland Line, which notionally divided Highland from Lowland Scotland runs through the distillery grounds, making Glengoyne the southernmost Single Highland Malt.

House Style: Light, but flavorful and very drinkable. Attractively malty, with apples present.

Water Source: Loch Carron (process); Glengoyne Burn from Dumgoyne Hill to on-site basin (cooling).

Barley: Optic/Concerto (Until 2006, it was one of last two distilleries using legendary Golden Promise barley).

Malt Spec (Phenols): 0-ppm (Unpeated)

Gristmill: 1 Porteus 4-roller Malt Mill (3.72-ton)

Mashing Equipment: 1 s/s traditional rake and plough mashtun @ 16,000-L of wort.

Strike Temperature for 1st Waters: 12k-L @ 63.5° C, 7k-L @ 77° C & 12k-L @ 95° C.

Washbacks: 6 Oregon pine WBs @ 19,000-L capacity (charged @ 9,000-L; 50-kg yeast); wash @ 8% ABV).

Strike Temperature of the Wash @ Yeast Pitch: 18° C (the yeast is stored at 3° C).

Fermentation: 56 hrs (short) & 110 hrs (long); mixed prior to distillation.

3 Pot Stills: 1 Wash @ 16,520-L, 2 Spirit @ 5,000-L (small Spirit Stills to maximize copper contact which are run at the slow rate of 7-litres per minute, the slowest in the industry, by its excellent distillers.)

Middle Cut: 73% to 63% ABV - Average Strength: 71% ABV (reduced to 63.5% ABV for cask entry)

Casks: Oloroso Sherry butts; 1st fill & refill (12 and 15-yo use bourbon casks). Glengoyne sources the finest sherry casks via a 6-year process, carried out at great expense (£600 up-front cost) to ensure achieving the right results. Their sherry butts (500-L) are made at Tevasa Cooperage of 3-year old naturally air-seasoned oak from the North of Spain. New butts must be seasoned with Oloroso sherry for 28-months.

5 Warehouses: *for SM:* 2 dunnage (5,000 casks); *for Blending:* 3 palletized (30,000 casks)

Matting & Bottling: Broxburn Bottlers, West Lothian (IMD and J. & G. Grant) - Tours/Visitor Center: Yes

Capacity: 1.1-Mlpa - Current Output: 920,000-Lpa (2019) - OBs: 10, 12, 15, 18, 21, 25 & CS

Blending Role: 20% SM, 80% BS - Blend Partners: King Robert II, Smokehead, Lang's, Famous Grouse, Cutty Sark

Parent-Owned Distilleries: Glengoyne (2003), Tamdhu (2011) & Rosebank (should be operation circa YE-2020).

Parent-Owned Blends: Dunfife, Glenshire, Hedges & Butler, Isle of Skye, King Robert II, Lang's, Marshal, Moffat Springs & Queen Seal.

Parent-Owned Brands: As We Get It, Chieftain's, Dun Bheagan, Edinburgh Gin, Glengoyne, Macleod's, Rose-bank, Six Isles, Smokehead, and Tamdhu.

Former Names: Burnfoot (1833-1876) and Glenguin (1876-1905).

Awards - 12-yo: Silver Medal @ IWSC (2013); 12-yo Cask Strength: Double Gold @ SFWSC (2005).

MANAGEMENT TEAM:

Distillery Manager: Robbie Hughes

Director of Whisky Operations: Gordon Doctor

Managing Director: Leonard Russell

Chairman: Peter J. Russell

Legal Name of Distillery: Glengoyne Distillery Ltd.

Owner (Parent): Ian Macleod Distillers Ltd. (Peter J. Russell & Co. Ltd., since 2003)

Distiller Licensee: Lang Brothers Ltd.

US Importer: Quest Brands, Chattanooga, TN (Ed Kohl, M.K.) - GA Distributor: Atlanta Beverage Co. (Chuck Crouse)

Elevation: 34m MSL (112 feet above mean sea level)

#4 CAMPBELTOWN SPRINGBANK Single Malt / 10-Year / 46% ABV / NCF / OB / Dist Owner: J. & A. Mitchell & Co., Ltd. (Hedley Wright) / Scotland (Campbeltown)



TASTING NOTES - Master of Malt:

Cask: A combo of bourbon (Amer. white oak) barrels (200-L) and sherry (Spanish oak) butts (500-L). **Malt Spec:** 12-ppm (moderately peated). **Style:** An all-rounder; before, during or after meals. **EYE:** Dark (root beer) with some thickness. **NOSE:** The nose is big-bodied with oaked aridity. The peat is present and quite pungent with an earthen rootedness. Notes of exotic fruits and a hint of salinity. **PALATE:** Full-bodied with a good helping of cereal sweetness. There's a richness to the peat with a dark nuttiness and whirling smoke. **FINISH:** Long and crisp with a coastal tang and a trailing peat with oaked dryness. **COMMENT:** Want to know what single malt tasted like in 1900? Just buy a bottle of Springbank. Why change *anything* if your whisky tastes like Springbank?

Springbank Distillers Ltd.

85 Longrow, Campbeltown, Argyll PA28 6ET

SCOTLAND

Pronunciation: 'SPRING-bank' - [SWA Whisky Map Location](#): #11

Translation: 'From the fact that there is a spring on a bank'

Slogan: Unknown (It is *the* most traditional distillery in Scotland)

Region (District): Campbeltown (Argyll) - **Neighbors:** Glengyle and Glen Scotia

Established: 1828 - **Founder:** The Mitchell family which continues to own/operate it.

Status: Active/Producing

House Style: Fruity, lightly peaty with coconut notes and a slightly oily texture.

Location: On the southern tip of the narrow Kintyre peninsula in SW Scotland.

Water Source: Crosshill Loch (Production & Cooling)

Barley: Golden Promise, Optic & Chalice

Floor Maltings: Springbank is the only distillery that produces 100% of its malt requirement (both peated and unpeated) on-site at the rate of 25-tons per batch, 200-tons per season. A few distilleries (Bowmore, Balvenie, Laphroaig, Highland Park, Glen Ord, and Kilchoman) produce a portion of their malt requirement on-site.

Peat Source: Springbank cut its own peat (50-tons a year) from Machrihanish bog in Campbeltown. ≥ 10% of Scotland is covered by 'blanket bogs' (especially western Scotland and its islands) and 1% by 'basin bogs'. There's no scientific analysis available on Machrihanish peat, but as it's from a blanket bog located near the sea in the western Scotland, it probably is closer to the Islay and Orkney peats than the mainland peat.

Malt Spec (Phenols): *Springbank* (Dx2.5) @ 12-ppm, *Longrow* (Dx2) @ 50-60 ppm; *Hazelburn* (Dx3) @ 0-ppm. SB is peat dried 6-hrs and hot air dried 18-24 hrs; LG is peat-dried up to 48-hrs and then hot air-dried as needed to reduce its moisture level to 4%.

Gristmill: 1 Porteus Malt Mill (4-roller aka Twin-roller)

Mashtun: 1 cast iron tradition MT (3.64-tons; charged @ 2.55-tons)

Washbacks: 6 Scandinavian boatskin larch WBs @ 20,000-L - **Fermentation:** 72-100 hrs.

3 Pot Stills: 1 Wash @ 11,000-L (charged @ 10,000-L), 2 Spirit @ 7,500/8,000-L (6,000-L)

Condensers: Spirit Still #1: Worm tub; Stills #2 and #3: Shell-and-tube condensers.

Casks: Ex-Bourbon and ex-Sherry (80% 1st fill & only 20% refill)

Warehouse: 6 on-site (4 Dunnage & 2 Racked)

Vatting & Bottling: On-site bottling hall

Capacity: 750,000-Lpa - **Current Output:** 175,000-Lpa (2019)

Visitor Center: At the Cadenhead Retail shop, VC & Tasting Room

OB's: Springbank 10, 15, 18 and 25 as well as Longrow and Hazelburn

Blending Role: 70% Single Malt, 30% Blends

Blend Partner: Campbeltown Loch, Mitchell & Glen Extra - **Sister Distillery:** Glengyle

Single Malt Production Plan (2019): 80% Springbank, 10% Longrow & 10% Hazelburn

Former Names: Longrow Street Dist. (1828-1829); Longrow Street Dist. was next to SB.

Management Team: *Distillery Manager:* Gavin McLachlan - *Retail Shop Mgr:* Janet Blair

Sales Mgrs: Mairi Paterson, Melanie Stanger & David Allen - *Prod Dir Emeritus:* Frank McHardy

Sales & Marketing Director: Ranald Watson - *Chairman & CEO:* Hedley G. Wright

Legal Name of Distillery: Springbank Distillers Ltd.

Owner (Parent): J. & A. Mitchell & Co. Ltd. (Hedley G. Wright)

U.S. Importer: Pacific Edge Wine & Spirits, Los Angeles, CA (since June 1, 2012)

Elevation: 6.5m MSL (21 feet above mean sea level)

#5 ISLAND SMOKEHEAD Island Single Malt / NAS / 43% ABV / IB: Tobermory Dist (Ledaig SM) / Dist Owner: Burn Stewart Distillers (Distell Group Ltd.) / Brand Owner: Ian MacLeod Distillers Ltd. (Peter J. Russell & Co.) / Imp: Keepers Quest (Ed Kohl) / Scotland (Island)



Smokehead is a rich, seaweed-y and intensely peated whisky. The flavor is fresh, fruity and immense with notes of sherry, iodine, toffee, smoke and sea salt all fighting for recognition. It's a really vigorous whisky not for the faint hearted... it's to be savored, contemplated and enjoyed!

- Heavily peated Islay single malt whisky of the highest quality.

- Contemporary, individual and exciting!

- Like a cannonball - an explosive rollercoaster of peat, smoke and spice with some delicate sweetness.

- Modern 'stand-out' designer packaging. Very distinctive and tactile embossed and debossed tin generates shelf impact, consumer 'wow' factor and brand value

- Main front bottle label is uniquely placed on the bottle rear reflecting adjectives describing the whisky back through the spirit itself.

- Accessible and stylish brand to be enjoyed predominantly by the modern, discerning and adventurous male drinker.

- Bottled at 43% ABV (the 'export strength' for all-rounder single malt. (Hopefully, a single malt bottled at 40% is of aperitif style (that's the appropriate ABV) rather someone cutting the ABV of an all-rounder to lower cost.)

Tobermory Distillery (Fka 'Ledaig Distillery')
Isle of Mull, Argyll & Bute PA75 6NR
SCOTLAND

Pronunciation/Translation: 'Tober-MORE-ay' (Gaelic: 'Mary's well') - SWA Whisky Map: #44
Slogan: "A treasure worth seeking" - Demonym: 'Muilach' (a native of Mull is called a muilach)

Region (District): Island (Mull)

Neighbors: The Islay distilleries (a 10-minute ferry ride away)

Established: 1798 (some prefer 1795)

Founder: Johnny Sinclair

Status: Active Licensed/Producing (After a 2-year rebuild-in-place, it resumed production in 2019)

Location: The distillery is situated in a sheltered bay on the complex and rugged shoreline of the fast-flowing Tobermory River in northeastern Mull. As the North Atlantic Gulf Stream serves to moderate temperatures, Muilachs experience warmer winters than might be expected at such northerly latitude. For that reason, maturation takes place slowly and evenly, contributing to the quality of the whisky. Tobermory (fka Ledaig Distillery) is found in the village of Tobermory.

House Style - Tobermory: Minty and sweet; somewhat maritime, light bodied.

Water Source: Soft peaty water from Gearr a'Bkimm (aka Gearr Abhainn) above the distillery via Mishnish Lochs or Loch Na Criadhach Private Lochan.

Barley: Various varieties; currently Concerto.

Malt Spec (Phenols) @ Tobermory: 2-3 ppm (sourced from Simpsons and Boortmalt)

Malt Spec (Phenols) @ Ledaig: 35-45 ppm (purchased from Port Ellen Maltings, Islay)

Gristmill: 1 Porteus Malt Mill (4-roller)

Mashing Equipment: 1 cast iron traditional MT w/ copper dome @ 5-metric ton,

Washbacks: 4 Oregon pine WBs @ 27,000-L each.

Fermentation: 50 hours (short); 90 hours (long); 3 batches are always mixed prior to distillation.

4 Pot Stills: 2 Wash @ 18,000-L, 2 Spirit @ 14,500-L; Indirectly-fired (steam coil).

Condensers: 4 Shell-and-tube condensers

Filling: All filling is done at Deanston; then the casks are matured there.

Entry Strength: 63.5% (reduced with deionized water).

Casks: Primarily bourbon casks (1st & refill), some sherry casks.

Warehouse: Tobermory's current warehouse is only a little larger than a 2-car garage. (In 1992, Tobermory former WH was converted into flats. The majority is aged at Deanston. A few casks do return for their final years.)
Maturation & Bottling: Its new make is removed by bulk tanker and filled at Deanston before the majority is shipped to Bunnahabhain for maturation. A bit is matured at Deanston. Bottling at BSD's Bottling plant in East Kilbride, metro Glasgow.

Capacity: 1.0-Mlpa per year

Current Output: 750,000-Lpa (2019)

Visitor Center/Tours: Yes (It's on an island, so booked in advance; premium tour with Dist Mgr)

OBS: Ledaig: 10; Tobermory: 10 & 15; Periodic special releases

Blending Role: 20% Single Malt, 80% Blends - Blend Partner: 40% self; 60% others

Parent-Owned Distilleries: Bunnahabhain, Deanston & Tobermory

Parent-Owned Blends: Black Bottle & Scottish Leader - Former Name: Ledaig Distillery

Notations: In October 2010, the entire Burn Stewart single malt range was changed to non-chill-filtered, no coloration added and 46.3% (or higher) ABV, a most welcomed change!

Management Team:

Distillery Manager: Graham Brown

Master Blender: Kirstie McCallum

Chairman: Jan Scannell, Managing Director (Distell Group Ltd.)

Legal Name of Distillery: Tobermory Distillers Ltd.

Owner (Parent): Burn Stewart Distillers Ltd. (Distell Group Ltd., 2013)

US Importer: Quest Brands, Chattanooga, TN (Ed Kohl, Master Keeper of the Quaich, Owner)

GA Distributor: Atlanta Beverage Co., Atlanta, GA (Chuck Crouse, Sales Manager-Craft Spirits)

Elevation: 5m MSL (16 feet above mean sea level)

#6 ISLAY PORT ASKAIG Islay Single Malt / 'Original' / 8-Year / 45.8% ABV / NCF / IB: Caol Ila Dist / Brand Owner: Elixir Distillers (Whisky Exchange) / Dist Owner: Diageo Scotland Ltd. (Diageo plc) / Islay (Scotland)



The youngest age-statement release in the Port Askaig series of single malts from undisclosed Islay distilleries (I think it's from a single distillery: Caol Ila) this 8-year-old dram is warming and smoky with notes of limestone, licorice, and dark peat.

Tasting Notes by The Whisky Exchange (which is the owner of Elixir Distillers):

NOSE: Zesty and smoky: freshly peeled lemons and coal smoke with orchard fruit and fresh grain.

PALATE: Limestone and coal fires give way to honeysuckle, sugar-snap peas and liquorice.

FINISH: Salt, pepper, lingering lemon as the smoke fades.

Tasting Notes-Master of Malt:

NOSE: Charcoal, salted crisps and a good squeeze of lemon.

PALATE: Soft salted caramel brings a sweetness to the palate and waves of bay peat smoke crashing underneath.

FINISH: Medium length with a hot kick of peppercorn.

Caol Ila Distillery
Port Askaig, Isle of Islay, Argyll PA46 7RL
SCOTLAND

Pronunciation: 'cull EE-la' - **SWA Whisky Map Location:** #5

Translation: 'Sound of Islay', the straight between Islay and Jura. - **Slogan:** "The hidden malt"

Region (District): Islay (North Shore District)

Neighbors: Bowmore, Bruichladdich, Bunnahabhain, and Kilchoman

Established: 1846. Caol Ila was built on the site of the Freeport lead smelter air furnace.

Founder: Hector Henderson

Status: Active/Producing

Location: The stills at Caol Ila look out over a spectacular view across the Sound of Islay to the Paps of Jura, undoubtedly one of the finest views in all of Scotland. On a small bay just north of the Port Askaig ferry terminal. It's a 25-minute drive from Port Askaig to Port Ellen.

House Style: Oily and smoky, with a seaside tang. The style of the whisky produced was modernized in the 1970's. It lost a little of the pepperiness, but retains its oily body intensity, highly prized by blenders.

Water Source: Loch nam Ban (Sea water, through a heat exchanger, is used to cool CI's process water and, in a shortage, can be used in its shell-and-tube condensers) - **Barley:** Optic barley

Malt Source: Diageo's Port Ellen Maltings (25-minutes down the road)

Malt Spec (Phenols): 34-38 ppm (the same malt and malt spec as Lagavulin)

Gristmill: Porteus Mill, installed in the late 1950s

Mash Tun: 1 full-Lauter mash tun (13.5-ton). 1st water 46,000L @ 64C; 2nd 17,500L @ 77C; and 3rd (sparge) 46,000-L @ 80C. Yielding 54,000L of wort (sugary water). Lauter tun wort is more fermentable as its carbonhydrases (any of a group of enzymes (e.g., amylase) that promote hydrolysis (the chemical breakdown of a compound due to reaction with water) or synthesis of a carbohydrate, as a disaccharide) survive better than a traditional mash tun.

10 Washbacks: 8 larch & 2 stainless steel washbacks @ 65,000L each (charged @ 54,000L).

Yeast: A combo of Mauri Pinnacle and Kerry MX and X (172.5-kg per washback); pitched at 17C.

Fermentation: 60 hours (peated version); 80 hours (unpeated version aka Caol Ila Highland).

6 Pot Stills: 3 Wash @ 35,345L capacity (charged @ 18,000L), 3 Spirit @ 29,549-L (12,000L); WS heated by steam pans; SS heated by steam coils.

Entry Strength: 63.5% ABV (reduced from 70.5% ABV with deionized water for cask entry).

Middle Cut: 75-72% ABV to 61% ABV; a wide-cut mitigated by its stills being charged at circa 50%.

Casks: Vast majority is ex-bourbon hogsheads (refill); cask usage is limit is 3 maturation cycles.

Warehouse: One dunnage WH on Islay; Vast majority is matured at Blackgrange (Stirling), Cambus (Clackmannanshire), Carsebridge (Alloa), Cameronbridge (Cluny near Kirkcaldy, Fife) and Menst (Stirling) in modern ('palletized') WH's. Apparently, it doesn't matter; CI is great!

Matting & Bottling: Mainland blending and bottling at one of Diageo's centralized facilities

Capacity: 6.5-Mlpa per year - **Current Output:** 6.5-Mlpa (2019); working five 24-hour days a week now. Unpeated 'Caol Ila Highland' production peaked @ 2-Mlpa in 2012; available as 12CS & 18CS.

Visitor Center/Tours: Yes - **Lorry (Tanker Truck) Loads:** 37,500L of British New Make Spirit

OBs: Moch (NAS), 12, 18, 18 Unpeated, Natural CS (NAS). Moscatel Cask finished (NAS) and Special Releases.

Owner Distilleries & Owner Blends: 28 malt distilleries; 20+ blended scotch whiskies.

Blending Role: 5% Single Malt; 95% Blends

Blend Partner: Johnnie Walker blends (key malt), Bulloch Lade, Black Bottle, and White Horse.

Sister Distillery: Lagavulin (Port Ellen Maltings is convenient to both CI and Lagavulin).

Notations: (1) It's interesting to note that Caol Ila, the largest distillery on Islay, produces nearly as much (6.5-Mlpa) as Ardbeg, Lagavulin and Laphroaig *combined* (7.2-Mlpa). (2) First CI single malt was released in 1988; the next in 2005 for the Classic Malts series. (3) Its shell-and-tube condensers were replaced in September-October 2016; MASC was there on October 18, 2016, the day that production resumed. (4) It's not hard to treasure most Caol Ila and Bowmore among the peated Islay whisky range.

Management Team:

Distillery Manager: Kevin Sutherland - Site Ops Manager: Heather Wall

Distillery Tour Guide (Extraordinaire): Niguel - Director-Whisky Outreach: Nicholas Morgan, Ph.D.

Diageo Master Blender: Matthew Crow, Ph.D. - Director - Malt Distilling: Brian Higgs

Diageo Scotland Ltd. (Subs.): Peter Lederer, CEO - Diageo plc (Parent): Ivan Menezes, CEO

Legal Name of Distillery: Caol Ila Distillery Company Ltd.

Owner (Parent): Diageo Scotland Ltd. (Diageo plc)

Distiller Licensee: Distillers Company Ltd.

U.S. Importer: Diageo North America, Inc.

Elevation: 1m MSL (3 feet above mean sea level)