



# *Kelowna Scotch & Fine Spirits Society*

presents the

## **September 2020 Tasting: A Few of Our Favourite Things**

Featured distilleries:

Heaven Hill

Girvan

Glenrothes

Dailuaine

Arran

Ardbeg

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night at our website:



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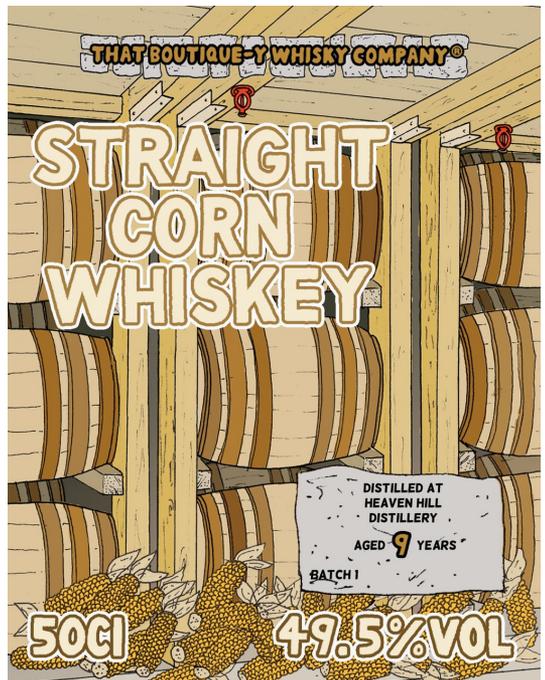
<http://instagram.com/kelownascotchfinespirits/>

## 1. That Boutique-y Whisky Company Straight Corn Whisky (49.5% ABV)

IB: TBWC is a bottling company known for transparency in labelling, and quirky artwork. Founded in 2012, and launched by Atom Brands, they are the independent bottler for Master of Malt, the online whisky distributor (European unfortunately). They generally bottle whiskey from all over the place, usually at odd proofs, and always in 500mL bottles.

Production Details: What is straight corn whiskey? In a sentence, aged moonshine. 80% corn mashbill, same distilling limits as bourbon, with the secret lying in that it must use reused barrels. If you've ever seen Mellow Corn on the shelf, this is that whiskey, with double the age on it. The legal definition of corn whiskey may have been developed as a way for bourbon distillers to be able to recoup some of the cost of their cooperage by defining a category that allowed reused barrels.

Distillery: Heaven Hill is a well-known family-owned and operated American distillery located in Bardstown, Kentucky. They manufacture numerous brands of American whiskey and bourbon such as Elijah Craig, Henry McKenna, Evan Williams, Bernheim, Larceny, Old Fitzgerald, Rittenhouse & Pikesville rye whiskies and Parker's Heritage. Founded in part by Jim Beam's cousin, Joseph Beam, all of the master distillers up until the turn of the millennium have been Beam relatives, ending with Craig Beam. It's now run by Conor O'Driscoll, an Irish fermentation scientist, formerly of Woodford Reserve. Heaven Hill fills 1300 barrels a day into 56 different rickhouses and currently sits on 1.5m barrels of whiskey.



## 2. The Coopers Choice Girvan 1992 (57% ABV)

IB: The Cooper's Choice is the single cask bottling subsidiary of The Vintage Malt Whisky Company. VMWC also produces the Finlaggan, Ileach and Islay Storm lines of mysteriously labelled Islay single malts, Smokestack (an Islay/Highland blend), and the Glenalmond Highland blend among others.

Distillery and production details: Girvan is a lowland grain distillery, named after the town of Girvan. It is owned by W. Grant and Sons, and is one of the largest distilleries in Scotland, while at the same time being known as one of the most energy efficient distilleries in Scotland. Built in 1963, it now has six columns producing new-make from a 91.5% wheat mashbill to a still strength of 94.5%. It fills at several strengths including 69, 74 and 80%. Grain whisky, being distilled to a higher still strength and often casked at a higher fill strength usually requires more time than single malt whiskies to mature. These differences also produce a characteristic profile which

has more of a corn whiskey or Canadian whiskey type of profile. Delicate, sweet and light bodied, with notes of fruit, "model glue" or popcorn, single grain whiskies are often underappreciated, holding around 2% of the whisky market. Girvan is also the producer of Hendrick's Gin, and is the site of the Ailsa Bay Distillery, which releases an interesting peated Lowland whisky.



### 3. Cadenhead Small Batch Glenrothes 22 Years Old (49.7% ABV)

IB: WM Cadenhead's is the independent bottler run as a subsidiary to the Springbank distillery, and no stranger to this club. They bottle numerous single casks, blended whiskies as part of the "Cadenhead Creations" line, and several small vattings of up to 5 casks in their "Small Batch" line.

Production Details: 22 years old, a vatting of 3 ex-bourbon hogsheads. Distilled in 1996 and bottled in 2019. 966 bottles produced.

Distillery: Founded in 1879 by James Stuart and a number of other investors (who also owned Macallan at the time), and now owned by the Edrington group, the Glenrothes distillery has seen a disruptive history with fires in 1897, 1903, 1922, and 1962 and a number of ownership changes. The main component and driver behind the original Cutty Sark blend, this distillery is one of the few which mature the majority of their spirit in sherry-seasoned casks, made of European or American oak and built in Jerez. They also are one of the few remaining to have their own in-house cooperage. This makes today's bottle intriguing, as it's ex-bourbon matured. Glenrothes was the first distillery to release by vintage instead of age statement with their Vintage 1979 bottling (released in 1994), and to this day bottles without the use of added colour, in their signature rounded bottles.



#### 4. Cadenhead Small Batch Dailuaine 10 Years Old (59.9% ABV)

Production Details: 10 years old, from a vatting of 3 ex-bourbon hogsheads, distilled in 2008 and bottled in 2019. 786 bottles produced.

Distillery: Founded in 1852, it was for a time enjoined to the Talisker Distillery as Dailuaine-Talisker Distilleries Ltd. Now owned by Diageo, it is a main component of Johnnie Walker blends, with scarce and intermittent bottlings with an official distillery label. While not originally designed to be, this distillery is now an industrial component of Diageo's portfolio, with the malt procured from a large offsite maltings, and the spirit itself being casked at Cambus into ex-bourbon barrels to be aged in Edinburgh. Dailuaine stems from the gaelic "an dail uaine" translating to "green valley, and was the first to be built with a "pagoda" topped kiln which is now seen on many distilleries rooftops. Contrast this whiskey to the Glenrothes bottling, in that Glenrothes uses a shorter fermentation with an extended distillation through stills fitted with boil balls. This results in a complex, refined new make. Dailuaine uses a longer fermentation and a more rapid distillation. Dailuaine also uses stainless steel condensers in an effort to cut down on the interaction with copper inside the still, producing a heavier spirit.



## 5. The Arran Malt KWM Bourbon Cask #2006/013 (52.6% ABV)

Production Details: 13 years old, from an ex-bourbon cask. Distilled in 2006 and bottled in 2019. 208 bottles produced of the 14th cask bottled specifically for Kensington Wine Market.

Distillery: Arran, and specifically the Lochranza distillery, having recently rebranded, is now one of two distilleries on the Isle of Arran, founded in 1994 by the former director of Chivas. The construction of the distillery was halted for one year because of the nesting of a pair of protected golden eagles on a cliff near the distillery. Thus the eagles on their new packaging. The company opened the second Arran distillery, named Lagg on the south end of the island in 2019, to produce only heavily peated whisky to compete with Islay style whiskies. The two distilleries are built in opposing styles. Arran has elegant, tall, narrow-necked stills with long, narrow horizontal lyne arms to produce an easy-going, graceful spirit, whereas Lagg has bulbous onion-shaped stills with sharply downturned Lyne arms to force a more sul-

phury, rustic spirit. Isle of Arran distillers are perhaps also one of the more client focused distilleries, being one of the few to offer cask purchase right from their website. Current 2020 pricing puts a first fill ex-sherry hogshead bottled 10 years from now at just shy of £10 000 GBP.

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*The*  
**Arran**  
*Malt*

SINGLE MALT  
SCOTCH WHISKY

PRIVATE CASK

SELECTED BY AND BOTTLED EXCLUSIVELY FOR  
KENSINGTON WINE MARKET

NATURAL COLOUR - NON CHILL FILTERED

BOURBON BARREL:	2006/013
DISTILLATION ON:	03/11/06
BOTTLED ON:	11/12/19
BOTTLE No	/208

700ml e 52.6% alc./vol.

KENSINGTON  
WINE MARKET  
ESTABLISHED 1992

DISTILLED, MATURED & BOTTLED IN SCOTLAND  
ISLE OF ARRAN DISTILLERS LTD, ARRAN

## 6. Ardbeg Uigeadail (54.2% ABV)

Production Details: This is our only non-age stated (NAS) bottle of the evening, and was the first of many Ardbeg expressions to not bear an age statement and instead be released on the merits of its flavour profile alone. Named after a nearby loch that the distillery uses as a water source, Uigeadail is rumoured to be a blend of ex-bourbon stock (essentially Ardbeg Ten whisky) and around 10% sherry matured whisky, bottled at batch strength. Again, the rumour mill says that this expression was designed to make use of a quantity of extra-aged sherried whisky that had lost a lot of peatiness by combining it with younger sherried and ex-bourbon whisky to bring back the smoke. Regardless, this is an extremely popular whisky and Ardbeg's only sherried core offering.

Distillery: Ardbeg Distillery has been operating since 1815 (with the exception of a mothballing period through the 80s), using a pair of tall stills with rising lyne arms resulting in a complex, elegant make from Port Ellen maltings like the majority of the large distilleries on Islay. Now owned by Glenmorangie (as a subsidiary of LVMH), who revived the distillery in the mid-90s, Ardbeg's capacity is set to double in the near future. Ardbeg is located in the southeast of Islay, right down the road from Lagavulin, and Laphroaig. Ardbeg generally doesn't supply blenders and usually hard to find as a independently-bottled whisky (at least by name).

