

2002

January

Dram of **Highland Park 12 y.o.** at James & Sally, North Ascot

Tasting sessions at home with Irma and Thomas for WM article on eau-de-vie still whiskies. Opened bottles of **St George**, pressie from Lance when visiting the distillery; **McCarthy's** (peat and acid fruits, mango); **Peregrine Rock** (vanilla-sweet nose, very dry finish); **Forty Creek Three Grain** (vanilla, chocolate, toffee, pop corn, crisp, warming mouthfeel); **Forty Creek Barrel Select** (dark chocolate, nutty, caramel, warming mouthfeel), both Forty Creek bottles courtesy of Kittling Ridge distillery; **Gold Cock 12 y.o.** (full, butter, toffee-apples, velvety-soft), bottle courtesy of Likerka Dolany; **Gersten-Malzwhisky** (leather, vanilla, fructose); **Roggen-Malzwhisky** (pralines, mint, somewhat bitter, delicate); **Hafer-Whisky 1998** (almonds, marzipan, oat flakes, very light); **Lark '01 bottling** (light, raspberries, hint of peat)



225 whiskies, of which 150 single malts (1 new-make and 2 cask samples)
plus 11 'edge of whisky' spirits and 6 whisky liqueurs

February

Continued tasting for the WM article. Opened bottles of **Blaue Maus 1993 – 8 y.o. (8/93-8/01)** (biscuity, cod liver oil, faint leather, dusty, vanilla, bitter-dry); **Spinnaker 1993 – 8 y.o. (9/93-11/01)** (candle-wax,

sweeter than Blaue Maus); **Rabel Schwäbischer Whisky** (porridge, burnt, rough, hint of sweetness, dusty); **Zaiser Schwäbischer Whisky** (apple-crumble, butterscotch, toffee-creamy, honey mouthfeel); **Black Horse Ammertal Whisky** (fructose-sweetness, leather, vanilla-fudge, very light); **Whisky aus dem Steigerwald** (custard, chocolate, harsh, bitter)

231 whiskies, of which 152 single malts (1 new-make and 2 cask samples)
plus 11 'edge of whisky' spirits and 6 whisky liqueurs

March

At WM Live, London, tasted **Bruichladdich 10 y.o.**, **MMcD bottling**, **Bruichladdich 15 y.o.** (clear sherry influence), **Bruichladdich 20 y.o.**, **Bruichladdich new-make**, **Port Charlotte new-make** (clear peat!), **Connemara Cask Strength** (intense, but less peat and sweetness than the 40%), **Bladnoch 1988**, **Signatory**, **Eleuthera** (touch of smoke, silky mouthfeel), **Jnchgower 1977 – 23 y.o.**, **Cadenhead** (full and rich, bursting with dark chocolate), **Lammerlaw 1988 – 10 y.o.**, **Cadenhead**, **Theford** (it's bourbon), **Aberlour 12 y.o. Sherry Cask**, **Aberlour 15 y.o. Sherry Finish**, **Hazelburn 5 y.o. cask sample** (too spicity, but full-flavoured), **McKendric** (orange and retsina), **Ardbeg 25 y.o. Lords of the Isles** (delicate), **Girvan 1964** and **Springbank 10 y.o.** Went home with a half-full bottle of **Aberlour 15 y.o. Sherry Finish** thanks to Neil MacDonald



Dram of **Talisker 10 y.o.** at Breg & Erik, London

Dram of **Tullamore 1949 – 41 y.o.**, **Cadenhead** (honey, rich, viscous, intense, spicy; the best whisky I've tasted so far?) at home, sample from David Stirk

Opened a bottle of **Sonnenschein 10 y.o.** (mouldy, cardboard, oily, sweetish notes) at home

Drams of **Glenmorangie Cellar 13** (like the 10 y.o.) and **Glenmorangie Traditional** (much more intense than the 10 y.o., hints of peat) at a tasting stand on Heathrow airport

Drams of Dalwhinnie 15 y.o., Glenfarclas 105, Laphroaig 15 y.o. and Ledaig at Jos & Wim, Rheden

Opened a bottle of **Slyrs 1999** (fruits, chocolate, acetone, turning somewhat bitter and woody-dry) at home



Last dram from the bottle of **Asyla** (lasted 10 months)

Dram of **Bagpiper Gold** (spirity, reasonably smooth) at home; sample from Mat Goddard

Opened a bottle of **Hofland Moutwijn 3 y.o.** (light, bitter, dry, wood splinters) at home



Opened a bottle of **Holle** (leather, strong wood, sweet notes) at James & Sally, North Ascot; pressie from Christine

Opened a bottle of **Scapa 12 y.o.** (orange and chocolate, mossy) at home

256 whiskies, of which 171 single malts (3 new-make and 3 cask samples) plus 11 'edge of whisky' spirits and 6 whisky liqueurs

April

Drams of Macallan 10 y.o. and Talisker 10 y.o. at James & Sally, North Ascot



'Buxrud'-Macallan tasting at the Landmark Hotel, London. Toast to the Queen with **Highland Park 25 y.o.** 'Silver Jubilee'. Old and Rare: **Macallan 1946** (clear peat!), **Macallan 25 y.o.**, **Macallan Gran Reserva 1979** (slightly peaty, camphor?), **Macallan Gran Reserva 1980** (lighter, more

sherry than GR 1979), Macallan Gran Reserva 1981 (very light, bit dry), Macallan 1942 – 35 y.o. (peat, butter), Macallan 30 y.o. (light sherried), Macallan 'Private Eye' (light and dry), Macallan Replica 1874 (peatish-dry, fruit), Macallan Replica 1861 (fruity and dry). *Vintage 18 year olds:* Macallan 1961 – 18 y.o. (sultanas), Macallan 1963 – 18 y.o. (toffee and nuts), Macallan 1965 – 18 y.o., Macallan 1967 – 18 y.o. (lighter honey), Macallan 1969 – 18 y.o., Macallan 1960 – 18 y.o., Macallan 1962 – 18 y.o. (dry, touch of wood), Macallan 1964 – 18 y.o., Macallan 1966 – 18 y.o., Macallan 1968 – 18 y.o., Macallan 1970 – 18 y.o., Macallan 1972 – 18 y.o., Macallan 1974 – 18 y.o., Macallan 1976 – 18 y.o., Macallan 1978 – 18 y.o., Macallan 1971 – 18 y.o., Macallan 1973 – 18 y.o. (fragrant like the 1960s), Macallan 1975 – 18 y.o., Macallan 1977 – 18 y.o., Macallan 1979 – 18 y.o. (overall, the 1970s are more complex and less varied than the 1960s), Macallan 1980 – 18 y.o., Macallan 1981 – 18 y.o., Macallan 1982 – 18 y.o., Macallan 1983 – 18 y.o., Macallan 1984 – 18 y.o. (overall, the 1980s are more sherried and less complex than the 1970s). *Cask samples:* Macallan 1985 – 17 y.o. cask sample, Macallan 1986 – 16 y.o. cask sample (biscuits), Macallan 1987 – 15 y.o. cask sample, Macallan 1988 – 14 y.o. cask sample, Macallan 1989 – 13 y.o. cask sample (citrus!), Macallan 1990 – 12 y.o. cask sample (rubber, fruit), Macallan 1992 – 10 y.o. cask sample, Macallan 1994 – 8 y.o. cask sample, Macallan 1996 – 6 y.o. cask sample, Macallan 1998 – 4 y.o. cask sample, Macallan 1999 – 3 y.o. cask sample (butter), Macallan 1991 – 11 y.o. cask sample (sulphur), Macallan 1993 – 9 y.o. cask sample, Macallan 1995 – 7 y.o. cask sample (bananas), Macallan 1997 – 5 y.o. cask sample, Macallan 2000 – 2 y.o. cask sample, Macallan 2001 – 1 y.o. cask sample, Macallan new-make (remarkably fruity!)



Opened the bottle of 'Buxrud'-Macallan (plenty of sherry!) at home

Opened a bottle of McKendric at home; birthday pressie Jos & Wim

Dram of Wambrechies (rancid in the nose; thin, dry and bitter) at home; sample from Rob Stevens

Dram of Bowmore 1989 – 11 y.o., SMWS at Thomas, North Ascot

309 whiskies, of which 224 single malts (4 new-make and 20 cask samples)
plus 11 'edge of whisky' spirits and 6 whisky liqueurs

June

Drams of **Highland Park 12 y.o.** and **Forty Creek Barrel Select** (corn sweetness is much clearer, but not as overpowering as in bourbon, after first having tasted HP) at James & Sally, North Ascot

Dram of **Alenmorangie 10 y.o.** at home

Opened a sample bottle of **Blaue Maus 1986 - 15 y.o. (7/86-5/02)** (very bourbony nose, with hint of pickles; less sweet palate; finish falls away; very dark colour) at home; sample bottle courtesy of Robert Fleischmann

Dram of **Bowmore 1989 Raw Cask, Blackadder** (peaty and tarry with hints of sweetness; Rob, no FWP) at home; sample from Rob Stevens

Opened a mini from Christine & Enrique's birthday-pack at home:
Longmorn 15 y.o. (fruity nose, apples, raspberries; full-firm body; slightest hint of smoke; long finish)

Last dram from the bottle of **Oban 1980 Distillers Edition** (lasted 1 year and 1 month)

312 whiskies, of which 227 single malts (4 new-make and 20 cask samples)
plus 11 'edge of whisky' spirits and 6 whisky liqueurs

July

Opened a bottle of **Caol Ila 17 y.o. Sauternes Finish, Celtique Connexion** (peat and bonfire; sauternes-sweetness beautifully balanced) at home



Drams of **Connemara** and **Aberlour 12 y.o. Double Cask** with Jos' spirit, Rheden

314 whiskies, of which 229 single malts (4 new-make and 20 cask samples)
plus 11 'edge of whisky' spirits and 6 whisky liqueurs

August

Drams of **Connemara** and **Strathmill 1992 – 9 y.o. Sherry Butt**,
Signatory (nutty, dry; sherry a bit too overpowering) at Wim, Rheden

Last dram from the tri-bottle of **Clontarf Reserve** (lasted 10 mths)



Opened a wee bottle of **Hotscotch** (fiery pepperiness
with some whisky character coming through) at home;
great in cooking!!

Last dram from the bottle of **Aberlour 15 y.o. Sherry
Finish** (lasted 5 months)

Dram of **Strathmill 1985 – 12 y.o.**, **Signatory** (fruity, candle-wax, dark
chocolate) at home; sample from Heiko Crusdat

317 whiskies, of which 231 single malts (4 new-make and 20 cask samples)
plus 11 'edge of whisky' spirits and 6 whisky liqueurs

September

Dram of **Highland Park 12 y.o.** at James & Sally, North Ascot

Opened sample bottles at home in a tasting for possible future
Cloonaughill bottling: **Cooley 10 y.o. cask sample K92/35-4292** (peat,
especially in the finish, toffee), **Cooley 10 y.o. cask sample K92/35-4291**
(peat, especially in the finish, vanilla), **Cooley 10 y.o. cask sample
K92/35-4259** (lots of peat, raspberry, apples, toffee), **Cooley 10 y.o. cask
sample K92/34-4135** (peat, vanilla, fructose; luscious!), **Cooley 10 y.o.
cask sample K92/32-3954** (butter, peat, butterscotch, dry-ish finish),
Cooley 10 y.o. cask sample K92/32-3952 (light sweet fruitiness, toffee,
faintly earthy), **Cooley 10 y.o. cask sample K92/31-3765** (pickles, faint

fructose, spicy, dry finish), **Cooley 10 y.o. cask sample K92/30-3709**
(light peat, hint of fruit (apple?), touch of vanilla)



Dram of **Canadian Club Classic 1974 – 12 y.o.** (compared to standard CC: fuller nose, added toffee and woody notes, softer overall) at home; sample from Brian 'Bushido'

326 whiskies, of which 239 single malts (4 new-make and 28 cask samples)
plus 11 'edge of whisky' spirits and 6 whisky liqueurs

October

Last dram from the tri-bottle of **Clontarf Black Label** (lasted 1 year and 3 months)

Last dram from the bottle of **Invergordon 10 y.o.** (lasted 7 years and 4 months)

Dram of **Monster's Choice** (quite full and smooth, on the fruity side) at home

Last dram from the half-bottle of **Cutty Sark** (lasted 2 years and 4 months)

Opened a bottle of **Macallan Thirties** (less sherry than normal, distinct touch of peat) at Hotel Mercure, Montpellier

Dram of **Knockeen Hills 60%** (sickeningly sweet, yuck!) at home

Last dram from the bottle of **Bunratty** (lasted 7 years and 2 months)

Drams of **Ben Ledi** (rather bland), **Glennlivet 15 y.o.** (fuller and creamier than the standard 12 y.o.) and **Talisker 10 y.o.** at Breg & Erik, London

Last dram from the bottle of **Johnnie Walker Red Label** (lasted 2 years and 8 months)

330 whiskies, of which 242 single malts (4 new-make and 28 cask samples)
plus 12 'edge of whisky' spirits and 6 whisky liqueurs

November

Last dram from the tri-bottle of **Clontarf** (lasted 1 year and 5 months)

Dram of **Alen Breton - 2nd release** (very faint leather, touch of fruitiness, very light) at home; sample from Johanna Ngoh

Dram of **Hebrides 1972 - 28 y.o.**, **Kingsbury** (dark and rich, touch of peat, dry-woody finish) at home; sample from Erik Leidemann

Dram of **Macallan Forties** (rubbery nose, hardly any sherry, dry-ish) at home; sample from Erik Leidemann



At the Malt Whisky Festival, The Hague, tasted: **Linkwood 12 y.o. Claret Finish**, **Chieftain's Choice**, **Blair Athol 25 y.o.**, **Chieftain's Choice** (fat, oily orangey), **Caol Ila 12 y.o. Rum Finish** (starts off as normal CI; rum kicks in hard later), **Caol Ila 10 y.o.**, **Chieftain's Choice**, **Glenfiddich 21 y.o.**

Havana Reserve, **Glenfiddich 12 y.o. Special Old Reserve**, **Lagavulin 12 y.o. Cask Strength**, **Milford 10 y.o.** (dry and astringent; tired cask?), **Bladnoch 10 y.o. Flora & Fauna**, **Bladnoch 2 y.o. cask sample - bourbon barrel**, **Bladnoch 1 y.o. cask sample - sherry butt**, **Longmorn 1990 Marsala Finish**, **Wilson & Morgan**, **Mortlach 1980 - 22 y.o.**, **Gordon & MacPhail**, **Suntory Hibiki**, **Suntory Royal**, **Yamazaki 12 y.o.**, **Yoichi 10 y.o.** (less peaty than the 12 y.o., balance between peat and sweetness),

Suntory Kakubin, Miltonduff 1989 – 10 y.o., Hart Brothers (very leathery nose), Finlaggan (gently peaty, slight buttery notes), Rosebank 11 y.o., Chieftain's Choice, Old Potrero 2 y.o. Single Malt Whiskey, Bruichladdich 1970 – 32 y.o., Longmorn 1972 – 29 y.o., Blackadder, Glencadam 16 y.o., Chieftain's Choice (caramelised, flat), Caol Ila 12 y.o., Caol Ila 18 y.o. (disappointing, dry), Caol Ila Cask Strength, Talisker 20 y.o. Cask Strength, Ardbeg new-make, Ardbeg 10 y.o., Ardbeg 10 y.o. cask sample, Ardbeg 25 y.o. Lords of the Isles and Port Ellen 24 y.o. Cask Strength

364 whiskies, of which 273 single malts (5 new-make and 31 cask samples) plus 12 'edge of whisky' spirits and 6 whisky liqueurs

December

Visit to The Vaults, Leith, in the company of Tom Little, Graham Stone, Andrew Read et al! Tasted Scapa 1990 – 12 y.o., SMWS cask 17.22, Macallan 1989 – 13 y.o., SMWS cask 24.68 (very little sherry), Clynelish 1976 – 26 y.o., SMWS cask 26.25, Strathisla 1969 – 32 y.o., SMWS cask 58.5 (big, moody, dark, very complex), Yoichi 1985 – 16 y.o., SMWS cask 116.1, Yoichi 1990 – 11 y.o., SMWS cask 116.2, Dufftown 1992 – 9 y.o., SMWS cask 91.17, Glenallachie 1989 – 11 y.o., SMWS cask 107.9, Pittyvaich 1992 – 10 y.o., SMWS cask 90.5 (very estery and fruity, pineapple-like notes), Pulteney 1990 – 11 y.o., SMWS cask 52.15, Bruichladdich 1991 – 11 y.o., SMWS cask 23.40, Springbank 19 y.o., SMWS cask 27.??, Dalmore 1989 – 12 y.o., SMWS cask 13.30, Tormore 1986 – 14 y.o., SMWS cask 105.7, Caol Ila 1983 – 19 y.o., SMWS cask 53.58, Caol Ila 1989 – 12 y.o., SMWS cask 53.56, Ardbeg 1993 – 8 y.o., SMWS cask 33.49, Brora 1977 – 25 y.o., SMWS cask 61.12, Bowmore, SMWS cask 3.71



Opened a bottle of Austrian Rye (very fruity, minty-sweet; like a light American straight rye) at home

Drams of **Suntory Very Rare Old** (light, grainy, spicity), **Suntory Hibiki** (soft, tiramisu, vanilla) and **Suntory Za** (very light) at home; the last sample from Erik Leidemann

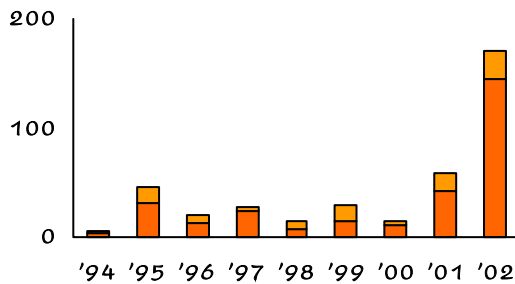
Last dram from the bottle of **Bruichladdich 10 y.o.**, **JBB** bottling (lasted 1 year and 11 months)

Drams of **Drambuie** and **Lagavulin 16 y.o.** at Rob & Wilma, Zoetermeer

Dram of **Strathmill 1992 – 9 y.o. Sherry Butt**; **Signatory** at Wim, Rheden

386 whiskies, of which 290 single malts (5 new-make and 31 cask samples)
plus 12 'edge of whisky' spirits and 6 whisky liqueurs

Whisky Life List
yearly additions



Whisky Life List
cumulative

