

# Kingston Single Malt Society

A social club for the appreciation of Single Malt Whisky  
FEBRUARY 10, 2009 VOLUME 2; SPECIAL EDITION

*Kingston Single Malt Society  
welcomes you  
to a night in the company of  
Diageo's Six Classic Malts  
at Chez Piggy Restaurant & Bar*

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1<sup>st</sup> Course: *Dolmadakia with Tzatziki  
(Greece)*

1<sup>st</sup> Nosing: **OBAN 14 YEAR OLD**  
*West Highland Region*

2<sup>nd</sup> Course: *Linguine, Aglio, Olio con Peperoncino  
(Italy)*

2<sup>nd</sup> Nosing: **GLENKINCHIE 12 YEAR OLD**  
*Lowlands Region*

3<sup>rd</sup> Course: *Beef, Chicken, & Pork Empanadas  
with Picante Sauce  
(South America)*

3<sup>rd</sup> Nosing: **CRAGGANMORE 12 YEAR OLD**  
*Speyside Region*

4<sup>th</sup> Course: *Buckwheat Blini with Smoked Salmon,  
with crème fraîche & lumpfish caviar  
(Russia)*

4<sup>th</sup> Nosing: **TALISKER 10 YEAR OLD**  
*Islands Region*

5<sup>th</sup> Course: *Caramel Pecan Tart with Dark Chocolate  
Dalwhinnie truffle  
(Southern USA)*

5<sup>th</sup> Nosing: **DALWHINNIE 15 YEAR OLD**  
*Highland Region*

6<sup>th</sup> Course: *Lanark County Highland Blue Sheep  
Cheese & Croûtes  
(France)*

6<sup>th</sup> Nosing: **LAGAVULIN 16 YEAR OLD**  
*Islay Region*  
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## COST OF THE MALTS

### - **OBAN 14 YEAR OLD SINGLE MALT**

LCBO 243824 | 750 mL bottle **Price: \$ 114.95**  
Spirits, Scotch Whisky, 43.01% Alcohol/Vol.

### - **GLENKINCHIE 12 YEAR OLD SINGLE MALT**

LCBO 69435 | 750 mL bottle **Price: \$ 76.95**  
Spirits, Scotch Whisky, 43.0% Alcohol/Vol.

### - **CRAGGANMORE 12 YEAR OLD SINGLE**

**MALT** LCBO 192732 | 750 mL bottle **Price: \$ 69.95**  
Spirits, Scotch Whisky, 40.0% Alcohol/Vol.

### - **TALISKER 10 YEAR OLD SINGLE MALT**

LCBO 249680 | 750 mL bottle **Price: \$ 72.95**  
Spirits, Scotch Whisky, 45.8% Alcohol/Vol.

### - **DALWHINNIE 15 YEAR OLD SINGLE MALT**

LCBO 238097 | 750 mL bottle **Price: \$ 89.95**  
Spirits, Scotch Whisky, 43.0% Alcohol/Vol.

### - **LAGAVULIN 16 YEAR OLD SINGLE MALT**

LCBO 207126 | 750 mL bottle **Price: \$ 124.95**  
Spirits, Scotch Whisky, 42.9% Alcohol/Vol.

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remaining Dinner dates for KSMS 2008-2009

February 23, 2009 – Speyside / Highlands

March 23, 2009 – St.Patrick's (Irish);

Lowlands; Campbeltown

April 20, 2009 - Islands

May 25, 2009 - Islay

June 22, 2009 – BBQ (Final Exam)  
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### Membership and Dinner prices for 2008-2009:

Membership Fees: \$40 (singles)

\$60 (couples)

One Time Initiation Fee \$15

Standard Dinner Fee: \$50 (member)

\$60 (non-member)

Dinner only - No Single Malt: \$45 (member)

\$55 (non-member)

Robbie Burns Dinner Fee: \$60 (member)

\$70 (non-member)

(includes \$5 donation per attendee to RMC Pipes &  
Drums with Highland Dancers)

June BBQ Dinner Fee: \$55 (member)

\$65 (non-member)  
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## **Global demand forces LCBO to scratch scotches from liquor list**

The insatiable demand for scotch whisky in China, India and Russia has tipped three popular brands from the shelves of Ontario liquor stores, and will drive up the prices of several popular single-malts.

Johnnie Walker Green Label, Black & White Blended Scotch Whisky and Bell's Scotch Whisky will no longer be available in LCBO outlets once current supplies are gone, probably by year end.

The sobering news comes after liquor distributor Diageo Canada, a branch of the world's largest alcohol group, told the LCBO that if it wanted to continue to sell many of its products it would have to pay more to compete with growing markets abroad.

The LCBO agreed to meet Diageo's demands in some cases, but apparently balked when it came to the three brands to be discontinued.

That also means the Diageo-distributed products the LCBO will continue to sell are likely to go up in price by amounts that will vary depending on the brand. Some of those brands include high-end single malt scotches such as Glenkinchie, Dalwhinnie, Oban, Talisker, Lagavulin, Gragganmore and Brora, as well as Johnnie Walker's Red, Blue, Gold and Black labels.

Some of the more expensive brands are made by small distilleries that can only produce limited quantities, which drives up demand and prices.

"Essentially it was out of our control," LCBO spokesman Chris Layton said yesterday. "Diageo came to us and said the demand from places like China, India and Russia was outstripping its ability to supply them."

He said Diageo is simply selling to the buyers willing to pay the most. It could be worse. In several other provinces, including New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island and Nova Scotia, even more brands will no longer be available. New Brunswick is losing 11 brands, for instance.

The move comes as burgeoning middle classes in China, India, Russia, South Korea and Vietnam look for new ways to spend their money. According to a British economic analysis published in March, China's spirits market alone is expected to be worth \$50 billion U.S. by 2011. India's market is growing by more than 15 per cent a year, and could exceed \$35 billion by the end of next year. The sheer size of those markets can make it difficult for Canadian liquor buyers and sellers - even those as large as the LCBO, whose total alcohol sales are worth more than \$3.5 billion annually - to stay in the game.

"It's the bad side of success," Frank Scott, owner of an award-winning whisky bar in Fredericton, told the New Brunswick Telegraph-Journal. "Scotch has always been seen as a success product and with incomes growing, people want the American dream."

Mr. Scott believes that London-based Diageo, which has been focusing on Asia-Pacific markets for the past few years, will eventually re-offer some of its products

in Canada. But he thinks drinkers might have moved along to new brands.

Mr. Layton said that even with the cuts, the LCBO will continue to sell more than 200 varieties of scotch, the largest selection in Canada.

*Article Courtesy of Canada.com*

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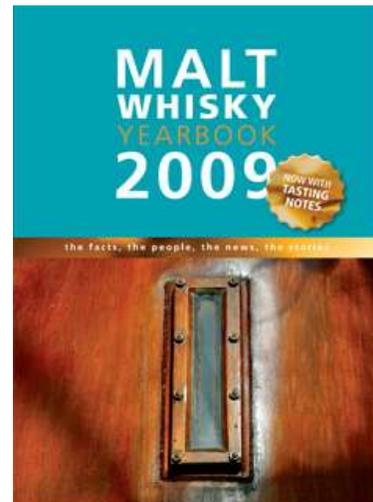
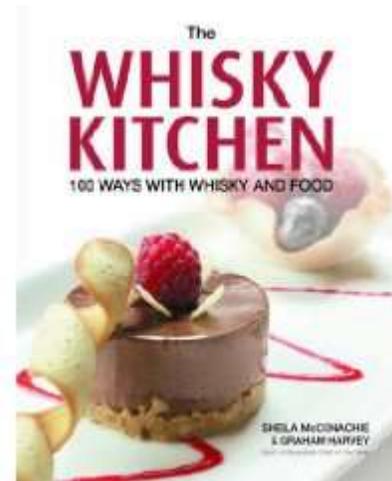
## **Something new in the world of Whisky**

**Do you enjoy whisky?**

**Do you enjoy cooking?**

**Then you might be interested in ....**

**(Read more at: <http://www.whiskykitchen.com>)**



**Malt Whisky Yearbook** has become an authoritative book that whisky enthusiasts worldwide look forward to each autumn. This is the fourth edition – Malt Whisky Yearbook 2009.

The Yearbook is again fully revised and packed with new and up-to-date information on whisky distilleries from all over the world. Once again, distinguished whisky profiles such as Charles MacLean, David Stirk, Gavin Smith, Ian Buxton, Dominic Roskrow and Walter Schobert

contribute with initiated features penned exclusively for the Yearbook.

Malt Whisky Yearbook 2009 lists hundreds of whisky shops, whisky sites and new bottlings. A comprehensive summary of the whisky year that was and all the latest statistics is also included.

**A new feature for this year are nearly 200 tasting notes describing the flavour of single malts from all working distilleries in Scotland and Ireland.**

Finally, with more than 500 colour photographs (most of them new since the last edition), "Malt Whisky Yearbook 2009" is as much an essential reference guide as a book to read for pleasure.

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**Subscribe to *Malt Advocate***  
**the magazine for the whisky enthusiast**



Hi Roberto,  
I have set up the discount code for your Kingston Single Malt Society Members. Please let them know that we are offering them a one year Canadian subscription for 50% off our subscription price. If they enter code KSMS1 in the discount code box when placing their order, they will receive a one year subscription for \$12.00 instead of the regular subscription price of \$24.00. There are no limits on this, so please share the code with everyone in your club as well as any guests they may bring to the tastings. This code will be good for one year from today's date. Please let me know if you have any questions. **(offer expires: May 2009)**  
Thank you,

**Heather Greco**  
**Manager: Advertising and Circulation**  
**Malt Advocate**  
**Presenters of WhiskyFest**

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**WHISKY TIPS**

**How long does whisky last?** The short answer is – indefinitely, as long as it is sealed in unopened bottles. Whisky is matured in oak casks, which allow it to breathe and develop. Once it is bottled, breathing stops and the liquor goes into suspended animation. "Laid down" bottles will not improve with age.

**How long does a bottle of whisky last once opened?** It depends on how much is left. When you open a bottle, you let in air. This immediately starts to react with the whisky, releasing volatile elements such as the alcohol and aromas. A near-empty bottle contains a lot of air and will lose its 'edge' very swiftly.

If you build up a whisky collection, take the trouble to store your bottles safely. Store away from direct sunlight (which can affect the colour of the spirit and bleach the label) and in a cool, dry and stable place. Unlike wine, whisky bottles can be stored upright; a little alcohol will vaporize and keep the cork moist.

Serve a good quality single malt at room temperature. You can even warm the glass with your hands. This will release the volatile oils and other aromas. If the liquid is too cold, you will miss them.

High quality scotch deserves high quality water. Tap water will do, as long as you let it stand for a while so that the chlorine can vapourize. However, a still spring water is free of added chemicals which might affect the taste (as is distilled water). Best of all, use burn water gathered near the distillery itself!

**Should one add water to a good whisky?** Some drinkers like it neat, claiming that the delicate flavour should not be diluted. However, a small amount of water (never more than equal to the liquor) will set off simple chemical reactions which release subtler aspects of both bouquet and taste.

**How to savor your whisky.** When you first pour a good whisky, take time to study its appearance. Swirl the liquid to coat the sides of the glass and examine the colour and clarity against the light. The shade of the whisky gives pleasure in itself but may also

provide clues about what vessel it has been aged (matured) in.

<http://www.smws.co.uk>

Spend some minutes smelling (nosing) your single malt. "Nose" plays a big part in the enjoyment of whisky. Put your nose into the top of the glass and sniff, gently at first. Try to identify the different aromas (flowers? Seaweed? Smoke? Pine? Honey? Salt?) Swill the whisky and sniff again – you'll get something different this time.

Taste is, of course, at the heart of the whisky magic. Take and sip and roll it round on your tongue. The spirit will simply evaporate in the mouth, but you should get the "feel" of the whisky – an infinitely varied combination of sweet and dry, cream and pepper, smoke and honey. Dream up your own description.

After sipping your whisky and feeling it in the mouth, wait for the finish. This consists of the flavours which arrive after the liquid itself has gone. These may include vanilla, wood and even salt, and may be long and warming or short and dry. The longer the finish, the better (and older) the whisky.

Single malt whiskies usually have their age stated on the label (something like "aged 12 years"). This indicates the time spent maturing in cask before bottling. Some bottles – confusingly – instead declare the distillation date and bottling date. The age will be the difference between the two.

When it first comes from the still, whisky is naturally colourless. The colour of the bottled stuff usually comes from two sources. One is the wood in which the spirit is aged (new oak for bourbon, or old sherry casks for some Scotches). The other is – unromantically – sugar caramel.

Whisky matures more quickly in hot climates. Therefore spirit from warm climates, such as the southern USA, India, Spain, Tennessee and Turkey, will reach a drinkable age when comparatively young. Whiskies from colder climates, such as New Zealand, Canada and, of course, Scotland, will mature when rather older.

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## How to Enjoy your Whisky – A Tasting Guide

(thanks to The Scotch Malt Whisky Society;

"For the purpose of enjoying malt whiskies you need certain basic equipment: a supply of water, a glass, a mouth, a nose, and -optionally-a pair of eyes. Plus, of course, the whisky."

The water ought to be soft and, as far as possible, tasteless. Tap water is fine if you are lucky enough to live in a society which regards the provision of good water as one of the elements of civilisation. Otherwise, use still water from a bottle.

The glass should be tulip-shaped, with a narrow opening. The Society nosing glass is best, then the sherry copita, brandy snifter and wine glass in descending order of desirability. The open-mouthed cut glass article that is traditionally called a whisky tumbler is not suitable at all. The mouth is for pouring the whisky into for the purpose of tasting. The tongue and palate, both of which are located within the mouth, detect the primary tastes: sweet, sour or acidic, salty, bitter or dry. The size and shape of the mouth are irrelevant, but prior to tasting they should not be encumbered by other flavours such as lozenges, tobacco, etc.

The nose is far and away the most important bit of kit when you are evaluating malt whiskies. Our most sensitive organ-there are a mere 4 primary tastes and 3 primary colours, but there are 23 primary aromas-it can pick up scents diluted to one part in a million.

The eyes are not essential, though they are useful to be able to see the colour of the whisky. Having said that, we would advise tasters that, because the eye is such a dominant sense in humans, it often misleads. Since dark whiskies appeal more to the eye, professional tasters often use cobalt blue glasses and red lighting to disguise the colour of the whisky. The procedure for inspecting malt whiskies is simple. Look at the stuff in the glass, sniff it, add some water, sniff it again and taste it. The water is essential in tasting full-strength malts. Not only does it soften the influence of the alcohol, it draws out the nose of the whisky to an astonishing extent. When tasting Society whiskies, try to divest yourself of expectation and concentrate on the present experience. Casks are infinitely diverse, and often very different from what you would expect from a particular distillery.

*How to enjoy your whisky*

*For the purpose of enjoying  
malt whiskies you need certain  
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**The colour of a malt is sometimes an indication of its character** - but not always, so beware. A pale whisky can be rich and powerful, just as a dark one can be light and fragrant. A bourbon or fino cask will usually give a paler colour, whereas whiskies aged in oloroso casks tend to be the darkest.



**Nosing is a true delight, and reveals much about a whisky's true character.** Every whisky has a distinct bouquet, but a few characteristics are easily identifiable: Islay whiskies will smell smoky, and sherry casks usually give a sweet or caramel smell. The bouquet can change remarkably as water is added. There are seven main scent groups: esters, phenols, aldehydes, sweet associated, cereals, oils and woods.

**ESTERS:** fruit, flowers, peardrops

**PHENOLS:** medicinal, peaty, smoky

**ALDEHYDES:** hay, grass, leather

**SWEET ASSOCIATED:** vanilla, toffee, honey

**CEREALS:** malt, bread, wheat

**OILS:** butter, hazels, walnuts

**WOODS:** cedar, pitch-pine, resin

There are many combinations of the above, which is what makes malt whisky so fascinating. On the other hand, there are many fine whiskies where the scents are so well integrated that they are almost impossible to unravel.



**Some malts are fruity, others spicy or dry or sweet.** This varies not only from one distillery to the next but indeed from one cask to the next. Much depends on the variations in distilling practice, the shape and size of the still, the alertness of the stillman and, of course, cask. Bourbon casks are usually mild and sweet with distinct vanilla notes, where as sherry casks impart heavier wine notes to the malt.

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#### 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 November 24th dinner date as an example:
- Dinner invitations will be sent out Saturday November 1st, 2008. 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 Wednesday November 12th, 2008 midnight.

#### Cancellation policy

- Using the same example as above, anyone who cancels anytime prior to Wednesday November 12th, 2008 midnight will be removed from the list.
  - Anyone cancelling between Wednesday November 12th, 2008 midnight and Monday November 24th, 2008 will be expected to pay for the cost of the dinner and scotch (\$50). 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 November 24th, 2008 dinner without having cancelled and been successfully replaced will be expected to pay the full cost (\$50). The member will be responsible for their guest's cancellation.
  - If a member asks to be included at the dinner between Wednesday November 12th, 2008 midnight and Monday November 24th, 2008, your name will be placed on a wait-list and be accommodated on a first-come first-serve basis.
-

Starting February 23, 2009 tickets can be purchased to win a bottle of CARDHU 12 y.o. Tickets will be on sale at each dinner until the June BBQ dinner when the bottle will be raffled. The winner must successfully answer the skill testing question: What country does single malt come from?

# Win Me !!



## CARDHU 12y.o SPEYSIDE SINGLE MALT

VINTAGES 70284 | 700 mL bottle **Price: \$ 247.95**

Spirits, Scotch Whisky, 40.0% Alcohol/Vol

Please drink responsibly.

### 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.

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  
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613-634-0397  
rdifazio@cogeco.ca



By John Hansell

FROM THE PUBLISHER



# What's in store for 2009?

THE WHISKY INDUSTRY IS, TO SAY THE LEAST, VERY DYNAMIC RIGHT NOW. Scotch distilleries are still in expansion mode, the distilleries that don't fit into their owner's corporate plans are being sold, and the owners of these distilleries are becoming increasingly global in nature.

What does this have to do with you, if anything? What's going to happen with the whiskies coming onto the market in 2009, and how will this affect your enjoyment of whisky? Here's what I see happening this year.

**What's going to happen with the whiskies coming onto the market in 2009, and how will this affect your enjoyment of whisky? Here's what I see happening this year.**

Whisky prices continue to exceed inflation. Ultra-premium whisky prices will continue their astronomical ascent, and entry level whiskies will also continue to increase in cost. American whiskey (bourbon, rye) is still your best value. If you are a scotch drinker, the sweet spot in terms of value seems to be the mid-range single malts (15-18 years old). Also, look for values in higher proof whiskies (e.g., bottled in bond bourbons, cask strength single malts).

Increased production over the last several years is creating a lot of young whisky, and this will continue over the next several years. One of the ways the whisky companies will market this whisky is by blending it in with some of the older stocks they have. They'll give it an interesting name, but you won't see any age statement on the label. Marketing whiskies with names rather than age statements also allows the owners to hide gaps in their production over the past couple of decades. This has already started happening. Just look on your retailer's shelves.

If whiskies were people, "designer" whiskies are the ones that would go to private schools and Ivy League colleges. They get all the special attention and nurturing. Creative entrepreneurs like John Glaser of Compass Box Whiskies might be on the forefront of this movement with whiskies like Spice Tree and Oak Cross, but as larger, more mainstream companies look for innovative ways to market and sell whisky, they too will be experimenting more. Just look at the new Glenmorangie Astar as an example.

For the past decade, most of the new whisky expressions have emphasized the back end of production: finishing in different casks, bottling at different strengths, creating new blends or marriages of whiskies. Slowly, you will begin seeing more focus on the front end of production, like experimentations with new barley strains, geographic-specific barley, new malted barley varieties, and different yeast strains. Recent examples include Bushmills 1608, which included a portion of whisky made with crystal malt, and the new Glenmorangie Signet, which has some whisky made from chocolate malt in the blend.

It takes longer for these whiskies to come to market, and there is a greater risk associated with these experiments because the outcomes won't be known for many years. But if something doesn't go quite right, the producer can always blend it in with their standard offering to minimize any losses.

So, 2009 looks like another exciting year for whisky. Look for values, investigate whiskies lacking age statements, and have fun with all the new whiskies coming on the market.

John  
JOHN