



Whiskey & Seaweed

by CLARE SMYTH

The whiskies of the **British Isles** have had a cautious and complex **relationship with the lands** from which they are produced.

The most famous of them, Scotland with its whisky 'regions', have always been rooted in an idea of terroir. Distilleries that were located by **dictation of water, peat and access by port** or **proximity to barley**, tended to produce whiskies that came to be discerned as 'highland' or 'Islay'. They expressed recognisable characteristics that alluded to their place.

This loose definition has been tested in recent years by more rigorous ideas about terroir, concepts far more deeply embedded in the wine world that do not transplant so easily onto grain distillates. Efforts have been made to varying degrees to identify in a whisky's personality the **crop**, the **field**, the **peat source** and the maturation **micro climate** - to varying degrees of credibility.

Beyond this tension between what is terroir and what is marketing though, there remains a more robust truth about Britain's whiskies and distilled spirits: **they are drinks with the power to evoke**. It is hard not to sip a Springbank 18 and think about the flavour of peat and the way it has been so enthrallingly shaped and diffused by 18 years in wood, or about the freshness of the shoreline and the way the whisky tilts the mind towards ideas about Campbeltown and the west coast of Scotland where it hails from. Similarly, a Dalwhinnie 30 year old, full of waxy, mineral weight and

power, feels very much like a drink that belongs to those sparse and high mountains where it is made.

These are drinks not so much about **geology**, but still very much about **geography**. Drinks which possess the power **to invoke** and trigger **memory** or **allusions** of place, weather and mood.

It is why we have decided to arrange this list in a traditional, geographical categorisation.

There is still room to be surprised by the deviations within the regions of Scotland, and perhaps even more so by the deliberate variety within England, Ireland and Wales. After all, we are living in a **deeply exciting time for distilling** in these isles. There has never been such a wealth of distillers, concertedly pursuing new, experimental, or revived traditional practices and methods to create such a diversity of flavours and styles in the whiskies of these lands.

We hope you will find much to entice you within the **breadth** and **diversity** of the list we have curated. There are whiskies with suitable **delicacy** and **grace** to make an aperitif, just as there are the classically **powerful, deep** and **sinewed** malts that provide the perfect end to any meal. We are here to answer any questions you may have and guide you in your selection.

We took great joy in putting together this list, and we hope you find much within it **to delight and surprise you** in equal measure.

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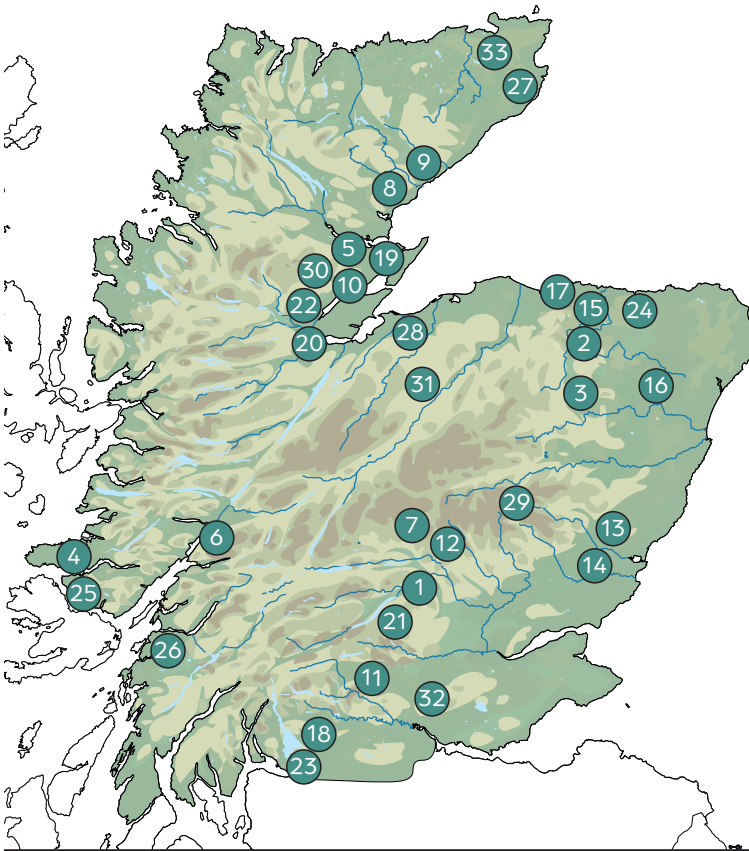


SCOTLAND

HIGHLANDS

The Highland region, while the most iconic – ‘Highland Single Malt Scotch Whisky’ having arguably the most romantic cultural iconography of any drink – is ironically **broad** and **complex** to define in terms of profile and character.

Historically, these are far-flung distilleries that sustained themselves by their proximity to **raw ingredients, local workforces** and required the **use of peat** (not coal) as a fuel source. As a result they created **sinewed, full-bodied, powerful** distillates that brimmed with **weight** and **character**. The railways started to open up this region and change all that, but the notion of Highland malts as **full-bodied, drier, oilier** and **fatter** remained, and persists to this day. These are often whiskies that display a leaner, more robust balance between distillate **character** and **wood**. A trace of **peat smoke** is not uncommon, and they bend well to the earthy and fruity attributes of good **sherry casks**.



- | | | |
|-----------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Aberfeldy | 13. Fettercairn | 25. Macduff |
| 2. AnCnoc | 14. Glencadam | 26. Nc'nean |
| 3. Ardmore | 15. Glendronach | 27. Oban |
| 4. Ardnamurchan | 16. Glen Garioch | 28. Oban |
| 5. Balblair | 17. Glenglassaugh | 29. Pulteney |
| 6. Ben Nevis | 18. Glengoyne | 30. Royal Brackla |
| 7. Blair Athol | 19. Glenmorangie | 31. Royal Lochnagar |
| 8. Brora | 20. Glen Ord | 32. Teaninich |
| 9. Clynesh | 21. Glenturret | 33. Tomatin |
| 10. Dalmore | 22. Glenturret | 34. Tullibardine |
| 11. Deanston | 23. GlenWyvis | 35. Wolfburn |
| 12. Edradour | 24. Loch Lomond | |

HIGHLANDS

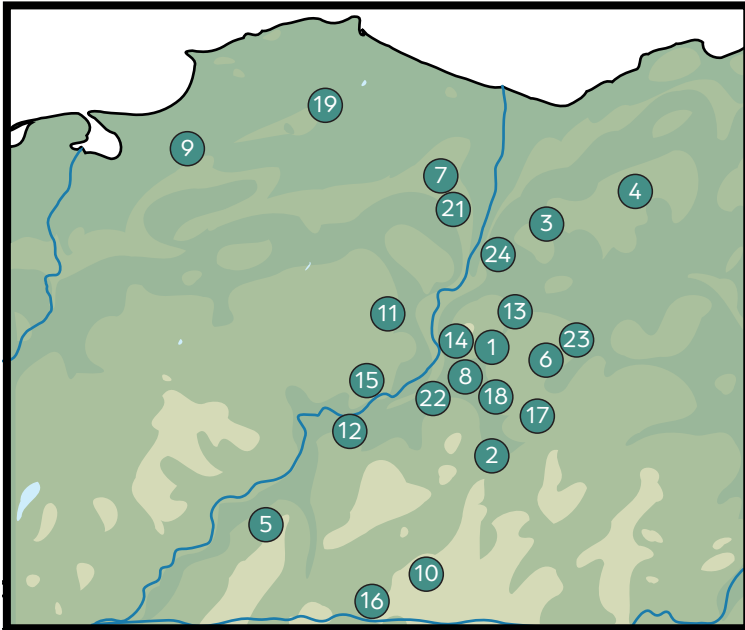
Aberfeldy 12yrs 40%	12
AnCnoc 12yrs 40%	15
Ardmore 9yrs 2009 Artist Collective 3 43%	25
Ardnamurchan Madeira Release 58.2%	25
Balblair 1997 Gordon and Macphail 54.7%	110
Ben Nevis 7yrs 2014 Old Daily Dram 60.3%	23
Blair Athol 10yrs 2011 50%	20
Brora 19yrs 1981 Millennium Edition 43%	380
Cynelish 14yrs 46%	18
Dalmore 18yrs 2022 Edition 43%	105
Deanston 11yrs Merlot Barrique 54.8%	28
Edradour 10yrs 2012 46% Signatory Unchilfiltered	21
Fettercairn 10yrs 2012 Tokaji Barriques 47.5%	23
Glencadam 11yrs 2011 46%	25
Glendronach Cask Strength Batch 11 59.8%	28
Glen Garioch 9yrs 2011 53.9% Single Cask Nation	23
Glenglassaugh Revival 46%	13
Glengoyne 21yrs 43%	25
Glenmorangie Signet 46%	48
Glen Ord 13yrs 2008 46% Signatory Unchilfiltered	16
Glenturret 12yrs 46%	23
Glenturret 25 yrs 42.6%	400
Glenwyvis 3yrs 2018 Batch 2 46.5%	20
Loch Lomond 12yrs Louis Oosthuizen Edition 46%	16
Macduff 12yrs 2009 BBR Single Cask 51.9%	23
Nc'Neen Quiet Rebels Lorna 48.5%	26
Oban 14yrs 43%	20
Oban Distillers Edition 2020 43%	26
Old Pulteney Pineau des Charentes Cask 46%	25
Royal Brackla 9yrs Banyuls Cask 55.9%	28
Royal Lochnagar 12yrs 40%	16
Teaninich 2009 Rest & Be Thankful 60.4 %	22
Tomatin Discovery 2010 Gordon & MacPhail 43%	21
Tullibardine 2008 The Murray Cask Strenght 56.1%	18
Wolfburn Inaugural Special Edition 2016 46%	320
Seven Sons 9yrs Ruadh Maor 46.7%	23

SCOTLAND

SPEYSIDE

A sub-region of the Highlands, noted for its high concentration of distilleries. The reason for this clustering is generally associated with the **River Spey** itself and the abundance of fresh water within its course and tributaries. **Water** being the prime requirement for a location to suit whisky distilling. The area's relative remoteness also made it ideal for early illicit distillation, out of which eventually evolved the whisky industry of today.

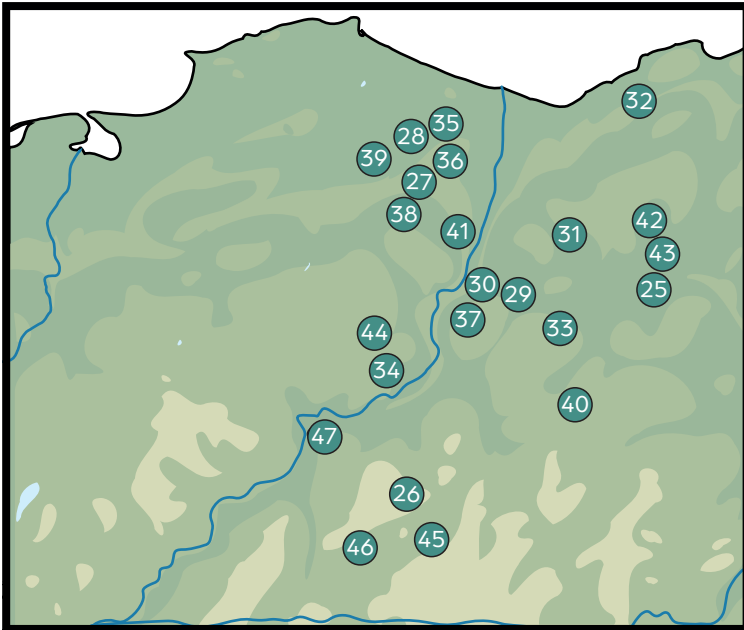
These malts have long been characterised by a **softness** that distinguishes them from the weightier personalities of the wider Highland region. Even today, many Speyside malts continue to express a **lighter, more floral** or **fruity** profile, along with an approachable **sweetness**, and for classic distilleries in the region such as Glenfarclas, Aberlour and Macallan, a long standing association with use of **sherry seasoned casks** which lends them concentrated **dark fruit, earth** and **tobacco** flavours.



1. Aberlour	9. Benromach	17. Dufftown
2. Allt-A-Bhainne	10. Braeval	18. Glenallachie
3. Auchroisk	11. Cardhu	19. Glenburgie
4. Aultmore	12. Cragganmore	20. Glendullan
5. Balmenach	13. Craigellachie	21. Glen Elgin
6. Balvenie	14. Dailuaine	22. Glenfarclas
7. Benriach	15. Dalmunach	23. Glenfiddich
8. Benrinnes	16. Dalwhinnie	24. Glen Grant

SPEYSIDE

Aberlour 18yrs 43%	38
Allt'A Bhainne 21yrs 1998 Reserve Collection 48.1%	50
Auchroisk 14yrs 2007 Bordeaux Finish Mossburn 46%	20
Aultmore 10yrs 2012 Hepburn's Choice 46%	16
Balmenach 8yrs 2013 Old Provenance 46%	16
The Balvenie 12yrs Double Wood 40%	15
Benriach 21yrs Classic 46%	48
Benrinnes 15yrs Flora and Fauna 43%	20
Benromach 10yrs 40%	15
Braeval 23yrs That Boutique Whisky Company 44.6%	50
Cardhu Gold Reseve GOT House Targaryen 40%	18
Cragganmore 12yrs 40%	15
Craigellachie 13yrs Armagnac Cask Finish 46%	18
Dailuaine 16yrs Flora and Fauna 43%	21
Dalmunach 6yrs 2016 Wee Brother 52%	25
Dalwhinnie 30yrs 1989 Special Release 2020 51.9%	180
Singleton of Dufftown 18yrs 40%	25
Glenallachie 15yrs 46%	22
Glenburgie 8yrs 2013 Càrn Mòr 47.5%	19
Glendullan 12yrs Flora and Fauna 43%	75
Glen Elgin 13yrs 2008 The Whisky Exchange 52.2%	23
Glenfarclas 21yrs 43%	35
Glenfiddich Project XX Experimental Series 47%	16
Glen Grant 15yrs Batch Strength First Edition 50%	20
Glen Keith 22yrs 1996 Cherry Bakewell Tart 46%	55



25. Glen Keith	33. Kininvie	41. Speyburn
26. Glenlivet	34. Knockando	42. Strathisla
27. Glenlossie	35. Linkwood	43. Strathmill
28. Glen Moray	36. Longmorn	44. Tamdhu
29. Glenrothes	37. Macallan	45. Tamnavulin
30. Glen Spey	38. Mannochmore	46. Tomintoul
31. Gentauchers	39. Milnorduff	47. Tormore
32. Inchgower	40. Mortlach	

SPEYSIDE

Glenlivet Caribbean Reserve 46%	15
Glenlivet 18yrs 40%	40
Glenlivet 12yrs Double Oak 40%	15
Glenlossie 10yrs Flora and Fauna 43%	20
Glen Moray 2008 Berry Bros. & Rudd 46%	19
Glenrothes 13yrs 2004 Cellar Collection 48.8%	20
Glen Spey 12yrs Flora and Fauna 43%	18
Glentauchers 2008 Gordon & MacPhail Distiller Labels 46%	25
Inchgower 14yrs Flora and Fauna 43%	21
Kininvie 23yrs 1991 Batch 3 43.6%	58
Knockando 18yrs 2001 43%	21
Linkwood 12yrs Flora and Fauna 43%	18
Longmorn 16yrs 48%	30
Macallan 18yrs Fine Oak 43%	160
Mannochmore 12yrs Flora and Fauna 43%	18
Miltonduff 12yrs 2006 Distillery Reserve Collection 59.2%	18
Mortlach Rare Old 43.4%	25
Speyburn 18yrs 46%	30
Strathisla 15yrs 2007 60.3%	48
Strathmill 12yrs Flora and Fauna 43%	18
Tamdhu Batch Strength No.6 56.8%	28
Tamnavulin Red Wine Cask 40%	15
Tomintoul 16yrs 40%	20
Tormore 10yrs 2010 Watt Whisky 57.1%	23

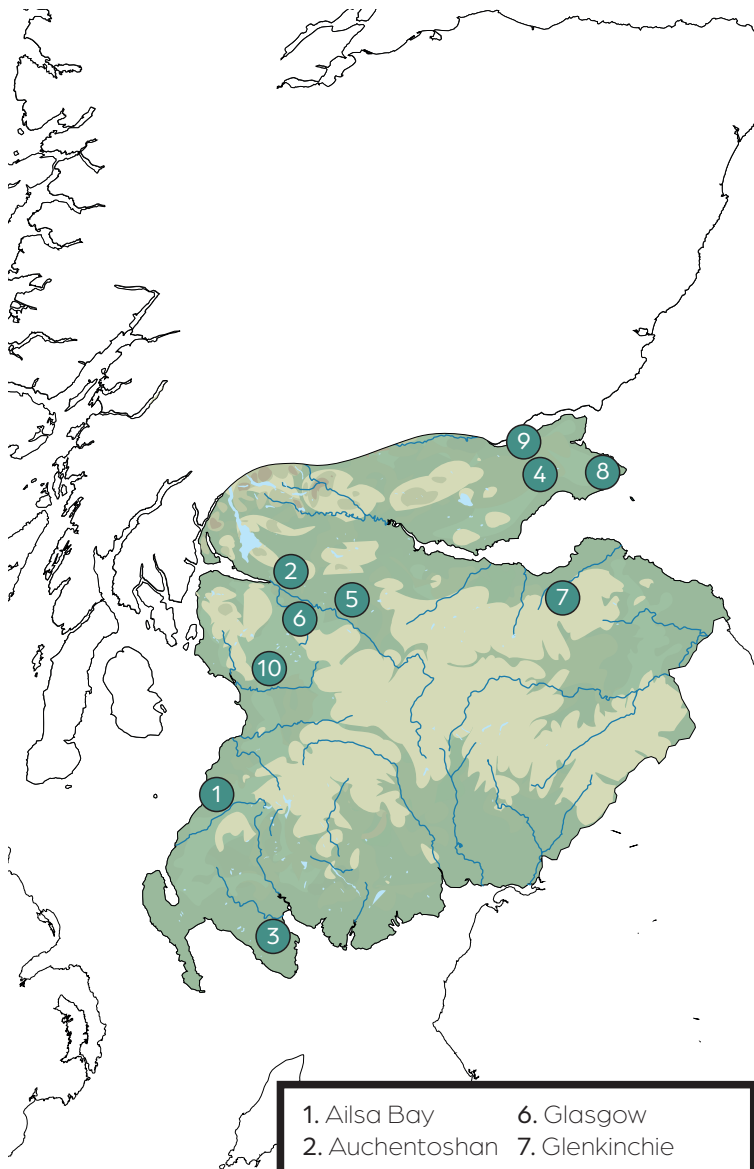
SCOTLAND

LOWLANDS

While some of Scotland's earliest legal distilleries were located within the Lowland region, its malts have often suffered in comparison to those from further north and west in Scotland. The reasons for this are bound up in deeper history that bears little relevance to some of the beautiful and often overlooked distillates from this region. It is also a region which suffered from whisky's recessionary times in the 1980s, when a number characterful old distilleries in this region were sadly closed.

The style is traditionally a **softer** and more **graceful** one, with **triple distillation** a common practice and the malts created often displaying a more **cereal, grassy** and **citric elegance**.

The resurgence of distilling in this region today has diversified the flavours to be found in this region once again, but names like Auchentoshan and Glenkinchie still reveal highly traditional Lowland profiles.



- | | |
|-----------------|-------------------|
| 1. Ailsa Bay | 6. Glasgow |
| 2. Auchentoshan | 7. Glenkinchie |
| 3. Bladnoch | 8. Kingsbarns |
| 4. Daftmill | 9. Lindores Abbey |
| 5. Eden Mill | 10. Lochlea |

LOWLANDS

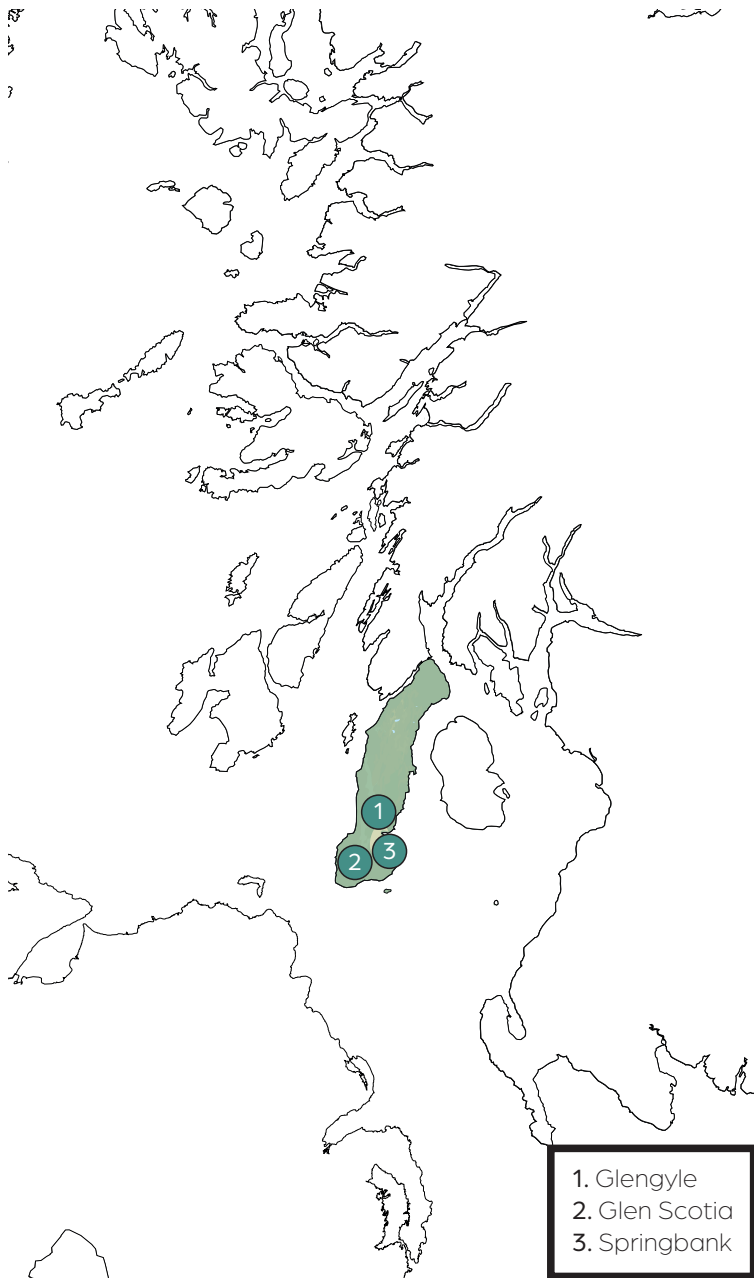
Ailsa Bay 48.9%	18
Auchentoshan 18yrs 43%	30
Bladnoch Vinaya 46.7%	18
Daftmill 2011 Single Cask - Milano Whisky Festival 60.4%	280
Eden Mill Madeira Cask 2022 56.8%	75
Glasgow 1770 Cognac Cask Finished 56%	25
Glenkinchie 2008 Distillers Edition 43%	25
Kingsbarns Doocot 46%	16
Lindores Abbey MCDXCIV 46%	16
Lochlea Ploughing Edition First Crop 46%	15

SCOTLAND

CAMPBELTOWN

At the southern end of the Mull of Kintyre sits Campbeltown, once regarded as "The Whisky Capital of the World", due to the number of distilleries based there. Today there are only three distilleries operational in the town - Glengyle (Kilkerran), Springbank and Glen Scotia.

The Campbeltown style is broad and distinctive through all types, from **light** and **delicate** through to **heavily peated** and **rich**. There is often a briney note in these whiskies, and a character to that is best described by the Scots themselves: **foosty**, like the musty, **earthy** smell of warehouses, and old **wood**.



CAMPBELTOWN

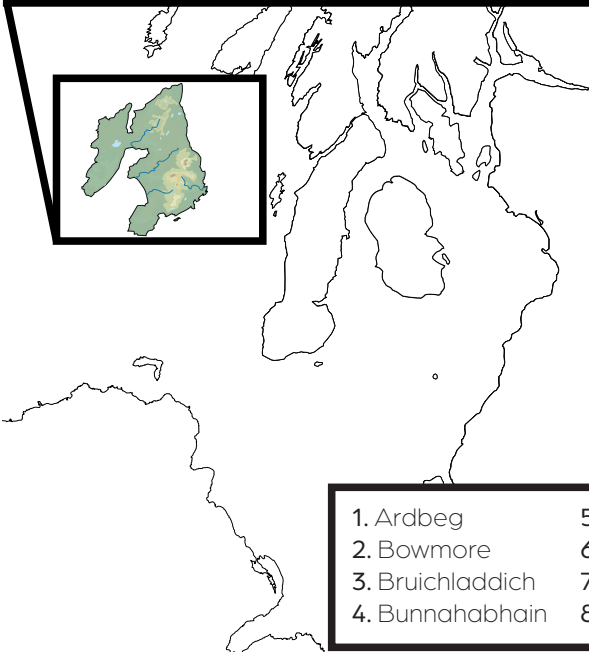
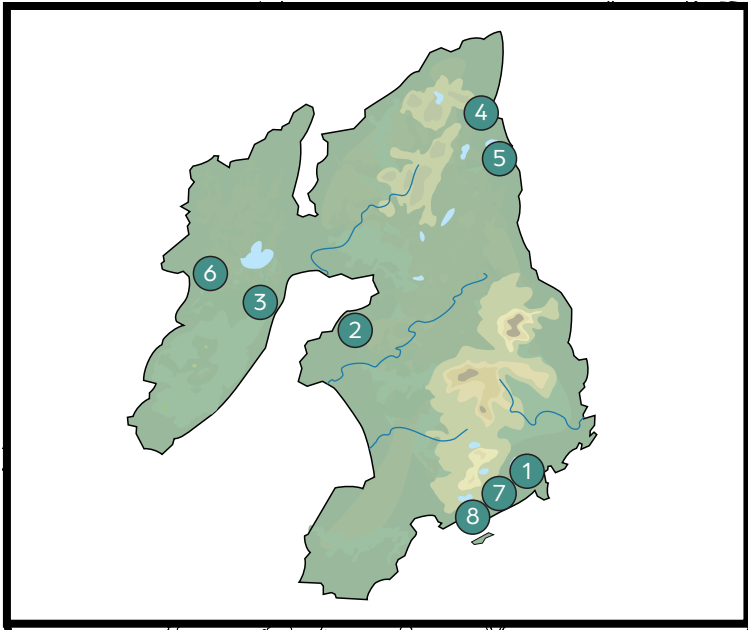
Kilkerran 5yrs 58.2%	48
Glen Scotia 12yrs Seasonal Release 2022 53.3%	45
Springbank 15yrs 46%	48
Springbank 18yrs 46%	49

SCOTLAND

ISLAY

The name Islay is inseparably associated with the **flavour of peat**. This inner Hebridean island is carpeted with peat and occupies a location that offered, initially to illicit distillers, a land that was remote and **naturally suited to distilling**, while later an accessibility by ship and proximity to the Clyde made it a place of unexpected commercial suitability as Scotland's whisky industry sprang to life.

The resulting whiskies were **thick** and clotted with **richly aromatic** peat smoke. The specific composite of Islay peat means these whiskies tend towards deeply **phenolic flavours** that incorporate not only smoke, but **tar, medicine** and pin-sharp **salinity** too. Modern Islay whiskies no longer require peat as a fuel source, but they continue to embrace it as a **flavouring agent** and a **foundational ingredient** in their distillates. The most emblematic perhaps being the South short trio of Lagavulin, Laphroaig and Ardbeg. While names like Bunnahabhain and Bruichladdich offer some much lighter and less peaty expressions, even these remain oily, full-bodied and vividly coastal single malts.



- | | |
|------------------|--------------|
| 1. Ardbeg | 5. Caol Ila |
| 2. Bowmore | 6. Kilchoman |
| 3. Bruichladdich | 7. Lagavulin |
| 4. Bunnahabhain | 8. Laphroaig |

ISLAY

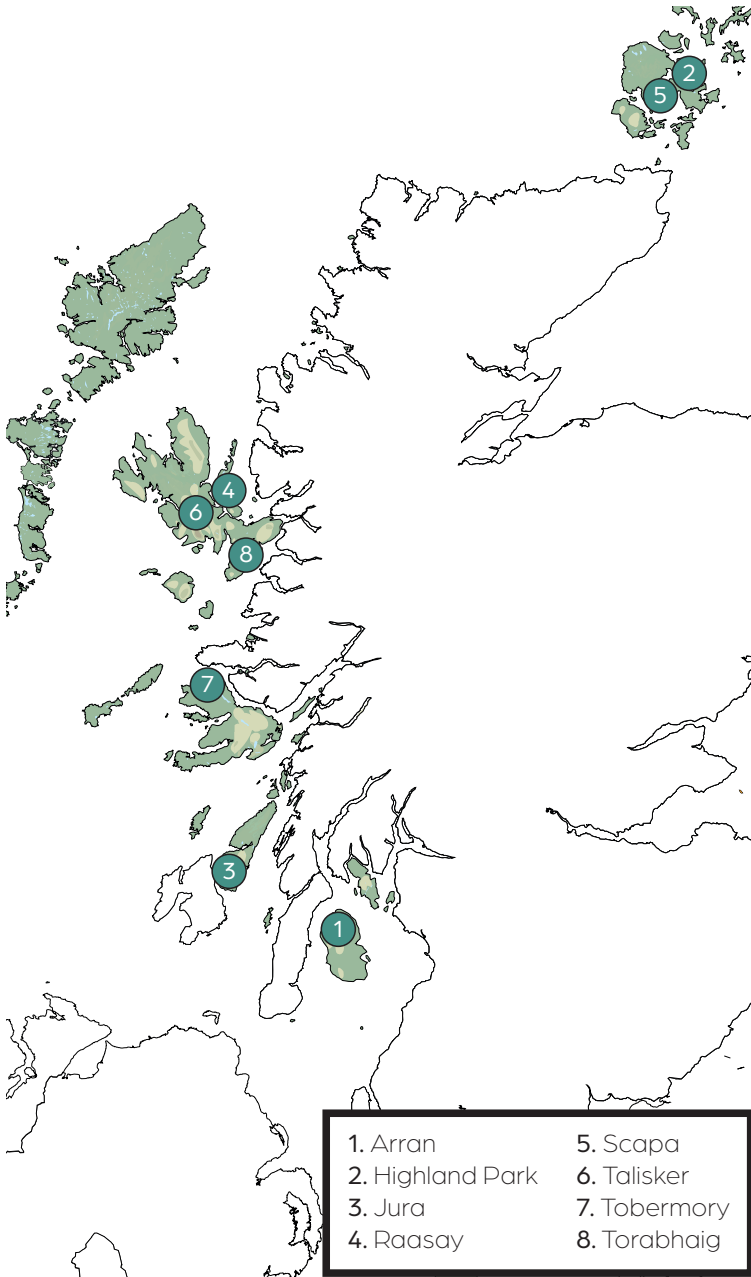
Ardbeg 10yrs 46%	16
Bowmore 18yrs 43%	35
Bruichladdich Islay Barley 2010 Bourbon & French Cask 50%	16
Octomore Edition 13.3 61%	70
Bunnahabhain 10yrs 2010 Daily Dram 46%	26
Caol Ila 7yrs 2012 Asta Morris 60%	30
Elements of Islay Bró 50.4%	48
Kilchoman 100% Islay 50%	32
Kilchoman 18yrs 2012 Mezcal Finish 52.8%	45
Lagavulin 16yrs 43%	23
Laphroaig 10yrs 40%	15

SCOTLAND

ISLANDS

Much of what characterises the Highland region, could also be said of the Island distilleries. Only here the specific confinements of geography were even more pronounced historically: the **reliance on shipping ports** for raw materials and casks, the use of locally cut **peat for fuel** and the **microclimates** of the various islands themselves for maturation all played a role in delivering richly evocative makes that easily recalled their coastal locations and of often expressed beautiful and **idiosyncratic** peat flavours.

These attributes can still be found today in names like Talisker, Highland Park, Ledaig and Jura. These are **robust**, highly **charismatic** makes, frequently expressing **elegant** and **complex** peat smoke flavours, and even without peat, often expressively coastal and invigorating. These are some of Scotland's most beautiful makes which often retain older style characteristics when bottled in natural form.



- | | |
|------------------|--------------|
| 1. Arran | 5. Scapa |
| 2. Highland Park | 6. Talisker |
| 3. Jura | 7. Tobermory |
| 4. Raasay | 8. Torabhaig |

ISLANDS

Arran Barrel Reserve 43%	13
Highland Park Valkyrie 45.9%	18
Highland Park 18yrs 43%	30
Jura 12yrs 2009 Old Particular 48.4%	22
Isle of Raasay Bordeaux Red Wine Cask Unpeated 61.9%	28
Scapa 19yrs 2003 56.7%	80
Talisker Distiller's Edition 2017 45.8%	21
Tobermory 17yrs 2003 Madeira Finish 54.2%	45
Torabhaig Legacy Series Allt Glean 46%	21

SCOTLAND

BLENDED

Chivas Regal 12yrs 40%	12
Chivas Regal 15yrs 40%	18
Copper Dog Blended Malt 40%	12
Johnnie Walker Blue Label 40%	70

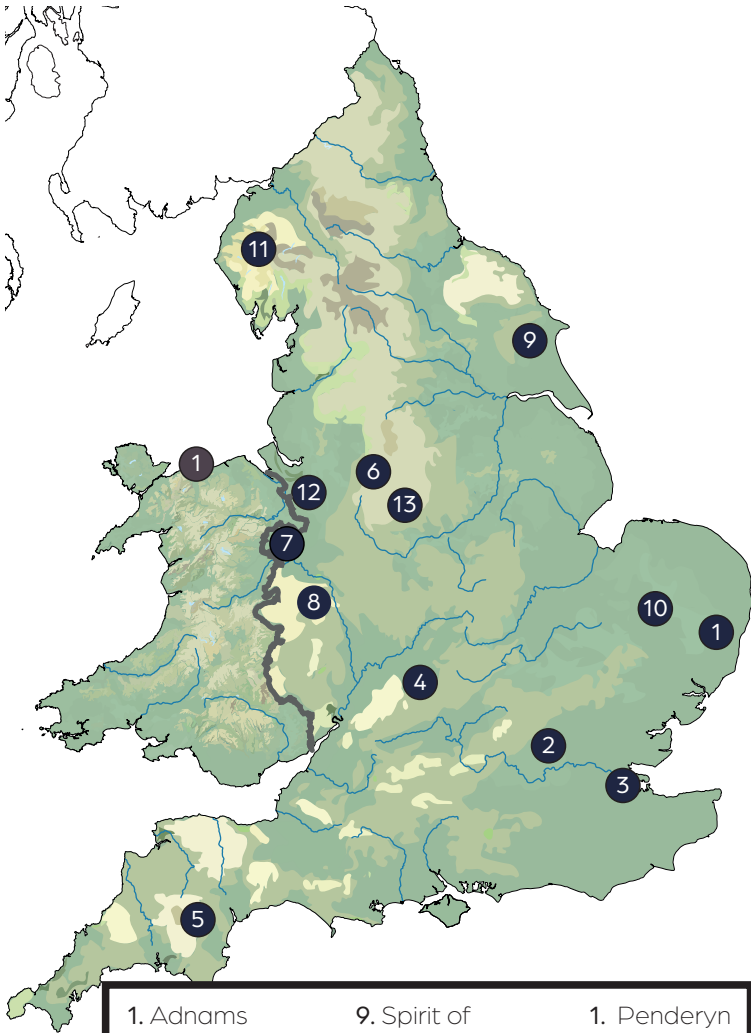
ENGLAND & WALES

England is a **relative newcomer** to modern whisky distilling, this coupled with the fact it is a diverse country with a dividing geological line and distinct differences between the north and south, means its identity as a whisky producing nation is somewhat convoluted and still fledgling.

However, while it might lack easy categorisation in terms of styles or flavour profiles, it could perhaps be defined more as a land of **wilful experimentation** and a place where an absence of historical tradition with this drink, frees individual distillers to find their **own paths**. England can offer **peaty** or **fruity, light** or **heavy, clean** or **funky**; there's a wealth of young distilleries across the country slowly carving their own way. Of all the countries of these islands that might surprise you, if you are seeking something a bit **different**, or something **new**, it is England where that **surprise** might be most **pronounced** and most **pleasant**.

The original distilling industry of **Wales** was effectively dead by the end of the 19th century, and it wouldn't be until the founding of Penderyn in 2000 that true Welsh whisky production would recommence.

Today there are **four distilleries** in Wales producing whisky and the Country can be said to have a **small but thriving** whisky industry once again. There aren't many Welsh whiskies on the market yet, but the recent release of Aber Falls revealed a **gentle, easy** and approachably **fruity** young malt, whereas Penderyn, now firmly established, can display a fantastically **vibrant** fruitiness that borders on extreme **exotic** fruits and **blackcurrant** notes.



- | | | |
|-----------------|----------------------------|-------------|
| 1. Adnams | 9. Spirit of Yorkshire | 1. Penderyn |
| 2. Bimber | 10. The English Whisky Co. | |
| 3. Cooper Rivet | 11. The Lakes | |
| 4. Cotswolds | 12. Weetwood | |
| 5. Dartmoor | 13. White peak | |
| 6. Forest | | |
| 7. Henstone | | |
| 8. Ludlow | | |

ENGLAND

Adnams 7yrs 50%	20
Bimber Ex-Bourbon Single Malt Batch 4 51.2%	32
Cooper Rivet Mashhouse Single Malt Pot Distilled 45%	15
Cotswolds Single Malt 46%	18
Dartmoor Bordeaux Cask Matured Whisky 46%	28
Forest Whisky Blend Number Nineteen 47%	23
Henstone Single Malt Whisky – Ex-Peated Casks 46%	26
Ludlow Single Malt Distiller's Cut Cask Edition No.3 42%	40
Spirit of Yorkshire Filey Bay Flagship 46%	20
The English Original Single Malt 43%	16
The Lakes Single Malt Editions Colheita 52%	25
The Lakes Single Malt Editions Mosaic 46.6%	28
The Lakes Single Malt Editions Recuerdo 57%	38
The Lakes Single Malt Editions Reflections 54%	35
Weetwood The Cheshire Seaside – Special Release 46%	22
White Peak Wire Works Small Batch Single Malt 46.2%	22

WALES

Penderyn Rich Oak 46%	18
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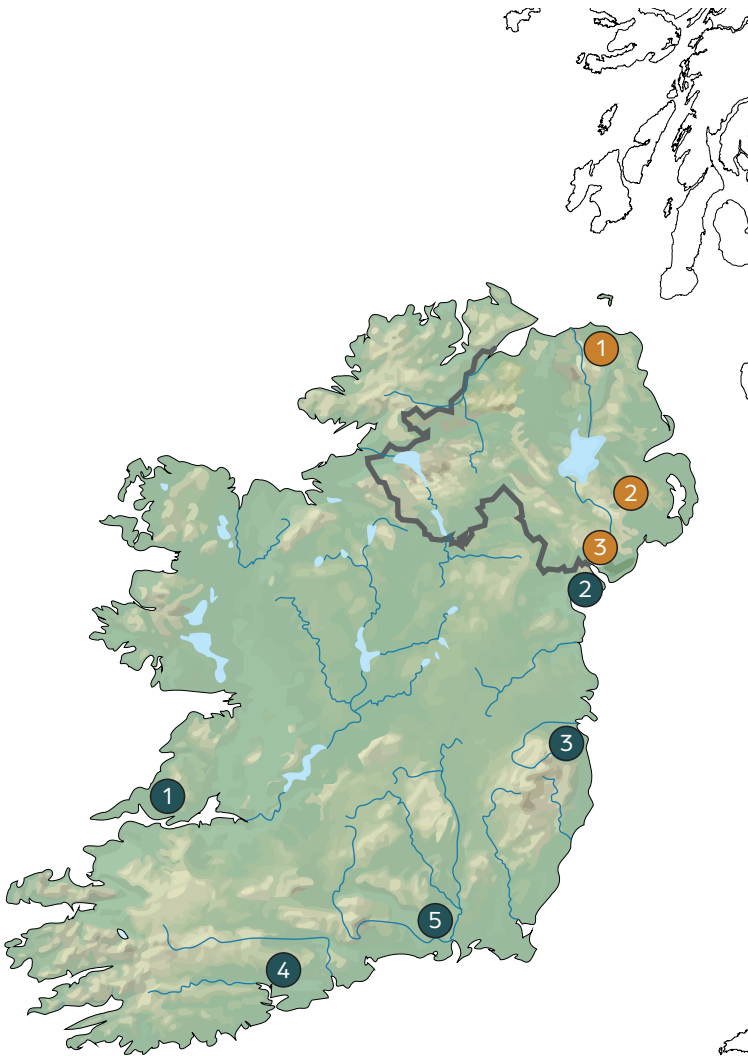
IRELAND

Irish whiskey is a **fascinating** story of a once booming industry that fell to the upheavals of the early 20th century, to the point of there being only two operating distilleries in Ireland, to a modern **resurgence** which continues at bewilderingly successful pace.

It is tempting to think of Irish whiskey as 'light', and while some single malts such as Bushmills tend towards a lighter, grassier profile, this is by no means the whole picture. Perhaps the most idiosyncratic Irish whiskey style is 'Pure Pot Still', these are whiskeys made with a mash of malted and un-malted barley

The results are often wonderfully **oily**, **mouthcoating** and deeply **fruity** whiskeys that express **fleshy**, almost **pulpy** and overripe fruit characteristics on the palate, perhaps the most iconic and exemplary name in this category is Redbreast.

The boom and resurgence in today's Irish whiskey industry has brought with it huge **diversity**, and now any number of flavour profiles can be found in Irish whiskey - to an extent that rivals any other distilling nation. So if you want to sip something **emphatically peaty**, or indulge in a richly fruity **sherry cask**, you needn't automatically look to Scotland...



- | | |
|---------------|----------------------|
| 1. Bushmills | 1. Co. Clare |
| 2. Hinch | 2. Cooley Distillery |
| 3. Mourne Dew | 3. Jameson |
| | 4. Midleton |
| | 5. Waterford |

NORTHERN IRELAND

Bushmills Black Bush 40%	12
Hinch 5yrs Double Wood 43%	16
Mourne Dew Single malt 43%	18

IRELAND

Co. Clare J.J. Corry The Flintlock 46%	35
Co. Clare J.J. Corry The Gael 46%	26
Cooley Distillery Connemara Peated 40%	15
Jameson Select Reserve Black Barrel 40%	15
Midleton GreenSpotLéovilleBartonBordeauxFinish 46%	18
Midleton Very Rare 2021 40%	75
Midleton Redbreast 15yrs 46%	25
Midleton Redbreast 12yrs 40%	20
Waterford Single Malt Whisky 50%	25

REST OF THE WORLD

The last twenty years have seen a global boom in Scotch Whisky, and in particular Scottish single malts. However, the glare of this success can too easily distract from the fortunes of whisky as a drink more generally in the world today. Many nations now not only produce whisky, but are striving to carve out an identity for their own whisky categories and profiles.

Nations like **America**, with its longstanding, rye and bourbon whiskeys that make great use of mashbills, a warmer climate and virgin American oak, have also seen a huge surge in new, independent and highly experimental smaller distilleries.

Whereas in **Japan**, where older style Scottish production techniques are still kept alive by a number of distillers, the intense success of their own category and reputation has led to a raft of new distilleries and widespread recognition for names like Yamazaki and Yoichi.

One of the farthest and most fascinating frontiers can be found in the whiskies produced in **Australia**, these are frequently highly experimental and whiskies of widely varying character, often concentrated by warmer maturation climates and unusual cask selections.

While it is true that sifting through the whiskies from across the world, whether they be well established, or non-traditional whisky producing nations, can be haphazard, it can also be the most fun and often the most surprising way to experience a fresh take on this beautiful spirit. We hope our selection has curated together some of the best and more intriguing examples.

AMERICA

BOURBON

Angel's Envy 43.3%	16
Buffalo Trace Blanton's Gold Edition 51.5%	30
Buffalo Trace Bourbon 40%	12
Buffalo Trace Colonel E. H. Taylor Single Barrel 50%	35
Buffalo Trace Eagle Rare 10yrs 45%	16
Bulleit Bourbon 45%	12
Heaven Hill Elijah Craig Barrel Proof 69.4%	38
Koval Bourbon 47%	18
Michter's Distillery Small Batch Bourbon 45.7%	18
Woodford Reserve 43.2%	15

TENNESSEE

Jack Daniel's Single Barrel 45%	15
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RYE

Buffalo Trace Thomas H. Handy Sazerac 64.4%	60
Bulleit Rye 45%	12
Michter's Distillery Straight Rye 42.4%	18
Whistle Pig 10yrs Single Cask 55.9%	40
Whistle Pig 15yrs Single Cask 58.8%	100

JAPAN

Chichibu London Edition 2019 48.5%	60
Chichibu London Edition 2021 48.5%	65
Yamazaki 12yrs 43%	35
Yamazaki 18rs 43%	140
Yoichi Nikka From The Barrel 51.4%	16
Yoichi Nikka Miyagikyo 45%	25
Suntory Hakushu 12 43%	56
Suntory Hibiki Harmony 43%	28

AUSTRALIA

Bakery Hill Peated Malt Whisky 46%	40
Starward Nova 41%	20

CIGARS

Cohiba Siglo II	65
H. Upmann Half Corona Teen	35
Montecristo No.4	45
Partagas Serie D No.4	55
Romeo y Julieta Short Churchill	55