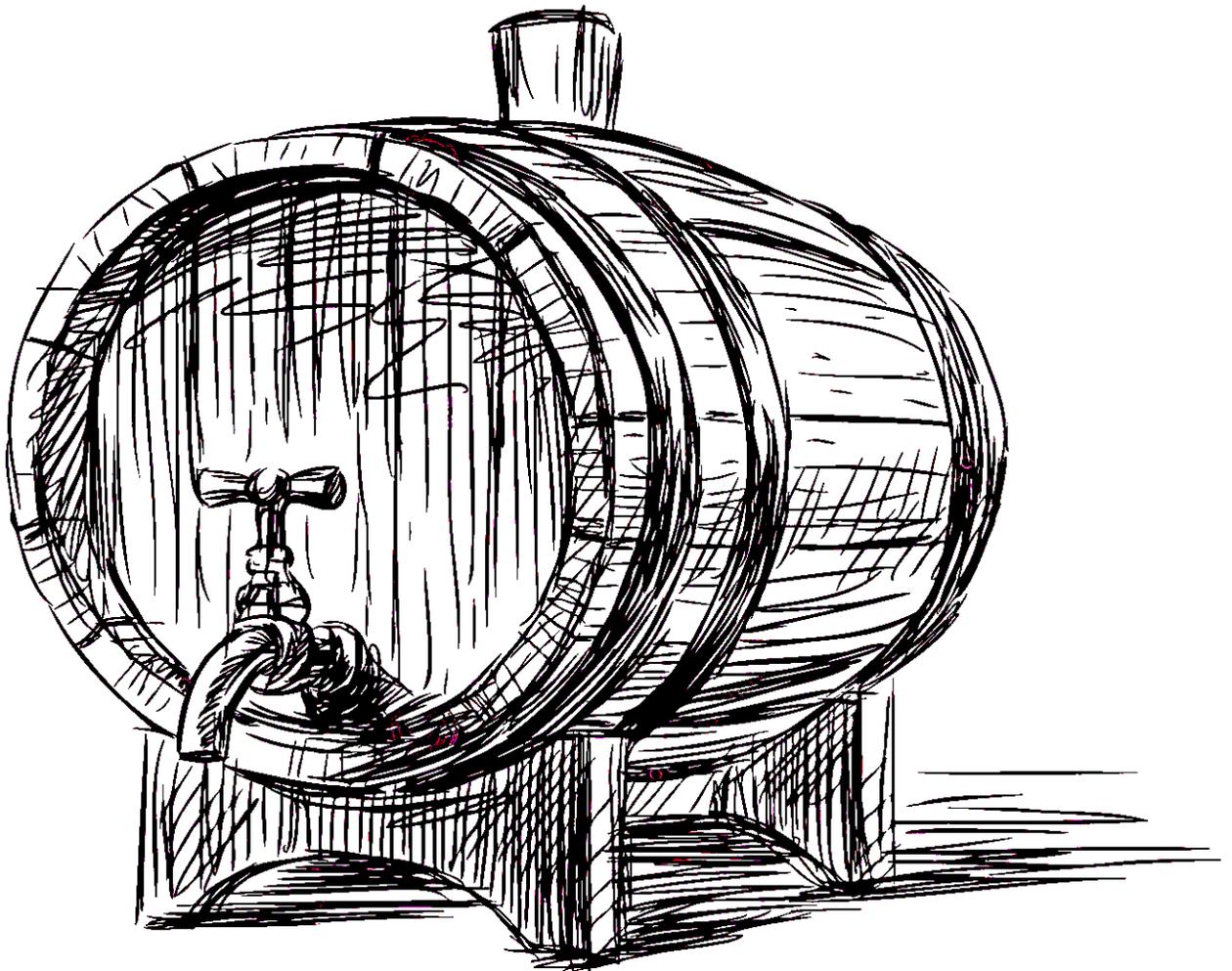


# WHISKY

## LAIRD'S AT ARDOE



*Welcome to Ardoe House Hotel, and more importantly, to the wonderful world of whisky!*

*The main whisky regions of Scotland are Campbeltown, Islay, Lowlands, Highlands, Speyside and the Islands. Each of these individual regional groups do to some extent produce many whiskies which are characteristic to their region in terms of their fundamental flavours, although there are certainly a few exceptions such as heavily peated Speyside malts.*

*The final flavour of a whisky is determined more by the unique equipment and methods used by each individual distillery to produce each whisky rather than by the geographical location of where the whisky is produced.*

*I have endeavoured to select malts which represent every region's unique characteristics, with some old favourites and some exciting variations that I've discovered along the way.*

*Most of my personal favourites lie in the smoky, peated Islay region, however when I tried some of the heavily sherried Speyside malts, I could not help but fall in love with them. Just when you think you've found the best, Scotland gives you a nudge to say 'you're not finished yet.'*

*I wanted to share some of my personal highlights from our selection with you, I have circled them throughout the menu as a guide for you to sample some of the best that Scotland has to offer, and my own favourites.*

*My bar team are here to assist you in your selection and will be more than happy to make some recommendations and provide guidance. Whisky depends on your own individual taste, drink whichever you wish, however you wish, there's no right or wrong way.*

*Slainte!*

*Sam Pitt, Bars Manager*

# S P E Y S I D E

*For many whisky enthusiasts, Malt Whisky is most closely associated with Speyside, but in truth this is only half the story. The strength of the association, however, can be seen from the many distilleries which, although not situated beside the River Spey, make allegiance with it when stating their provenance. It all goes to show how over the last two centuries 'Speyside' has meant high quality and today the truth of that statement has not diminished at all.*

*There is a 'Golden Triangle' that stretches from Elgin over towards Banff and down to the cradle of distilling on Speyside - Dufftown. In this triangle lies the greatest concentration of malt whisky making apparatus in the world, and to savour the atmosphere here is to realise how important and how dearly distilling is held in the Highlands of Scotland. Speyside Whiskies are generally noted for their elegance and complexity often with a hint of stylish smokiness.*

## **ABERLOUR A'BUNADH**

*Aberlour's sherry monster has become so popular it's now released every few months. There's a good reason for this: it's delicious. If you like heavily sherried Speysides, this represents very good value for money, especially considering it's bottled at a hefty 59.8%*

**6 POUNDS**

## **BALVENIE DOUBLEWOOD 12**

*Aged in ex-bourbon casks before being finished in sherry casks, Double Wood is an excellent example of what the Balvenie distillery can craft, even at 12 years.*

**6 POUNDS**

## **BENROMACH 10**

*The newly released 10-year-old from Gordon and MacPhail's Benromach distillery. This was matured for the first nine years in 4/5 bourbon and 1/5 sherry casks before a year in sherry casks.*

**5 POUNDS**

### **BENROMACH ORGANIC**

*Benromach Organic is the first Soil Association Certified Organic single malt whisky and has enjoyed maturation in new oak, though this is a well-oaked dram, there is plenty of toffee and spice.*

**5 POUNDS**

### **CRAIGELLACHIE 1997 CC**

*Bottled at 46% ABV, this is beautiful 1993 vintage Craigellachie. It was aged in remade refill American Hogsheads and it has a medium body.*

**6 POUNDS**

### **CRAGGANMORE 12**

*A sherried 12-year-old single malt from Diageo's Classic Malts range, this bottling from the Cragganmore distillery represents Speyside and proffers a rich, slightly floral whisky with barley notes.*

**6 POUNDS**

### **GLENFARCLAS 105**

*Glenfarclas 105 is a superb cask strength whisky, really bold and punchy. In 2004, the Malt Maniacs rated this the best "Bang for your buck" whisky.*

**7 POUNDS**

### **GLENFIDDICH 12**

*This classic Speyside from Glenfiddich was the Winner of a Gold Medal at the 2007 International Wine and Spirit Competition, aged for 12 years in American and European Oak casks.*

**5 POUNDS**

### **GLENFIDDICH 18**

*This 18-year-old from Glenfiddich's core range was matured in a mix of Oloroso sherry and bourbon casks.*

**8 POUNDS**

### **THE GLENLIVET FOUNDERS RESERVE**

*The entry level bottling from the illustrious Glenlivet distillery at Speyside's heart, aged for 12 years. The archetypal Speyside dram, honey and orchard fruit driven.*

**5 POUNDS**

### **THE GLENLIVET 18**

*This excellent 18-year-old single malt from Glenlivet is a classic Speyside dram, it also won two golds at the International Wine and Spirits Competition.*

**8 POUNDS**

### **THE MACALLAN GOLD**

*Macallan's new range has done away with age-statements and instead focuses on the colour of the whisky. The concept being that the older the whisky is the darker it will be. Regardless of how true this really is, it's certainly a great whisky packed with assertive vanilla and citrus flavours.*

**5 POUNDS**

### **STRATHISLA 12-YEAR-OLD**

*This is a new edition of the Chivas malt Strathisla 12-year-old, a fruity and sherry-rich single malt from Speyside.*

**5 POUNDS**

### **TOMINTOUL 16**

*Crafted by fourth generation distiller, Robert Fleming, this is a great 16-year-old from Tomintoul.*

**5 POUNDS**



# HIGHLAND

*Outside the Speyside area distilling activity is spread more sparsely throughout a wide area which is best split into four main areas in the North, South, East and West. This large area covers on the mainland from Pulteney in the northeast to Oban in the west, to Tullibardine in the south. None of these Highland areas, however, is officially regarded as a region.*

*If they have any similarities, it is a firm and round dry character with some peatiness.*

## **ARDMORE TRADITIONAL**

*The 2007 release of this 'Traditional Cask' was the first official single malt from the Ardmore distillery, this is a young whisky, but it was aged in quarter casks, which proffers a speedy maturation thus discounting its youth.*

**5 POUNDS**

## **DALMORE 15**

*The Dalmore 15-year-old was first launched in 2007. Matured in matusalem, apostoles and amoroso sherry casks, it proffers all those winter spice, orange zest and chocolate notes characteristic of Dalmore.*

**7 POUNDS**

## **FETTERCAIRN 1997**

*Fettercairn is a Highland whisky which first opened in 1824. This bottle was distilled in 1997 and bottled in 2010 by Gordon & MacPhail.*

**5 POUNDS**

## **FETTERCAIRN 40**

*The stunning-looking (and stunning-tasting!) Fettercairn 40-Year-Old. This was distilled in 1969 and it was aged in Apostoles Palo Cortado sherry wood. It was bottled recently with the newly redesigned packaging, and there are just 463 bottles.*

**110 POUNDS**

### **GLENDRONACH PARLIAMENT 21**

*A relatively new addition to the GlenDronach range but almost certainly the best. It is rich, incredibly smooth, heavily sherried and possibly one of the best bang for your buck whiskies out there.*

**12 POUNDS**

### **GLEN GARIOCH 12**

*Released in 2010, Glen Garioch's new 12-year-old is matured in both bourbon and sherry casks, and it has loads of character, as well as being bottled at the sensible strength of 48%.*

**6 POUNDS**

### **GLEN GARIOCH FOUNDERS RESERVE**

*Founders reserve is the new offering from Glen Garioch (pronounced Glen Geerie).*

**5 POUNDS**

### **GLENCADAM 10**

*This was first released in 2008 under the new ownership of Angus Dundee. Glencadam 10 stands as a delicate, balanced dram, neither coloured nor chill-filtered so it retains its true flavour.*

**5 POUNDS**

### **GLENMORANGIE ORIGINAL**

*Original is the core bottling in the Glenmorangie range, released to replace the old 10-year-old. This really is a classic malt, so creamy and fruity.*

**5 POUNDS**

### **OLD PULTENEY 12**

*Matured in ex-bourbon casks for 12 years, this Old Pulteney malt was a Double Gold winner at the 2006 San Francisco World Spirits Competition.*

**5 POUNDS**

### **OLD PULTENEY 21**

*Malt from the most northerly mainland distillery in Scotland. This 21yo is an exceptionally well-matured version well worth a try.*

**15 POUNDS**

# ISLAND

## ORKNEY

*Orkney is the most northerly outpost of whisky distilling in Scotland with two very good malts emanating from Highland Park and Scapa. Their much sought after character has light smoky heather touches.*

## SKYE

*Skye's giant of a malt Talisker is a 'big' whisky in every way with an explosive effect on the palate and a wonderful peaty, sweetness on the nose. The palate is slightly oily spicy seaweed, warm, tangy and peaty.*

## MULL

*Tobermory has one the most beautiful distillery locations at the southern end of the famous harbour on the Hebridean island of Mull. It produces a light medium-flavoured malt with touches of soft smoky honey and herbs.*

## JURA

*Jura from the island just north of Islay produces a light, slightly oily dram with a malty flowery feel.*

## HIGHLAND PARK 12

*The entry level bottling from Scotland's most northerly distillery, Highland Park, aged for 12 years with plenty of citrus and green notes.*

**5 POUNDS**

## HIGHLAND PARK 18

*A superb 18-year-old from the Highland Park distillery and a winner of a Gold Medal at the 2005 San Francisco World Spirits Competition.*

**10 POUNDS**

### **ISLE OF JURA 1992**

*A core bottling from the Isle of Jura's only distillery. This 10-year-old has exhibits the distillery's classic oily, briny characteristics.*

**5 POUNDS**

### **JURA PROPHECY**

*A very peated edition from Isle of Jura, Prophecy is made from a selection of old and rare Jura whiskies. Very interesting indeed.*

**7 POUNDS**

### **LEDAIG 10**

*A 10-year-old from the Tobermory distillery on Mull, a Gold Medal winner at the 2008 International Wine and Spirits Competition.*

**7 POUNDS**

### **SCAPA 16**

*This 16-year-old from Orkney's Scapa was relaunched in 2008.*

**7 POUNDS**

### **TALISKER 10**

*A classic Island dram from the Isle of Skye. Always highly rated, this was an Editor's Choice at Whisky Magazine. Lots of spice and fresh, tangy peat.*

**5 POUNDS**

### **TALISKER PORT RUIGHE**

*An early 2013 addition to Talisker's range, taking their classic Skye whisky and finishing it in ruby port casks, rounding the edges and bringing in rich, fruity sweetness.*

**7 POUNDS**

### **TOBERMORY 15**

*A 15-year-old from the Tobermory distillery on the Isle of Mull, this was matured in Gonzalez Byass Oloroso sherry casks.*

**10 POUNDS**



# LOWLAND

*The modern difference between the Lowland Malt and that originating from the other regions is simply one of style. Historically, the distinguishing factors were more numerous. In the late 18th century the product of the discreet Highland still (be it legal or illegal) was considered a wholesome, hand-crafted product which was in great demand in the urban markets, but the larger Lowland distillers produced a relatively coarse whisky (rarely made purely from malted barley alone) in huge industrial stills in an effort to supply both the city drinkers and the lucrative London market. The distinction was created by the industrial Lowland distillers who aggressively exploited whatever Government legislation was in force. The distinctions were magnified by the drawing of the 'Highland Line' which effectively stretched from Greenock on the river Clyde to Dundee on the river Tay and split the country into two regions 'gauged' by two separate sets of Excise regulations due to the disparity between their respective products.*

## **AUCHENTOSHAN 12**

*A more recent release from the Auchentoshan distillery, replacing the previous staple 10-year-old, this 12-year-old bottling exhibits the new, slightly Imperial aesthetics Auchentoshan have rebranded themselves with.*

**5 POUNDS**

## **AUCHENTOSHAN THREE WOOD**

*A Lowland single malt matured in 3 different casks, namely: Pedro Ximenez Sherry casks, bourbon casks and Oloroso sherry. A distinctive triple distilled whisky from Auchentoshan.*

**6 POUNDS**

## **GLENKINCHIE 12**

*This 12-year-old is the new entry level bottling from Glenkinchie, released in 2007 to replace the 10-year-old.*

**5 POUNDS**

# CAMPBELTOWN

*Dufftown could lay claim to being Scotland's whisky capital but in the middle of the last century there was only one place which had the right to that name - Campbeltown.*

*Situated on the lee shore of the Mull of Kintyre, this town was literally awash with distillate just over a hundred years ago. When Alfred Barnard compiled his wonderful book - *The Whisky Distilleries of the United Kingdom* in 1886, he found no less than 21 producing distilleries in and around the town! Today, the sad reminder of the industry's presence in the town is now manifested in just two distilleries, Glen Scotia and Springbank. These Campbeltown single malts are very individual, with a briny or fresh salty-sweet character.*

## **SPRINGBANK 10**

*The 10-year-old from the Springbank distillery in Campbeltown, a mixture of both bourbon and sherry matured whisky.*

**5 POUNDS**



# ISLAY

*Of all Scotland's malts, the Islay single malts are perhaps the most characteristic. But even so, there are some surprises within this group which are traditionally held to be amongst the heaviest and most pungent available. The most recognisable characteristics are due to the production methods which were developed in concert with the available distilling ingredients in this remote locality. While the mainland markets were supplied by mainland distillers in the 18th and 19th centuries, the islanders supplied a local market from stills - both legal and illegal - which were operated from farmyards, bothies on the bleak moors above Port Ellen and remote caves along the precipitous coast of the Oa.*

*The island of Islay, renowned as the most fertile island in the Hebrides, had three major assets in this development, a ready source of local barley - or bere as it was then known - inexhaustible amounts of peat and burns running brim-full of soft water. It is impossible to visit Islay and not notice the peat. Along the roadside crossing the enormous Laggan Moss between Port Ellen and Bowmore the peat banks spread as far as the eye can see. The fuel was the only means by which the islanders could dry their grain which was an essential process not only for distilling, but also for storage during the wet seasons. By kilning barley, it could be kept longer and the dryer the grain was, the less likely it was to go mouldy. As the grain dried in the fumes, the peat imparted to the barley a highly distinctive character which manifested itself when the spirit was finally distilled from it.*

*These characteristics are still apparent in today's Islay malts which are renowned for their seaweedy, iodine like, phenolic character and are best experienced by trying Ardbeg, Lagavulin and Laphroaig which form the three most traditional Islay malts. The other Islay single malts display this peaty-smoky characteristic to a lesser degree but it is always detectable nonetheless.*



### **ARBEG 10**

*Jim Murray's 2008 World Whisky of the Year! When Ardbeg 10 was released it was the first expression from the distillery not to be chill-filtered. It's a true classic from Islay, and a must have for any fan of single malt whisky.*

**6 POUNDS**

### **ARBEG UIGEADAIL**

*Uigeadail derives from the Scotch Gaelic for 'Dark and Mysterious Place' and is named for the Loch from whence Ardbeg draws its waters. Jim Murray's 2009 World Whisky of the Year, this cask-strength bottle exudes breath-taking balance.*

**7 POUNDS**

### **BOWMORE 12**

*The heart of the Bowmore range, the 12-year-old exhibits some beautiful coastal notes with a gentle peat, it is the balance that the floral element presents that makes this a great entry bottling for Bowmore.*

**6 POUNDS**

### **BRUICHLADDICH OCTOMORE**

*The most heavily peated whisky in production today. Produced as a fond farewell to their master blender. Made with the most heavily peated barley on the planet, Bruichladdich are still able to impart a delicate, graceful emphasis within this intense whisky.*

**13 POUNDS**

### **CAOL ILA 12**

*(Pronounced Cowl-Eela)*

*This 12-year-old is the entry level bottling from the Caol Ila distillery, launched in June of 2002 this expression is light and fresh with that distinctive Caol Ila smoke.*

**6 POUNDS**

### **KILCHOMAN MACHIR BAY 2014**

*The Machir Bay 2014 is a vatting of 5 and 6-year-old ex-bourbon barrels and Oloroso sherry butts. According to John MacLellan, Distillery Manager at Kilchoman, the sherry butts give the whisky a desired taste that has proven to be this dram's unique selling point. The best new Islay whisky.*

**6 POUNDS**

### **LAPHROAIG 10**

*Really smoky and iodine rich. This has to be one of Scotland's most characterful drams. Laphroaig are known for their medicinal malts, and the classic 10-year-old is no exception.*

**6 POUNDS**

### **LAGAVULIN 16**

*A much sought-after single malt with the massive peat-smoke that's typical of southern Islay - but also offering richness and a dryness that turns it into a truly interesting dram. The 16-year-old has become a benchmark Islay dram from the Lagavulin distillery.*

**7 POUNDS**



# B L E N D E D

*A blended whisky is the product of blending different types of whiskies and sometimes also neutral grain spirits, colouring, and flavourings. It is generally the product of mixing one or more higher-quality straight or single malt whiskies with lighter spirits and water.*

## **BALLANTINE'S 17 40%**

*Ballantine's 17-Year-Old is a blend favoured by many, including Jim Murray, who awarded it Scotch Blend of the Year 2010, and who can blame him? Ballantine's 17-year-old displays all the flavours of Scotland, with a careful combination of malt and grain whiskies from all over Scotland.*

**7 POUNDS**

## **BALLANTINE'S 21**

*A sparkling gold colour, floral nose and aromatic palate give it a delightful complexity. This sophisticated blend is a whisky to savour on special occasions. Ballantines base their whiskies around malt whisky from distilleries like Glenburgie and Miltonduff.*

**12 POUNDS**

## **BALLANTINE'S 30**

*With a deep gold colour, subtle sweet flavour on the nose and a complex palate of honey and vanilla, Ballantine's 30-Year-Old is an exceptional, rare and exclusive whisky. It won a Gold at the International Spirits Challenge and Jim Murray gave it 92 points.*

**30 POUNDS**

## **CHIVAS REGAL 18**

*Blended scotch does not get any better than this. Rich and smooth with a velvety, dark chocolate palate. Elegant floral notes and a wisp of sweet mellow smokiness.*

**6 POUNDS FIFTY**

## **CHIVAS REGAL 25**

*Chivas Regal 25-year-old is a delicious blend, with notes of peach and almond.*

**20 POUNDS**

### **MACKINLAY'S SHACKLETON**

*Yes, this is it - an exact replica of the whisky left in Antarctica by Sir Ernest Shackleton during his Antarctic expedition between 1907 and 1909. The whisky was recreated down to the very last detail by Whyte and Mackay's blender extraordinaire, Richard Paterson. The final replica bottle of Mackinlay's blend contains whiskies from Speyside, the Island, and the Highlands.*

**14 POUNDS**

### **WHYTE AND MACKAY 30**

*An incredible 30-year-old blended whisky from Whyte and Mackay, very rich and well sherried.*

**30 POUNDS**



## **G R A I N**

*Ordinarily refers to any whisky made (at least in part) from grains other than malted barley, such as whisky made using maize (corn), wheat or rye. Grain whiskies can also contain some malted barley. Whisky made from only malted barley (or primarily from malted barley) is typically called malt whisky rather than grain whisky (although barley is a grain). Most American whiskeys and Canadian whiskeys are grain-based.*

### **COMPASS BOX HEDONISM**

*A delightful blended grain whisky, Hedonism really is as enjoyable as the name suggests, a smooth and creamy offering from Compass Box.*

**7 POUNDS**

# P S .

*Although we take great care in maintaining the stock of the whisky bar, it is subject to availability and unfortunately, we may not have one or two on this list at any given time.*

*Similarly, we may have new arrivals that are not yet featured on this list, ask a member of our team to find out what's new?*

*Enjoy your dram!*

