

2024 PRODUCT

The Bottler's Art

TIMING IS EVERYTHING

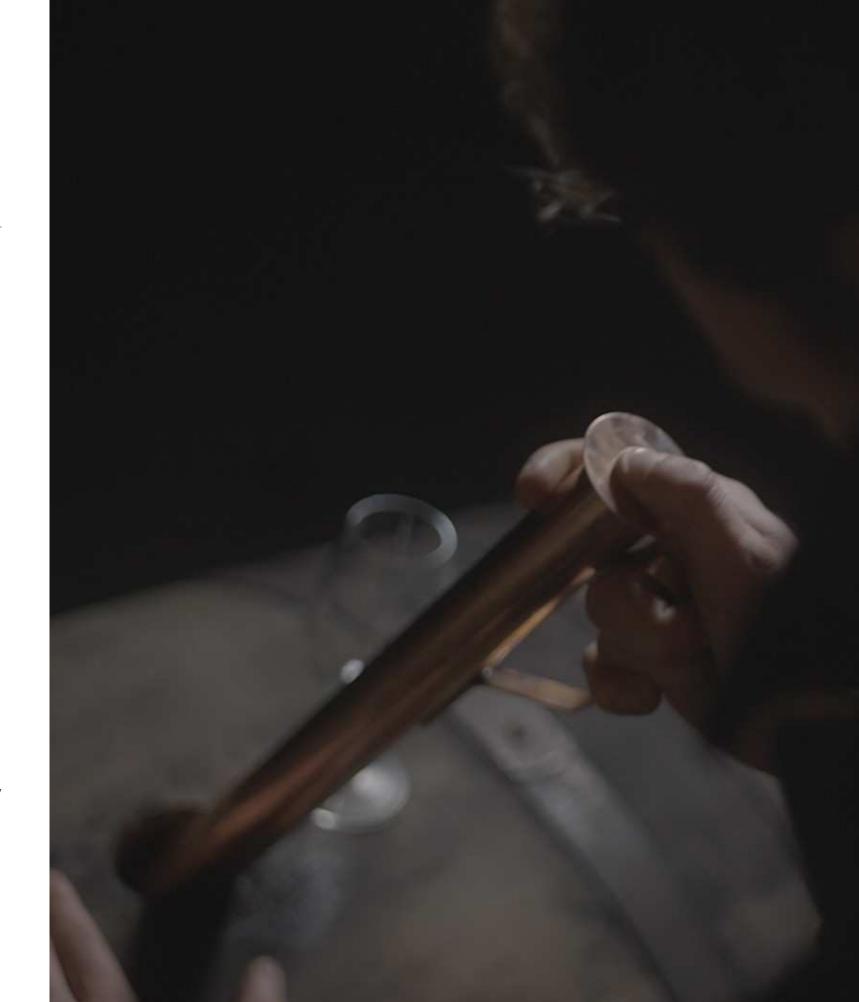
When has a whisky reached its potential? When has time finished its alchemy and the angels had their share?

As Master Bottler, Finn Thomson decides.

With 300 years of family whisky history and personal tutelage from some of the most respected names in the Scottish whisky industry, Finn may stand on the shoulders of giants. But the weight of decision rests on his own.

Finn is responsible for calling the moment when a whisky's flavours are at their finest; quirks and eccentricities at their most beguiling. Whether it's a decades-old cask from the family collection or an entirely new creation, this is as much art as science. Wood, water and weather have had their say. The only guides that count now are taste, scent and intuition.

The result is unique. Every time. By design.





The Core

BLAIR ATHOL

AGE 9 YEAR OLD SINGLE MALT

CASK RUBY PORT

ABV 55.1% CASK STRENGTH

YIELD 450 BOTTLES

THE STORY OF THIS CASK

In June 2022, we released eight special single cask whiskies to mark the launch of the brand. Alongside some rare high-age casks that had been laid down by my grandfather, I bottled four younger casks that I had sourced, purchased and monitored personally since the beginning of this journey. The youngest of these was a Blair Athol 9 Year Old, which more than held its own alongside the other more mature releases and garnered some of the highest regard among our new fans.

This exquisite single cask proudly upholds the reputation of its predecessor, showcasing the robust style of Blair Athol distillery at its best. Matured for 9 years in a Ruby Port cask, this is like raspberry jam in a bottle. The port influence shines through in the colour alone, with bright scarlet hues glimmering in the glass, yet the fragrant spicy character of Blair Athol remains deliciously prevalent. The resulting dram is full of big bright flavours that packs a punch beyond its years.

This is a sequel that won't disappoint.



STAOISHA

AGE 10 YEAR OLD SINGLE MALT

CASK BOURBON BARREL

ABV 56.2% CASK STRENGTH

YIELD 242 BOTTLES

THE STORY OF THIS CASK

This is a cask that I have been looking forward to bottling for a very long time. Staoisha is the heavily peated spirit produced at Bunnahabhain - a distillery that, despite being on Islay, is better known for its unpeated style.

Bunnahabhain has long been one of my favourite distilleries. My first ever trip to Islay saw me visit the distillery to pick up a leaking cask that was in imminent need of bottling. It was eye opening to see the fragility of the oak holding this valuable liquid; a reminder of the beautiful contradiction between simplicity and complexity that underpins the art of whisky making.

Just three ingredients are the foundation of every malt whisky: water, barley and yeast. Yet this 10 Year Old Staoisha single cask showcases the endless possibilities of flavour that they can create. The heavily peated malt used for producing Staoisha imparts a salty smokiness that is so typical of the Islay region, perfectly complementing the inherent spiciness of the spirit. But what strikes me most about this whisky is an underlying fruitiness that is somewhat unexpected. Over the course of a decade, salty smoke has harmonised with orchard fruits to create a single cask of distinction. It is a delightfully complex example of a simple fact: Bunnahabhain Distillery deserves its place at the top table of Scotch whisky.



GLENALLACHIE

AGE 12 YEAR OLD SINGLE MALT

CASK SHERRY HOGSHEAD

ABV 57.5% CASK STRENGTH

YIELD 315 BOTTLES

THE STORY OF THIS CASK

In January 2024 I was lucky enough to visit Jerez, Spain, to continue my quest to source the finest sherry casks in which to mature our whisky. Strolls through centuries-old wineries were combined with tastings straight from the casks, honing in on the ones we will be bringing to Scotland for our own maturation.

I also brought with me a small selection of some of my own sherry-matured whiskies. What better place to sample a sherry cask whisky than in the birthplace of sherry itself? Mahogany in colour and carrying all the trademark flavours of a well aged Oloroso, this 12 Year Old Glenal-lachie proved the perfect dram to enjoy on a balcony overlooking the narrow cobbled streets of Jerez.

Like a fine wine, this is a whisky that changes character in the glass over time. Black coffee and wood spice eventually give way to notes of dried fruit and caramel. It's a dram that transports you to the sunbaked streets of Jerez and celebrates the symbiotic relationship between scotch and sherry.







The Rare

NORTH BRITISH

AGE 35 YEAR OLD SINGLE GRAIN

CASK HOGSHEAD

ABV 52.5% CASK STRENGTH

YIELD 194 BOTTLES

THE STORY OF THIS CASK

This North British is the oldest single grain whisky we have bottled so far. Distilled in 1988, a magnificent 35 years of ageing have created a cornucopia of sweet tropical fruit notes - reminiscent of a well aged Caribbean rum.

North British Distillery has played a fundamental role in my family's journey through the whisky industry. Its younger whiskies were the core component of my grandfather's blend, Beneagles, where their sweet and buttery character was expertly blended with the richness of Macallan and other hand-selected Speyside malts.

After three and a half decades, this cask has developed a new richness all of its own. Old grain whiskies in particular have the ability to absorb sweetness from the cask and, combined with the oily mouthfeel of the spirit, this exquisite whisky tastes like rum and raisin ice cream in a glass.

Single grain whiskies continue to be under-appreciated but this single cask release proves that, with time and patience, single grain whisky has every right to be regarded as highly as the finest single malts.



TAMNAVULIN

AGE 33 YEAR OLD SINGLE MALT

CASK HOGSHEAD

ABV 50.7% CASK STRENGTH

YIELD 246 BOTTLES

THE STORY OF THIS CASK

Few distilleries tell the modern story of scotch whisky better than Tamnavulin. Built in the height of the blended whisky boom in the 1960s, much of its production was destined for the expanding American market. The style of the distillery represented the consumer tastes of the time: malty and light, this was a malleable whisky and a blender's dream.

With the fall in fortunes of the industry in the 1990s, Tamnavulin was one of many distilleries victim to closure. Indeed, this very cask was filled just a few years before the distillery was mothballed and not opened again until 2007. With the reopening of the distillery came wholesale changes in production style. It was out with the old stills and in with the new - a move towards a fruitier style of new make spirit.

That old style of Tamnavulin is almost lost, and what makes this cask so special is that the character of the original distillery shines through. Over thirty three years, a refill hogshead has allowed the malty and cereal notes to develop gradually with honey and brown sugar playing amid the cereal nuttiness. Childhood memories of eating bowls of Golden Grahams come flooding back. This is a flashback to the best of the 1990s, sadly never to be repeated again.







The Crown



GLENLIVET

AGE 50 YEAR OLD

CASK 1ST FILL SHERRY HOGSHEAD

CASK NUMBER 2366

ABV 49.8%

DATE OF DISTILLATION 6TH MARCH 1970

YIELD 127 BOTTLES











300 YEAR LINEAGE