



TASTING BRIEF

March 25, 2022

REGION

Talisker is located on the Isle of Skye. Island single malts are produced on the islands around the perimeter of the Scottish mainland. The islands (excluding Islay) are not recognised in the Scotch Whisky Regulations as a distinct whisky producing region, but are considered to be part of the Highland region.



A deeper look into casks, first fill vs. refill.

The majority of casks used in the maturation of scotch are ex-bourbon. A US law states that bourbon can only be matured in **virgin** oak casks. And due to this law, these barrels and hogsheads will have been filled only once with bourbon whisky for an average of 2-3 years.

The first time a bourbon cask is filled with scotch whisky, the wood is still fresh and active. The sweet flavours of bourbon help to season the wood. **The more active the wood, the quicker the maturation and the more flavour extracted from the cask.** Oak contains natural sugars that give the rich flavours of caramel and toffee, and vanillin gives classic vanilla notes. Lactones result in sweet coconut notes. And spicy-tasting compounds such as eugenol, isoeugenol and cinnamaldehyde (from the charring process) give us those familiar oak-spice, nutmeg and cinnamon flavours.

1st fill bourbon casks are perfect for the maturation of Scotch whisky up to a certain age (around 15-18 years). However, a fresh and active cask will mature quicker. Breathe more and subsequently result in a greater angel's share with greater loss of liquid and a faster reduction in ABV. Furthermore, **whisky left for too long in a 1st fill cask runs the risk of becoming too woody.** In which case, the softer and more subtle flavours and all of the distillery character is lost.

If you were to line up several 15 year old first-fill cask samples, you'd find a lot of similar flavours. The whisky would be rich, golden and sweet, but

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FROM THE ISLE OF SKYE

you might find it difficult to guess which distillery they are from. Were you to do the same with refill cask samples, the distillery character would be much more obvious.

A 1st fill cask might give 80% of its flavour from the wood and 20% from the distillation process. On the other hand, **the refill cask will give closer to 60% of its flavour from the oak and 40% from the distillery.**

Talisker - The Distillery

Established in 1830, Talisker is the oldest working distillery on the Isle of Skye and is set on the shores of Loch Harport with dramatic views of the Cuillins.

The spirit is most frequently matured in American oak casks. The malt is peated to a phenol level of approximately 18–22 parts per million (ppm), which is a medium peating level. Additionally, the water used for production, from Cnoc nan Speireag (Hawk Hill), flows over peat which adds additional complexity to the whisky.





Talisker Skye

Region Isles/Highland *ABV* 45.8%

Price \$58.90 *Cask* refill and
toasted American oak
cask combo

About the Bottle

Bright 18 carat gold in appearance with medium-bodied soft texture. Talisker Skye brings with it a well-rounded and sweet flavour profile packed with fresh citrus, sweet smoke, peppery spice and traditional Talisker maritime notes.

Distillery Tasting Notes

Nose The first citrus sweetness of fresh oranges develops into soft mango. Maritime air with seaweed, driftwood, and salt continue under.

Taste Soft and sweet at first, coating and tongue tingling, with light smoke. Quickly becomes more pungent and savory with a hot spiciness.

Finish Drier and of medium-length, with a lasting, smooth aftertaste, in which light peaty burnt embers can be found.



Talisker Port Ruighe

Region Isles/Highland *ABV* 45.8%

Price \$73.65 *Cask* port cask

About the Bottle

Double matured in port casks, Port Ruighe, pronounced 'Portree' is the Gaelic spelling of the once-bustling trading port on Skye: this malt is a toast to the Scottish traders who braved the high seas and were instrumental in the foundation of the port wine trade. The port finish combines Talisker's powerful maritime character with succulent sweet notes of rich berry fruits for a superb taste experience.

Distillery Tasting Notes

Nose Instant, very well balanced, and sweet, yet not cloying; overall, rather like the sweet smokiness of a fading wood fire with the fruity richness of ripe plums.

Taste Smoky and savoury: spicy pepper rapidly grows into peatiness, as a creamy smokiness mingles with spice and dark fruits.

Finish Long, memorable, and mouth-filling, leaving on the tongue an appealing and intense cocoa-rich drying smokiness.





Distillers Edition

2021 Single Malt - 2011

Region Isles/Highland *ABV* 45.8%

Price \$84.37 *Cask* ex-bodega
Amoroso cask

About the Bottle

2011 Talisker double-matured in ex-bodega Amoroso cask wood for rich and fruity sweetness that rounds out the peaty, peppery punch of the malty regular release, to create a richly rewarding and deeper style of malt. Part of the 2021 Distillers Edition range. Limited quantities worldwide.

Distillery Tasting Notes

Nose Very well focused. Wonderful grapey sultana sweetness. Clean, tempting.

Taste Crisp peat softens to enormous richness, then wafts around sweet, roasted malt, leaving a heathland dryness. Wood controls the pepper; luscious, slightly oily sweetness; ripe, juicy fruit.

Finish Drier and of medium-length, with a lasting, smooth aftertaste, in which light peaty burnt embers can be found.





Old Particular Single Cask #14410 2009

Region Isles/Highland *ABV* 48.4%

Price \$172.82 *Cask* Refill Hogshead

About the Bottle

Douglas Laing's "Old Particular" is a particularly unique series of individually hand-selected aged Single Cask Malts' and Single Cask Single Grains from all over Scotland.

"Douglas Laing is a proudly independent, family owned Scotch Whisky business in its third generation. Abiding by the philosophy of presenting Whisky "as the Distiller intended", we are committed to bottling our Whisky "as natural as it gets" allowing enthusiasts around the globe to come as close as they possibly can to sampling a dram straight from the cask in the hallowed surrounds of a Scottish Distillery Warehouse."

This Talisker 10 single malt whisky, bottled in 2020, is one of 376 bottles aged exclusively in a refill hogshead.

Distillery Tasting Notes

Nose Smoky bonfire, coastal sea salt and caramel

Taste Fresh malted barley, seaweed, charcoal, sea salt and rubber

Finish Long with ginger spice, sweet lemon drops, cured ham, toffee and gentle peat

