

A decorative border of botanical illustrations surrounds the central text. It includes various types of ferns, clusters of small yellow flowers, and branches with dark red berries and black raspberries. The style is detailed and artistic, typical of vintage botanical prints.

— 2 0 1 9 —

S P E C I A L R E L E A S E S

REASONS TO BELIEVE

WHAT MAKES SPECIAL RELEASES SO SPECIAL?

A beautiful, impactful and unified theme and design that drives collectability.
For the first time, Special Releases are launched with a connecting theme that is translated both visually and as a collective story of the liquids. This not only drives consumer understanding but adds to the value proposition of each individual product with the power of the collective.

A carefully selected line-up of liquids among Diageo's most precious stocks.
The Special Releases collection includes rare offerings from famous names, as well as supreme examples of the less well known, and closed distilleries. Connoisseurs and collectors can purchase the special releases with confidence knowing they come from the distillery of origin.

Natural colour, natural cask strength and not chill-filtered.
Nothing is added or removed; what remains is the purest evidence of that distillery's craft.

Very rare and highly sought after bottlings in limited batches.
Many of our bottlings are individually numbered and only limited quantities are available worldwide.

A highly anticipated annual collection by whisky connoisseurs.
“One of the biggest and most prestigious annual whisky launches” The Whisky Exchange.





— 2019 —

SPECIAL RELEASE

Cragganmore

AGED 12 YEARS

C R A G G A N M O R E 1 2 Y O

UNUSUAL SMOKY EXPRESSION OF A SPEYSIDE CLASSIC

KEY INFORMATION

ABV : 58.4%

DISTILLATION YEAR: 2006

CASKS: From medium peated, refill American oak casks

REGION: Speyside

PLACE OF ORIGIN: Ballindalloch

NATIONAL RRP : \$149.99

WHAT MAKES IT SPECIAL?

- Usually unpeated, Cragganmore is a highly respected Speyside Single Malt founded by a giant among distillers, Jon Smith. The ethereal aromas are among the most complex to be found in any malt and a fitting match for the ghostly flight of the Barn Owl as it quarters the twilight Speyside glens nearby in search of its prey.
- This is a small, experimental batch of cask strength and medium-peated Cragganmore matured in traditional refill American oak casks.
- In a style never released by the distillery before, it wreathes the elegant, smooth distillery character in a wholly unexpected aromatic and spicy smokiness.



C R A G G A N M O R E 1 2 Y O

TASTING NOTES

IN BRIEF...

A very unusual example of Cragganmore that intriguingly combines Speyside elegance and spicy smokiness.

IN A SENTENCE...

If you think you know Cragganmore, try this deliciously unusual expression; building on its smooth Speyside character, this is a medium-peated, lightly smoky cask-strength expression made as a trial in 2006 and matured in refill casks, which is only now ready to release as a 12YO.

IN FULL...

APPEARANCE: Pale straw, unoaked white wine. Good beading.

NOSE: A mild nose overall, with light prickle. The aroma is initially elusive, both sweet (boiled sweets, apple pie) and savoury (soft leather, sanded wood), and with a wisp of fragrant peat-smoke. Ashy notes, as with a spent fire. A drop of water sweetens and mellows the nose further. Becomes more smoky in the development.

BODY: Light to medium.

PALATE: At natural strength, pleasantly smooth in texture; the taste is immediately rich, sweet and savoury, then unexpectedly and appealingly becomes smoky. Adding a drop of water makes it really smooth, and slightly sweeter, yet it remains appetisingly savoury. The spiciness and smokiness still come through, and linger in the finish.

FINISH: Smoothly smoky, spicy and warming; lightly drying, with a lingering thread of smoke and a pleasing after taste. With water, smoother and longer. Leaves an intriguing memory of smoke on the tongue.



— 2019 —

SPECIAL RELEASE

LAGAVULIN

AGED 12 YEARS



LAGAVULIN 12 YO

POWERFUL & PEATY,
THE KING OF ISLAY

KEY INFORMATION

ABV : 56.5%

DISTILLATION YEAR: 2006/2007

CASKS: From refill American oak casks of high peating levels

REGION: Islay

PLACE OF ORIGIN: Port Ellen

NATIONAL RRP : \$189.99

WHAT MAKES IT SPECIAL?

- Lagavulin is an iconic Islay malt, its intense and smoky spirit steeped in history for over 200 years. Nestled in a rocky bay still dominated by a ruined castle that was once home to the Lords of the isle, it seems as much their modern day success as the white-tailed eagle that soars high above the sea and shore nearby.
- Selected for its high peating level, this unique and small batch of Lagavulin has been matured in traditional refill American oak casks; the result is a perfect expression of distillery character, rounded yet proudly dimmed by time.
- A special batch of cask-strength Lagavulin 12 year old from American oak refill casks has been bottled in this series every year since 2002. Variations between the different batches to date, which have often been vatted from whiskies at least 12 years old, make for fascinating comparison.



LAGAVULIN 12 YO

TASTING NOTES

IN BRIEF...

A powerfully smoky example of Lagavulin, youthful and vigorous, with bags of distillery character.

IN A SENTENCE...

A powerful example of Lagavulin, pure in style and from spirit specially selected for its high peating levels. This is a youthful and vigorous Lagavulin, with bags of distillery character.

IN FULL...

APPEARANCE: Bright gold, polished brass. Good beading.

NOSE: A mild nose overall, with light prickle. Classic Lagavulin. The nose is highly phenolic, with clean, fresh top notes of medical supplies, all on an ashy base, reminiscent of a recently extinguished peat fire. A savoury note and a mineral, maritime note; sea air, tarry ropes, seaweed, sand. With water, the last comes to dominate, quietly.

BODY: Medium.

PALATE: At natural strength, smooth in texture and unexpectedly sweet, intense and very smoky from the off. With light acidity, a sprinkle of sea-salt and a very smoky finish, long and warming. A little salt, no pepper. Benchmark distillery character throughout, exactly as is expected from a Lagavulin 12 year old. At reduced strength the taste remains the same.

FINISH : Long, warming, sweet and delightfully smoky. Lightly drying, leaving the breath smoky. With water, sweeter and smoother, though the smokiness reasserts itself at the close.





— 2019 —

SPECIAL RELEASE

TALISKER

AGED 15 YEARS

TALISKER 15 YO

RUGGED & SMOKY,
MADE BY THE SEA

KEY INFORMATION

ABV : 57.3%

DISTILLATION YEAR: 2002

CASKS: From freshly charred American oak hogsheads

REGION: Isle of Skye

PLACE OF ORIGIN: Carbost

NATIONAL RRP : \$199.99

WHAT MAKES IT SPECIAL?

- Talisker has been part of life on the shores of Skye since 1830 and today is the island's oldest working distillery. Famous the world over for a full bodied, rich character and powerful peppery finale, it is made by the sea, like the oyster beds that teem with life in the clear waters of the island's west coast.
- This is the first-ever release of "The King o' Drinks..." as a 15 year old whisky matured only in freshly charred American oak hogsheads. They have imbued the sweetness, depth of taste and complexity of the mature distillery character with a fresh intensity.
- The aroma is maritime, with the notes of sea salt, dry seaweed, peeling boat varnish and warm sand, on a base of smouldering peat. The texture is smooth, the taste unexpectedly rich and sweet before a growing spiciness comes through, with a pinch of salt and chilli pepper. The finish is long, spicy and drying.



TALISKER 15 YO

TASTING NOTES

IN BRIEF...

A superb new expression that retains the Talisker character, while adding sweetness, depth and complexity to the overall flavour.

IN A SENTENCE...

This is a spicy, deep, sea monster from unusual casks, that holds nothing back as it brings a new depth, spiciness and complexity to long-matured, sweet and rounded Talisker base notes.

IN FULL...

APPEARANCE: Full gold, with copper lights. Very good beading.

NOSE: A mild nose-feel, with a noticeably spicy prickle, and lightly nose-drying. The aroma is immediately maritime, with notes of sea salt, dry seaweed, peeling boat varnish and warm sand, on a base of smouldering peat. Very spicy and malty. Honey and smoke. Even a drop of water suppresses much of this.

BODY: Medium to full.

PALATE: A mouth-filling texture at natural strength, the taste is at first unexpectedly rich and sweet before a spiciness asserts itself, with a pinch of salt. The trademark “chilli catch” as you swallow is still there, while the pepperiness on the palate comes across in complex waves of drying spiciness. Interestingly, all these tastes are enhanced by a little water, which makes the effect more rounded, sweeter, and spicier still.

FINISH: Long and spicy, with a delightful after taste. Lightly drying. With water, longer, spicier and more peppery. Leaves a thread of smoke on the tongue.



— 2019 —

SPECIAL RELEASE

THE SINGLETON

AGED 18 YEARS



THE SINGLETON 18 YO

LIVELY RICH FRUIT & SPICED OAK

KEY INFORMATION

ABV : 55.0%

DISTILLATION YEAR: 2000

CASKS: From fresh charred American oak hogsheads

REGION: Highland

PLACE OF ORIGIN: Muir of Ord

NATIONAL RRP : \$219.99

WHAT MAKES IT SPECIAL?

- The Singleton is renowned for the smoothness and balance of its whiskies, which match the liveliness and vigour of the leaping salmon in the fast flowing rivers of the Highlands of Scotland. The Singleton Glen Ord is particularly known for its richness and fruitiness, here enriched by a different, more intense maturation cask.
- This small batch of The Singleton Glen Ord, matured for a full 18 years in freshly charred American oak hogsheads and never before released, combines smooth distillery character with subtle complex aromas and intensely spicy tastes.
- The subtle aroma suggests nougat, with traces of dried apple, on a zesty orange peel base.
- The compelling and powerful taste starts with the sweetness of caramel toffee, the orange peel introduces a surprising intensity that swells with complex spices. The finish is long and leaves the palate tingling.
- The cask type used is a very unique wood type for a whisky of this age, and certainly not something which has been seen often in the past, as the use of freshly-charred wood gives a much more overt wood flavour with pronounced spicy notes.



THE SINGLETON 18 YO

TASTING NOTES

IN BRIEF...

A different yet still delicious example of Glen Ord with a subtle aroma and a memorably complex and bracing taste.

IN A SENTENCE...

Unusually from freshly charred American oak hogsheads, this fine cask-strength expression is much spicier than is usual for The Singleton Glen Ord, while retaining its signature smoothness and appealing richness.

IN FULL...

APPEARANCE: Deep amber with orange lights. Good beading.

NOSE: A mild nose-feel, with some prickle: lightly nose-drying. Quite hard to discern at cask strength. The subtle aroma is reminiscent of nougat, with traces of dried apple, on a zesty orange peel base. A drop of water smoothly adds creamy chocolate, and boosts the orange note.

BODY: Medium.

PALATE: At natural strength, mouth-filling and smooth in texture. The compelling and powerful taste starts with the sweetness of caramel toffee, while an answering touch of orange peel sourness introduces a surprising, warming intensity that swells with complex spices. With water the whole effect is much sweeter and smoother: still spicy, though the latter now decides to be part of the story, not the main theme.

FINISH: Long, warming and increasingly spicy, leaving the palate tingling. Lightly drying, too. With water, sweeter and smoother, leaving an after taste of milk chocolate.



— 2019 —

SPECIAL RELEASE

CARDHU

AGED 14 YEARS



CARDHU 14 YO

SMOOTH & GENEROUS, AMONTILLADO SHERRY-SEASONED CASKS

KEY INFORMATION

ABV : 55.0%

DISTILLATION YEAR: 2004

CASKS: Double matured in ex-Amontillado hogsheads

REGION: Speyside

PLACE OF ORIGIN: Knockando

NATIONAL RRP : \$189.99

WHAT MAKES IT SPECIAL?

- Cardhu is the queen of Speyside malts, with a generous spirit perfectly matched to that of founder, Helen Cumming, and to that the hard-working bees that pollinate the heather on nearby hills through the long days of the summer.
- This small batch of Cardhu has been double matured for two full years in Amontillado sherry-seasoned hogsheads, slowly allowing their richness and intensity to wrap the elegance of Cardhu in a cloak of exquisite beauty.
- Rich aromas of grape, peach and cherry dance together in a nose soon floral with hints of Lily of the Valley. The texture is creamy-smooth, the taste ripe with pear fruit and sweet with the richness of soft fudge. More fragrance in the middle leads to a spicy finish with a pleasant dryness that lingers on the tongue.
- A unique release with very limited availability of 4,860 bottles.



CARDHU 14 YO

TASTING NOTES

IN BRIEF...

Supremely elegant, showcasing the 'finesse' for which Cardhu is famous. Best enjoyed straight, as an apéritif or to accompany a creamy dessert.

IN A SENTENCE...

A deliciously unusual expression, this Cardhu comes from a trial batch double matured for much longer than is the norm in ex-Amontillado sherry-seasoned hogsheads; this wraps the expected Cardhu gentleness in a fine cloak of richer cloth.

IN FULL...

APPEARANCE: Deep gold with copper lights. Good beading.

NOSE: A mild nose-feel, dry, soft and gentle, with a richly fruity initial aroma; orchard pears, peaches and cherries in syrup, a trace of banana. As it opens the nose becomes fragrant and floral, with perhaps a hint of Lily of the Valley, and a suggestion of vanilla cream. A drop of water closes it down somewhat, but brings out more sugary fruitiness.

BODY: Medium.

PALATE: At natural strength, smoothly creamy in texture, while the fruity taste is immediately sugar-sweet, as with soft fudge. There's a trace of perfume in mid-palate then hot and spicy notes build towards the finish. Drying overall. With water sweetness is again the first impression, while a trace of salt heralds the return of the spiciness in the development.

FINISH: Spicy, with a lingering, embracing warmth. With water, smoother but still spicy, with a pleasant dryness lingering on the tongue.



A detailed botanical illustration in a muted green and brown color palette. On the left, a parrot with a crest and scaly feathers is perched on a branch, looking upwards. Several pinecones are scattered around the parrot and in the corners of the frame. The entire illustration is enclosed within a thin, hand-drawn style orange border.

— 2019 —

SPECIAL RELEASE

PITTYVAICH

AGED 29 YEARS

PITTYVAICH 29 YO

1989 GHOST, DOUBLE MATURED IN PEDRO XIMENEZ & OLOROSO SEASONED CASKS

KEY INFORMATION

ABV : 51.4%

DISTILLATION YEAR: 1989

CASKS: Double matured in Pedro Ximenez & Oloroso sherry seasoned bodega casks

REGION: Speyside

PLACE OF ORIGIN: Dufftown (closed distillery)

NATIONAL RRP : \$520.00

WHAT MAKES IT SPECIAL?

- A 'ghost' or closed distillery that worked only 18 years, before falling victim to industry consolidation in 1993, Pittyvaich has now vanished. Its dwindling stock is as rarely sighted today as the shy capercaillie found in Scottish pine forests.
- This small batch of 1989 Pittyvaich is the first release double matured in Pedro Ximenez and Oloroso seasoned casks. These have brought an exotic, rich, fruity depth to the light, golden aromas and flavours of the distillery character.
- The aroma is mellow yet shy, with delicate fruitiness and dried flowers, beneath which lies a note of buttery sponge. The texture is ultra-smooth, the taste rich with the dried fruit sweetness of golden sultanas. It becomes spicy with gunpowder tea and is drying overall. The long, smooth finish closes in a shake of powdered ginger.
- A very rare high-aged release of only 4,976 bottles available from a closed distillery.



PITTYVAICH 29 YO

TASTING NOTES

IN BRIEF...

An exotic, unusual and long-aged example of this uncommon malt from a long closed distillery.

IN A SENTENCE...

A unique expression with real depth of flavour and character of a 'ghost' malt from a closed distillery, this is the only double-matured Pittyvaich ever released.

IN FULL...

APPEARANCE: Deep gold, with orange lights. Very good beading.

NOSE: A mellow nose overall, with very light prickle; lightly nose drying, with first faint and delicate impressions of fruitiness and dried flowers, beneath which there's a note of buttery sponge. A drop of water enhances the dried flowers, brings up the sweetness and adds spicy touches of sweet ginger and hardwood shavings.

BODY: Medium to full.

PALATE: At natural strength, mouth-filling and ultra-smooth in texture. The taste is immediately rich and very sweet, with light dried fruits; golden sultanas in light liquor. It quickly becomes spicy, with tannic gunpowder tea in mid palate, and is drying overall. Similar though softer with water, when sweet toffee can be discerned.

FINISH: Long, smooth and spicy, finishing with a shake of powdered ginger and a lingering, embracing warmth. With water, smoother.





— 2019 —

SPECIAL RELEASE

DALWHINNIE

AGED 30 YEARS

DALWHINNIE 30YO

EXTRA-MATURE & GENTLE HIGHLAND MALT

KEY INFORMATION

ABV : 54.7%

DISTILLATION YEAR: 1987/1988

CASKS: From refill hogsheads and butts filled in 1987-88

REGION: Highland

PLACE OF ORIGIN: Dalwhinnie

NATIONAL RRP : \$870.00

WHAT MAKES IT SPECIAL?

- From the highest distillery in Scotland, part of her coldest inhabited community, Dalwhinnie is a real mountain malt. It is as well adapted to the harsh climate of its barren and often desolate location as the mountain hares that abound the surrounding hills.
- This small batch of Dalwhinnie enjoys rich layers of flavour, developed over 30 years of maturation in refill hogsheads and butts. They have brought to a peak of perfection the moorland aromas and smoothly sweet, yet also surprisingly peppery, tastes that define the distillery character.
- The aroma is mild; after a waxy, smoky top note it is savoury overall, with a sweet hint of moorland heather pollen. The texture is big, creamy-smooth and mouth-filling, the taste rich, sweet and spicy, with a touch of salt and an appealing, growing peppery heat that carries on into the tongue-tingling finish.
- A very limited high-aged release of only 7,586 bottles available worldwide.



DALWHINNIE 30YO

TASTING NOTES

IN BRIEF...

A most unusual extra-mature Dalwhinnie that is engaging, evocative and thoroughly satisfying.

IN A SENTENCE...

A delicious, finely balanced and supple old Dalwhinnie with a depth of flavour that repays thoughtful appreciation, this expression is both more rounded than younger siblings and takes a spicier view of life, too.

IN FULL...

APPEARANCE: Deep gold, with copper lights. Good beading.

NOSE: A mild nose overall, with some light prickle. The top notes are vegetal and faintly smoky, as with a snuffed candle, almost suggesting a Halloween pumpkin lantern; the overall impression is savoury, with a light sweetness suggesting moorland heather pollen. The base notes are of spicy fresh-planed wood, which if a drop of water is added becomes light balsa wood. Much sweeter at first after this, with a tangy, fruity note of pickled ginger.

BODY: Medium to full.

PALATE: At natural strength, big, creamy-smooth and mouth-filling in texture, with a richly sweet, waxy initial taste and spicy, with a touch of salt and an appealing, gradually building peppery warmth that carries on into the finish. When slightly reduced, the taste remains the same when a good drop of water is added, becoming a sweet, smoothly balanced whole that is delicious to drink.

FINISH: Long and spicily warming, leaving the tongue tingling and a pleasantly earthy after taste. A little water lengthens the finish and reduces the spiciness.





— 2019 —

SPECIAL RELEASE

MORTLACH

AGED 26 YEARS

MORTLACH 26 YO

RICH & BOLD, THE BEAST OF DUFFTOWN

FIRST-FILL PEDRO XIMENEZ & OLOROSO SEASONED CASKS

KEY INFORMATION

ABV : 53.3%

DISTILLATION YEAR: 1992

CASKS: From fresh-toasted first-fill Pedro Ximenez & Oloroso Sherry seasoned casks

REGION: Speyside

PLACE OF ORIGIN: Dufftown

NATIONAL RRP : \$2,500.00

WHAT MAKES IT SPECIAL?

- Called “The Beast of Dufftown” for its robust, umami-rich character, little known Mortlach may be the best kept secret in Scotch. Bold flavours are the mark of this special breed, distinguishing it as the monarch of its glen as surely as the bellow of a mature red deer stag.
- This small batch of Mortlach has been matured in first-fill Pedro Ximenez and Oloroso seasoned casks, which have brought a deep, rich, fruity intensity to complement the savoury complexity of the 2.81 distilled distillery character.
- The aroma is profound and complex; rich with dark fruits in liquor, old oak and soft leather, developing into hard toffee and chocolate-covered coffee beans. The texture is smooth, the rich taste sweet with damson fruit, lightly savoury and spicy-dry. The mellow finish marries spiciness and fruit in a long-lasting final embrace.
- A rare release with very limited availability of 3,883 bottles.



MORTLACH 26 YO

TASTING NOTES

IN BRIEF...

A magnificent example of 'The Beast of Dufftown' at its most impressive, and a fantastic digestif, enjoyed straight.

IN A SENTENCE...

Magnificent in every way, this is an epic, perfectly matured Mortlach of exceptional quality from first-fill ex-sherry butts that is very fine at natural strength and can also be enjoyed with a small dash of water, which softens the tannins.

IN FULL...

APPEARANCE: Deep magenta, polished rosewood. Superb beading.

NOSE: The aroma is profound and complex: rich with dark fruits in liquor; prune juice and Oloroso sherry, sloes in gin, prunes in syrup. Old oak and soft leather to start with, developing into hard toffee and chocolate-covered coffee beans. A rich Christmas pudding too; all classic sherry cask notes. Later, savoury notes as the Beast of Dufftown is roused from its slumber. A drop of water suppresses much of this.

BODY: Medium to full.

PALATE: At natural strength, smooth and viscous in texture; mouth-drying and tannic. The wonderfully rich, fruity taste is immediately sweet, with damson fruit, lightly savoury with a trace of liquorice and spicy-dry, with a scented hint of cloves. Drying overall, with rich tannins. Sweeter and less tannic at reduced strength, with more sweet spiced fruit. Magnificent.

FINISH: Seemingly endless and deeply impressive, with fruit and spiciness in perfect harmony and a warming glow spreading across the palate. Finally leaving the palate dry, yet wreathed in a glorious rich afterglow.

