

A BRIEF HISTORY 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.

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.



Ismes.m king of Scotts

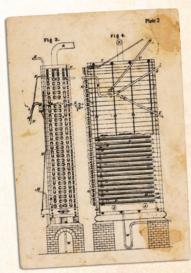


The reference to the barber is not surprising. In 1505, the Guild of Surgeon Barbers in Edinburgh was granted a monopoly over the manufacture of aqua vitae – a fact that reflects the spirits perceived medicinal properties as well as the

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 coffinany 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.

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

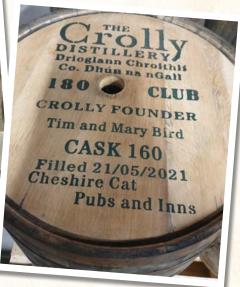
HISTORY of CROLLY

'Legal' distillation of Donegal Irish whiskey re-commenced on September 24th, 2020 at the Old Crolly Doll factory in Killindarragh, Crolly, 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 Crolly 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. Crolly 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. Crolly will produce 500 in its first year!

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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?

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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!







ABASOLO MEXICAN WHISKY

All the way from Mexico comes Abasolo, an excellent whisky made using 100% Mexican Cacahuazintle corn!

Finish: Like a big scoop of chocolate and vanilla ice cream, with a little salted popcorn and orchard fruit in the backdrop.

ABERFALLS SINGLE MALT WELSH WHISKY

Striving for sustainability and quality, the team at Aber Falls works closely with local farmers to grow top quality Welsh barley and contribute to the local economy.

Finish: The creamy texture prevails, vanilla fudge, darker notes of berries and cherries, sherried fruit cake, soft barley spice.

AILSA BAY SINGLE MALT

Single malt from Ailsa Craig, founded in 2007 with a capacity of 12,000,000 litres on the same site as Girvan.

Finish: Sweet, smoky and drying. More Big Red with vanilla.

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ANGELS ENVY KENTUCKY BOURBON

Angel's Envy is a rather splendid bourbon that has interestingly been finished in Port casks! The combination of the vanilla-y richness with the sweet, sticky Port notes (which really come to the fore of the delightful finish) is a match made in Heaven.

Finish: A big old' helping of dark chocolate, red grape and a light waft of aromatic herbs.

ARRAN 10 YEAR OLD MALT

Officially launched in 2006, this 10 year old lies at the heart of the Isle of Arran range and exudes all the honeyed richness we have come to associate with the island distillery.

Finish: Slightly sweet with bitter maltiness, Digestive biscuit and apple peel

ARRAN BARREL RESERVE

An entirely bourbon-matured bottle of Arran single malt! After its distillation on the eponymous island, Barrel Reserve is matured exclusively in firstfill bourbon barrels.

Finish: Vanilla oak and lots of aromatic spice, with salted caramel and a handful of orchard fruit.

ARRAN 'THE BOTHY' QUARTER CASK

Arran's The Bothy single malt has joined the Island distillery's permanent range! Matured initially in first-fill ex-bourbon barrels, this expression is finished for two years in quarter casks, which are much smaller than your average run-ofthe-mill cask. Finally, it's bottled at a generous 56.2% ABV.

Finish: Lingering cherry and cinnamon on the finish.

AUCHENTOSHAN 12 YEAR OLD

Lowland distillery Auchentoshan's flagship single malt whisky, famously triple-distilled which is unusual for a Scotch. This contributes to its signature smooth character, however. It's been matured in both American oak and sherry casks.

Finish: A lengthy, dry and oaky finish with barley sweetness and cocoa powder.

A Lowland single malt matured in 3 different casks, namely: Pedro Ximénez Sherry casks, bourbon casks and Oloroso Sherry casks. A distinctive triple distilled whisky from Auchentoshan.

Finish: Superb, led by thick dark treacle and toffee notes and chewy wooded notes, balanced with a green fruit edge.





BALVENIE DOUBLE WOOD 12 YEAR OLD

Balvenie DoubleWood is, to not much surprise, aged in two kinds of oak casks! It was firstly matured in refill American oak casks before it was treated to a finish in first fill European oak Oloroso sherry butts for an additional nine months.

Finish: Spicy, slightly drying, still sweet.

BALVENIE CARIBBEAN CASK 14 YEAR OLD

A terrific single malt from The Balvenie. This Speysider was initially aged in traditional oak casks before it was finished in casks which previously held Caribbean rum, imparting some extra sweetness and warmth to the whisky.

Finish: The finish lingers with a vanilla focussed character.



CANADIAN CLUB

The renowned Canadian whisky, married in white oak barrels. Canadian Club was founded by whisky mogul Hiram Walker. Finish is quite sweet and gentle. There are notes of winter spice and dark sugars, a touch of rum. The finish is of medium-sweetness and of medium-length.

CAOL ISLA 12 YEAR OLD

Caol IIa 12 Year Old appeals to connoisseurs while also making the perfect entry to the world of peated whisky for newcomers, with its beautifully measured and mellow smokiness and a rich array of seaside flavours.

Finish: Long, peppery, spicy warmth, smoke.

Cheshire Fireside English Whisky

Distilled by our local Weetwood Ales, who took all those years brewing ales with malted barley and applied the experience to English whisky. For Fireside Special Release, the whisky was finished in oloroso and Pedro Ximénez sherry casks.

Finish: Rich, long and fruity with warming spice and a hint of log fire smoke. Flavours of vanilla and honey, crème brûlée, dates, figs, and raisins, like an indulgent Christmas pudding.

Bruichladdich Islay Barley 2014

This is the 2014 vintage of the unpeated, locally grown single malt Bruichladdich Islay Barley. It's distilled from Concerto and Propino barley grown on eight local farms (Coull, Rockside, Island, Mulindry, Cruach, Dunlossit, Craigens and Sunderland Farms), all within an 11-mile radius of Bruichladdich. It was predominantly matured in first-fill bourbon casks.

Finish: The result is a cereal-forward single malt with notes of apricot and peach, malty digestive biscuit, and a hint of fresh grass.

Bruichladdich Organic Barley 2012

Another top edition of Bruichladdich The Organic. A vintage 2012 single malt, it was made with 100% unpeated Scottish barley, the Publican variety, grown at Mid Coul farm. It was aged in 100% first-fill bourbon barrels to preserve as much of the flavour of the grain as possible and was bottled at 50% ABV.

Finish: The malty character of the spirit is unmistakable on the finish, while almond and butterscotch notes from the oak linger.

BULLEIT BOURBON

Enjoy Bulleit Bourbon like the Americans do! Now you can get the Frontier Whiskey at 45% ABV, just like they have in Kentucky. A stunning 'whiskey' that won a Gold medal at the San Francisco World Spirits Competition in 2012.

Finish: Smooth and spicy with orange zest, toasted oak and vanilla.

CHESHIRE SEASIDE ENGLISH WHISKY

This limited release of The Cheshire from Weetwood Brewery & Distillery is inspired by fresh, coastal character, with the English single malt whisky maturing in lightly charred casks and finished in Islay barrels, for a subtle layer of maritime peat.

Finish: Lasting and mellow, smoking embers. Vanilla and toasted

CONNEMARA PEATED IRISH WHISKEY

Arguably the most important peated Irish whiskey, Connemara was the first in the modern to remind folks that Irish whiskey can be smoky. In fact, it often was, and Connemara Peated Whiskey is inspired by the whiskies that would have been made over the centuries in Ireland in areas like the one that gives the expression its name. Turf (as the Irish often call peat) was what was available to the early whiskey makers, so prior to the 20th century, peated whiskey was commonplace in Ireland.

Finish: Long and pungent with honey and turf smoke

CROITHLI IRISH WHISKEY

Where Mary and Tim have a barrel maturing. The Quercus Robur style is a departure away from traditional 'spirit' casks. Robur is most often used for 'European Oak' sherry casks. The wood itself is more porous than either of the Patraea or Alba species and much less sweet. The trees grow throughout Europe, but this wood comes from the highly prized region of Slavonia in Croatia – Lužnjak casks. Awarded Gold winner at the 2022 Irish Whiskey Awards.

Finish: A robust, dry finish with wood smoke and dark chocolate

CAOL ILA

4010 12 YEARS

DALMORE 12 YEAR OLD

Launched in late 2008 to replace the previous 12 year old, this single malt from the Dalmore distillery is a toasty, coffee-rich dram with beautifully spice notes and a thick mouthfeel. Very rich for a 12 year old.

Finish: Medium, oranges with notes of Seville marmalade and triple sec with winter spices and fruitcake. Zesty cocoa and milk chocolate.

DALWHINNIE 15 YEAR OLD

Dalwhinnie's single malts shine with their flawless, clean, crisp profile. Dalwhinnie 15 Year Old is a standout that has been winning its way into our hearts for some time now. The Highland single malt was aged in a combination of bourbon and oloroso sherry casks and has just a smidge of smoke running through it to add depth. Delicious stuff.

Finish: Malty, walnuts steeped in manuka honey with vanilla sponge. Gentle smoke weaves its way through the cereal with a touch of spice.

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the Celtic celebrations of Lá le Bríde, which sees in the beginning of spring and waves goodbye to winter. The triple distilled Irish whiskey has been matured in bourbon casks and treated to a rye cask finish, for some lively spice and herbs.

Finish: Spicy, fruity, creamy fudge and digestive biscuits, with some fresh garden herbs and allspice.

DUBLINER IRISH LIQUEUR

The Dubliner is a blended Irish whiskey which has been aged in bourbon casks and crafted by Master Blender John Drennan. A new addition to the Dubliner range, which you might know from their Dubliner Irish Whiskey Liqueur (combining whiskey, caramel and honeycomb).

Finish: Quite sweet, but enjoyable notes of golden malt shine through more honey and a touch of white pepper.





EAST LONDON ENGLISH WHISKY

It's made with a blend of Sonoma's bourbon whiskey and East London liquor Company's London rye whisky. Richly flavoursome, featuring notes of red fruit and dense vanilla, dotted with familiar spicy notes of rye.

Finish: A long finish, with a touch of salted nuts, loads of vanilla notes arrive on the palate, still packed with cherry and raisin, and sparks of peppery rye heat.

EAGLE RARE KENTUCKY WHISKEY

All the way from the legendary Buffalo Trace Distillery in Frankfort, Kentucky, comes Eagle Rare 10 Year Old. The whiskey is also pretty distinctive, boasting full-bodied notes of cinder toffee, orange peel and buttery corn.

Finish: Vanilla, oak spice and a little bit of old leather, honey, buttered bread, oily walnuts and a touch of red fruit.

Egans 10 Year Old Irish Whiskey

A single malt from an undisclosed distillery bottled by revived Irish whiskey brand Egan's. The whiskey has been aged for a minimum of 10 years in ex-bourbon American oak casks, before being bottled at 47%.

Finish: Honeyed, malty sweetness and notes of oak in the long finish. Malty cereal notes and cream intertwined with mango, banana and cranberries.







FABLE

FABLE CAPTAIN'S DAUGHTER 8 YEAR OLD

Here is a blended malt from Fable Pendulum Spirits. This third batch was bottled 2022-07-11, and is limited to 9000 bottles. Not a whole lot of details available, but they do say that it was "matured for a minimum of 8 years in ex-bourbon barrels and hogshead casks".

Finish: Medium long finish. More of the same, then there's a fine trace of fizzy ginger and strawberry milkshake. More toasted oak and a pinch of soot in the end

Fable Folk Chapter 2 12 Year Old

A single cask, cask strength Linkwood from the fine folks at Fable independent bottlers. Distilled in 2009, it was bottled in 2021 at 12 years old without added colour or chill filtering. A great whisky and smart artwork on the bottle.

Finish: White chocolate, lavender and fresh green apple skin deliver a clean and refined finish.

FOREST CHESHIRE ENGLISH WHISKY

This English single malt was fermented, distilled, matured, and bottled at the Forest distillery in the Peak District. Distilled from barley grown in Cheshire, the whisky matured in a pair of French oak casks for three years in the cellars of the distillery's home at the Cat & Fiddle Inn, yielding a total of just 200 bottles.

Finish: Soft wood, burnt matchsticks, sweet honeycomb, soft butter.
And green apples.

Four Roses Bourbon

A brand that dates back to the late 19th century. This Yellow Label bottling of Four Roses was released for the European and Japanese markets and is made up of whiskeys aged between 5 and 6 years of age. Sweet, creamy aromas. Hints of Seville orange marmalade and lemon zest. A hint of corn sweetness and caramel. Well Balanced, rich palate entry with marmalade and acacia honey. Cinnamon, lemon and oak.

Finish: Oaky, spiced finish.

GLADSTONE AXE AMERICAN OAK BLENDED MALT

The Gladstone Axe is a blend of Highland malt whiskies, selected from 14 different distilleries and matured in American oak. The label has a portrait of William Gladstone, posing with an axe, because as well as serving four terms as prime minister of the United Kingdom in the 1800s, he apparently had a passion for tree felling!

Finish: Sweet toasted oak with wafts of honey and vanilla and a gentle peppery finish.

GLENDALOUGH DOUBLE BARREL IRISH WHISKEY

Glendalough Double Barrel Irish Whiskey is a single grain Irish whiskey, initially matured in American bourbon barrels before enjoying a finishing period of six months in Spanish Oloroso Sherry casks. This comes bottled at 42% ABV, brought down to this strength by Wicklow mountain water. A rather tasty release presented by Glendalough, rich in vanilla, caramel, Christmas spices and dried fruit notes.

Finish: Polished oak and a hint of wood spice linger. Succulent caramel, salty melted butter and crème anglaise provide a thick, decadent sweetness with a fruity underlay from blackberries and marmalade.

GLENFIDDICH 12 YEAR OLD

Glenfiddich 12 is part of the distillery's flagship collection, a great choice for seasoned sippers or those who are new to whisky, with lots of light and fruity flavours thanks to a high cut point. Aged for 12 years in American and European oak casks, it's also the world's most awarded single malt!

Finish: Sweet, touch of oak and general fruit, oily. Stereotypical Speyside. Consistent - a good benchmark

Greenore Single Grain 8 Year Old Irish Whiskey

Glenfiddich

Greenore 8 Year Old is a stunning single grain Irish whiskey (which has now been renamed Kilbeggan). A hugely enjoyable expression, with plenty of honey, vanilla, tropical fruit, almond and spiced oak notes - certainly deserving of our shelf-space. Sweet, smooth vanilla before spicy oak comes in. Touches of menthol and coconut ice.

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Finish: Long with maple and pecan, milk chocolate and a hint of salinity. Overall a sensational grain whiskey this, top stuff!



HAIG CLUB SINGLE GRAIN SCOTCH WHISKY

The much anticipated David Beckham endorsed single grain whisky, produced at Cameronbridge distillery. A combination of first-fill, rejuvenated and refill bourbon barrel-matured whiskies are used and Beckham, along with Simon Fuller, is very much involved in the development of the Haig Club brand.

Finish: Praline, cinnamon and a little ginger with perhaps a hint of cardamom returning right at the death.

HIBIKI JAPANESE HARMONY

Harmony - a rather apt word to describe this well-balanced Japanese blended whisky from the Hibiki range. Hibiki Japanese Harmony is made with malt whiskies from the Yamazaki and Hakushu distilleries, as well as grain whisky from the Chita distillery. The whiskies are drawn from 5 different types of cask, including American white oak casks, Sherry casks and Mizunara oak casks. An elegant expression, with wafts of honey, orange, a herbaceous touch or two, and light oak.

Finish: Brown sugar, citrus peels, white grape and black pepper.

THE HIVE BLENDED SCOTCH

With a focus on honeyed qualities, The Hive blended malt Scotch whisky from Wemyss Malts is a sweet, rich, lip-smacking dram. As you can imagine, there's some good Speysider style notes at the core of this one - Great!

Finish: Warm and pleasant. Sweet start with lots of honey, vanilla too makes an appearance along with some flowers and a nice creaminess.

Hyde 10 Year Old Irish Whisky

Hyde 10 Year Old No.1 President's Cask is limited edition single malt Irish whiskey, released by Hibernia Distillers. This expression takes its name from Douglas Hyde, who served as the first President of Ireland from 1938 to 1945. The whiskey comes from one Irish distillery and was initially matured in bourbon barrels before enjoying a finishing period in first fill Oloroso Sherry casks.

Finish: It's smooth and has some depth to the flavours it offers, and quite the charming finish. The sherry and rum spiciness/sweetness work very well together.



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JURA 10 YEAR OLD

Jura 10 Year Old was launched as part of a refreshed core range of whiskies from island distillery Jura in 2018, replacing Jura Origin. Aged in American white oak bourbon barrels before enjoying a finishing period in oloroso sherry butts, it has the subtle smoke and sweet fruitiness you want from a Jura single malt, with an intense kick of sherried sweetness underneath.

Finish: Oily and subtly spicy at first, before notes of earthy vanilla pod and chocolate-covered raisins develop and a touch of smoke rounds things off.

IAMESON'S IRISH WHISKEY

Produced at the Midleton Distillery, Jameson is Ireland's quintessential Irish blend - a classic whiskey. A full and floral nose leads with the smooth sweetness of marmalade and fudge before a hint of Madeira and a little cut grass note emerge. Thick and of good body with notes of orchard fruits, both fresh and cooked with a little vanilla cream.

Finish: Medium-length with spice and honey.

JOHNNIE WALKER BLACK

Black Label is a 12 year old blend - though it did go through a phase without an age statement. Its prestige status was trumped with the launch of the super swanky Blue Label in the late 1980s, but Black Label has never lost its cache. Across the world today, a bottle of Johnnie Walker Black Label is a recognised currency and symbol of excellence. The classic 12 Year Old Black Label is a blend majoring on Diageo's Four Corners of Scotland distilleries Clynelish in the Highlands, Cardhu on Speyside, malt from Glenknichie and grain from Cameronbridge with a little smoke from Caol IIa.

Finish: Quite fruity and long with a note of sultanas and mixed peels.

IOHNNIE WALKER BLUE

The Johnnie Walker Blue Label story begins in 1987 when the Distillers Company launched Johnnie Walker Oldest. It quickly became known as Blue Label. Though expensive, or perhaps because it was expensive, it proved an instant hit. By 1997, it was selling 50,000 cases globally. Blue Label is drawn from unparalleled reserves of maturing malt and grain whiskies from across four regions (Highland, Lowland, Speyside, and Islay), including ghost distilleries, that Johnnie Walker has privileged access to. Whatever the exact blend, a consistent flavour profile that's a beautiful balance of rich, slightly smoky, and fruity elements.

Finish: Floral, oaky, good length, urged on by a plume of very well-kept, highland style smoke. Dried fruit, spice, honey.

JOHNNIE WALKER GOLD

Johnnie Walker Gold Label Reserve is a multi-award-winning blend (lots of gold medals, appropriately) created by master blender Jim Beveridge to celebrate nearly 200 years of the art of blending. The Gold Label Reserve was relaunched in 2012 as a replacement for the popular Gold Label 18 and is made from whiskies across Speyside, Islay, the Highlands, and Lowlands. Smooth and succulent with a honeyed sweetness that's typical of Johnnie Walker. There's more to this though, the floral elements are quite prominent and there's a spiced sweet vanilla note too.



JOHNNIE WALKER GREEN

One of those harder-to-find whiskies, Johnnie Walker Green Label is a 15-year-old blended malt which was awarded an impressive 95 points in Jim Murray's Whisky Bible. Now it is part of our collection here at the Bulls Head. Made entirely with Single Malts from the four corners of Scotland and aged for at least 15 years, this blended Scotch Whisky captures the distinct flavours of each landscape in perfect balance. It is of medium body with notes of crisp cereals, coffee beans, chocolate and a date note with a touch of walnut. The finish is quite long and spicy with honeyed sweetness and oak.

JOHNNIE WALKER RED

Johnnie Walker Red Label Whisky was created 1909 and is a classic blended whisky, a great mixer and back bar favourite. A surprisingly rich, aromatic nose with heather honey, mixed peels, soft smoke and rum spice. On the palate you have Cedar wood, oak and butterscotch, aniseed, Christmas cake and malt.

Finish: Long, spiced nose with smoke on the tail.

JACK DANIELS TENNESSEE WHISKEY

Jack Daniels has been made at its Lynchburg distillery since 1875. The branding and original label, sometimes referred to as No. 7 or Black Label; has made its way into pop culture, with merchandise sold the world over and a history of association with music. Frank Sinatra was even buried with a bottle. Light with plenty of sweetness. There are hints of dry spice and oily nuts, a touch of smoke. Quite smooth on the palate and soft with notes of banana milkshake, a mixed nut note, a touch of caramel with crème anglaise.

Finish: Sweet with a little cereal sweetness and toasty oak.

JACK DANIELS HONEY WHISKEY

A truly fabulous whiskey liqueur from Jack Daniel's. Jack Daniel's Honey is made with a mix of rich spices and smooth, supple honey. JD Honey is delicious over ice or in coffee.

Caramel and charred oak, a little orange blossom, manuka honey and vanilla on the nose. Thick and creamy on the palate with notes of vanilla, toasty oak, honey again, a little apricot too.

Finish: Good length - rounded and rich.





KILBEGGAN IRISH WHISKEY

Kilbeggan is named after St Bécán, one of the Twelve Apostles of Ireland who founded a monastery in the area in the 6th century. A smooth and malty blended whiskey. The nose is smooth and gentle with nut oils, hazelnut and barley, cereal sweetness and a little peat. The palate is of good body with honeyed sweetness and malt. The finish is short with oaked dryness.

KINAHAN'S IRISH SMALL BATCH WHISKEY

A blended Irish whiskey here from the Kinahan's range, which was originally established all the way back in 1779! Over the years Kinahan's received two royal warrants and became the whiskey of choice for legendary American bartender Jerry Thomas. It disappeared during the 1900s, however, but it's recently been relaunched on the very same street in Dublin where it was founded all the way back then - Trinity Street. Sweet and light, with notes of caramel, butter and soft cereals on the nose. With subtle orchard fruit developing on the palate, along with a touch of cigar box.

Finish: White pepper and thyme honey.

KINGS BARNS COAL TOWN

By using ex-peated casks, rather than peat drying the barley, the whisky maker here is able to bring through the smoky notes traditionally associated with peated whisky whilst minimising their carbon footprint. The story behind the name is a good one, it's named after Coaltown of Wemyss, an 1890s-built estate village nearby Wemyss Castle in Fife (the ancestral seat of the family behind Kingsbarns). Coaltown was created to house mineworkers from several coal mines in the area. There are some floral notes, as well as a touch of lemon zest and some gentle ashes. Then some gentle yeasty whiffs alongside vanilla custard and pot ale on the nose.

Mouthfeel is somewhat creamy. Hints of melted butter, and ripe banana accompanied by some charcoal and white pepper. Also a sliver of ginger and sandalwood.

Finish: Medium. Plenty of lingering oak spices. Somewhat dry at times. Leather too.

KINGS BARNS DOOCOT

The Kingsbarns Doocot is undeniably well put together and it fits a traditional Lowland profile. The slightly bitter, oak-y notes on the palate notwithstanding, this is a rather juicy, highly drinkable single malt. Hints of vanilla custard and butterscotch with sprinkles of lemon zest.

A creamy mouthfeel. The banana makes an encore, but it's ripe now. Soft notes of white pepper, cloves and lemons follow, along with a gentle oaky bitterness and ginger. There's some white chocolate, butterscotch and marshmallow too

Finish: Medium length. A tinge of pineapple, candy cotton too, and lemongrass.





LAPHROAIG 10 YEAR OLD

Laphroaig 10 Year Old is a classic. Smoky and iodine-rich, this has to be one of Scotland's most characterful drams. Islay's world-famous Laphroaig distillery is known for its medicinal malts, and its signature 10-year-old is no exception thanks to its full maturation in bourbon barrels. This opens on big, smoky muscular peat notes. The only malt from Laphroaig's range that John Campbell recommends with water; try it, it opens up the palate massively, providing a dazzling array of additional flavours...



Finish: Big and drying, as the savoury, tarry notes build up with an iodine complexity.

LAGAVULIN 16 YEAR OLD

Originally there was a 12 year old expression but when Diageo launched the Classic Malt series in the 1980s, Lagavulin 16 Year Old was introduced and became the distillery's flagship bottling. If you're looking for a food pairing for this beauty, try intensely flavoured salty blue cheeses, which complement the intense, peat rich, sweet and salty character of this Lagavulin wonderfully. Very thick and rich. A massive mouthful of malt and Sherry with good fruity sweetness, but also a wonderful sweetness. Big, powerful peat and oak.

Finish: Long, spicy finish, figs, dates, peat smoke, vanilla.

LAGG KILMOREY ISLAND WHISKY

Crafted from Concerto malted barley and water sourced from their own well, this expression delivers a bold, fresh flavour profile,

MACALLAN

blending the impact of peat with the creamy and vanilla influences of American oak. Aged exclusively in First-Fill Bourbon Barrels, it embodies LAGG's signature style. This marks the beginning of an exciting journey for LAGG Single Malt enthusiasts.

Finish: Citrus, Smoke, Vanilla, Long lasting.

LOCH LOMOND 12 YEAR OLD

12 year old single malt Scotch whisky from Loch Lomond, who are well known for being able to produce a wide variety of styles of whisky in their Highland distillery. This particular expression was drawn from a selection of three cask types - bourbon casks, refill casks and recharged casks. Creamy vanilla, with a touch of freshly baked apple turnover on the nose. Brown sugar and five-spice. Orchard fruit notes continue, with a hint of yellow plum too on the palate.

Finish: Quite drying, though still sweet with vanilla.

LOCH LOMOND INCHMURRIN 12 YEAR OLD

Inchmurrin 12 year old from Loch Lomond distillery, rebranded in 2015 as part of the Inchmurrin 'Islands Collection'. Which is rather apt, as Inchmurrin is the largest fresh water island in the British Isles, and it sits in Loch Lomond! This is a wonderfully creamy single malt, which features whisky drawn from a trio of cask style, namely Bourbon casks, refill casks and re-charred casks. Creamy sweet cereals and allspice. Hints of toffee apples and pear drops. A little caramel and furniture polish. Smooth, rich palate entry with barley malt and salt caramel. Dried herbs, candied peels and allspice.

Finish: Medium-long finish. Spicy.

LOCH LOMOND ORIGINAL SINGLE MALT

A satisfying, subtly peated single malt Scotch whisky from Loch Lomond. The distillery is renowned for being able to produce a multitude of whisky styles, including single malt (like the one you see before your eyes right now), single grain and blends. Versatile and talented, those Loch Lomond distillers...Caramel, oily walnut, a touch of dusty oak smokiness on the nose. Digestive biscuits and ginger snaps on the palate.

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Finish: Diced almond, coffee bean, toasted malt.

Locke's 8 Year Old Irish Whiskey

The Locke's brand was launched in 1992 but it was the year 2000 when the first aged bottling was released. This 8 year old single malt is double distilled in the famous Cooley distillery in traditional pot stills. Around 10% of the malt used is peated which greatly adds to this unique single malt. The nose is full and rich with notes of fruit and barley malt, plenty of oak and a little floral character. The palate is full-bodied with a minerality, notes of barley and cereal sweetness with mixed peels. The finish is full and based mainly on malt notes.



THE MACALLAN 12 YEAR OLD SHERRY CASK

Released as part of Macallan's ever-wonderful Sherry Oak range comes this 12 Year Old. It has spent its entire maturation in sherry-seasoned oak casks from Jerez, and is bottled at 40% ABV after its 12 years of ageing. It's full of all those hallmark dried fruit and marmalade notes we've come to know and love from a sherried Macallan. Crisp and sweet. There are notes of sultanas and fresh apple blossom. There is a defined floral note followed by Sherry hints. Calvados emerges with a tropical fruit note and golden syrup. There are notes of hot pastries and marmalade, sultanas and peels.

Finish: Good length with a solid oaked note





NC MEAN ORGANIC SINGLE MALT

Produced from organic Scottish barley, this single malt begins with a gentle fermentation and distillation at the carbon neutral Nc'nean distillery. The whisky is then filled into a combo of red wine and American whiskey barrels, bolstered by a smaller portion of sherry casks to impart an impressively rich body with plenty of fruity sweetness. The eye-catching bottle is made entirely from recycled glass, again reducing the footprint of this stunning single malt. Tangy tropical fruits aplenty here, with charred pineapple and drizzles of honey. Vanilla takes the lead bringing notes of creamy fudge, with hints of ginger and stewed berries resting beneath.

Finish: Dark chocolate, candied orange, buttered shortbread, and toasted, oaken spice.

NIKKA JAPANESE WHISKY FROM THE BARREL

The award-winning Nikka Whisky From The Barrel blend is absolutely full of flavour. The blend combines both single malt and grain whisky from the Miyagikyo and Yoichi distilleries, which are then married in a huge variety of casks, including bourbon barrels, sherry butts and refill hogsheads. There's a huge depth of flavour in this stunning Japanese whisky. Full-bodied and punchy. There is plenty of winter spice and toffee, a little caramel and vanilla, and a good mouthful of fruit.

Finish: Long, warming and fruity with a little oaken spice.



OBAN 14 YEAR OLD HIGHLANDS

A bustling seaside resort has grown up around the distillery in the two centuries since it was first built in the fishing town of Oban. The West Highland malt is still produced in the same unhurried, traditional fashion and this 14 year old is a true classic, Oban's 14 year old is a great coastal dram for lovers of lightly smoked, fresh malts. Smoky, creamy palate with notes of marmalade, toffee apples and pear cider. A development of cloves comes late palate.

Finish: A long, malty finish with toasty oak and spice.

THE ONE, THE LAKES ENGLISH WHISKY

This is a singular blend of select grain and malt Scotch whiskies from Speyside and Islay with The Lakes Single Malt at its heart. Complex yet balanced with fresh orchard fruits, butterscotch and a hint of smoke on the nose. Deliciously rounded on the palate with vanilla custard, lightly honeyed fruits and a touch of spice.

Finish: The One enjoys a singular well-roundedness that makes it perfect to savour neat or enjoy as you please; on the rocks, with water, or in a chilled and refreshing highball



PADDY IRISH WHISKEY

A triple distilled blended Irish Whiskey produced in Cork and made, unusually, with all three styles of Irish whiskey: single pot still, single malt and grain. First produced in 1779, it wasn't until 1913 that it changed its name to Paddy after legendary salesman Paddy Flaherty. Before that it had the rather catchy name of "Cork Distilling Company Map of Ireland Old Irish Whiskey"!! A mouthful for sure! The palate is sweet and of medium-body with toffee and cereals, a rosewater note with a little butterscotch and vanilla.

Finish: Is spicy and dry with a little black pepper and oak.

PENDERYN MADEIRA FINISH WELSH WHISKY

Penderyn Madeira Finish is a single malt Welsh whisky that has been finished in Madeira wine casks. The Penderyn distillery is located in the Brecon Beacons National Park in Wales, and the whisky is named after the nearby village of Penderyn. Penderyn Madeira Finish is at the heart of the Penderyn range. A beautifully packaged Welsh whisky. The palate is thick and sweet, spices, green, biscuity. Custard.

Finish: Fresh, crisp, spices and stem ginger

PORT CHARLOTTE HEAVILY PEATED 2014

The 2014 iteration of Port Charlotte has arrived, the heavily peated single malt from Bruichladdich distillery. Created with barley exclusively grown on the island to maturation and bottling on site. Distilled in 2014 with Islay Concerto and Propino barley and aged for seven years in a combination of first-fill bourbon, virgin oak and second-fill wine casks. Citrus, sweet ripe fruit, peat smoke. Peach, charred heather, peat embers. coconut, creamy marzipan and tobacco. Finish: Stone fruit and toasted oak sweetness leave a beautifully balanced dry finish.



REDBREAST 12 YEAR OLD IRISH WHISKEY

A delightful single pot still Irish whiskey, Redbreast 12 Year Old is highly praised by a host of notable critics. Distilled at the Midleton distillery from malted and un-malted barley, it's then matured in a combination of American oak bourbon barrels and Spanish oak Oloroso sherry butts. Our owners favourite and great with a cheese board! Notes of dried peels, ginger, linseed and cut fruits including a touch of melon. Spicy with great body. Nuts and citrus with hints of marzipan, dried fruits and a hint of Sherry.

Finish: Long and creamy with custard and spice.

REDBREAST LUSTAU SHERRY FINISH IRISH WHISKEY

Introduced in 2016, Lustau doubles down on the sherry influence all Redbreast fans love. This single pot still Irish whiskey was initially matured in a combination of American and European oak casks (like all Redbreasts) for 9 to 12 years, before being transferred over to first fill Oloroso Sherry casks from Bodegas Lustau for a further year. Chewy milk chocolate and honey (almost a bit Crunchie-like) with allspice, walnut and poached plum depths.

Finish: Long with apple turnovers giving way to rich sherry and crushed cinnamon.

ROE AND COE IRISH WHISKEY

Released in March 2017, Roe & Co blended Irish whiskey marks Diageo's return to the Irish whiskey category having sold Bushmills a couple of years earlier. Creamy, delightfully fragrant and remarkably rounded with notes of soft spice and mellow spun sugar along with warm hints of woody vanilla. The quality and perfect balance of the blend is immediately apparent on the palate through its velvety texture and sweet flavours including spiced pears and

Finish: Lingering and gentle, ending with a light creaminess.



SAILOR'S HOME 10 YEAR OLD BARBADOS RUM CASK IRISH WHISKEY

The second release in the Sailor's Home Island Series, Caravelle is named after the type of ship used for long voyages through the 15th, 16th and 17th centuries, and for Presqu'ile de la Caravelle - a wild and lush natural reserve in Martinique. Matured for at least a decade in American oak ex-bourbon casks, Caravelle has been finished in Martinique Rhum Agricole casks, creating aromas of pineapple, dry savannah grass and demerara sugar on the nose. The palate offers notes of creamy toffee, green sugar cane, blood orange, liquorice and candied bananas throughout the palate.

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Finish: Banana fritters and grassy barley.

SCAPA ORCADIAN SINGLE MALT

Is a celebration of contrasts, inspired by the sanctuary of our distillery on Scapa Flow and the storm laden skies and seas that often surround it. Taking our signature smooth honey single malt, which is aged in American oak, this expression is then rested in peated casks creating richness and depth, giving way to a subtle smoky finish. Scapa is an artisanal single malt forged by the elements of Orkney; a remote island of natural contrasts. Crafted by a small team of six dedicated artisans at the manually operated Scapa distillery since its creation in 1885. Peach and ripe flavours and creamy caramel toffee and vanilla balanced perfectly with soft smoke.

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Finish: Very long with a markedly smoky finish.

IRISH WHISKEY LIQUEUR

Shanky's Whip combines the rich flavours of Irish whiskey with the creamy sweetness of vanilla and blackcurrant. This blend results in a distinctive and smooth tasting liqueur. The whiskey provides a warm, complex base, while the vanilla adds sweetness and the blackcurrant introduces a tart fruitiness, creating a well-rounded and enjoyable drink. Shanky's Whip can be enjoyed on its own, over ice, or as a versatile ingredient in a variety of cocktails. The initial taste is creamy vanilla and toffee followed by the richness of the high quality Irish whiskey, offering hints of oak, milk chocolate, malt, and a baking spices.

Finish Blackcurrants providing a tangy, refreshing edge.

SHEEP DIP BLENDED MALT SCOTCH

A splendid blended malt, Sheep Dip is comprised of over a dozen Scotch single malts that have been matured for at least five years in a variety of first-fill sherry, first-fill bourbon, and refill oak casks. Fragrant with notes of the coast, tangy, malty, honey, toffee. Youthful. Palate is rich, warming, malty, young and spirity.

Finish: Punchy, tangy.

SHEEP DOG

PEANUT BUTTER AND WHISKY LIQUEUR

Well this is unusual and most exciting - American whiskey infused with peanut butter! This liqueur is a wonderful choice for anyone who enjoys a nutty treat, glorious sipped neat over ice, but will also adds unique character to cocktails. A peanut butter Old Fashioned perhaps? Peanut butter and caramel, peanut brittle, hints of Snickers bars.

Finish: Creamy oak and vanilla.

THE SINGLETON

A straightforward, nutty and malty single malt from Speyside, the Singleton of Dufftown was released to replace the Singleton of Auchroisk. It's aged in a high proportion of European oak casks. Malty with cereal/barley sweetness, buttery toast, wood shavings, hay and walnut. Orange zest spiciness perks up a malty core of nuts, oak and toffee, with hints of cut grass.

Finish: Oaky, rich with good length, some fruit lingers

STAUNING DANISH RYE WHISKY

A Danish rye whisky here from Stauning! It's produced from malted Danish rye and barley, which is entirely floor-malted at the distillery. After it's distilled on open-fired stills, the spicy spirit is then matured in new American oak barrels. The folks at the distillery call it something along the lines of liquid fresh Danish rye bread. Rye bread fresh out of the oven is indeed there, with touches of blackberry, peppery oak and menthol. More forest berries on the palate with oaky vanilla and cocoa which lead into oily citrus and more spicy oak.

Finish: Caramel wafers, ripe stone fruit and chocolate-coated nuts ^^^^







TAKETSURU PURE BLENDED MALT JAPANESE WHISKY

Nikka's Taketsuru shows off the excellent balance of the Japanese vanilla sits on the palate with a subtle floral note creeping in with salted butter on toasted teacakes, ripe pear and peach.

Finish: Lingering peat smoke and subtle baking spice warmth.

TALISKER 10 YEAR OLD

TALISKER

SKYE

SINGLE MALT SCOTCH WHISKY

Talisker 10 year old single malt is a classic Island whisky from the Isle of Skye. Aged for a minimum of 10 years in American oak casks. This Classic Malt has been recognised numerous times for its excellence. Immensely satisfying stuff, with whiffs of warm peat blending with coastal air, balanced by orchard fruit and juicy barley. A spectacular after dinner dram. It's a bonfire of peat crackling with black pepper, with a touch of brine and dry barley. A welcome delivery of orchard fruit provides a delicate and beautiful balance.

Finish: In a long finish, bonfire embers toast malt and crystallise a sugary underlay.

whisky, alongside wafts of smoke and waves of creamy malt. The name is a reference to Nikka's founder, Masataka Taketsuru, who established Nikka all the way back in 1934! On the nose is grassy malt, earthy vanilla, toasted coconut and BBQ pineapple. More

TALISKER SKYE SINGLE MALT

Talisker Skye was introduced in early 2015, named after the beautiful island on which the distillery resides. This expression brings with it a more well-rounded and sweet flavour profile packed with fresh citrus, sweet smoke, peppery spice and traditional Talisker maritime notes. Talisker Skye is matured in a combination of refill and toasted American oak casks, with a slightly higher proportion of toasted casks. Talisker Skye whisky is perfect for those who perhaps find the classic Talisker flavour profile a bit too much. Honeyed toasted oak, only a little pepper and smoke, apple turnovers and hints of lemon and lime.

> Finish: Drying and slightly less sweet, hints of spice and smoke.

TEACHER'S HIGHLAND CREAM BLENDED WHISKY

A very famous blended whisky, a rather good blend too. On the nose it has fruity, malty aromas. Just a hint of peat smoke with a good dollop of gooey toffee. On the palate sits soft smoke, barley malt and manuka honey. Hints of Malt-driven palate with soft spices.

Finish: Malt and smoke on the finish. Classic.

TITANIC PREMIUM IRISH WHISKEY

The Titanic distillery is actually in the Titanic Pump-House in Belfast, the very site where the fabled ship was built. Its signature bottling is a blend of Irish grain whiskey, triple-distilled malt, and peated spirit to create a well-rounded, versatile bottling that will taste good neat but can also be mixed with the best of them. Dry smoke whisps through pear drop sweetness and oaky vanilla on the nose. This whiskey is gentle on the palate, with plenty of honeyed grainy goodness, grassy peat, and some sweet gingery spice.

Finish: Pears and peat.

TULLAMORE DEW TRIPLE DISTILLED IRISH WHISKEY

The 'D.E.W.' in Tullamore D.E.W. comes from the initials of a General Manager at the Tullamore distillery in the later 19th Century, named Daniel E. Williams. On the nose it is fruity and biscuity. There are gritty notes with caramel and toffee sweetness and plenty of peels. Taste wise it has good body with notes of sherried peels and spice, granary toast with butter and honey, grains and vanilla cream.

Finish: Quite vegetal and long with notes of caramel and toffee.

Tyrconnell Single Malt Irish Whiskey

Tyrconnell Irish Whiskey has had a redesign, complete with a stylish new label and a bumped-up ABV of 43% (compared to the original's 40%). It remains a satisfying Irish single malt whiskey, packed to the brim with vanilla and honey notes. On the nose is melted butter, honeyed cereal and a touch of orange pith. A rich vanilla taste with soft fudge and a touch of granary toast underneath.

Finish: Lingering nutmeg spiciness and a touch of drying oak.



WATERFORD 'THE CUVÉE' SINGLE MALT IRISH WHISKEY

A fantastic single malt Irish whisky from the Waterford Distillery, following on from its Single Farm Origin series, with further influence from the chateaux of France. The Cuvée brings together spirits from its Single Farm Origin series, allowing for the distillers to create a complex, layered, delicious expression. Immensely impressive stuff as ever from Waterford. As we write this the future of the distillery is in question and this is the last bottle on the shelf and will be replaced by other Waterford styles as we can get them. The taste is citrusy, slightly sweeter with grapefruit and orange. Honeyed cereals, caraway, and a subtle savoury hint of olive.

Finish: Oily barley lingers on the finish.

WILD TURKEY BOURBON

THE

Wild Turkey's Rare Breed Bourbons are bottled at cask strength, and are often absolutely staggering stuff. The bottles have had a little redesign recently, and look very stylish indeed - though the eponymous turkey on the label looks rather surprised to be there! Buttery on the nose at first, before a big rush of clove and oak. Tastes of caramel and chocolate. A touch of smoke develops.

> Finish: Menthol, cut herbs, brown sugar and white pepper.



WHISKY TASTING FOOD MATCH OVENINGS AT THE BULLS HEAD

Come and join us at one of our whisky tasting evenings, where our Head Chef Andy and his kitchen team match delicious small plates with Whiskies chosen by varying guest distillers and whisky brand ambassadors who along with our owner Tim present to you whiskies new and old for you to learn more about and for your enjoyment.

Whisky tastings are held on the third Thursday of the month from September to April inclusive*.

8 months of whisky experiences YOU WILL THOROUGHLY ENJOY.

FIVE OR SIX SUPERLATIVE WHISKIES will be tasted with MATCHING DISHES. We release ONLY 18 TICKETS for each of these special evenings at £35 per head

*Dates may vary from the 3rd Thursday on rare occasions, but we will let you know.

BULLY WHISKY BOARDS

Each month Steph and the Team introduce a new Bully Whisky Board for your enjoyment.

THREE WHISKIES WILL FEATURE, handpicked from rare and classic whiskies brought us each month by Whisky distillers and brand ambassadors alike. There is nothing better than a WHISKY BOARD with our *Artisan Cheese Board to share with a friend*.

of wee dram or three!?

WHISKY

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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, England, Wales, Canada and Japan,

while the spelling 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.

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In the late Victorian era, Irish whiskey was the world's most popular whisky. Of the Irish whiskeys, Dublin whiskeys were regarded as the 'Grand Cru' 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's, which adopted the 'e' in 1966.

The description '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, replacing the 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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