



**Ontario HST drops taxes on liquor,
but prices still going up.**

By **David** on May 13, 2010; Source: Toronto Star

You can expect to pay more to drown your sorrows over the 13 per cent harmonized sales tax this summer.

Wine and liquor prices are expected to rise in July even though the business-friendly HST will actually lower tax rates on booze, the Star has learned.

Internal industry research reveals that while consumers will pay the equivalent of an 8 per cent provincial sales tax after July 1 -- instead of the existing 12 per cent on alcohol -- retail prices will not drop.

Nor will drinks necessarily be any cheaper in your favourite pub or bistro, despite the fact bar owners and restaurateurs will also effectively pay 8 per cent, down from the current 10 per cent tax for licensees.

While Premier Dalton McGuinty wants savings passed on to consumers, the LCBO has a policy of "social responsibility" which prevents them from bringing prices down to a level which would encourage alcohol abuse.

"It's counter-intuitive. Tax rates are decreasing because of the harmonization, but the prices on the shelf are actually going to be increased," warned one senior industry official, who spoke on condition of anonymity due to fear of retribution from the Liquor Control Board of Ontario.

"And that's going to surprise consumers. They should be expecting a reduction."

That's because the LCBO has quietly increased its mark-up by 7.5 per cent. On imported wines the mark-up has soared to 71.5 per cent from 64 per cent, and on domestic wines it has risen to 65.5 per cent from 58 per cent.

To keep prices the same, sources say the markup should at most increase just 6.5 per cent.

MENU

Salad: Selection

Entree: Steak or Salmon

Potato: Baked Potato with

(Sour Cream, Chives, and Green Onion)

Dessert: choice of .. Chocolate Carrot Craze
or Strawberry Shortcake

Win Me Tonight !!

**THE MACALLAN 25
SHERRY OAK
SINGLE MALT WHISKY**

VINTAGES 179150 | 750 ml bottle Price:
\$699.95; Spirits, Scotch Whisky, 43.0%
Alcohol/Vol



Starting February 22nd, 2010 tickets can be purchased for a chance to win this bottle. Tickets will be \$3 each or two tickets for \$5. Tickets will be on sale at each dinner until the June 21st, 2010 BBQ Dinner when the bottle will be raffled. The winner must successfully answer the skill testing question: What country does single malt come from?

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)

MAY - KSMS Financial Statement

(Money expected from 63 May attendees)	= \$3290.00
May dinner 63 persons @ \$32.75/ea	= \$2063.25
Special Occasion Permit @ LCBO	= \$75.00
(Money remaining for buying Single Malt)	= \$1151.75
Cost of Single Malts:	= \$956.48
Miscellaneous (cheese, chocolate)	= \$40.00
KSMS Monthly operational balance	= \$155.27
Cost per person 63 attendees (All inclusive)	= \$49.76

Upcoming Dinner dates for KSMS

- July 19, 2010 – International
Thursday August 26, 2010 – 3rd Annual Premium Night
September 20, 2010 - Campbeltown / Lowland
October 18, 2010 – Speyside
November 15, 2010 – Speyside
December 13, 2010 - Speyside / Highland
January 24, 2011 – Isle of Arran - Robbie Burns
February 14, 2011 – Highland / Island – Valentine’s
March 21, 2011 - St.Patrick's (Irish)
April 18, 2011 – Island / Islay
May 16, 2011 – Islay
June 20, 2011 - BBQ (Final Exam)
July 18, 2011– International
Thursday August 25, 2011 – 4th Annual Premium Night

Winners from the May 17th dinner

- Blue Cheese and dram of Bruichladdich 10 year old
- Chris Logan
- Tom McCulloch
- Erin McCormick (guest of Lana Di Fazio)
- Extra dram of 1997 CAOL ILA 12 YEARS OLD
- Tim Barber
- Mark Drummond (Birthday recognition)
- Ainsley Creighton (Birthday recognition)

Recommend a core whisk(e)y everyone should try.

MALT ADVOCATE - JOHN HANSELL – MARCH 17TH, 2010
Only a true 'whisky friend' would reveal their core whisky list. Those whiskies that are not too expensive, not hard to find, but stand out to the pallet. This is just a mere sampling of what your "whisky friends" have recommended. Be sure to check this out, whether you are a seasoned whisky drinker or new to the pack. Bowmore 12, Balvenie 12, Macallan 12, Ardbeg 10, Laphroaig Quarter Cask, Glenfarclas 105, GlendRonach 12, GlendRonach 15, Yamazaki 12, Amrut, Johnnie Walker Green, Black Grouse, Compass Box Asyla.

For more selections:

<http://www.whatdoesjohnknow.com/2010/03/17/name-a-fundamental-whiskey-everyone-should-try/>

Whisky Recipe

Bourbon Deluxe Hamburgers

source: bigoven.com

Ingredients:

- 2 lb Ground chuck
- 1/2 c Diced fresh mushrooms
- 1/4 ts Worcestershire sauce
- 1/4 ts Soy sauce
- 1/4 ts Seasoned salt
- 1/4 ts Coarse ground black pepper
- 1/4 Jigger bourbon



Preparation:

Mix all ingredients well & make into 6 to 8 patties. Charcoal broil over hot fire using wet hickory or pecan wood for smoke flavor. Cook to medium-well.

More validation that blenders should taste the whiskeys they select and not just nose them.

MALT ADVOCATE - JOHN HANSELL - FEBRUARY 22ND, 2010

I just spent time nosing and tasting American whiskey samples. I am consulting for a company that will be releasing a new whiskey in the near future.

I can't go into detail (yet) on the what the whiskey will be, but one thing is (once again) perfectly clear. Some whiskeys have great aromas and can have serious flaws on the palate. Given that a lot of whiskey blending and cask selection is done by nosing and not by tasting (out of necessity for some blenders working through a hundred or more samples in a morning), I think this potential disparity is significant—especially given that most drinkers care far more about how a whiskey tastes than how it smells.

Maybe this explains why some whiskeys aren't as good as they could be? And, looking at it from a different perspective, I wonder how many really wonderful tasting whiskeys are passed over because their aromas are only mediocre?

Food (or should I say “whiskey”) for thought.

Guest blog #3: Northern Highlands

JOHN HANSELL - MARCH 31ST, 2010

Highlands and Western Coastal distilleries are all unique. Pulteney Distillery (stills on top left) on the northwest coast is almost as isolated as those of Orkney – You really want to get there to visit and you won't be disappointed. Situated in the middle of Wick, you can see how the distillery grew around the fishing industry and the town, it has a unique feel. Inver House has reinvested in both Pulteney and Balblair as key single malt products; you can see it in the growth of the 12, 17 and 21 YO Pulteney bottlings. The visitor's center here is beautiful and they also have the opportunity to bottle your own 13 or 19 YO Pulteney on site. The 19 YO has a lot of peat

influence. Rumor has it that it was aged in an Islay cask, if you get a chance you have to try it!

Our only Diageo distillery on this trip was Clynelish.



Diageo runs its distillery tours in a very safe and modern way. Tours are nice, but carefully scripted and you will not find much flexibility in how they approach them (don't wander off or you will get in trouble!). They have a couple of distillery-only bottles you can purchase which is true of a number of Diageo distilleries. We tasted the Cask Strength one here and it was excellent.

We also got to head down to Brora across the road and it was like going back in time, the stills and spirit safe are still in place. Even the filling station includes a cask of 1983 Brora just sitting there like it was just ready to be filled. We really miss Brora.

Finally we visited both Glenmorangie and Dalmore. It's my fourth trip to Glenmorangie and it is just a terrific place.



Their still room (left) is truly something to behold, cue heavenly music here... They have somehow fit in four more stills in the last year. They also have a wonderful visitor's center and tasting room. Seems that there is always a rare and tasty Glenmorangie on hand, Annette treats us well! Don't miss this one.

Dalmore has also greatly expanded their

visitor's area and have distillery only bottlings available for purchase. They also have one of the most unique still rooms in the industry, water jackets anyone? – Another must see. Richard Paterson caught up with us there and autographed bottling of their new Mackenzie bottle for everyone who purchased one! — *B. J. Reed*

Guest blog #4: Speyside Part 1 (Tormore, Glenlivet, and Aberlour)

JOHN HANSELL - APRIL 1ST, 2010



We had several great days in Speyside which everyone knows is the heart of whisky country. One day focused primarily on Chivas distilleries – Tormore, Glenlivet and Aberlour. Again our ambassador extraordinaire Ian provided on-site guidance. Tormore, like Scapa is not open to the public so it was a privilege to get to see it in person. (Gang on left.) If you've been through Speyside, you'll remember it as the distillery with the still-shaped topiaries out front. This whisky is hard to find since almost 100 percent goes to blends. The pot stills have purifiers and much has remained unchanged since it was built in 1958. Still, in can produce over 3 million liters when in full production. Ian took us on a walk up to the water source, The Achwockie Burn, where he generously warmed us with some cask-strength drams. Even if you don't get to experience a tour of Tormore, the burn is a place you must stop, although it's a bit of a jaunt behind the distillery.



Everyone knows The Glenlivet whisky. The visitor's center is gorgeous too with a signature floor to ceiling swirling DNA double-helix style cascade of whisky bottles! (See left.) The center has

expanded substantially in the past couple of years to include a wonderful self-guided tour of the history of what is arguably the first legal distillery in Scotland. The stillroom is unique with huge still with beautiful swan like lyne arms. Definitely worth the visit to where the most popular single malt in the US is lovingly made.

After a lovely lunch at the Mash Tun, we toured Aberlour, among the most beautiful distilleries in Scotland. Our guide on the tour was Dennis, who, we all realized, is a repressed comedian. He knows Aberlour inside and out, and

without a doubt provided the most entertaining tour of the trip. Getting to the tasting room was the highlight, here Dennis regaled us with jokes while sampling of several



Aberlour expressions. The tasting room is unique in that you basically taste in a sealed part of the bonded warehouse! Dennis noted the 18 YO to him was almost

orgasmic! You can bottle your own cask strength whisky (either sherry or bourbon oak) for 60 pounds! Many of us chose the bourbon since finding a bourbon cask strength Aberlour is nearly impossible. This would be a wonderful first tour for someone who had not been to Scotland before, gorgeous setting, unique whiskies to try and great guides along the way! (Gang on left.) — *B. J. Reed*

even a bit of the rare Kininvie single malt. As always, a tour of the warehouse with Ian is as close to nirvana as you can get. You walk in and stare at the huge Solera vats holding thousands of liters of 15 YO Glenfiddich. Climb the ladder and pull out a sample to taste, an incredible experience. That's when the fun begins: cask hunting! Glenfiddich casks, Balvenie casks everywhere from the 50s, the 60s, the 70s, well, you get the idea. This warehouse is like a cask museum, you'll see more rare and experimental types and shapes of casks than anywhere. Tasting from them is just heavenly, if a bit chilly. We also had the chance to purchase some of the last Port-aged Balvenie Rose. With only 426 bottles ever made available, it's almost gone. With the close proximity of the distilleries here and the quality of the tour and shop, this is a must-see.



Finally, we could not finish our description of the distilleries we visited without mentioning Tullibardine. This gem is actually located in a shopping center, at first glance you would think it

would be a disappointment but initial impressions are deceiving. Just like Highland Park, Aberlour and others, you can pick the type of tour you would like from basic to Tullibardine's "connoisseur level." Our guide and leader Gavin Cunningham (see left) makes sure you have a wonderful time. The shop is lovely and actually includes Starbuck's coffee!! The distillery was on a deathwatch for a number of years until a group of investors purchased the distillery in 2003 and began producing spirit again. It's a very traditional distillery with the mash tun, wash backs and stills all in close proximity to each other. Great for explaining the process to a group, as you can literally do a 360 turn and see everything! The shop itself has large numbers of Tullibardine vintages for sale that are very hard to get in the states. Finishes in Sauternes, Rum, and Sherry were all available as well as vintages dating back to 1964. The distillery also offers casks for sale. This is one we would absolutely recommend. — *B. J. Reed*

Guest blog #5: Speyside Part 2 (Glenfarclas, Glenfiddich, Balvenie, and Tullibardine)

JOHN HANSELL - APRIL 2ND, 2010

Highlights on this trip are hard to narrow down, but there is no doubt that Glenfarclas and Glenfiddich/Balvenie are



among our all-time favorites. Much of this has to do with George Grant and Ian Millar. Both are great ambassadors for their distilleries and the industry. Both have been to Omaha to do tastings even though we are a very small market in the grand scheme of things. Previously George and

Glenfarclas have hosted us for lunch; this time it was dinner in the industry's most beautiful tasting room. This is a must-see, right off the visitor's center shop and includes salvaged remnants from the ship The Empress of Australia, including beautiful wood paneling and restored chandeliers. The entire Family Cask Series is on display, dating from 1952 to 1994, the lucky few can sample the casks and pick your favorite. It's tough to find a more consistently tasty whisky of these rare vintages.

Touring Glenfiddich (left) with Ian Millar is unlike any other experience. His passion and knowledge about Glenfiddich, Balvenie, the industry as a whole are unparalleled. We got to sample expressions in the works including "Project Indiana" and

 **SCOTLAND** The Official Online Gateway
<http://www.scotland.org/>



A New Dawn for Scotch Whisky – April 2010-05-03

As Scotland gets ready to celebrate Whisky Month 2010, the country's industry has delivered a timely reminder that even something beautiful can be improved.

Record exports worth £3.13 billion have just been announced for Scotland's celebrated whiskies in 2009, but it is the country's new distilleries and producers that are making the headlines across the world. From new island whiskies to environmentally-friendly products, Scotland continues to guide the rest when it comes to the 'water of life.'

Hebridean renaissance

In the last two years, £500 million of expansion plans for the Scotch whisky industry have been lodged or passed. One of the most noteworthy developments was the production of the first bottle of whisky from the Isle of Lewis for 160 years.

Abhainn Dearg or Red River distillery is a new operation on Uig on the west of the island. Last month, the first two casks of the 'Spirit of Lewis' were drawn from the smallest still in the country. One went to a Glasgow pub, MacSorleys Bar, and sold out rapidly. The other was purchased by Alba Import, who launched it at the Limburg Fair in Germany earlier this month. The first 1000 bottles for private sale disappeared weeks ago. Already, plans for increased production are being made.

"The Outer Hebrides is a forgotten region, really. Hopefully we are back on the whisky map now," says Marko Tayburn, the man behind Abhainn Dearg. "We are bringing whisky back to its roots. This will be from the field to bottle, all from the Outer Hebrides. We have great water. We won't be shipping in barley from Denmark or Sweden, either. It will all come from Lewis."

Environmental spirit

While international collectors attempt to secure a rare Spirit of Lewis for their vaults, it won't be long before the first malt will be leaving the production line at the new Roseisle distillery, described as the 'greenest in the world'.

Twelve months ago, Diageo opened its £40 million operation in Speyside near the Moray Firth. It is the first whisky manufacturing plant to be constructed in Scotland for 30 years and provides a model for the production of the future. Waste heat from the distillation of renowned brands like Cardu and Caol Ila will be re-used in the maltings plant. Any liquid by-products are returned to water and the cycle begins anew.

Islay's new darling

Another celebrated region, Islay, continues to produce flavoursome whiskies from its peaty water. It is also capturing the attention of lovers of new varieties.

The tiny Kilchoman Distillery is a farm operation, built in 2005. It uses barley grown in the surrounding fields and the first 8300 bottles of single malt sold out in days. Matured in bourbon barrels, then finished in oloroso sherry butts, the Autumn 2009 release was equally successful. Last month, the third whisky left the premises, gathering excellent reviews along the way. US magazine *Malt Advocate* described Kilchoman as 'one of the most impressive new distilleries – anywhere!'

A smuggler's dream

At Portsoy, once a hotbed for smugglers, Glenglassaugh Distillery's return to activity has also produced award-winning new releases. In 1986, the operation fell silent but Glenglassaugh Distillery Company brought the operation back into production in 2008, spending £1 million refurbishing existing buildings and reviewing the maturing stock. Earlier this year, the Glenglassaugh 21 year old won a double gold medal at the San Francisco World Spirits competition, proving there is huge potential in this lesser known region and in Scotland, in general.

"I think Scotland continues to be seen as the benchmark," says Stuart Nickerson of Glenglassaugh Distillery. "In the main, distilleries appearing in other countries are being designed and constructed in Scotland using our expertise. One of the reasons is the history and the legacy of what has gone before and our adherence to quality standards in this country."

Scotch with ice

Whisky lovers with an eye for novelty and investment continue to find opportunity and interest in the Scottish market. A

bottle of the world's oldest single malt, a Mortlach 70 year old, was recently opened at Edinburgh Castle. At £385 a shot, whisky lovers sampled a true global vintage in an unrivalled location.

For anyone with £50,000 to spare, one bottle remains of a Springbank distilled in 1919. Three have been purchased by the World Whisky Index, which promotes whisky as a financial investment. Those with an eye for history will be watching Whyte & Mackay's attempts to recreate the whisky recently recovered from Ernest Shackleton's Antarctic hut. Two crates have been stuck in ice for a century in the expedition base at Cape Royds.

It is surely an indication of Shackleton's desperate situation, that he left such a precious haul at the South Pole.

For those eager to share in whisky's continuing success story, Whisky Month offers two fantastic festivals. The Spirit of Speyside Festival celebrates the region's mouth-watering malts with a splash of music and culture added. There is even the opportunity to learn the skills at The Whisky School. The Islay Festival of Music and Malt rounds off the month smoothly, with the Whisky Tasting Ceilidh a highlight of the event.

Review: Ardbeg Supernova (2010 Release)

JOHN HANSELL - MAY 21ST, 2010

Sorry to keep you waiting ... Ardbeg Supernova (2010 Release), 60.1%, \$130 Very dynamic, complex and powerful. Here's what I'm picking up, in somewhat descending order in taste profile: leafy smoke, coal tar, mocha fudge with dark chocolate chips, smoked olive, peppered seaweed salad, fruit (lemon, lime), *genever*, brine-tinged grass, and (with some coaxing) floral notes (violet?). Compared to last year's debut release of Supernova (the whisky with the lighter-colored label in the picture), this new one is certainly comparable, but I feel it's a tad richer, with more leafy smoke and ripe barley. It also seems a bit more polished, less aggressive. I like it a little more than its predecessor (which I rated an 89).
Advanced *Malt Advocate* magazine rating: 90



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 September 20th, 2010 dinner date as an example:

- Dinner invitations will be sent out Saturday August 28th, 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 Saturday September 4th, 2010 midnight.

Cancellation policy

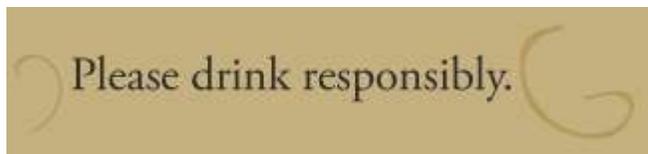
- Using the same example as above, anyone who cancels anytime prior to Saturday September 4th, 2010 midnight will be removed from the list.

- Anyone cancelling between Saturday September 4th, 2010 midnight and Monday September 20th, 2010 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 Monday September 20th, 2010 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 Saturday September 4th, 2010 midnight and Monday September 20th, 2010 your name will be placed on a wait-list and you will be accommodated on a first-come first-serve basis.

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.

Upcoming Dinner dates for KSMS

July 19, 2010 – International
Thursday August 26, 2010 – 3rd Annual Premium Night
September 20, 2010 - Campbelltown / Lowland
October 18, 2010 – Speyside
November 15, 2010 – Speyside
December 13, 2010 - Speyside / Highland
January 24, 2011 – Isle of Arran - Robbie Burns
February 14, 2011 – Highland / Island – Valentine's
March 21, 2011 - St.Patrick's (Irish)
April 18, 2011 – Island / Islay
May 16, 2011 – Islay
June 20, 2011 - BBQ (Final Exam)
July 18, 2011– International
Thursday August 25, 2011 – 4th Annual Premium Night

I would like to thank you all for what has been a very eventful and hopefully what you would agree a great year. I hope you have a great summer and I look forward to seeing you all back this Fall !!

... with apologies to the Doors I send you off to the lovely season of Summer with a few lines from the "Alabama Song (Whiskey Bar)"

Well, show me the way
To the next whiskey bar
Oh, don't ask why
Oh, don't ask why
Show me the way
To the next whiskey bar
Oh, don't ask why
Oh, don't ask why
For if we don't find
The next whiskey bar
I tell you we must die
I tell you we must die
I tell you, I tell you
I tell you we must die

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



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