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SELECTIONS

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## BALVENIE DOUBLEWOOD 17-YR

**CATEGORY: SINGLE MALT SCOTCH WHISKY**

**BOTTLE: \$430**

**10Z TASTE: \$18**

**PROOF: 86**

**COUNTRY: SCOTLAND**

David Stewart is the man when it comes to Scotch single malt. In 2012 he celebrated his 50th year as malt master, master distiller, and in our opinion whisky master. That's a pretty damn good stretch of time for any type of tenure. I think it's safe to say he probably knows what he's doing. Furthermore, he helped pioneer consecutive maturation in two different types of casks, i.e. 'cask finishing', and by doing so changed the whisky landscape forever. We as whisky enthusiasts should lift a glass of whisky and cheers to him.

At the heart of the Balvenie Doublewood is this process of cask finishing. As they put it, "it sees the whisky matured first in American oak barrels, which impart soft sweet vanilla notes, before being transferred to European oak sherry casks, where the second cask aging adds rich spicy flavors, depth and fullness of flavor." And at 17 years in barrels, this whisky has been there for 34% of David Stewart's ongoing career. We wish we could be there for .01% (that's almost two days by the way).



### **TASTING NOTES:**

Elegant and complex with oak, vanilla, honeyed sweetness, and a hint of green apple. Sweet with dried fruit, sorbet spice, toasted almonds and cinnamon, layered with a richness of creamy toffee notes, traces of oak and deep vanilla.

## BAT MASTERSON'S 10-YR OLD STRAIGHT RYE WHISKEY

**CATEGORY: RYE WHISKEY**

**BOTTLE: \$270**

**10Z TASTE: \$12**

**PROOF: 86**

**COUNTRY: NORTH AMERICA**

Gunfighter, gambler, US Marshall, journalist, and buffalo hunter: Bat Masterson can claim them all. And who could be better for the namesake of the purest rye to come out of the American west than one of the legends who helped build it?

Masterson's is a 100% rye whiskey from Sonoma, California. Aged 10 years in white oak barrels, the team over at 35 Maple Street Spirits prides themselves on using only select grains of rye whiskey, Rocky Mountain glacial water and a meticulous distillation process. All this careful time and attention makes the Masterson's 10-year Straight Rye as boldly spiced a whiskey as you can find.



### **TASTING NOTES:**

Wonderfully single noted, a pure expression of a 100 percent rye whiskey.

## BRENNE 10YR FRENCH SINGLE MALT

**CATEGORY: WORLD WHISKY**

**BOTTLE: \$280**

**10Z TASTE: \$12**

**PROOF: 96**

**COUNTRY: COGNAC, FRANCE**

Founded in 2012 by Allison Patel, Brenne is a French single malt crafted “seed to spirit” from organic malted barley and the pure waters of the Cognac region of France. Using two organically grown varieties of heirloom barley, the whisky is carefully fermented and distilled in alembic Charente stills and matured in a combination of virgin French Limousin oak barrels and those previously used for aging Cognac. True to what one would expect in single malt whisky aged in ex-Cognac casks, Brenne is chock-full of fruit and sugared notes; especially burnt caramel, seared marshmallow, bananas, and other tropical fruits. Distinctly full flavored.

For her first age-statement bottling, Patel released only 1740 bottles from four very special casks:

- Barrel 1 & 2: light toast, ex-Cognac
- Barrel 3: light toast, split between new and ex-Cognac
- Barrel 4: medium toast, new French oak

We at the Franklin Room invite you to try the only single malt aged entirely in French oak casks.



### TASTING NOTES:

Delicious red apple chips, followed by freshly opened vanilla pod and a hint of black tea, assertively poised atop a supple yet full and soft texture. Mellow at 96 proof.

## COMPASS BOX 3 YR DELUXE

**CATEGORY: BLENDED SCOTCH WHISKY**

**BOTTLE: \$900**

**10Z TASTE: \$36**

**PROOF: 99.4**

**COUNTRY: SCOTLAND**

John Glazer, the founder and master blender of Compass Box, is quite the maverick. He founded the blended Scotch whisky company in 2000, a time when blended whisky was widely considered inferior to single malt. Many would have considered such a move bound for failure. Compass Box has instead found much success, some of it due to innovation and all of it due to making damn fine whisky.

Part of Glazer’s whisky innovations have been met with protest from the Scotch Whisky Association (SWA). A more recent spat saw the SWA revoke the labeling of one of Compass Box’s releases, not allowing him to transparently show the exact contents of the blend. The SWA invoked a stipulation part of the larger consumer protective law whereby the labeled age of a whisky is the youngest included, not the average nor the oldest, to justify this action. We get not misleading consumers with the age of a whisky, but preventing the consumer to know what is exactly in the bottle?

For the 3yr deluxe, Glazer has blended quite the stunner. Yes, the youngest is 3 years old. This portion also only comprises 0.7% of the whisky, with the remaining being 20 and 21 years old Compass Box didn’t have to include an age statement on the label, but since they did, it legally had to be the youngest whisky involved. Hence, the 3yr Deluxe.



### TASTING NOTES:

Full yet muted, with incorporated burnt coal underlying a briny oxidized long finish

## GLENDALOUGH 13YR IRISH WHISKEY

**CATEGORY: IRISH**

**BOTTLE: \$380**

**10Z TASTE: \$14**

**PROOF: 92**

**COUNTRY: IRELAND**

Glendalough is Ireland's newest craft distillery. The founders have bottled quite a special whiskey that harkens back to the way Irish whiskey was made in the 18th and 19th century—double copper pot distilled 100% single malt whiskey. We'll let them do the talking for this one:

“While we're talking numbers and lucky numbers... Did you know 13 is Ireland's luckiest number? For us it means a glimpse at Ireland's heroic age, a new golden age and a perfect age for an Irish single malt whiskey. This very special whiskey herald's a second coming of Irish single malt that's been a long time coming. After almost a century of blends defining Irish whiskey, Glendalough brings you a 13year old single malt that has put in the hard yards. The style of whiskey that first made Irish whiskey great. The style of whiskey your great grandad drank. And a stylish whiskey whose time to be great is once again. It comes to you with hints of spice, creamy vanilla, biscuity malts, and that unmistakable clout of dedication that embodies the outstanding spirit of Ireland.”



### **TASTING NOTES:**

Lively green apple aromas that leads to a supple and satiny mouthfeel. This has class; sleek without being ostentatious.

## GLENROTHES BOURBON BARREL RESERVE

**CATEGORY: SINGLE MALT SCOTCH WHISKY**

**BOTTLE: \$270**

**10Z TASTE: \$12**

**PROOF: 80**

**COUNTRY: SCOTLAND**

The Glenrothes was established in 1879 by the burn (river) of Rothes. They have been producing characteristic Speyside single malts for over 130 years. Unlike many whisky producers, the maturity of The Glenrothes whisky is determined not by age but rather by maturity. In other words, the whisky tells them when it's ready.

For the Bourbon Barrel Alba Reserve, Glenrothes matured the whisky in only ex-bourbon American oak (Fittingly, Quercus Alba is the latin name for white American oak and Alba is the Gaelic word for Scotland). The result: an abundance of vanilla and coconut working harmoniously with the soft, mellow character that Glenrothes is known for. No ice nor water required.



### **TASTING NOTES:**

Fresh, floral, with an long yet easy finish. Refined and elegant.

## HIGHLAND PARK 18

**CATEGORY: SINGLE MALT SCOTCH WHISKY**

**BOTTLE: \$380**

**10Z TASTE: \$16**

**PROOF: 86**

**COUNTRY: SCOTLAND**

Highland Park single malts are revered for their masterful finish in sherry casks. The oak is left to air dry for four years in Spain before being filled with sherry for two to three more years. Only then are the barrels emptied and the single malt added to begin their own aging process.

After consecutive years of being voted the best Scotch single malt, Highland Park 18 was retired into master beverage taster F. Paul Pacult's Hall of Fame. The Highland Park 18 is what sherry-finished Scotch should taste like.



### **TASTING NOTES:**

Perfectly balanced. Malt, smoke, and peat. A rich and round single malt.

## HOCHSTADTER'S 16 YR

**CATEGORY: RYE WHISKEY**

**BOTTLE: \$500**

**10Z TASTE: \$20**

**PROOF: 123.8**

**COUNTRY: CANADA**

Ever hear of St. Germain? If you've scanned a cocktail menu in the past decade, chances are you've seen this ubiquitous elderflower liqueur. Why do we speak of a finicky flower's liqueur in a whisk[e]y keep book? Well, let me tell you. The Cooper family, responsible for what some bartenders call cocktail ketchup (St. German can really make many a cocktail taste good), leveraged the success of St. Germain and entered the rye whiskey business. They have released well-received whiskies, and the Hochstadter's 16yr may very well be their best yet. Originally sourced from Alberta, Canada, where the whiskey aged for 10 years, the family further aged it another 6 years in Pennsylvania before bottling.

Double copper pot distilled, 100% rye grain, and aged for 16 years in new American oak barrels, Hochstadter's comes in at an undiluted 123.8 proof and delivers an intense, robust flavor.



### **TASTING NOTES:**

Slight menthol nose. An initial deep burst of oak spice accompanied by dark dried fruit and toffee, sustaining to a gentle finish.

## **KNOB CREEK FR SINGLE BARREL**

**CATEGORY: BOURBON**

**BOTTLE: \$200**

**10Z TASTE: \$8**

**PROOF: 120**

**COUNTRY: UNITED STATES**

Why is the somewhat commonplace Knob Creek listed on Franklin Room's Whisk[e]y Keep menu? Well, this particular bourbon is hardly common—it is from a single barrel. In a sense, it is one of a kind. Furthermore, The Franklin Room is the only place on the planet to try it.

A little bit about our Knob Creek selection: The undisclosed mashbill is 75% corn, with the remaining split between rye and malted barley. It has spent nine years in new American oak barrel, likely from the Ozarks. It is non-chilled filtered, meaning application of colder temperatures has not been used to precipitate out cold-coagulating chemicals, possibly leaving more of those flavor chemical things. It is a full 120 proof, surprisingly gentle, and extremely smooth. Be warned.



### **TASTING NOTES:**

Higher toned white oak, vanilla and cherry notes, with a very well incorporated alcohol content (i.e. mellow).

## **LOCK, STOCK, & BARREL 16 YR**

**CATEGORY: RYE WHISKEY**

**BOTTLE: \$450**

**10Z TASTE: \$18**

**PROOF: 107**

**COUNTRY: UNITED STATES, CANADA**

One of the latest creations from Robert Cooper—third generation master distiller of Cooper Spirits—the Lock, Stock, and Barrel 16yr is a whiskey with some miles on it. 16 years of age places this firmly in the grandfather category for rye, and the years have broadened the grain's natural spice with the softening sugars of charred American oak. Despite being bottled at 107 proof, the Lock, Stock, and Barrel still performs magnificently as a smooth sipping rye. Weighty and bold, Robert Cooper himself called it his 'robust cut'—a gem not to be missed.



### **TASTING NOTES:**

Tenor-toned, with a dense flavor of dried fruit sustained throughout.

## JEFFERSON'S OCEAN CASK STRENGTH

**CATEGORY: BOURBON**

**BOTTLE: \$350**

**1OZ TASTE: \$36**

**PROOF: 99.4**

**COUNTRY: UNITED STATES**

Jefferson's is a non-distilling producer of whiskey; meaning they source juice from other distillers. Though the name implies they've been around for some time, they are in fact relatively new with their first whiskey launching in 1997. They state their whiskeys are 'small batch', an undefined term meaning only more than a single barrel. With today's modern propensity for transparency, do these points diminish the whiskey? We say let the whiskey speak for itself. And if you agree with us, they did a darn good job picking and choosing.

The Ocean began as an experiment and evolved into a standard offering. Barrels of bourbon, already aged 7-8 years, are loaded onto ships, which then sail around the world for 6 months, crossing the equator four times, and circumnavigating the world. The process percolates otherwise still liquid, and potentially exposes it to maritime influences. A bit gimmicky? Perhaps. Good bourbon? We believe so.



### **TASTING NOTES:**

Lingering deep oak spice coupled with vanilla, well-incorporated herbal notes mid-palette, and an underlying salinity throughout.

## KAVALAN AMONTILLADO SHERRY CASK

**CATEGORY: SINGLE MALT**

**BOTTLE: \$1200**

**1OZ TASTE: \$48**

**PROOF: 111.2**

**COUNTRY: TAIWAN**

It is truly a great time to be a whisk[e]y enthusiast. The number of whisk[e]y producers has grown tremendously in the past decade. The variety of bottling followed suit, and consumer access has never been better. A few whisky makers have even appeared in somewhat unlikely places, and Kavalan's location may very well be described as such.

Taiwan's first whisky producer, Kavalan, produces world class single malts; quite the feat considering the distillery's youth (the first whisky left its still in 2006), and Taiwan's year-round hot climate (the Scots lose approximately 2% of whisky to evaporation per year; Kavalan? 10%).

How do you create world class single malt with the odds stacked against you? By getting a few of the best whisky minds on the planet to oversee the process, Ian Chang and the late Dr. Jim Swan, PhD, who was essentially a legitimate doctor of whisky making.

The Kavalan Amontillado Sherry Cask has been finished in a barrel that once held the namesake's dry sherry and uniquely matures with a cap of flor (a sherry making technique) for a bit of time. Full-flavored and rich like a French horn. If you're going to seal me into a brick cell, I may oblige if you leave me with a bottle of this.



### **TASTING NOTES:**

Initial burst of intense burnt toffee, followed seamlessly with lingering dark dried fruit, salted caramel, and white pepper.

## LINKWOOD, GORDON & MACPHAIL PRIVATE COLLECTION 17YR 1998 COTE ROTIE FINISH

**CATEGORY: SCOTCH SINGLE MALT**

**BOTTLE: \$650**

**10Z TASTE: \$24**

**PROOF: 90**

**COUNTRY: SCOTLAND**

Gordon & MacPhail stands as Scotland's oldest independent bottlers and has played a significant role in preserving Scotland's most beloved spirit. G&M began as a grocer in 1895 and when one sold whisky back then, it was not through bottled whisky, but rather through drams from a barrel. In order to get that barrel of whisky, one would often have to travel to the distillery with one's own barrel to be filled. G&M has maintained this type of relationship with many Scotch distilleries over the past 120 years. In other words, G&M is able to bring hand-selected barrels to some very well-known whisky makers to be filled with new-make whisky. Good luck even trying new-make from any Scotch distillery, let alone buying barrels worth. With over 120 years of data (yes, in the form of Scotch whisky), G&M is uniquely positioned to bring their experience in barrel management and warehousing to the dozens of whiskys available to them.

The Linkwood 17yr G&M Private Collection has been personally chosen by the Urquardt family and has been aged for 17 years, with the final two years being spent in Cote Rotie casks (the most northerly of the southern Rhone wine producers). A total bottling of only 4000 for the entire universe.



### **TASTING NOTES:**

Amazingly full-flavoured, layered from full bass to high alto.

## NIKKA TAKETSURU 17YR

**CATEGORY: JAPANESE WHISKY**

**BOTTLE: \$600**

**10Z TASTE: \$24**

**PROOF: 86**

**COUNTRY: JAPAN**

Masataka Taketsuru is the godfather of Japanese whisky. As a young twenty-something, he was charged with traveling to Scotland in the 1920's and learning how to make whisky from arguably the best makers on the planet. After attending Glasgow University for a summer session (whisky making can be classified as organic chemistry in an academic setting), he then approached various distilleries for employment with the full intention of learning the trade hands on. After many 'no-ways' (distilleries were mostly family owned back then), he found a home in Campletown, at the now defunct Hazelburn. He learned how to make whisky, and also found himself in love with a Scottish woman, whom he brought back to Japan.

Upon return, Takatsuru was employed by Suntory for ten years, sharing with them his knowledge. He then went on to found his own company and eventually two distilleries, the Yoichi and the Miyagikyo.

The Taketsuru is the flagship and namesake whisky from the Nikka Company and is a combination of two single malts, one from Yoichi and the other Miyagikyo. Nikka has suspended the bottling of all age statements for an indefinite period of time- no one thought 12 years ago, let alone 17 nor 21, that Japanese whisky would be in such high demand. As much as we at the Franklin Room would like to keep these all for ourselves, we offer the little stock we have left with you.



### **TASTING NOTES:**

Balanced and harmonious, enveloped in a veil of peat smoke.

## NIKKA TAKETSURU 21 YEAR

**CATEGORY: JAPANESE WHISKY**

**BOTTLE: \$695**

**10Z TASTE: \$28**

**PROOF: 86**

**COUNTRY: JAPAN**

The Nikka Whisky Distilling Company's flagship whisky, Taketsuru, is named for their founder Masataka Taketsuru, the intrepid whisky pioneer who at the young age of 24 traveled to Scotland in 1918 to learn the whisky craft. After attending Glasgow University studying organic chemistry (i.e. whisky making), he then spent time working at Scottish distilleries, most notably Hazelburn located on the Campbeltown peninsula, learning the traditional Scottish way of malting, smoking, distilling, and aging whisky. With this knowledge he returned to Japan and eventually founded the Nikka Whisky Co.

The Taketsuru 21yr pure malt is a blend of two single malts, aged for a minimum of 21 years, distilled at Nikka's two operating distilleries. Masataka very carefully chose the site of both distilleries for he knew the importance of climate and water on whisky production. The winner of numerous accolades, including the world's best malt, the Taketsuru 21yr has since been retired. As much as we at the Franklin Room want to keep this for ourselves, we invite you to try the last of our stock.



### **TASTING NOTES:**

Ethereal smoke on the nose and a harmonious amount on the palette. One word here: balance. Actually, one more word: perfect.

## REDBREAST 21-YR

**CATEGORY: IRISH WHISK(E)Y**

**BOTTLE: \$700**

**10Z TASTE: \$30**

**PROOF: 92**

**COUNTRY: IRELAND**

We should probably thank the Irish for they were perhaps the first to distill grain. Without them, there may very well be no whiskey today (ok, maybe not, but a world without whiskey can be left to the imagination of the dystopian writer).

Redbreast is one of the few surviving single pot still styles that has withstood the tumultuous history of Irish whiskey. Pot still is uniquely Irish, originating from a combination of malted and unmalted barley that is then pot distilled. Although the use of unmalted barley may have been a concession to economic forces, the producers of Redbreast refused to compromise favor during the advent of continuous distillation though it promised cheaper production methods than those of pot distilled.

Winner of numerous accolades, the Redbreast 21yr is their oldest expression thus far, and is matured in a combination of ex-bourbon and first-fill Oloroso sherry casks.



### **TASTING NOTES:**

Remarkable aroma spanning from fresh tropical fruits, to nuts, and rich dried fruits. Soft vanilla, toasted oak, sherry nuttiness with a dusting of pot still spices. Luscious fleshy fruit notes complete the creamy mouthfeel. Lingers seemingly forever, to oak and pot still spices and then, the final bow from barley.

## **SPRINGBANK 21-YR**

**CATEGORY: SINGLE MALT SCOTCH WHISKY**

**BOTTLE: \$800**

**10Z TASTE: \$36**

**PROOF: 92**

**COUNTRY: SCOTLAND**

Owned by the same family since 1828, Springbank stands as the only distillery in Scotland to bring their whiskey all the way from grain to malt to still to barrel to bottle—the whole process under one roof. This type of control gives Springbank unprecedented precision in building one of the most balanced Scotch whiskies on the planet. Smoke, check. Malt, check. Bright tones, check. Everything is in harmony.

The 21 year places this Springbank firmly in the elder class, earning it the complexity and weightiness awarded only to whiskies that have the patience to wait so long before bottling. With this robust expression, Springbank has again earned its legendary reputation among aficionados of full-flavored single malt Scotch.



### **TASTING NOTES:**

Heather, plums, and peach. Very soft with a hint of sea. Raisins, cassis, cinnamon, and honey.

## **SULLIVAN'S COVE AMERICAN CASK**

**CATEGORY: WORLD WHISK[E]Y SINGLE BARREL**

**BOTTLE: \$400**

**10Z TASTE: \$16**

**PROOF: 95**

**COUNTRY: TASMANIA, AUSTRALIA**

The Sullivan's Cove bottling are from whisky distilled during the very short period between 1999-2001 at the Tasmania Distillery Company. They begin with a unique and specific wash (beer) from the iconic Tasmanian Cascade Brewery (est. 1850's) fermented from locally grown barley and the pristine waters from the area surrounding Hobart and distilled twice in their one and only pot still. Tasmania Distillery then ages the whisky in both French port and American ex-bourbon casks, where they blend multiple barrels of the resulting two for their 'everyday' award-winning Double Oak whisky. However, when the folks at Tasmania discover a truly excellent barrel of whisky, a single barrel is bottled, never to be blended, with just over 200 bottles being produced from each special cask. Two years of distillation, thirteen years of aging, and single barrels being bottled, this whisky will not be around for long.



### **TASTING NOTES:**

Baking spices and dough on the nose, with an initial burst of spice in the front, followed in-step with doughy cereal grain, and a very, very long finish

## WHISTLE PIG 10 YR FR SINGLE BARREL

**CATEGORY: RYE**

**BOTTLE: \$250**

**10Z TASTE: \$10**

**PROOF: 114.4**

**COUNTRY: CANADA, UNITED STATES**

Every once in a while, we at the Franklin Room get a chance to select our own barrel of whisk[e]y. It doesn't happen often, even less so nowadays, especially from small well-known producers. Fortunately, we got in just at the right time with Whistlepig.

Whistlepig began as a non-distilling producer of rye whiskey and their product launch could not have timed the American rye whiskey market any better. Sourcing some of the oldest 100% rye available, they showed themselves to have excellent taste with the initial bottling. And with this success, they have since built a distillery in Vermont, farmed their own rye, and even harvested Vermont oak that are now barrels maturing their farm-distilled whiskey. We're getting a little ahead of ourselves, for the house distilled whiskey isn't quite ready yet. Nevertheless, we are quite honored to have been given the opportunity to choose a barrel from the remaining 10yr stock. Let us know how we did.



### **TASTING NOTES:**

Gentle herbaceousness on the nose that shines on the palette, with butterscotch and oak spice mingling throughout. Gentle finish.

