



This evening's menu in the company of Single Malts from the HIGHLANDS

**Soup:** Carrot Ginger Honey  
**1st Nosing:** DALMORE 12 YR OLD  
*(introduced by: Mark Drummond)*

**Salad:** Mixed Baby Greens  
**Dressing:** Creamy Honey Dijon

**Entree:** Chicken Piccata  
*(Roasted Chicken Breast with Artichoke Hearts, Mushrooms, Capers and Lemon Beurre Blanc)*

**Vegetables:** Seasonal  
**Potato:** Whipped Smashed  
**2nd Nosing:** DALMORE 15 YR OLD  
*(introduced by: Mark Drummond)*

**Dessert:** Homemade Apple Crisp  
**3rd Nosing:** GLENGOYNE 21 YEARS OLD  
*(introduced by: Lana Di Fazio)*

**COST OF THE MALTS**

I know members are always interested in the cost of the single malts we taste. Plus the \$75 Special Occasion Permit and the 16% levy charged by the LCBO for all alcohol served at the dinner.

- DALMORE 12 YR OLD (WHYTE AND MACKAY LTD.)  
 VINTAGES 38901 | 750 mL bottle **Price: \$ 65.00** Spirits, Scotch Whisky 40.0% Alcohol/Vol.

- DALMORE 15 YR OLD (WHYTE AND MACKAY LTD.)  
 VINTAGES 164541 | 750 mL bottle **Price: \$ 102.00** Spirits, Scotch Whisky 40.0% Alcohol/Vol.

- GLENGOYNE 21 YEAR OLD HIGHLANDS (IAN MACLEOD)  
 VINTAGES 670562 | 700 mL bottle **Price: \$ 154.95** Spirits, Scotch Whisky 43.0% Alcohol/Vol.

**Results of THE CARDHU 12 YEAR OLD Raffle**



Congratulations to our winner: Susan Warnica holding her newfound prized possession here in the company of Steven Drotos, Arran Rep., and yours truly.

Thanks to our January attendees we collected a total of \$320 during the course of the evening's raffle.

Job well done. Thank you one and all.



Additional winners included James Pritchard, winner of the Isle of Arran Robert Burns Single Malt, which was kindly donated by Steven.



Our final winner of the evening was Sandra Holloway who won the 2011 Robert Burns Calendar kindly donated by Greta and Bill Cadzow of the Ottawa Whisky Lovers Society

## JANUARY - KSMS Financial Statement

(Money from 66 November attendees @ \$70) =	\$4620.00
January dinner 66 persons = \$42.00/ea	= \$2772.00
(Money remaining for buying Single Malt)	= \$1848.00
Cost of Single Malts	= \$867.56
Cost of Pours per Person = \$12.57	
Cost of RMC Highland Band & Dancers	= \$200.00
KSMS Monthly operational balance	= \$780.44
Cost per person (All inclusive)	= \$58.15

### Upcoming Dinner Dates

March 21, 2011 - St.Patrick's (Irish)  
April 18, 2011 - Islay  
May 16, 2011 - Islay  
June 20, 2011 - BBQ (Final Exam)  
July 25, 2011 - International  
Thurs. September 1, 2011 - 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Premium Night  
September 19, 2011 - Campbeltown  
October 17, 2011 - Lowland  
November 21, 2011 - Speyside  
December 12, 2011 - Speyside  
January 23, 2012 - Isle of Arran - Robbie Burns Night  
February 20, 2012 - Highland  
March 19, 2012 - St.Patrick's (Irish)  
April 16, 2012 - Islay  
May 28, 2012 - Islay  
June 18, 2012 - BBQ (Final Exam)  
July 16, 2012 - International  
Thurs. August 30, 2012 - 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Premium Night

### Membership and Dinner prices for 2010-2011

Membership Fee:	\$40 (singles) \$60 (couples)
One Time Initiation Fee:	\$15
Standard Dinner Fee:	\$60 (member) \$70 (non-member)
Dinner only - No Single Malt:	\$50 (member) \$60 (non-member)
Robbie Burns Dinner Fee:	\$70 (member) \$80 (non-member)
(includes \$5 donation per attendee to RMC Pipes & Drums with Highland Dancers)	
June BBQ Dinner Fee:	\$70 (member) \$80 (non-member)

### Diageo's Classic Malts – Taken Hostage by Johnnie Walker?

Oliver Klimek - January 23/11 - <http://www.dramming.com/>



For a whisky blogger these days there are few things as convenient as joining the Diageo bashing game. Kilmarnock, Roseisle, Manager's Choice, general company secrecy, you name it. Yes, there are a lot of things to criticize. These and others are all issues that have caused headaches in the

whisky community, and rightly so. And I admit to have been playing that game too.

But what often gets forgotten along the way is the fact that many of their distilleries make a bloody good whisky! Granted, the famous label "Classic Malts" is not much more than a marketing initiative. Depending on your viewpoint, either a lot of malts can be regarded at least as "classic" as some the Diageo range – Macallan, Bowmore, Highland Park or Glenlivet are just a few random examples. Or you could argue that there actually none at all because single malt bottlings from before the end of the 20th century were so esoteric that they played only a minor role in the history of whisky after the invention of the column still and the subsequent world conquest of blended whisky. If at all, Glenfiddich would probably be the only malt deserving the "Classic" attribute because it was this distillery that first recognized a global commercial potential for single malt whisky, long before Diageo launched their range.

But admittedly in modern times at least two of them actually have gained a status that will secure them a place in the Whisky Hall of Fame – Lagavulin and Talisker. Even among the most critical experts, these malts – even in their entry level versions – have become benchmark whiskies setting standards for others, and ones that even the most sophisticated palates love to return to every once in a while.

Strangely enough and contradictory to the fact that Diageo is Scotland's biggest whisky maker by far, many of their malts go pretty much unnoticed. Just look at the semi-secret Diageo distilleries without proper official bottling ranges. Of course there are the one-off special releases or ranges like Flora & Fauna, Rare Malts (R.I.P.) or Manager's Choice, but to really explore the full potential of distilleries like Mortlach, Benrinnes or Linkwood you have to rely on independent bottlers.

But also most of the Diageo distilleries with proper bottlings have a very limited bottling range. Quite a few of them only have a standard expression along with the Distillery Edition adding a cask finish to that. And some distilleries like Cardhu only offer their basic 10 or 12 year old and nothing else. When you are looking for expressions that are 18 years or older, the air is becoming pretty thin. Only 3 of the 27 Diageo distilleries currently offer them on a regular basis: Caol Ila, Knockando and Talisker. Gone are the days of the legendary Lagavulin 21, 25 or 30, are they gone for good?

There is a simple reason for the shortage of older Diageo malts and the inavailability of some original distillery bottlings. The whisky branch of Diageo is entirely focused on blends. As important the marketing of the Classic Malt range may have been for the continually rising demand for single malts in general, the top positions of the sales statistics are held by their competitors. Single malt whisky has always played second fiddle to blends at Diageo headquarters. And it will most probably continue to do so. The global demand for blended whisky seems to be so high that the 27 malt distilleries in the Diageo portfolio are having a very hard time to cope with the needs of the Johnnie Walker bottling facilities. There is just not enough malt left to mature for longer than strictly necessary. The installment of Roseisle distillery is of course another consequence.

There have been speculations that Roseisle may in fact free up production capacities of other distilleries, leading to hopes among maltheads that we perhaps might see more official bottlings of the "hidden" Diageo malts. But I have my doubts, because Diageo justified Roseisle basically with predictions of future growth. And to be honest, Roseisle may be a pretty big distillery, but it is not spectacularly huge. In fact it isn't even the biggest malt whisky distillery in Scotland, that merit goes to Glenlivet. So if Diageo has problems now to cope with the demand and if the future demand will be even higher, Roseisle may just fill that gap leaving the traditional distilleries under the same pressure as before.

And should global demand for blended whisky decline again in the (hopefully distant) future, what will Diageo do with their overcapacity then? Will they use it to bottle more single malt whisky or will they mothball or even close down some of the small distilleries? Time will tell.

## Our Top 10 whiskies of 2010

Monday, January 10, 2011

<http://whiskyforeveryone.blogspot.com/>

2010 has seen many new whiskies released on to the market. We have sampled and reviewed a number of these over the last year at Whisky For Everyone, so we have decided to choose our top 10 favourites of these new releases. A similar Top 10 that we published this time last year has proved

to be one of our most popular ever and we hope that this one is enjoyed as much. Please let us know what you think of our choices by leaving a comment at the bottom of this post.

Such Top 10s are always subjective and therefore contentious as a result - everyone has differing opinions at the end of the day. We have tried to select our Top 10 on a ratio of quality, value for money and availability to the public. To this end, there are not really any single cask or independent bottlings included, despite some excellent ones being sampled throughout the year. However, some are limited edition bottlings that are still available to purchase.

### **1 > Bowmore Tempest**

The Tempest is a small batch bottling that is released approximately twice a year - Batch 1 (of which our sample is from) was released in early 2010, with Batch 2 coming in mid 2010 and the next batch penciled in for release in early 2011. This was matured in specially selected first fill ex-bourbon casks and is bottled at 10 years of age. The nose is a wonderful combination of sweet and smoky aromas - caramel, butterscotch, marshmallow, malty cereals, dark dried fruit and damp, earthy moss. The palate feels creamy and rich with sweet butterscotch, vanilla, toffee, honey, tangy citrus, mossy smoke, wood spice and a hint of salt. The finish is very long and smoky, with bitter iodine adding further complexity to the many other notes. This is an exceptional whisky that offers incredible complexity and balance. It was our unanimous choice as our favourite whisky of 2010. We can't wait to try the forthcoming version of the Tempest!

### **2 > Balvenie 14 years old Golden Cask**

The whisky is bottled at 14 years of age and has been part matured in Caribbean rum casks, hence the name Golden Cask. It was released last February and is one of Balvenie's exclusive Duty Free/travel retail bottlings. The nose is fresh, perfumed and vibrant with plenty of captivating aromas - the combination is excellent and tempting, making you want to just sit and sniff the whisky forever. The palate is fresh, juicy, sweet and intense. There is vanilla, oak, cereal grains, sweet honey, orange zest, sandalwood, nutmeg and crumbly brown sugar. The finish is again intense and begins sweetly before becoming much drier and spicier. This is a delicious whisky and one that mixes its more obvious sweeter notes with the understated subtle ones. Great value for money - grab a bottle next time you go through an airport.

### **3 > Laphroaig Triple Wood**

Another Duty Free/travel retail exclusive whisky. Triple Wood has been matured in three different types of cask - ex-bourbon cask, then quarter cask and then ex-Oloroso sherry casks. The whisky is only produced in small batches, the latest of which was released last Summer. The nose is expressive with intense earthy peat and bitter iodine, before these mellow to allow other notes through to create an intense combination - caramel, raisins, prunes, honey, vanilla and oatcakes. The palate is softer than expected. Rich peat smoke mixes with caramel, almonds, honey, dried fruit, brine and bitter iodine. The finish is long, with peat smoke burning away for ages. This Laphroaig is a lovely dram and a very good example of a peaty, smoky whisky. A wonderfully crafted, expressive and complex dram.

### **4 > Double Single by Compass Box**

This bottling was released as part of the Compass Box 10th anniversary celebrations. It is made from just one cask of single malt and one cask of grain whisky and is a limited edition of just 876 bottles. The nose is fresh, vibrant and very promising with a complex combination of aromas - vanilla, green apple, nuts, oak, fresh coconut, dried grass, cereals and kiwi fruit. The palate is delicious, juicy, tangy and fresh with many of those notes from the nose present. The finish is short and vibrant with sweet vanilla and honey notes. This is a cracking whisky. It offers an insight in to how good and complex a lighter whisky can be if sympathetically matured and blended. Double Single also confirms that Compass box whiskies are all unique and of a consistently high quality.

### **5 > Bladnoch 20 years old**

This whisky was released last April and has been matured in ex-bourbon casks and is the oldest Bladnoch currently available from the Lowland distillery. The nose is enticing and becomes even more so with time in the glass. It has a mix of vanilla, honey, stewed apple and cereal notes, plus zesty lemon, honeysuckle and dried grass. The palate is light, fresh and vibrant, reflecting the order of the nose. However, it is remarkably complex and packed with subtle notes. The finish is long, fresh and very enjoyable with honey and vanilla combining well with cereals and dried grass notes. This is a lovely dram. The quality of the spirit shines through, as does the sympathetic use of good ex-bourbon casks. This would be an ideal light, fresh summer dram or as an aperitif.

### **6 > Glenfiddich 14 years old Rich Oak**

This whisky from the famous Speyside distillery was launched at Whisky Live, London last February and has undergone an innovative maturation - 14 years in ex-bourbon casks then 18 weeks in brand new oak casks (12

weeks in American oak and six in European oak). The introduction of the new wood adds a pleasant, spicy intensity to Glenfiddich's usual gentle nature. You can sit and sniff the nose for ages as numerous aromas fight for your attention, including vanilla, apple, cinnamon, sultan, cedar wood and burnt orange. These aromas are also reflected on the palate, which has a more woody, spicy and zesty edge. Stewed fruits and sweet vanilla notes add softness and balance. The finish is long, complex and warming. A delicious and lovely dram.

### **7 > Arran 14 years old**

The Arran distillery was only founded in 1995 and this new whisky represents the oldest single malt released to date from there. It came on to the market last August. The nose is highly perfumed with aromas of vanilla, coconut and honey coming first, followed by plenty of oak, cereals, dried grasses and a hint of peach. A silky, fresh and juicy palate follows on from this promising start with vanilla, honey and cereals again, backed up by cinnamon and nutmeg spice. The finish begins sweetly before becoming drier to add great balance. This is a superb whisky that offers a lovely combination of aromas and flavours. Arran whiskies seem to be getting better and better with increased maturation and we can't wait to see how their releases in 2011 match up to this top effort.

### **8 > Balblair 2000**

This whisky was only released at the start of December but has already created significant waves and earned rave reviews around the whisky blogosphere! It replaced the popular 1997 expression in the core range and has been matured in second fill ex-bourbon casks. The colour is pale gold and the nose is very fresh and fruity. There are plenty of green pear and apple notes and these are backed up by vanilla, coconut and a whiff of mint. On the palate, it is again fresh with a lovely combination of flavours - pear drops, lemon zest, vanilla, honey, cereal grains and hints of icing sugar or sherbet. The finish is tangy but fairly short. This is an easy drinking dram that is light and fresh - it would be great taken in hot weather, as an aperitif or for a whisky beginner.

### **9 > Connemara Turf Mór**

Another release from late in the year, this whisky is hailed as the smokiest Connemara (and Irish whiskey) ever made. It is made at the Cooley distillery and is bottled at a hefty cask strength of 58.2% ABV. The nose is expressive and lively with fresh, tangy and vibrant notes fighting for attention - smokiness, honey, fresh green apples, vanilla, malty cereal grains, lemon and salt. The palate is wonderfully complex and the notes from the nose are reflected. The finish has lovely sweetness combining with the smokiness and just goes on and on ... This is a delicious and very positive dram. So often, young peaty whiskies can give you a less pleasant or negative experience. The excellent balance, combination and contrast of aromas and flavours make this a dram to savour. What a cracker!

### **10 > Bruichladdich Organic**

Here is one of the few truly certified organic single malt whiskies available on the market. It was released by the innovative Bruichladdich distillery on the famous whisky island of Islay last Autumn. The whisky is made from organic barley and matured in a combination of fresh oak and ex-bourbon casks. The nose is youthful, fresh and vibrant with an appetising combination of aromas - cereals, pear, apple, vanilla, honey and almonds. The palate is light and zesty, before the notes from the nose mentioned above appear. The cereals are prominent, as are the honey and vanilla. A hint of welcome cinnamon/nutmeg spice rounds things off. The finish is on the short side but is expressive, cramming plenty in to a short space of time. A fine dram that should be the benchmark for all future producers of an organic whisky.

## **Top 10 Bang For The Buck Whiskies**

<http://www.dramming.com/top-10-bang-for-the-buck-whiskies/>

After posting hundreds of ratings for all kinds of whisky I thought it would be a good idea to sum up the whiskies that in my opinion have the best ratio between price and value.

In my ratings I already give hints about the value for your money using a line of dollar signs. To create this *Bang for the Buck* ranking I picked some widely available whiskies that please your palate without hurting your wallet too much. Ranks 7 to 10 are basically on par, the order is random. Of course your local retail prices may differ which can lead to a shift in ranking. But in this list is entirely subjective anyway, I don't see a problem with this.



### 1. Readbreast 12

Price: ~€35 – Rating: 89

A very high quality Irish pure potstill whiskey. Rich, creamy, fruity, sweet and utterly delightful – about the best that Ireland has to offer.

### 2. Laphroaig Quarter Cask

Price: ~€40 – Rating: 90

The best value you can get for an Islay whisky. The final maturation in small quarter casks gives it an unrivaled complexity.



### 3. Laphroaig 10yo Cask

Price: ~€45 – Rating: 91

Laphroaig has managed to secure another top position. And with its uncompromising character the CS really is an Islay whisky *par excellence!*



### 4. Elijah Craig 12 yo

Price: ~€30 – Rating: 85

An excellent bourbon whiskey for a very attractive price. Not always easy to find in Europe but not impossible.



### 5. Glendronach Revival 15 yo

Price: ~€50 – Rating: 89

A full-bodied sherry monster of a whisky that revives the old tradition of Glendronach distillery. Very dry and very complex.

### 6. Glenfarclas 17 yo

Price: ~€50 – Rating: 88

A premium sherried whisky with a strong fruity aroma. It might be a bit difficult to find in shops because it is mostly restricted to Duty Free / Travel value.



### 7. Springbank 10 yo

Price: ~€40 – Rating: 86

The glory of Campbeltown lives on in this standard bottling. Maritime, complex and highly enjoyable.



### 8. Connemara Cask Strength

Price: ~€40 – Rating: 86

The unusual peated Irish single malt from Cooley is sold at a very competitive price. It is quite different from its Islay cousins but very fine nonetheless.



### 9. Bowmore Enigma 12 yo



Price: ~€40 – Rating: 86

My favourite malt at the lower end of the Bowmore product range. Some sherry influence makes this a very complex and enjoyable Islay whisky.

### 10. Benromach 10 yo

Price: ~€35 – Rating: 84

This lightly peated Speyside malt tastes wonderfully old-fashioned. It has a very fine balance of many different flavours.



## The Dalmore Launches Eos 59-Year-Old Single Malt

by Noah Joseph (RSS feed)



Of all the distilleries in Scotland and indeed the World, The Dalmore has emerged as the veritable king of obscenely old whiskies. Over the past couple of years, we've brought you news of the record-selling 64-year-old Trinitas, the 45-year-old Aurora, The Dalmore 50 and the 58-year-old Siruis malt. These are only a few of the extreme vintages launched by the Highland distillery, and they're now joined by one more.

Called Eos after the Titan goddess of the dawn, this 59-year-old scotch is bottled from the same pair of sherry casks that filled the Selene last year, only now they've been aged for an extra year. Only 20 special decanters of this exclusive malt will be offered in select markets at an as-yet unconfirmed price sure to dip into five figures.

## Pairing whisky and chocolate is more art than science

By Peter Hum, Postmedia News December 24, 2010



Looking for a new and satisfying way to cap off a Christmas feast? Try whisky and fine chocolate.

Eric Belchamber, an Ottawa-based sommelier is so enthusiastic about the pairing possibilities that the restaurant offers 18 whisky/chocolate combinations to customers. Belchamber explains below why you might consider furthering your digestion of the holiday roast with a wee dram and a bit of something dark and bittersweet.

### *What's the thinking behind pairing whisky and chocolate?*

Single malt scotch whiskies have very distinctive and particular flavour profiles based on where they're from in Scotland. They can be herbal, grassy, fruity or smoky. Single-origin chocolates are the same in that they take their character from their terroir and microclimate, giving them a true sense of place.

For an ideal chocolate and scotch pairing experience, the aroma and flavour profiles of both products should be complemented and augmented.

*Does whisky pair better with chocolate than wine does, and if so, why?*

I find that the whisky and chocolate pairing works nicely because of the digestive qualities of scotch. It's ideally consumed after a meal and aids in digestion. A small portion of fine chocolate paired with the scotch heightens this experience. In a perfect pairing, both the scotch and chocolate should be considered better together rather than enjoyed individually.

Bittersweet chocolate can have bitter, roasted, fruity, earthy, woody, ashy and/or nutty notes. If you prefer wines, choose stronger red wines (zinfandel, cabernet sauvignon, malbec) with concentrated fruit notes because of the intense flavours in bittersweet and dark chocolates. The cocoa butter in the chocolate decreases the astringency and dryness of the red wine tannins and the higher cacao content enables bittersweet chocolate to pair well. My preference, however, remains whisky.

*How do you determine which whisky pairs with which chocolate?*

Determining the whisky and chocolate pairings is more art than science, but by tasting them together and being able to discern the distinctive flavours and aromas, I'm able to come up with various suggestions, which are listed in Juniper's dessert menu. Understanding the regional characteristics of both the scotch and the chocolate is also important. For example, whisky from the Islay region is more smoky and peaty (Laphroaig and Lagavulin are examples) based on the water used and the peating levels of the barley.

*How might you integrate a whisky and chocolate pairing in a Christmas/holiday dinner?*

At the end of a meal, bring a bottle of scotch or two out with a selection of chocolates (Juniper's carry individually wrapped chocolate squares produced by Amedei in Tuscany). Take a small sip of the scotch and swirl it around the inside of your mouth and swallow. Try a piece of chocolate while you still have the taste of the whisky in your mouth and see what happens. Ideally, you'll taste an enjoyable combination of the scotch and chocolate that will leave you wanting a little bit more of each.

Adding a drop or two of spring water to scotch enhances the distinctive aroma and flavour of a whisky. Some people prefer scotches with smoky and peaty notes while others prefer scotches with more citrus and honeyed notes. The same will apply to the chocolates.

*What's your favourite whisky and chocolate pairing and why does it work?*

My favourite pairing is the Macallan Single Malt Fine Oak 10 Year (LCBO # 602565, \$61.95) with a bright golden straw colour. It has orange, citrus, cedar, spice and light smoke aromas and is dry and medium-bodied with a medium finish. It is aged in sherry and bourbon oak casks for a minimum of 10 years. This combination delivers an extraordinarily smooth and delicate yet complex scotch. I consider it to be an ideal scotch to use if it is your first foray into this remarkable spirit.

I suggest it be paired with Amedei's Jamaica 70-per-cent chocolate. It provides possibly the strongest flavour profile of all the Amedei Cru bars with notes of dates, citrus fruit and a delicious spicy sweetness. It has a good length of taste and is a truly remarkable chocolate.

Individually these are both delicious. Together, they're outstanding.  
Ottawa Citizen

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## Move over, lads. Women embrace world of whisky

Marilisa Racco - Globe and Mail - Published Saturday, Nov. 27, 2010

After years as a silent-movie star, Greta Garbo uttered her first words on film in 1930's *Anna Christie*, famously telling a bartender: "Gimme a whisky with ginger ale on the side and don't be stingy, baby."

As notable as this line became, however, whisky has long been considered a man's drink, the favourite tippie of cowboys, gangsters and British fops. But the last decade has seen a change in the landscape that includes more female representation both socially and professionally. And it's not just fast-talking, hard-drinking broads who are taking to the spirit. The new whisky regime is full of smart, sophisticated women who aren't afraid to experiment with their drink or flaunt their considerable knowledge of it.

"Women are now drinking whisky on their terms with no stigma," says Annabel Meikle, sensory whisky creator for the

Glenmorangie Company in Edinburgh, Scotland. "They're saying: 'We know this is a boy's game, but we want in.'"

According to the Edinburgh-based Scotch Malt Whisky Society, which is Scotland's premier whisky connoisseur club and has chapters all over the world, women accounted for one quarter of all new memberships between 2005 and 2008, a considerable rise over previous years. It's a trend that Gabrielle Shayne, director of marketing for the American chapter of SMWS in Sunrise, Fla., says keeps growing steadily. She attributes the growing fan base to a few factors. "Women are creatures who like many choices and the whisky category has so many varieties," she says, citing the many countries that make it (including Scotland, Ireland, Japan, the U.S. and Canada) and the many forms it takes (from blend to cask types). But she also acknowledges the influence that men can have on women's propensity for whisky. "Women tend to try something or become interested in something that their boyfriend, husband, father or brother enjoy," she says.

Recently, though, the SMWS held a women-only tasting event in New York, drawing 120 participants, a number that Shayne suggests points to a desire by female whisky fans to establish their own tastes. Similar gender-specific events are also being held in other corners of the world. The Victoria Whisky Festival in British Columbia, for instance, has included women-only tastings headed by a representative from the Bruichladdich Distillery in Scotland. And South Africa's annual FNB Whisky Live Festival, which was founded by two women, Karen Chaloner and Sian Neubert, eight years ago, recently added women-only events to its calendar.

The idea behind such events, however, isn't to completely shut men out: Meikle of Glenmorangie views women in charge of a tasting as beneficial to both sexes. "By putting women in a role like mine, it instinctively makes other women more comfortable, but it does the same for men who are more apt to ask questions they wouldn't ask another man for fear of sounding uninformed," she says. "Everyone is more relaxed when a woman is doing the presentation." Although Glenmorangie doesn't do anything to target women specifically – "We don't like to divide our audience," Meikle says – it is doing its part to make whisky drinking less rigid. "We are engaging women who have already tried whisky and letting them know that it's okay to add a splash of water or to mix it in a cocktail or soften it with soda."

As stereotypical as it may sound, a surefire way of attracting women to whisky events has been to pair it with food, which Meikle says makes the spirit less intimidating. The result is a new creative culinary frontier. "I love to put a drop of Glenmorangie's Quinta Ruban variety with some mint into a cr me anglaise," she says.

Sherry Stone, a 38-year-old project manager in Toronto, also melds whisky and food. Her mother introduced her to the spirit, giving her a taste for single malts like Glenfiddich and Glenlivet. But once Stone started to venture out on her own, she made her own discoveries, not the least of which is adding whisky to chocolate truffles or a ganache cake frosting. "I find whisky and tea also make a great pairing in desserts," she says. "There's something about the smoky notes in whisky that play off the tannins in the tea nicely."

A woman ordering a whisky in public hardly turns heads these days, but Stone remembers a time when people weren't so cool: "I used to get funny looks when I ordered whisky in a bar in my early 20s." While she acknowledges that it's still mostly "guy-oriented," she sees a lot more women drinking the spirit, neat or with a splash of water. And many seem to be taking it seriously. "They study and understand the complexity of single malts," Meikle says. "They're the ones you see at the whisky shows taking notes."

Of course, there's also the all-important social aspect, the fun of raising a glass with others. "My greatest accomplishment," Meikle adds, "is getting my mother to drink whisky."

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## Glenmorangie's New Finealta To Help Open London's Savoy

by David Kiley (RSS feed)

Glenmorangie has launched a new whisky in its Private Edition line: The Glenmorangie Finealta, pronounced "Finalta." The word translates as "elegant" from the Scottish Gaelic. It is a recipe with historic significance as it is a recreation of a Glenmorangie recipe dating back to 1903.

The century-old recipe was uncovered in the distillery's archives. Dr Bill Lumsden, head of distilling and whisky creation,



said: "Glenmorangie decided to recreate this recipe so that we, and whisky connoisseurs, could have a taste of this historic Glenmorangie expression. We followed the recipe meticulously, which included marrying whiskies of different ages and from different cask types. The final result is a whisky of such depth and distinction that we selected it as the second release in Glenmorangie's exclusive Private Edition."

Archives show that this Glenmorangie expression was served in the American Bar of The Savoy, London, during La Belle Époque and at the height of Art Nouveau, the first modern art movement of the 20th century. The packaging design for Glenmorangie Finealta, not surprisingly, is inspired by Art

Nouveau, which had a style for incorporating elements from nature such as floral and plant motifs into artwork. And, unusual for Glenmorangie, the taste profile involves a bit of peat.

The release of the whisky coincides nicely with the The Savoy's reopening on October 10, 2010. Bottled at a strength of 46% ABV, and non chill-filtered, Glenmorangie Finealta will be made available to global travel retail from early September, and in fine whisky shops in North America in early 2011. Price \$85.00.

# Win Me !!

**HIGHLAND PARK  
25 YEARS OLD  
ORKNEY  
ISLANDS SINGLE  
MALT VINTAGES  
500249 | 750 mL  
bottle Price: \$  
324.95 Spirits,  
Scotch Whisky  
48.1% Alcohol/Vol.**

Starting February 21<sup>st</sup>, 2011 tickets can be purchased for a chance to win this bottle. Tickets will be \$3 each, two tickets for \$5, or \$20 for an arm-length. Tickets will be on sale at each dinner until the June 20<sup>th</sup>, 2011 BBQ dinner when the bottle will be raffled. The winner must successfully answer the skill testing question: What country does single malt come from?



Just a note because we care.



Please understand that for the purpose of each event you are advised to drink responsibly and refrain from excessive consumption. The dinners hosted by the Kingston Single Malt Society are sampling events. By agreeing to pay and thereby attend the dinner you agree to release from legal responsibility and hold harmless Kingston Single Malt Society, its President Roberto Di Fazio, and any other volunteers from liability or claims arising from these events.

### Reservation policy

- Our contract with the Officer's Mess Kitchen requires that we provide seven (7) business days notice for them to guarantee accommodation for our requested numbers. Each month an invitation will be sent out to all members of the Society in the first week of the respective month in which the dinner will be held. To accommodate the Kitchen's needs and meet our contractual obligation with them; our members are requested to respond to the emailed invitation seven (7) business days prior to the respective dinner to guarantee a seat at the dinner. After that members will be placed on a waitlist.
- For these individuals the process will be as follows, using the February 21<sup>st</sup> dinner date as an example:
- Dinner invitations will be sent out Saturday January 29<sup>th</sup>, 2010. Please respond to me (rdifazio@cogeco.ca). I will then acknowledge that you have a seat. Please understand that if you do not receive a response you are not guaranteed a seat at the respective dinner. In such circumstances (e.g., computer glitches) please e-mail me again or call me at (613-634-0397).
- Accommodation at the dinner will be guaranteed for a member who responds by Sunday February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2010 midnight.

### Cancellation policy

- Using the same example as above, anyone who cancels anytime prior to Wednesday February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2010 midnight will be removed from the list.
- Anyone canceling between Wednesday February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2010 midnight and Monday February 21<sup>st</sup>, 2010 will be expected to pay for the cost of the dinner and scotch (\$60). It is the responsibility of the member who cancels their reservation to find a replacement. If I can substitute an individual from the wait-list, then the member will not be asked to pay for their cancellation.
- Anyone who fails to attend the Monday February 21<sup>st</sup>, 2010 dinner without having cancelled and been successfully replaced will be expected to pay the full cost (\$60). A member will be responsible for their guest's cancellation (\$70).
- If a member asks to be included at the dinner between Wednesday February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2010 midnight and Monday February 21<sup>st</sup>, 2010, your name will be placed on a wait-list and be accommodated on a first-come first-serve basis.

If you have any questions or comments please free to contact me. Thank you for your understanding,  
**Roberto**



**Kingston Single Malt Society**

Roberto Di Fazio, President

827 Old Colony Road

Kingston, Ontario, K7P 1S1, Canada

613-634-0397

rdifazio@cogeco.ca

<http://www.kingstonsinglemaltsociety.webs.com>

