

SPECIAL RELEASES

2008

Classic Malts Selection™ limited-edition cask strength Special Releases 2008 - Notes

Brora™ 25 Year Old ABV 56.3%

A very engaging, unusually subtle Brora that is savoury, slightly citric, and drying. It takes a while to reveal Brora's classic delights, but rewards perseverance!

- A limited edition, natural cask strength single malt.
- From a closed distillery at Brora on the Sutherland coast.
- Now very rare at this age.
- Seventh of a very limited series of annual releases.
- Annual allocation has extended availability of this irreplaceable malt but stocks have depleted.
- Vatted from a mixture of American Oak and European Oak refill casks, at least 25 years old.
- Less than 3000 individually numbered bottles worldwide.
- UK RRSP £175.



Tasting Notes

Appearance:

Pale. Warm gold. Good beading.

Nose:

Little nose-prickle; restrained and light, quickly developing wood-ash and citrus notes. Underpinning this, lemon and honey. Dried fruit and marzipan: like a faded Christmas cake. Takes time to develop, then lightly waxy with fragrant moorland scents - like sesame oil - and buttery fudge. With water (not too much) immediately more floral and fragrant, as with dried flowers. The waxy note develops, becoming more fruity and scented.

Body:

Medium to rich.

Palate:

Attractively teeth-coating, oily and creamy. Waxy taste, with light vanilla sweetness. Develops into traces of smoke over nutty, sandy base notes. Drying, with more earthy tones in development, the effect recalling that of a fresh soft cheese. Water makes it much sweeter; not quite so waxy, with an increased tannic, mouth-drying effect. Warming overall, and quite vigorous. Drinks well straight.

Finish:

Medium length, considerably drying. Late smoky and herbal notes give way to resins and an oaky dryness.

SPECIAL RELEASES

2008

Caol Ila™ Unpeated 8 Year Old 1999 ABV 64.2%

Unusual, unpeated and concentrated: very interesting to compare with the regular 12 year old, smoky bottling. A well-matured, young, vibrant whisky, with an intense, uncomplicated palate.

- A limited edition, natural cask strength single malt.
- From Caol Ila, an active distillery on the Isle of Islay.
- A third limited release.
- From a batch made only once a year, from unpeated malt, for blending in the "Highland Style"
- From 1st fill Bourbon oak casks filled in 1999.
- Only 5,664 bottles worldwide.
- UK RRSP £43.



Tasting Notes:

Appearance:

Pale gold, with light beading.

Nose:

A remarkably restrained nose, free of harshness at cask strength. At first, dry and drying, yet with hints of barley sugar sweetness. Behind this, fruity (light tinned pears), with developing notes of creamy vanilla (custard) and traces of fragrant herbs. Dried lavender. Lemongrass? Water releases a glorious, fruit-smoothie-like freshness; clean, sweet, aromatic notes of newly peeled pears and fresh bread - you would think it was a Speyside. The dried lavender fragrance persists.

Body:

Light-bodied. Oily. Creamy-smooth.

Palate:

Develops a huge, herbal bitterness at cask strength; a generous splash of water soon steps in to release a soft, faintly smoky sweetness in the palate. Smooth textured, slightly mouth-drying, with a light mouth-feel and a fresh, well balanced sweet fruitiness.

Finish:

A very short and dry finish, yet with an intensely aromatic longevity. Herbal. Medicinal. Liquorice. Again, an attractive softness and sweetness is released with water.

SPECIAL RELEASES

2008

Glen Elgin™ 16 year old ABV 58.5%

A fine example of this unusual malt, rarely seen as a single malt at this age. An enjoyable, complex whisky, to which European oak has contributed dried fruit and deep colour without taking over.

- A limited edition, natural cask strength single malt.
- From Glen Elgin, an active distillery on Speyside.
- A first limited release.
- From ex-bodega European Oak casks filled in 1991.
- Only 9,954 individually numbered bottles worldwide.
- UK RRSP £52.



Tasting Notes:

Appearance:

Polished amber. Good beading .

Nose:

Astonishingly fresh and invigorating. Toasted biscuits, then stewed winter fruit compote (bananas, fresh orange, dried orange peel) and pleasantly oily: orange oil with notes of fudge, toffee and vanilla cream, hints of linseed and almond oil, newly sanded cedar and varnished hard-wood. Add a little water, and after immediate pear-drops the nose is mellow and fruity (dried figs, sultanas, raisins, as in a Christmas cake). Faint trace of brimstone. Becomes slightly waxy.

Body:

Medium to light. Lightly oily.

Palate:

Sweet, mouth-drying and pleasant straight. A sensual mouth feel, and chocolate-orange notes - clean and citric with an underlying sweetness. A warming, superb balance of sweetness, spice (cedar-wood and anise) and cereal. Sweeter still with water, which brings light acidity and even a trace of salt; some dry Brazil nuts.

Finish:

Medium-length, leaving a light nutty aftertaste. Lingering warmth, gingery and sweet. Hugely seductive late oak produces pure dark chocolate dryness at cask strength, and sweeter, chocolate tart, notes with water.

SPECIAL RELEASES

2008

Lagavulin™ 12 year old ABV 56.4%

Fabulously appetising. Less of the cleansing citrus acidity of earlier expressions. A fine example of the make, very enjoyable straight and classier still with water.

- A limited edition, natural cask strength single malt whisky.
- From the essential Islay distillery, Lagavulin, on Islay's rocky south coast.
- Seventh of a series of special 12 year old releases from the original distiller's stocks.
- Vatted from refill American Oak casks, each at least 12 years old.
- Available in limited quantities worldwide.
- UK RRSP £50 per bottle.

Tasting Notes

Appearance:

Deep amber. Moderate beading.

Nose:

A typically full-on Lagavulin nose that also shows great finesse, with less ripe fruit than earlier bottlings. All pervasive, slightly salty, bergamot-scented wood-smoke surrounds a sophisticated complex of sweeter aromas: smooth and creamy toffee sauce on digestive biscuits with shavings of milk chocolate. Later, appetising lemon and white pepper notes. With water the aromas embrace toasted cereal and take on a roasted, nutty quality, but always the fragrant smoke and coal tar return.

Body:

Medium. Thick. Coating.

Palate:

Oily and pleasant to drink at full strength. Dusty, very sweet, then positively smoky, as with roasted chestnuts from a street-vendor enjoyed on a winter's morning. Or a real wood-fired pizza, with fresh pesto and pine kernels. Leaves the tongue tingling. Cleaner with water, which brings a smooth mouthfeel; sweet start, centre palate engagement, sophisticated smoke.

Finish:

Long and smoky, with masses of exquisite smoke and a fragrant-smoky aftertaste. Toasted sesame seeds. Basil. Water brings out Indian spices (roasted cumin).



SPECIAL RELEASES

2008

Linkwood™ 26 year old

3 finishes

- A limited edition release of three differently matured natural cask strength single malts.
- From Linkwood, an active distillery on Speyside.
- Rarely available as a single malt from the original distillers.
- All three were identically aged for 12 years. Then each was matured in a different cask-wood for fourteen more years: one in port, one in rum, one in sweet red wine.
- Just 1,260 individually numbered bottles of each expression worldwide.
- Bottled at 50cl to allow more people to experience a rare bottling.
- UK RRSP £130 (per 50cl bottle)



SPECIAL RELEASES

2008

Linkwood™ 26 year old – Port Finish – ABV 56.9

Sweet, complex and highly unusual. This expression is a real success: great at cask strength, softer but equally pleasant with water, the whisky is not obviously influenced by port. The unexpected acid/sweet twist in the taste is very interesting.

Tasting Notes

Appearance:

Warm gold. Good beading.

Nose:

Astonishingly fresh and invigorating. Toasted biscuits, then stewed winter fruit compote (bananas, fresh orange, dried orange peel) and pleasantly oily: orange oil with notes of fudge, toffee and vanilla cream, hints of linseed and almond oil, newly sanded cedar and varnished hard-wood. Add a little water, and after immediate pear drops the nose is mellow and fruity (dried figs, sultanas, raisins, as in a Christmas cake). Faint trace of brimstone. Becomes slightly waxy.

Body:

Medium to light. Lightly oily.

Palate:

Sweet, mouth-drying and pleasant straight. A sensual mouth feel, and chocolate-orange notes - clean and citric with an underlying sweetness. A warming, superb balance of sweetness, spice (cedar-wood and anise) and cereal. Sweeter still with water, which brings light acidity and even a trace of salt; some dry Brazil nuts.

Finish:

Medium-length, leaving a light nutty aftertaste. Lingering warmth, gingery and sweet. Hugely seductive late oak produces pure dark chocolate dryness at cask strength, and sweeter, chocolate tart, notes with water

SPECIAL RELEASES

2008

Linkwood™ 26 year old – Red Wine Finish ABV 55.5

Tasting Notes

Appearance:

Deep, dark caramelised orange with burgundy lights. Good beading

Nose:

Nose-warming; slight prickle. Soft, deep and rounded, with creamy toffee and fudge. Opens up to reveal sweet fruitiness: jelly babies (in Germany, Gummi Bears) and red fruits (redcurrants, grapes) with citric (blood orange) notes and balancing oaky-dry planed wood. Later, a hint of wine, and more fudge. With water, mellow, with a fugitive whiff of blackcurrants. Distinctly wine-like to start, then wine gums?

Body:

Light

Palate:

Smooth mouthfeel at natural strength, with a brief sweetness soon swallowed by tannic dryness. Fruity, tart wine gums with a powder sugar dusting. Softer and fizzy-sweet with water, with some fudge and pleasing red berry fruit; lightly mouth drying, although sweet overall, with interesting tannic influences .

Finish:

Medium length: smooth, fruity and nutty. Cherry stones and white chocolate. Late oak brings liquorice.

SPECIAL RELEASES

2008

Linkwood™ 26 year old – Rum Finish – ABV 54.5

Tasting Notes

Appearance:

Warm gold. Good beading.

Nose:

Astonishingly fresh and invigorating. Toasted biscuits, then stewed winter fruit compote (bananas, fresh orange, dried orange peel) and pleasantly oily: orange oil with notes of fudge, toffee and vanilla cream, hints of linseed and almond oil, newly sanded cedar and varnished hard-wood. Add a little water, and after immediate pear drops the nose is mellow and fruity (dried figs, sultanas, raisins, as in a Christmas cake). Faint trace of brimstone. Becomes slightly waxy.

Body:

Medium to light. Lightly oily.

Palate:

Sweet, mouth-drying and pleasant straight. A sensual mouth feel, and chocolate-orange notes - clean and citric with an underlying sweetness. A warming, superb balance of sweetness, spice (cedar-wood and anise) and cereal. Sweeter still with water, which brings light acidity and even a trace of salt; some dry Brazil nuts.

Finish:

Medium-length, leaving a light nutty aftertaste. Lingering warmth, gingery and sweet. Hugely seductive late oak produces pure dark chocolate dryness at cask strength, and sweeter, chocolate tart, notes with water

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2008

Port Ellen™ 29 year old - 1978 - ABV 55.3%

A powerful Port Ellen - definitely one for smoke-heads! Superbly fresh for its age and enormously seductive. An incredible synthesis of sweet, tart, salt and bitter notes. Port Ellen Distillery on the Isle of Islay has been closed since 1983.

- Port Ellen Malt Whisky is rare at any age.
- Port Ellen Distillery on the Isle of Islay has been closed since 1983
- A limited edition, natural cask strength single malt.
- Eighth of a very limited series of annual releases.
- Annual allocation ensures availability of this irreplaceable malt for a little longer.
- From American and European Oak refill casks filled in 1978.
- Only 6,618 individually numbered bottles worldwide.
- UK RRSP £180 per bottle.
- The name is kept alive by the Islands maltings.



Tasting Notes

Appearance:

Pure, deep amber. Little beading.

Nose:

Elegant, compelling and mellow for this strength. High notes of mild carbolic soap feature, and soothing, syrupy-sweet notes of baked apples with cinnamon and raisins or dark fudge swirl beneath this aristocratic antiseptic. Sea-air coastal aromas emerge with time. Water doesn't change things much, raising spent caps initially, before the comforting coal-tar smoke returns.

Body:

Light

Palate:

Hot, sweet and powerfully hot tar-smoky, at natural strength. Lulled into complacency, as you are by the mellow nose, all this flavour comes as a big surprise, the more so in a whisky that has been almost 30 years in cask. Rich fruit sugars are dissected by a cleansing acidity. A good splash of water makes things altogether smoother, sweeter and cooler, with some salt, and then more smoke.

Finish:

Very long, with a coal-tar aftertaste. Sweet at first, gaining a salty tang in time. Then late, hot, lingering aniseed. With water, more hints of cinnamon and fantastically late, and pervasive, wood smoke.

SPECIAL RELEASES

2008

Talisker™ 25 year old ABV 54.2%

An excellent expression of Talisker: full of character, mellow but still vigorous, and magnificent at cask strength. Clean, fresh and maritime. The eleventh limited release to be offered by the distillery.

- A limited edition, natural cask strength single malt whisky.
- From the only distillery on the Isle of Skye.
- Eleventh limited release to be offered by the distillery.
- From American Oak and European Oak refill casks.
- Interesting to compare with previous bottlings of this age in the same series.
- Just 6,708 individually numbered bottles available worldwide.
- UK RRSP of £132 per bottle.



Tasting Notes

Appearance:

Amber. Good beading, attractive viscosity

Nose:

Soft and mellow, with some hot prickle, and discernible pepper. First, dried seaweed and light caramel, then smoked ham. Becomes more complex, with notes of iodine and carbolic, and wisps of lightly fragrant wood smoke drifting above a buttery chocolate cake, topped with slices of pear in a raspberry coulis. Later, new upholstery. Water releases some menthol and eucalyptus, at the expense of the chocolate cake. Charred wood, with some beach smells behind, including very fresh fillet of fish: sushi! Traces of boat varnish after a while.

Body:

Medium; smooth and rich.

Palate:

Drinks well at natural strength, having a pleasant, oily texture. Sweet to taste at first, then lightly smoky and warming. More rich, moist chocolate cake, in raspberry purée; suffused with spicy wood and smoke. With water, well balanced and positive - light sweetness, some salt, a little acidity, drying gently among smoke.

Finish:

Long, gingery and warming; a smoky aftertaste. Earthy and smoky chocolate with very late, drying oak.

SPECIAL RELEASES

2008

Talisker™ 30 year old ABV 49.5%

A gentle Talisker, but with bags of character and beautifully structured. A whisky of great dignity, to be appreciated in its own right; enjoyed straight, as a fine digestif, on a meditative winter's day. Twelfth and equal oldest limited release to be offered by the distillery.

- A limited edition, natural cask strength single malt whisky.
- From the only distillery on the Isle of Skye.
- Twelfth and equal oldest limited release to be offered by the distillery.
- From American Oak and European Oak refill casks.
- Interesting to compare with two previous bottlings of this age in the same series.
- Less than 3,000 individually numbered bottles available world-wide.
- UK RRSP of £205 per bottle.



Tasting Notes

Appearance:

Antique gold. Little beading.

Nose:

Remarkably fresh and energetic for 30 years old. Gentle and finely constructed, though coy; with patience, dry seaweed on a salty beach, with a thread of carbolic and smoke in the background. Perhaps a trace of fragrant oil or smooth, honeyed wax, underscored by jammy, red fruit tartness. Festive notes of Christmas pudding and spiced apples, beneath sandalwood accented smoke, which advances with time in the glass. A drop of water brings up sea breezes and wet seaweed at the tide-line, combined with fresh laundry. Hints of brown apples behind, and brown sugar in the development.

Body:

Medium.

Palate:

Drinks well at natural strength, when it is surprisingly sugar-sweet with light smoke. Cool and rather delicate for its age, it loses some of the malty Christmas pudding notes that were evident on the nose. Water brings forth calming peppermint with a distinct trace of tar and salt. Smooth textured and very easy to drink. An easy balance of primary tastes.

Finish:

Long, with a little honey and a cooling, menthol aftertaste of warm wood. Late herbal accents.

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CLASSIC MALTS SELECTION™ SPECIAL RELEASES 2008

SINGLE MALT	AGE	DISTILLED	STRENGTH ABV	QUANTITY	UK RRSP
<i>Brora</i> ™	25 years old	1983 or earlier	56.3%	Under 3,000 individually numbered bottles	£175
<i>Caol Ila</i> ™ unpeated	8 years old	1999	64.2%	5,664 bottles	£43
<i>Glen Elgin</i> ™	16 years old	1991	58.5%	9,954 individually numbered bottles	£52
<i>Lagavulin</i> ™	12 years old	1996	56.4%	Limited quantities	£50
<i>Linkwood</i> ™ – 3 finishes:	26 years old	1982			
~ Port wood finish			56.9%	1,260 individually numbered 50cl bottles	£130
~ Rum finish			54.5%	1,260 individually numbered 50cl bottles	£130
~ Red wine finish			55.5%	1,260 individually numbered 50cl bottles	£130
<i>Port Ellen</i> ™	29 years old	1978	55.3%	6,618 individually numbered bottles	£180
<i>Talisker</i> ™	25 years old	1983	54.2%	6,708 individually numbered bottles	£132
<i>Talisker</i> ™	30 years old	1978	49.5%	Under 3,000 individually numbered bottles	£205

For further details contact Pat Roberts: pat@cognispr.net or 07774 424 410

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