

SPECIAL RELEASES

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.