

2004

January

Last dram from the bottle of **Speyside 1981 – 21 y.o. Port-matured**; Waitrose at Astrid, Zoetermeer (lasted 1 week)

Drams of **Caol Ila Cask Strength** and **Highland Park 18 y.o.** at Rob & Wilma, Zoetermeer

Opened a bottle of **Milford 1990 – 12 y.o.** (malty, very dry) at home; thanks to Mat for bringing it back from New Zealand!



Dram of **45 South** (feinty, harsh, yuck!) at home

Dram of **George T Stagg 2002 bottling** (creamy vanilla, citrus, intense, luscious, velvety, tobacco leaves, touch of wood; the best bourbon I've tasted so far?) at home, sample from Jay Stotzky

Last dram from the bottle of **18 Carat** (lasted 6 months)

Dram of **Ardbeg 10 y.o. Bond Reserve; Cadenhead** (butter, peat, slight rubber, "snoepjes") at home, sample from Jay Stotzky

Last dram from the bottle of **Cragganmore 1985 – 15 y.o. Distillers Edition** (lasted 2 years and 9 months)

Burns Night at home with Donald and James & Sally. Haggis with neeps 'n' tatties, skirlie and Scotch Mist



527 whiskies, of which 411 single malts (10 new-make and 48 cask samples) plus 14 'edge of whisky' spirits, 6 whisky liqueurs and 1 whisky-fortified wine

February



Dram of **Penderyn** (fragrant nose, toffee, vanilla, fructose-fruitiness, whiff of leather; palate with more fruit (apples, lemons)) at home; pre-release sample from the distillery. The first Welsh-distilled whisky in over a century!

Dram of **Monster; Compass Box** (creamy peat on the nose; drier peat in the palate) at home, sample from Tom Little

Dram of **Connemara 12 y.o.** (fruit basket, creamy vanilla ("vanillevla"!), subdued dry peat) at home, sample from Johanna Ngoh

Opened a bottle of **Rosebank 12 y.o.** (light, grassy, subtly complex, dryish finish) at home

Opened a bottle of **Burn of Speyside 6 y.o. Bourbon re-fill** (very buttery nose, spicy) at home

Visit by 'Belg & Blondje' and Wouter *had* to taste Cú Dhub



Opened a bottle of **Glenmorangie 12 y.o. Golden Rum Finish** (fresh, brittle, fruity and sweet like "schuimpjes") at home

Opened a bottle of **Lot 40** (rye, vanilla, gets darker and drier, quite full-bodied for a Canadian) at home

Opened bottles of **Old Potrero 2 y.o. Single Malt Whiskey** (minty, spicy, whiff of fruits covered with icing sugar, clear wood, oily, dry finish) and **Old Potrero 3 y.o. Straight Rye Whiskey** (minty, peppery, hints of vanilla, touch of citrus-like acidity, less wood than 2 y.o., luscious and oily body) at home

533 whiskies, of which 415 single malts (10 new-make and 48 cask samples) plus 14 'edge of whisky' spirits, 6 whisky liqueurs and 1 whisky-fortified wine

March

Whisky etc.

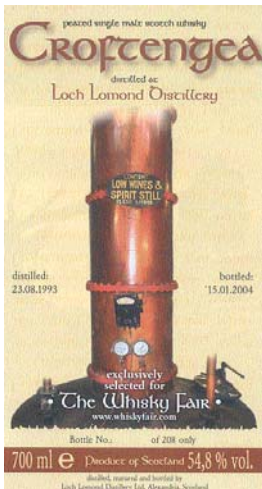
MAGAZINE OVER PROEVEN, REIZEN & GENIETEN

First 2 articles published! And €1000 richer

At WM Live, London, tasted **Lochside 1962 – 31 y.o.**; **Cadenhead** (intense, fruit, vanilla, soft), **Edradour 10 y.o. (new dumpy bottle)** (dry, nutty, sherry, spicy), **Edradour 10 y.o. Unchillfiltered** (sweeter and lighter than standard 10 y.o.; more complex), **Edradour 10 y.o. Port Finish**, **Edradour 10 y.o. Burgundy Finish**, **Edradour 1983 – 21 y.o. Port Finish Cask Strength**, **Edradour 1973 – 30 y.o. Cask Strength**, **Laphroaig 1992 Port Finish**; **Signatory** (wonderful peat, but where's the port?), **Port Ellen 24 y.o. Burgundy Finish**; **Signatory**, **Ballechin new-make** (clear peat and good balance with 'new-make' notes), **Ballechin 9 m.o. cask sample - Burgundy cask**, **Smokey Peaty One**; **Easy Drinking Whisky Company** (quite subdued peat), **Glencadnam 1977 – 25 y.o.**; **Samaroli** (light fruits (lichees?)), **Yoichi 10 y.o.** (dry, light fruit, spicy), **J Isle of Jura 1984 – 19 y.o.** (leather, rubber, dry), **Edradour cask sample 1 y.o.**, **Tokaj cask** (thick honey-sweetness; has developed a lot compared to last year), **Edradour 1993 - 10 y.o. cask sample - Sauternes finish** (good balance whisky-sauternes), **Aberfeldy 25 y.o.** (biscuits), **Aberlour 1966 – 30 y.o.**, **Arran 1995 – 8 y.o. 'First Distillation'** (fruits, malt, biscuits), **Arran 1997 Sherry cask**, **Dalmore 1973 – 30 y.o. Gonzalez Byass** (marmelade, rich, velvety), **Glencadam 1989 – 13 y.o.**; **Cadenhead**, **Jnvergordon 13 y.o.**; **Cadenhead**, **Deanston 25 y.o.**; **Cadenhead**, **North British 21 y.o.**; **Cadenhead**, **Dailuaine 1966 – 31 y.o.**; **Cadenhead**, **Bowmore 18 y.o. cask sample – bourbon cask**, **Bowmore 3 y.o. cask sample – sherry cask**, **Octomore new-make, 2nd batch @ 124 ppm** (ultimate peat blast!), **Bruichladdich 14 y.o. Cairdean** (fresh, fruity, biscuity), **Yoichi 15 y.o.** (more complex than the 10 y.o., sweet nose, very dry finish), **Ballechin 9 m.o. cask sample – port cask**,



Balvenie 21 y.o. Port wood, **Glennfiddich 1972 – 30 y.o. Vintage Reserve**,
 Girvan 1964 – 37 y.o. (vanilla, nail varnish, spicy, bourbon), **Glennfiddich**
40 y.o. (white chocolate, whiff of smoke, very fresh despite the 40 years),
Balvenie 30 y.o. (acid sweets, pine-apple, beautiful balance),
Invergordon 36 y.o., **Duncan Taylor**, **Glenn Moray 13 y.o. New oak**
 (remarkably fruity), **Ardbeg Uigeadail**, **Ardbeg 1993 – 10 y.o.**, **Douglas**
Laing, **Port Ellen 1982 – 21 y.o.**, **Douglas Laing** (very rubbery nose;
 palate better), **Laphroaig 1987 – 16 y.o.**, **Douglas Laing** and **Brora 1982**
– 21 y.o., **Douglas Laing**



Opened a bottle of **Croftengea 1993 – 10 y.o.**, **Limburg Whisky Fair** (peat blast, cardboard, quite dry) at home; thanks to Theo Metzger for reserving a bottle for me!

Dram of **Ladyburn 8 y.o. Pure Malt** (light leather, dry, rather non-descript) at home, sample from Serge Valentin

Dram of **Ben Nevis 1991 Raw Cask**, **Blackadder** (fat-creamy nose, some fruit, solid body, dry-ish finish) at home, sample from Jay Stotzky

Dram of **Glenn Grant 1976 – 25 y.o. '25th Anniversary Kirsch Import'**, **Signatory** (sherry, nutty, raisins, dry finish) at home, sample from Heiko Grusdat

Game of Shot Glass Chess 'with a twist'. Pawn = **Rosebank 12 y.o. Flora & Fauna**; Knight = **Ben Nevis 10 y.o.**; Bishop = **'Buxrud'-Macallan**; Rook = **Lagavulin 12 y.o. Cask Strength**; Queen = **Orangerie**; King = **Old Man of Hoy 12 y.o.**; **Blackadder**. And here's the game score:



1. e4 c5, 2. c3 Nf6, 3. e5 Nd5, 4. d4 xd4, 5. Qxd4 e6, 6. Nf3 Nc6, 7. Qe4 d6, 8. Nd2 xe5, 9. Nxe5 Nf6, 10. Qa4 Bd7, 11. Nxd7 Qxd7, 12. Bb5, Rc8, 13. Ne4 Nxe4, 14. Qxe4 a6, 15. Be2 Be7, 16. Bf4 0-0, 17. Rd1 Qe8, 18. Bd3 g6, 19. Bh6 f5, 20. Qxe6+ Rf7, 21. Bc4 Ne5, 22. Bd5 Bc5, 23. 0-0 Qxe6, 24. Bxe6 Re8, 25. Bd5 Re7, 26. Bg5 Re8, 27. Bf4 Kg7, 28. Bxe5+ Rxe5, 29. Bxf7 Kxf7, 30. Rd7+ Re7, 31. Rd1 Kf6, 32. Kf1 h6, 33. f3 b6, 34. b4 Rxd7, 35. Rxd7 Be7, 36.

Ra7 Ke6, 37. a4 Kd6, 38. a5 xa5, 39. Rxa6+ Kd5, 40. xa5 Bd6, 41. Ke2, Kc5, 42. g3 h5, 43. f4 Kd5, 44. Ra7 Kc4, 45. a6 Kxc3, 46. Rd7 Ba3, 47. a7 g5, 48. a8Q Bc1, 49. Qc8+ Kb2, 50. Rb7+ Ka2, 51. Qa8+ Ba3, 52. Qa4 g4, 53. Qb3+ Ka1, 54. Qxa3±

Drams of **Van Winkle Family Reserve Rye 1985** (rich-creamy-minty nose, soft, bitter-dry finish) and **Heaven Hill 15 y.o., Cadenhead** (luscious nose, palate a bit shallow and thin) at home, both samples from Jay Stotzky

Dram of a corked **Connemara** (something seriously wrong: soggy cardboard, mouldy rind of blue cheese) at home, sample from Joshua McGee

Dram of **Jslay 9 y.o., Cadenhead** (butter and peat! hint of sweetness, touch of dry wood) at home, sample from Johanna Ngoh

Dram of **Highland Park 8 y.o., Gordon & MacPhail** (whiff of smoke, whiff of heather, whiff of honey, whiff of malt: a young light HP) at home

Opened a bottle of **St George Lot 3** (richer fuller body than first bottling, more malt, fructose toned down, subtle incense-like sweet smokiness) at home, bottle courtesy of Lance Winters

Dram of **Knappogue Castle 1992** (nose of fruits and light toffee developing towards drier somewhat spicy finish) at home



Last dram from the bottle of 'Buxrud'-**Macallan** (lasted 1 year and 11 months) in celebration of Jos' birthday. As the oldest whisky in the bottle is from 1942, the year she was born, and the youngest from 2002, the year she died,

Dram of **Kilbeggan** (very light, bit grainy, light toffee) at home

583 whiskies, of which 455 single malts (12 new-make and 54 cask samples) plus 14 'edge of whisky' spirits, 6 whisky liqueurs and 1 whisky-fortified wine

April

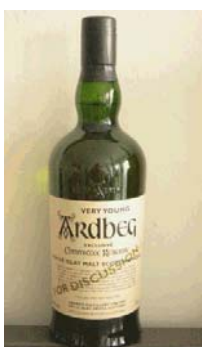
Dram of **Bowmore Surf** at James & Sally, North Ascot

Dram of **Stronachie 12 y.o.** (full-bodied, baked apples, burnt sugar, whiff of butter, drying towards finish) at home, sample from A.D. Rattray

Opened a bottle of **18 Carat** at home, pressie from Emile for mentioning him and the Orkney Wine Company in *Whisky etc.*

Dram of **Burn of Speyside 6 y.o. Sherry re-fill** (not as soft as bourbon re-fill, but slightly fuller, more fruity nose, very faint sherry echo, drier finish) at home, sample from Van Wees

Opened a bottle of **Cigar Spirit** (woody/leathery, creamy custard, hint of fruit, slightly drying finish) at home, bottle courtesy of Oswald Weidenauer. My first whisky from another wood than oak!



Opened a bottle of **Very Young Ardbeg** (soft peat, bananas, youthful in a positive way) at home

Opened bottles of **Aleksandrs** (nose of cinnamon, nutmeg and cloves, very light) and **LB** (light, grainy, spicity, creamy kind of sweetness) at home; thanks to Marion for bringing them back from Latvia!

Opened a sample bottle of **Octomore new-make** at home; sample bottle courtesy of Bruichladdich distillery

Whisky collection & whisky library 10 years on



589 whiskies, of which 457 single malts (12 new-make and 54 cask samples) plus 14 'edge of whisky' spirits, 6 whisky liqueurs and 1 whisky-fortified wine

May



Opened a bottle of **Old Havana** (oddly sweetish, like watered-down cheap rum) at home; finally managed to get my hands on the infamous Castro GTX

Opened bottles of **Old Family** (creamy nose, vanilla, custard; palate rougher, granier; dryish bitter finish) and **Dark Whisky** (nose with subtle fruity notes, extremely light palate and finish) at home

Dram of **Big Jim** (harsh spirit underneath very chemical fruitiness) at home

Opened bottles of **Three Ships** (quite decent blend, soft leather on the nose, some graininess, bit rough), **Three Ships 5 y.o.** (peaty nose, much fuller and rounder than standard TS) and **Three Ships 10 y.o.** (lots of fresh fruit, quite full and soft, malt shining through) at "Prezzo", Dorking, during a lunch meeting with Dave Hughes, who brought them over from South Africa



Drams of **Lochruan 12 y.o.** (quite woody and dry) and **Ardnave 12 y.o.** (bananas, vanilla, some peat, quite dry) at Breg & Erik, London

Opened a bottle of **Printer's** (very light, fudgy sweetness) plus drams of **Halberd** (quite spirity nose, vague pickled gherkins; palate quite light, sweetish, caramel-fudge, hint of malt), **Hill's** (sweetshop nose, palate lacks any whisky notes, but has nauseating soapy-sweetness), **Kohut** (very buttery nose; soft and rounded; Werther's Original-like toffee-ish notes) and **King Barleycorn** (fresh sea breeze nose, palate dominated by 'salty' notes) at home

Opened a bottle of **Jack & Jill** (extremely light, spicity nose, vague hint of fructose-sweetness) at home; thanks to Rado Klemencic for sending it over from Slovenia!

Dram of **Brora 30 y.o. 'Brorageddon'; Douglas Laing** (fat, thick, smoke, peat, hint of mint, touch of heavy-sweet fruit) at home, sample from Jay Stotzky

Drams of **Jameson** and **Bowmore 15 y.o.** (medium peat, traces of soapiness?) at Lena's promotion party, Uppsala



Tour of Mackmyra distillery; drams of **Mackmyra 'Elegant' new-make** (very sweet and fruity), **Mackmyra 'Smoked' new-make** (medium peat, crispy aromatic rosemary-like notes (juniper twigs?)), **Mackmyra 'Elegant' 1 y.o. cask sample – Jack Daniel cask** (sweet, vanilla), **Mackmyra 'Elegant' 1 y.o. cask sample – sherry cask** (sweet and heavy fruits)

and **Mackmyra 'Elegant' 1 y.o. cask sample – Swedish oak cask** (leathery, tannins, earthy). Blind tasting of **Auchentoshan 10 y.o.**, **Bushmills 16 y.o. Three Woods**, **Yamazaki 12 y.o.** (glue, varnish, touch of smoke, fruits, dry-ish), **Talisker 10 y.o.** (what happened to the big peat??) and **Laphroaig 15 y.o.**

610 whiskies, of which 468 single malts (14 new-make and 57 cask samples) plus 15 'edge of whisky' spirits, 6 whisky liqueurs and 1 whisky-fortified wine

June

Drams of **Bowmore 1968 – 34 y.o.**, **Hart Brothers** (nose with smoke and wood, hints of blackcurrant and vanilla; palate rather flat) and **Talisker 1990 – 12 y.o.**, **Hart Brothers** (overwhelming rubber with smokiness struggling to break through) at home, samples from Rob Stevens

Dram of **Jsle of Jura 36 y.o.** (thick dark chocolate, creamy vanilla, cocoa, dryish finish) at home, sample from Serge Valentin

Last dram from the bottle of **Jsle of Jura Superstition** (lasted 1 year and 1 month)

Dram of **Bladnoch 1992 – 10 y.o., James McArthur** (fruity, wine-gums, touch of malt) at home, sample from Rob Stevens



Dram of **Strathisla 1948 & 1961 – 20 y.o. 'Charles & Diana'; Gordon & MacPhail** (fresh, "zuurtjes", woody-dry finish) at home, sample from Heiko Grusdat



Last dram from the bottle of **Eddu** (lasted 1 year and 4 months)

Box of single malt whisky-truffles from Charlotte Barker for 'being such a great supervisor'!

Dram of **Linkwood 14 y.o., Cadenhead** (whiff of leather on the nose, palate with sweetness, quite full body) at home, sample was part of Cadenhead's 2003 Nosing Challenge

Dram of **Brora 1982 – 20 y.o., Signatory** (soft creamy peat, whiff of wood, oily) at home, sample from Serge Valentin

617 whiskies, of which 475 single malts (14 new-make and 57 cask samples) plus 15 'edge of whisky' spirits, 6 whisky liqueurs and 1 whisky-fortified wine

July

Dram of **Aberlour 15 y.o., Cadenhead** (acid fruits, whiff of vanilla) at home, sample was part of Cadenhead's 2003 Nosing Challenge

Opened sample bottles of **Blaue Maus 1995 – 6 y.o. (6/95-5/02)** (leathery-woody nose, dusty, sweetish at first, but drying quickly), **Blaue**

Maus 1986 – 16 y.o. (5/86-5/02) (sweet in an anaesthetic way, dry-ish finish), **Krottentaler 1994 – 7 y.o. (6/94-5/02)** ('wet dog' nose, soft and light, trace of wood), **Schwarzer Pirat 1994 – 7 y.o. (7/94-5/02)** (light cocos, sweet-woody), **Spinnaker 1990 – 11 y.o. (9/90-5/02)** (fresh, rye-bourbon, vanilla, gherkins, drying finish), **Spinnaker 1990 – 11 y.o. (7/90-5/02)** (darker bourbon than the other Spinnaker, more gherkins, oily-syrupy body, dry-finish) and **Blaue Maus new-make** (typical heavy washy taste), sample bottles courtesy of Robert Fleischmann



Dram of **Ben Nevis 15 y.o., Cadenhead** (light, fresh, spikes of 'pine-apple cubes') at home, sample was part of Cadenhead's 2003 Nosing Challenge



Opened a bottle of **Penderyn** at home during Mat & Mary's good-bye dinner & whisky tasting. Plus a dram of **Lagavulin 16 y.o.** from the bottle Mat brought

Dram of **Talisker 1988 – 8 y.o., Milroys** (medicinal, peat, cardboard, quite light, short finish) at home; sample from Serge Valentin

Last dram from the bottle of **St George** (lasted 2 years and 6 months) raised to the memory of Jos on her cremation day



Dram of **Jona** (very rubbery nose, light sandy-peaty, touch of sweetness; quite thin body) at home; sample from Åke Johansson

Drams of **Hazelburn 1997 cask sample – fresh bourbon cask** (light fruits, touch of vanilla, very subtle) and **Octomore 7 m.o. cask sample (16/10/02-5/6/03)** (chewy ashy peat from nose to finish) at home, samples from Carsten Ehrlich

Dram of **Alenmorangie 12 y.o. Golden Rum Finish** at James & Sally, North Ascot

Opened a bottle of **Barrilete** (cookie-dough, sweetish, spirty, thin) at home; thanks to Rob de Bakker for bringing it back from Brazil!



Dram of **“George Washington’s Rye Whiskey”** (fresh, clearly fruity, young, supple, touch of woodiness, slightly oily) at home; sample courtesy of Dennis Pogue / Mt Vernon

632 whiskies, of which 488 single malts (15 new-make and 59 cask samples) plus 15 ‘edge of whisky’ spirits, 6 whisky liqueurs and 1 whisky-fortified wine

August

Opened sample bottles of **Ballechin 2003 cask sample – refill sherry cask** (perfume, little trace of sherry, but plenty of peat!), **Ballechin 2003 cask sample – burgundy cask** (peat, earthy, butter, fruits) and **Ballechin 2003 cask sample – port cask** (peat and sweetness, luscious, velvety mouthfeel) at home; sample bottles courtesy of Andrew Symington

Drams of **Oban 14 y.o.** and **Speyside 1981 – 21 y.o. Port-matured**; Waitrose at Meirion & Anne, Camberley

Dram of **Amrut** (quite soft and light, creamy, some fruit, dry-ing finish with a touch of leather; a decent Speysider) at home. I was officially invited to attend the UK launch of Amrut; but, unfortunately, it was in Glasgow during the week



Dram of **Bunnahabhain Mòine** (very peaty, touch of cream on the nose, (hazel?)nuts, very dry finish) at home; sample from Johanna Ngoh, taken from her bottle before 'muling' it on

637 whiskies, of which 493 single malts (15 new-make and 62 cask samples) plus 15 'edge of whisky' spirits, 6 whisky liqueurs and 1 whisky-fortified wine

September



Invited to become a Malt Maniac!

Drams of **Arran 1995 – 0 y.o.** (feinty-leathery, touch of sweetness) and **Arran 1996 – 1 y.o.** (not much under the alcohol, quite dry) at home

Last dram from the sample bottle of **Glencraig 1981 – 21 y.o.**;
Cadenhead (lasted 10 months)

Opened a bottle of **Grüner Hund 1992 – 11 y.o. (8/92-7/04)** (woody nose, sweet and woody notes on the palate, bone-dry woody finish) at home; bottle courtesy of Robert Fleischmann

Last dram from the bottle of **Old Comber** (lasted 7 years). As this will almost surely be the last time in my life I taste this liquid piece of whiskey history, some goodbye tasting notes: rye-like nose, sometimes with 'bastogne-koeken', turning drier and a tad woody towards the finish

Last dram from the bottle of **House of Commons 12 y.o.** (lasted 4 years and 9 months)

Last dram from the bottle of **The Bleach** (lasted 11 months)

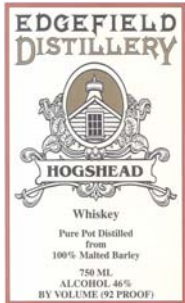
Last dram from the bottle of **Orangerie** (lasted 1 year and 5 months)

Opened a bottle of **Cougar 5 y.o.** (vanilla and some citric acidity; light and inoffensive) at home; thanks to Meirion for bringing it back from Australia!



Last dram from the bottle of **McCarthy's** (lasted 2 years and 8 months)

Last dram from the bottle of **McKendric** (lasted 2 years and 5 months)



Opened sample bottles of **Hogshead** (soft vanilla, light chocolate, very light, drying towards finish), **Edgefield malt 1999 – 3 y.o. cask sample – bourbon cask** (more vanilla, more chocolate, liquorice root, dry finish) and **Edgefield rye 2000 – 2 y.o. cask sample** (light vanilla, very faint rye, extremely light) at home; sample bottles courtesy of Lee Medoff / Edgefield distillery

Dram of **Unibroue 18 m.o. cask sample – bourbon cask** (thick-sweet nose, oranges, model paint, vanilla, buttery, velvety-soft body, soapy finish, slight touch of wood) at home; sample from Johanna Ngoh

Opened a sample bottle of **Alen Breton – 3rd release** (leathery nose, slightly fruity, chocolate, dark liqueur-filled chocolate, quite light, drier leathery finish) at home; sample bottle from Davin de Kergommaux

Drams of **Stranahan's 3 m.o. cask sample** (rich brandy-butter from nose to finish) and **Stranahan's 6 m.o. cask sample** (butter, forest fruit yoghurt, faintest touches of wood) at home; samples courtesy of Jess Graber

648 whiskies, of which 502 single malts (15 new-make and 68 cask samples) plus 15 'edge of whisky' spirits, 6 whisky liqueurs and 1 whisky-fortified wine

October



Dram of **Lochindaal 10 y.o.** (thin, whiff of vanilla, slightly bitter) at home; sample from Johannes van den Heuvel

Opened bottles of **Murree's 8 y.o. Malt Whisky Classic** (slightly rancid butter, light, malty, slightest touch of wood late in finish) and **Murree's 12 y.o. Millennium Reserve** (wood polish, oily, soft, oddly

sweetish, very un-whisky-like) at home

Last dram from the sample bottle of **Spinnaker 1990 – 11 y.o.** (7/90-5/02) (lasted 3 months)

Opened a bottle of **Tyrconnell** (nose with boiled sweets, soft-sweet palate, bananas, giving way to malty notes and dry finish) at home; bottle courtesy of Cooley for the mega-Irish malt tasting in “Malt Maniacs”

Opened a bottle of **Glennfiddich 15 y.o. Cask Strength** (medium-bodied, malty, some vanilla, whiff of peat??) at home

Opened a bottle of **Ambiente** (like a Tyrconnell but lighter in every aspect) at home

Dram of **Merrys** (rich buttery nose, malty, slightly sweetish, fudge, cream coffee, dry finish) at home; sample courtesy of R.A. Merry & Co. for the mega-Irish malt tasting in “Malt Maniacs”



Opened a bottle of **Locke's 8 y.o.** (whiff of mature cheese, toffee, vanilla, malt, tobacco leaves?, subtle fruity notes, very light peat, crisp dry finish) at home; bottle courtesy of Cooley for the mega-Irish malt tasting in “Malt Maniacs”

Opened a sample bottle of **Smooth Sweeter One; Easy Drinking Whisky Company** (tart apples, raspberry?, vanilla, cream, sweet-malty notes, dry finish) at home; sample bottle courtesy of EDWC for the mega-Irish malt tasting in “Malt Maniacs”

Opened a bottle of **Irish 10 y.o.; Signatory** (musty fruit, apples, light vanilla, sweetish) at home; bottle courtesy of Andrew Symington for the mega-Irish malt tasting in “Malt Maniacs”

Opened sample bottles of **Magilligan 5 y.o. 'Pure Pot Still'** (light malty nose, touch of fruit, fresh, bit grainy? biscuits, custard, finish first wine-gummy, then drier) and **Magilligan 1991 Sherry Finish** (nutty, touch of rubber, fruit in the background, vanilla, dark chocolate, quite full-bodied,

oily mouthfeel) at home; sample bottles courtesy of MacLeod for the mega-Irish malt tasting in "Malt Maniacs"

Opened bottles of **Sainsbury's Irish Single Malt** (smells like water, very very light, faintest touches of fruit and malt, slightly bitter-dry finish) and **Waitrose Irish Single Malt** (touch of rubber on the nose, some fruit, vanilla? not as light as Sainsbury's, more bitter-dry finish; unappealing) at home

Dram of **Connemara** at home

660 whiskies, of which 514 single malts (15 new-make and 68 cask samples) plus 15 'edge of whisky' spirits, 6 whisky liqueurs and 1 whisky-fortified wine

November

Opened a bottle of **Connemara 12 y.o.** (nose with creamy fruits (durian??) and soft peat, peat gets stronger in the palate; more complexity than the n.a.s.) at home; bottle courtesy of Cooley for the mega-Irish malt tasting in "Malt Maniacs"



Dram of **All Malt** (full-soft malty, touch of cream, slightly dry finish) at home

Dram of **Connemara Cask Strength, 2nd release** (fruit and smoke combined, apples, some vanilla, oily, dry-woody notes in finish) at home; sample from Johannes van den Heuvel

Opened a bottle of **Great Outback Single Malt** (chipolata pudding, rum-raisins, toffee, advokaat, quite light, touch of wood near the end) at home

Opened a sample bottle of **Cooley 1992 – 12 y.o., Cadenhead** (peat, kippers, biscuity malt, faint vanilla, fruits, oily, dry finish) at home; sample bottle courtesy of Cadenhead for the mega-Irish malt tasting in "Malt Maniacs"

Opened a bottle of **Shanagarry** (fruity, sweetish, dusty, vanilla, touch of malt, pretty light) at home; bottle from Serge Valentin for the mega-Irish malt tasting in "Malt Maniacs"

Opened a sample bottle of **Magilligan 8 y.o. 'Peated'** (fruity nose with the slightest hints of peat, some malt, peat stronger and fruit weaker in palate) at home; sample bottle courtesy of MacLeod for the mega-Irish malt tasting in "Malt Maniacs"

Opened sample bottles of **Clonmel 'Unpeated'** (green apples, sour fruits, boiled sweets, drier malty palate) and **Clonmel 8 y.o. 'Peated'** (soft peat and fruits mixed, some vanilla, peat stronger in palate) at home; sample bottles courtesy of Jean Donnay for the mega-Irish malt tasting in "Malt Maniacs"

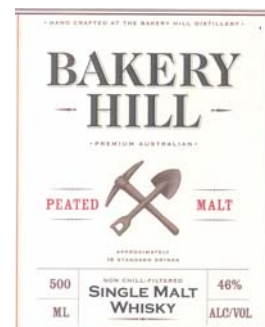
667 whiskies, of which 520 single malts (15 new-make and 68 cask samples) plus 15 'edge of whisky' spirits, 6 whisky liqueurs and 1 whisky-fortified wine

December

Dram of **Irish 12 y.o.; James MacArthur** (creamy soft-smoky nose, palate with fruits (dried apples) and toffee, liquorice root, very dry smoky finish) at home; sample courtesy of James MacArthur for the mega-Irish malt tasting in "Malt Maniacs"

Opened a bottle of **Slieve na gCloc** (apples, hint of peat, vanilla, boiled sweets, peat becomes more prominent on palate, dry finish, thinner than Connemara) at home

Opened sample bottles of **Bakery Hill 'Classic Malt'** (malty, slightest touch of leather, custard, drying finish with leather coming back), **Bakery Hill 'Double Wood'** (as the previous expression, but with a layer of fruitiness making it softer and gentler) and **Bakery Hill 'Peated Malt'** (buttery nose with soft light peat, palate more peaty but without the peat becoming



overwhelming, spikes of vanilla poking through, dry finish) at home; sample bottles courtesy of David Baker / Bakery Hill distillery

Dram of **Bushmills 10 y.o.** at home; sample courtesy of Bushmills for the mega-Irish malt tasting in "Malt Maniacs"

Dram of **Bushmills 16 y.o.** at home; sample courtesy of Bushmills for the mega-Irish malt tasting in "Malt Maniacs"

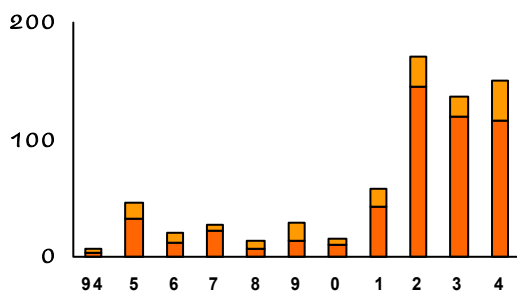
Dram of **Bushmills 21 y.o.** (cookies, wine, tightly complex, faint whiff of peat smoke?? dry finish) at home; sample courtesy of Bushmills for the mega-Irish malt tasting in "Malt Maniacs"

Opened a bottle of **Laphroaig Cask Strength** (Xmas pressie from Meirion & Anne) and dram of **Macallan 10 y.o.** at Meirion & Anne, Camberley

Drams of **Highland Park 12 y.o.** and **Highland Park 18 y.o.** at James & Sally, North Ascot

673 whiskies, of which 526 single malts (15 new-make and 68 cask samples) plus 15 'edge of whisky' spirits, 6 whisky liqueurs and 1 whisky-fortified wine

Whisky Life List
yearly additions



Whisky Life List
cumulative

