



# THE BULLS HEAD WHISKY BIBLE

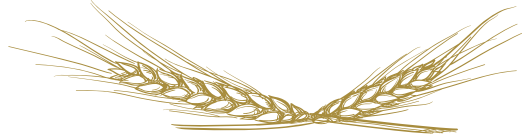
*10th Anniversary Edition.*

*'Water of Life'*





# A BRIEF HISTORY OF WHISKY



*The Gaelic 'usquebaugh', meaning 'Water of Life', phonetically became 'usky' and then 'whisky' in English. Scotland has internationally protected the term 'Scotch'. For a whisky to be labelled Scotch it has to be produced in Scotland.*

'Eight bolls of malt to Friar John Cor wherewith to make aqua vitae'. The entry above appeared in the Exchequer Rolls as long ago as 1494 and appears to be the earliest documented record of distilling in Scotland. This was sufficient to produce almost 1500 bottles.

Legend would have it that St Patrick introduced distilling to Ireland in the fifth century AD and that the secrets travelled with the Dalriadic Scots when they arrived in Kintyre around AD500.

The spirit was universally termed aqua vitae ('water of life') and was commonly made in monasteries, and chiefly used for medicinal purposes, being prescribed for the preservation of health, the prolongation of life, and for the relief of colic, palsy and even smallpox.



James IV king of Scots

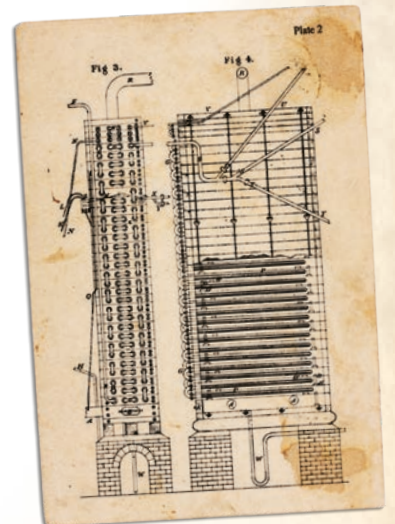
Scotland's great Renaissance king, James IV (1488-1513) was fond of 'ardent spirits'. When the king visited Dundee in 1506, the treasury accounts record a payment to the local barber for a supply of aqua vitae for the king's pleasure.



The reference to the barber is not surprising. In 1505, the Guild of Surgeon Barbers in Edinburgh was granted a monopoly over the manufacture of aqua vitae – a fact that reflects the spirits perceived medicinal properties as well as the medicinal talents of the barbers.

The Scottish parliament introduced the first taxes on malt in the latter part of the 17th century and consequently smuggling became standard practice for some 150 years. There was no moral stigma attached to it: Ministers of the Kirk often made storage space available under the pulpit, and the illicit spirit was, on occasion, transported by coffin – any effective means was used to escape the watchful eyes of the Excise men.

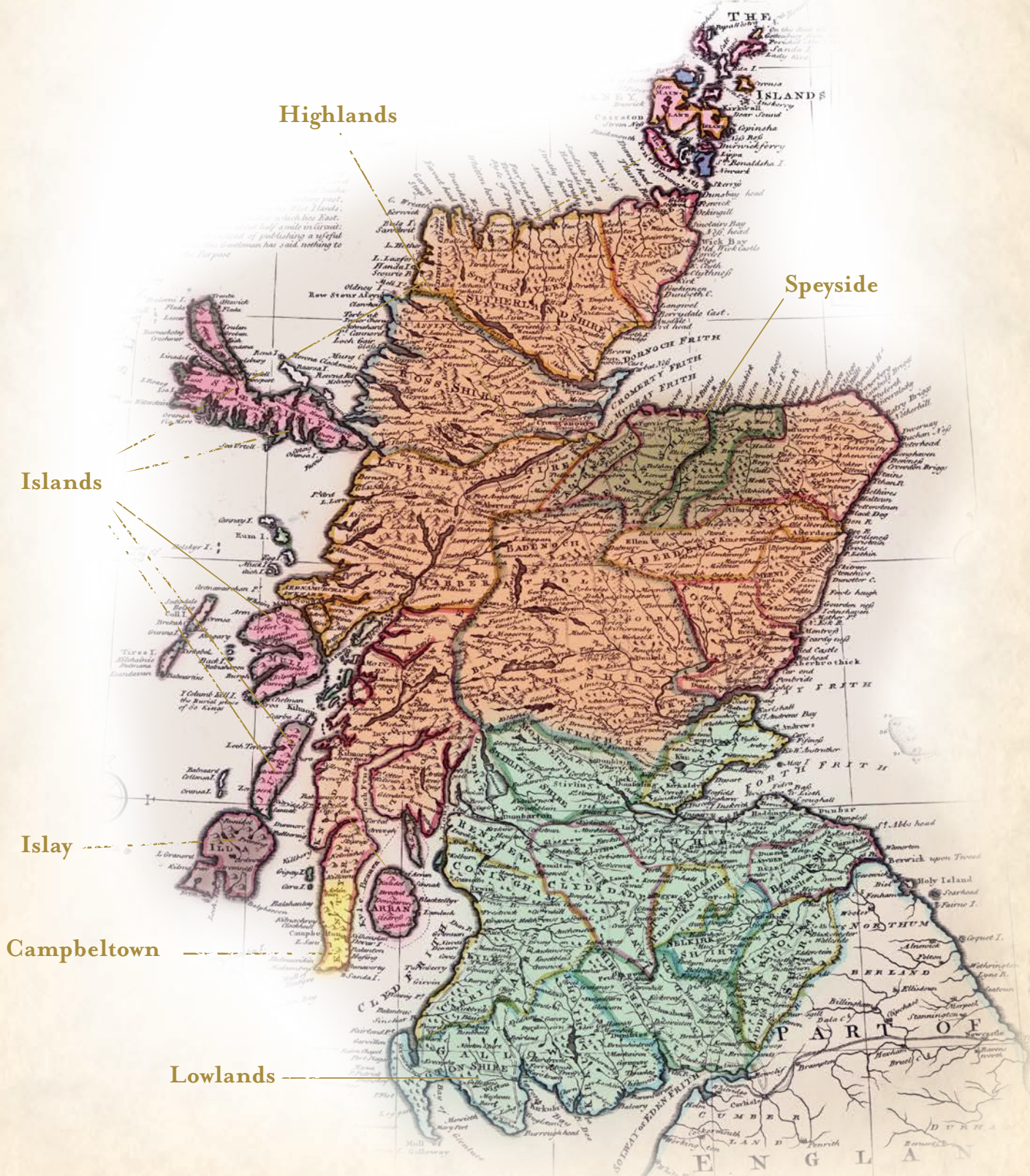
We have been talking about what we now know as Malt Whisky. But, in 1831 Aeneas Coffey invented the Coffey or Patent Still, which enabled a continuous process of distillation to take place. This led to the production of Grain Whisky, a different, less intense spirit than the Malt Whisky produced in the distinctive copper pot stills. The lighter flavoured Grain Whisky, when blended with the more fiery malts, extended the appeal of Scotch whisky to a considerably wider market.





# WHISKY REGIONS OF SCOTLAND

Map of Scotland showing the main whisky producing regions.





# HIGHLANDS

## *including* CAMPBELTOWN

*The largest of the whisky producing regions, & therefore the one that varies most in style.  
Northern Highland malts tend to be medium to light bodied with heather & some peatiness.  
Southern highland malts can be sweeter with more floral flavours.*

### **Dalmore 12 Year Old ~ Northern 40%**

Rum butter nose with malt loaf on a light peat heath.

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### **Glenmorangie 10 Year Old ~ Northern 40%**

Vanilla notes followed by a burst of flowery fruitiness.

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### **Oban 14 Year Old ~ Western 43%**

Oranges, lemons & pears on the nose, dried figs & honey on the palate.

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### **Springbank 10 Year Old ~ Campbeltown 46%**

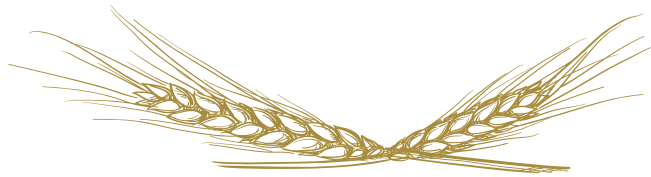
An elegant malt that has both sweetness & a dryness with oil & citrus fruit & a suggestion of smoke.

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### **Glendronach 15 Year Old ~ Highland Hills 46%**

Long & enveloping finish with dark manuka honey, herbal bitters & dark chocolate.

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## ISLANDS

*These malts have a tendency towards peaty, smokey characteristics. Many people say that the Island whiskies are influenced by their seaside location, giving them salty flavours & marine aromas.*

### **Highland Park 12 Year Old ~ Orkney 40%**

Succulent, with smokey dryness, heather honey sweetness & malt.

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### **Isle of Jura, Superstition ~ Jura 43%**

Peaty, with creamy notes & a light smokey finish.

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### **Poit Dhubh 8 Year Old ~ Skye 43%**

Talk of an illicit still, & an "unchilled & filtered" process make this unusual.

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### **Scapa 16 Year Old ~ Orkney 40%**

The nose is thick & rich with hints of honeycomb & toffee. The palate is full bodied with winter spices, cinnamon & cloves.

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### **Talisker 10 Year Old ~ Skye 45.8%**

Bright amber red; pungent smoky & malty with a huge peppery finish.

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### **Jura (Isle of) 10 Year Old ~ Jura 40%**

Bright Gold. Light & sweetish, slowly developing a soft dry saltiness.

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# LOWLANDS

*The Lowland area has fewer distilleries than any other region, producing softer, mellower whiskies that tend to be light & dry.*

## **Auchentoshan ~ Western 40%**

Warm Vanilla nose with lemon zest & marshmallows.

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## **Auchentoshan Three Wood ~ Western 43%**

Rich with dark fruit, thick butterscotch & roasted hazelnut. Finished in Oloroso & Pedro Ximenez casks.

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# SPEYSIDE

*This area has the highest concentration of distilleries in Scotland with much of the water coming from the mighty river Spey. The whiskies have a greater similarity than in any other regions; generally being complex & elegant with honey & heather notes.*

## **Aberlour 10 Year Old ~ Strathspey 43%**

Sweet nutmeg spice with a peppery dryness.  
A flavoursome oxymoron.

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## **The Balvenie 'Double wood' 12 Year Old ~ Dufftown 40%**

Smooth & mellow with beautifully combined flavours. Nutty sweetness, cinnamon spiciness & a delicately proportioned layer of sherry.

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## **The Balvenie 'Carribean Cask' 14 Year Old ~ Dufftown 43%**

Notes of toffee & a hint of fruit, with a warm, lingering finish.

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## **Dalwhinnie ~ Speyside 43%**

Crisp, aromatic nose with honey & vanilla on the palate.

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## **Glenfiddich 12 Year Old ~ Dufftown 40%**

Full gold, lean & smooth with malt & toasted hazelnuts.

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## **Glenfiddich 18 Year Old ~ Dufftown 40%**

Flavours of dried fruit, candy peel & dates overlaid with elegant oak notes.

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## **Glenfiddich IPA ~ Dufftown 43%**

Finished in casks seasoned with India Pale Ale. Zesty citrus notes with a hint of freshness & creamy vanilla.

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## **Glenfiddich Fire & Cane ~ Dufftown 43%**

An unexpected combination of sweet & smoky.

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## **Glenfiddich Project XX ~ Dufftown 47%**

Deep and mellow, the finish is long lasting with a lingering sweet oakiness.

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## **Haig Club Clubman ~ Leven 40%**

Light in colour with sweet tones.

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## **Knockando 12 Year Old ~ Central 40%**

Pale bronze. Fragrant crisp & smooth. Lightly buttery & malty.

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## **The Macallan 10 Year Old ~ Central 40%**

Pale Bronze. Fragrant, crisp and smooth. Lightly buttery and malty.

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# ISLAY

*One of the larger islands off the west coast, Islay is a mecca for whisky lovers.  
The influence of the sea is usually obvious in aroma & taste, with the use of peat fuel  
also giving smokey, medicinal qualities.*

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## **Ardbeg 10 Year Old ~ South Shore 40%**

Smoke & brine nose, medium body,  
sweetness going to salt.

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## **Bowmore 12 Year Old ~ Lochindaal 40%**

Pears soaked in honey, smoked over peat  
with dark chocolate.

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## **Bruichladdich 10 Year Old ~ Lochindaal 46%**

soft breezes over a green sea lapping  
against passion fruits.

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## **Bunnahabhain ~ East Shore 43%**

Refreshing, clean sea air, gentle nutty & malty.

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## **Caol Ila ~ East Shore 43%**

Vinho verde mixed with vanilla & nutmeg.

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## **Laphroaig 10 Year Old ~ South Shore 40%**

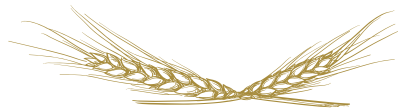
Famously medicinal & sea-weedy  
with a hint of oily sweetness.

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## **Lagavullin 16 Year Old ~ South Shore 43%**

Massive peat smoke aromas & flavours  
with a dry finesse.

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# IRISH

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## **Bushmills 10 Year Old Single ~ Bushmills, County Antrim 40%**

Thrice distilled and matured in two woods,  
this is a rich, smooth, single malt.

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## **Connemara Single ~ Cooley, County Meath 40%**

Smooth and complex this clean, peaty,  
single malt is from the western shores.

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## **The Dubliner Whiskey Liqueur ~ Dublin 30%**

Smooth with soft notes of honeycomb and a sweet  
finish.

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## **The Dubliner Bourbon Cask ~ Dublin 40%**

Mellow and rounded with notes of honey  
and a hint of pepper.

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## **Dunvilles-3 Crowns ~ County Down 43.5%**

Smooth with a sweet, caramel finish.

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## **Greenore ~ Cooley, County Meath 40%**

Sweet, smooth vanilla before spicy oak comes in.  
Touches of menthol and coconut ice.

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## **Hyde 10 Year Old ~ County Cork 46%**

Lean and smooth with Vanilla on the nose.

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## **The Irishman ~ County Carlow 40%**

Light and fruity with a subtle oak finish.

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## **Jamesons Blend ~ Midleton, County Cork 40%**

World famous triple distilled Irish whiskey.

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## **Kilbeggan Blend ~ County West Meath 40%**

Medium, smooth, sweetish and very toasty,  
with malt character.

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# IRISH *continued*

## **Kinahan's ~ Dublin 46%**

Light with a fruity, sweet finish.

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## **Locke's 8 Year Old Single ~ Cooley, County Louth 40%**

Initial big barley hit on the nose and palate ending in dry fruitiness and vanilla.

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## **Midleton's Very Rare ~ Midleton, County Cork 40%**

Ireland's most exclusive whiskey from master blender Barry Crockett.

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## **Paddy Blend ~ Midleton, County Cork 40%**

A very linseedy, flowery nose is followed by a light toffee-based flavour.

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## **Powers Gold Label Single ~ Midleton, County Cork 40%**

Spice honeyed, full-bodied flavour. Oak matured.

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## **Powers John's Lane Reserve ~ Midleton, County Cork 46%**

Fragrant and aromatic with a sweet finish.

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## **Redbreast 12 Year Old ~ Midleton, County Cork 40%**

Smooth and mellow with a full flavoured assertive taste.

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## **Redbreast 15 Year Old ~ Midleton, County Cork 46%**

Rich deep flavours with a sweet fruity finish.

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## **Redbreast 21 Year Old ~ Midleton, County Cork 46%**

Lingers, seemingly forever, with oak, an assortment of spices and barley notes.

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## **Roe & Co ~ Dublin 45%**

Gentle and well balanced with oaky flavours.

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## **Slane ~ Slane Castle, County Meath 40%**

Sweet oaky flavours with a toasty caramel finish.

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## **Teeling Single Grain ~ Dublin 46%**

Sweet and Light.

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## **Teeling Small Batch ~ Dublin 46%**

Floral tones with a subtle spice finish.

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## **Tyrconnell ~ Originally, Derry, Northern Ireland, but now at the Cooley Distillery, County Louth 40%**

Aromas of roasted nuts, nougat, and mild oak precede a palate that is honeyed and rich in texture.

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## **West Cork ~ West Cork 40%**

Smooth with vanilla notes and a fruity finish.

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## **Tullamore Dew Blend ~ Tullamore, County Offaly 40%**

Slow maturation makes for substantial body and a velvety finish.

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## **The Quiet Man ~ Derry 40 %**

A hint of honey, warm vanilla and spicy oak.

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## **Dingle Whiskey ~ Dingle, County Kerry 46.5%**

Note of vanilla-rich barley, jammy red berries and a dusting of festive spices.

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## **Red Spot ~ Midleton, County Cork 46%**

Aromas of rich cooked fruit, baked apple, mango and black cherry.

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## **Green Spot ~ Midleton, County Cork 40%**

Lingering flavours of spices and barley

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# BLENDED SCOTCH

## Ballantines ~ 40%

Ballantine's finest, contains 57 odd malts from Milnonguff & Glenburgie.

## Bells ~ 40%

Finely balanced malty, fruity & rich blend matured for eight years in oak.

## Dimple ~ 40%

A 300 yr old internationally acclaimed blend. Known as 'Pinch' in the USA.

## Famous Grouse ~ 40%

Smooth, medium peated & with a touch of dryness.

## Johnny Walker Red ~ 40%

Smooth & light, but still retaining many of the characteristics of traditional scotch.

## Johnny Walker Black ~ 43%

40 whiskies, aged 12 years or more, make up this complex international blend.

## Sheep Dip 8 Year Old ~ 40%

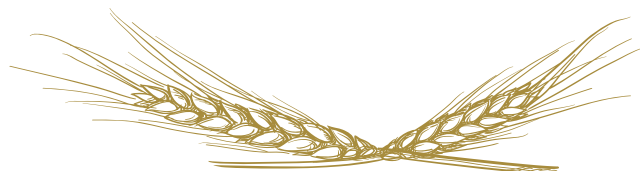
Fresh young grassy whisky with a touch of spice & complex fruity aromas.

## Teachers ~ 40%

Rich & full bodied with a malty, creamy palate & oaky, dry finish.

## Monkey Shoulder Smokey Monkey ~ 40%

Oak Smoke, mellow vanilla & subtle citrus.





# WHISKY *versus* WHISKEY!?

Within the broad category of Whisky or Whiskey there are many sub categories including obviously Scotch (as you have seen from the 100 we have selected here in the 'bible') there is also Bourbon, Rye, Tennessee, Irish and Canadian styles.

The manufacture of these types of whisky/ey is guided and regulated by the government of the spirits country of origin. As a result, Canadian Whisky, for example, is a whole different animal from Scotch whisky, Irish whiskey and American whiskeys such as Tennessee, Bourbon and straight Rye. American and Irish producers tend to favour (or favor) the spelling WHISKEY while Scottish, Canadian even the Japanese favour the spelling WHISKY.

So we have two things going on here... are the drinks different styles hence the different spellings or is just the spelling different to be different? How does a Scotsman write about Irish Whiskey or an American write about Canadian Whisky?



Well rumour has it that countries with 'E's in their name IrEland and UnitEd StatEs spell it WHISKEY or plural WHISKEYS and those without an E in their name Canada, Scotland and Japan spell it WHISKY or plural WHISKIES.

So there you have it, a sensible solution...

We know what you are going to ask, "how come Wales which produces Penderyn can call it Whisky?" We don't know, ask them yourselves while we are enjoying our Whisky or Whiskey or Bourbon or Rye or whatever!

***"Time waits for no man"  
so order 'a wee dram'  
while you argue over  
the names!***

# WHISKEYS, BOURBONS

## *or Whatever*

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### **Daddy Rack ~ Tennessee 40%**

Smooth & buttery mouthfeel, roasted apple & banana fruit leads onto vanilla & a hint of nutmeg.

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### **Hudson Manhattan Rye**

#### **~ New York 46%**

fruity, floral and smooth.

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### **Hudson Four Grain Bourbon**

#### **~ New York 46%**

Gentle notes of nutmeg, orange peel, mint & a hint of vanilla.

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### **Hudson Baby Bourbon**

#### **~ New York 46%**

Marzipan & candied ginger, with a thick layer of caramel on top. A touch of rye spiciness develops.

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### **Tincup American Whiskey**

#### **~ Colorado 42%**

Citrus, black pepper & ginger snaps aroma. Rye spice, cinnamon & caramel taste.

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### **Wild Turkey ~ Kentucky 50.5%**

Caramel & vanilla with hints of honey and oranges.

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### **Buffalo Trace ~ Kentucky 40%**

rich & complex, with hints of vanilla, toffee & candied fruit.

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### **Bulleit Bourbon Frontier Whiskey**

#### **~ Kentucky 40%**

Worth a 'shot' or two!!

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### **Canadian Club ~ Canada 40%**

Light and versatile blend aged in white oak barrels.

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### **Eagle Rare ~ Kentucky 45%**

Rich, bold flavours with hints of toffee & a dry finish.

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### **Fighting Cock 6 Year Old**

#### **~ Kentucky 51.5%**

Aromas of baked apple, butterscotch & corn mash with a medium spicy finish.

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### **Jack Daniels ~ Tennessee 40%**

The world's number one selling whiskey.

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### **Jim Beam Black Label ~ Kentucky 43%**

Toffee & tobacco moving into subtle toasted grains.

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### **Old Grand Dad Bourbon**

#### **~ Kentucky 43%**

This bourbon has some hair on its chest. Fruity but very firm.

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### **Mellow Corn Kentucky Corn Whisky**

#### **~ Kentucky 40%**

The best corn whisky to come out of Kentucky.

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### **Forest Whisky ~ Macclesfield 47%**

A unique & intriguing spirit from above the clouds.

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### **Penderyn ~ Wales 46%**

A classic freshness with aromas of cream toffee, rich fruit and raisins. Crisp & finely rounded.

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### **The Lakes ~ Cumbria 40%**

Malty, with a peppery finish.

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### **English Whisky 11 Year Old**

#### **~ Norfolk 46%**

Sweet & spicy, dry & woody with lovely oak overtones.

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### **Hibiki Harmony ~ Japan 43%**

Floral & fruity, with hint of Mizunara (Japanese oak).

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# BULLY BOARDS

## Steph's Experimental Board

### Glenfiddich IPA ~ Dufftown 43%

Finished in casks seasoned with India Pale Ale. Zesty citrus notes with a hint of freshness & creamy vanilla.

### Glenfiddich Fire & Cane ~ Dufftown 43%

An unexpected combination of sweet & smoky.

### Glenfiddich Project XX ~ Dufftown 47%

Deep and mellow, the finish is long lasting with a lingering sweet oakiness.

## American Board

### Hudson Baby Bourbon ~ New York 46%

Marzipan & candied ginger, with a thick layer of caramel on top. A touch of rye spiciness develops.

### Tincup American Whiskey ~ Colorado 42%

Citrus, black pepper & ginger snaps aroma. Rye spice, cinnamon & caramel taste.

### Daddy Rack ~ Tennessee 40%

Smooth & buttery mouthfeel, roasted apple & banana fruit leads onto vanilla & a hint of nutmeg.

## Around The World

### Glendronach 15 Year Old ~ Scotland 46%

Long & enveloping finish with dark manuka honey, herbal bitters & dark chocolate.

### English Whisky II Year Old ~ Norfolk 46%

Sweet & spicy, dry & woody with lovely oak overtones.

### Hibiki Harmony ~ Japan 43%

Floral & fruity, with hint of Mizunara (Japanese oak).

### Daddy Rack ~ Tennessee 40%

Smooth & buttery mouthfeel, roasted apple & banana fruit leads onto vanilla & a hint of nutmeg.

### Slane ~ Slane 40%

Sweet oaky flavours with a toasty caramel finish.





# WHISKY

*versus*

# WHISKEY!?

## THE TRUTH

At one time, all whisky was spelled without the 'e', as 'whisky'. In around 1870, the reputation of Scottish whisky was very poor as Scottish distilleries flooded the market with cheaper spirits produced using the Coffey still. The Irish and American distilleries adopted the spelling 'whiskey', with the extra 'e', to distinguish their higher quality product. Today, the spelling whisky (plural whiskies) is generally used for whiskies distilled in Scotland, Wales, Canada and Japan, while whiskey is used for the spirits distilled in Ireland and America. Even though a 1968 directive of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms specifies 'whisky' as the official U.S. spelling, it allows labelling as 'whiskey' in deference to tradition and most U.S. producers still use the historical spelling. Exceptions such as Early Times, Maker's Mark and George Dickel are usually indicative of a Scottish heritage.



In the late Victorian era, Irish whiskey was the world's most popular whisky. Of the Irish whiskeys, Dublin whiskeys were regarded as the grands crus of whiskeys. In order to differentiate Dublin whiskey from other whiskies, the Dublin distilleries adopted the spelling 'whiskey'. The other Irish distilleries eventually followed suit. The last Irish 'whisky' was Paddy, which adopted the 'e' in 1966.

'Scotch' is the internationally recognized term for 'Scotch whisky' however it is rarely used in Scotland, where blended whisky is generally referred to as 'whisky' and single or vatted malt whisky as 'malt'.

In many Latin-American countries, whisky (wee-skee) is used as a photographer's cue to smile, supplanting English 'cheese'. The Uruguayan film Whisky got its name because of this.

**So there you go**  
*...with a bit of trivia thrown in!*





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*In 2021 our owners, Tim and Mary, on behalf of all the Pubs in Cheshire Cat Pubs and Inns, became Founders in the Crollly Distillery in Donegal, Ireland. By buying a barrel of whiskey, number 160, they became one of 180 Founders who have bought barrels of Crollly whiskey for the first time in 180 years. By 2026 the first 5 year old whiskey will be bottled for all to enjoy!*

## HISTORY *OF* CROLLLY

*'Legal' distillation of Donegal Irish whiskey re-commenced on September 24th, 2020 at the Old Crollly Doll factory in Killindarragh, Crollly, Co Donegal for the very first time in one hundred and eighty years. The last licensed whiskey distillery was registered to Willian Leathem of Bohillion, Burt, Co. Donegal in early 1840's. The red-stack chimney remains visible to this day.*

The Crollly Doll factory lay dormant for almost 25 years but in 2018 Údarás na Gaeltachta commenced a restoration project. Today the factory originally built in 1901 for carpet making is now a whiskey distillery. Joe Devenney, Conor McMenamin and Kieran Davis are the promoters behind this project. Having a common interest in whiskey and watching the resurgence of Irish whiskey on a global scale they wanted to be part of the story.

This really is an artisanal craft production facility. The size of the operation is really quite small but the intention is to make really good whiskey. Rather than go with the modern technologies available, the choice has been to go back in time and return to the most traditional methods of distillation. Crollly is using the old-style direct fired gas copper pot stills and the traditional worm tub condenser. This intense copper contact method creates the 'milliard effect' producing a liquid of greater complexity and rich profile. The liquid is stored in ex-bourbon barrels and left to rest for a minimum of three years on-site in the bounded warehouse. After three years and interacting with the



wood, what was a clear liquid on day one, should emerge as a beautiful amber gold viscous liquid unique to this part of the world.

Also unique to this part of the world was a man known as Joseph F. Sinnott - born in nearby Carrickfinn (1837 - 1906). He was the fourth of fourteen children to be born to a family with both military and seafaring roots. Sinnott attended the Lord George Hill School in Gweedore. At the age of 17 he immigrated to America. He was to join with his grandmother and aunts in South Carolina but sadly they perished at the hands of yellow-fever during his transit. He remained in Philadelphia. Sinnott found employment with John Gibson's and Sons - the largest distiller of rye whiskey in North America. After starting as a junior book-keeper, 32 years later he became the sole proprietor in 1888. At the time, the company was producing 30,000 barrels per annum. **Crollly will produce 500 in its first year!**



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**AND OF COURSE...**

## *The 100 Whiskies of* **THE BULLS HEAD**

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Telephone: 01565 873395 [www.thebullsheadpub.co.uk](http://www.thebullsheadpub.co.uk)