

New releases

New releases

Michael Jackson and Dave Broom, *Whisky Magazine's* resident tasters, sample a range of newly released whiskies – with each offering blind tasted

Once again we bring you an impressive 19 new releases for in this issue. Apart from two Kentuckians, all of them are independent bottlings. Seven are from Islay, including a Douglas Laing 1972 Ardbeg exclusive to The Whisky Shop. Or how about a 1943 Glenlivet from Gordon & MacPhail or a 1964 Glen Grant from Lombard?

Key
◆ £11-17 (US\$18-29)
◆◆ £18-25 (US\$30-40)
◆◆◆ £26-40 (US\$41-65)
◆◆◆◆ £41-70 (US\$66-113)
◆◆◆◆◆ £71 plus (US\$114 plus)

Facts	Adelphi Clynelish 27 Years Old, Cask 2568, 56.3%	
Region Highlands Price per bottle ◆◆◆◆ Availability Very limited: specialist retailers in UK and Europe	Michael Nose: Wet grass, fresh earth, peat. Palate: Deliciously smooth. Syrupy without being cloying. Malty. Then developing peaty flavours. Grassy dunes on a rainy day. Finish: Cress. Warming mustard. Comment: A robust, straight-ahead Clynelish, which is a great thing.	Dave Nose: Another big one, this time with lots of pipe smoke, apricot, wax, pine needles. Elegant with light smoke in the background. Palate: Big silky/waxy texture, peaches and beeswax with a peaty lift. A beauty. Finish: Long and complex. Comment: The 12-year-old is good but this has another layer of complexity.
	 8½	 8¼

Facts	Douglas Laing, The Ardbeggedon, Ardbeg 1972, 28 Years Old, Sherry Cask, 48.4%	
Region Islay Price per bottle ◆◆◆◆ Availability The Whisky Shop 	Michael Nose: Rich, soft, oily, smokiness. Very appetising. Palate: A dexterous interplay of grassy peatiness; oiliness; just lurking suggestions of lemony fruitiness, sherry and oak. Finish: Lively, evocative, maritime flavours. A long walk on a sandy beach, with a vigorous, salty spray. Comment: One of the best Ardbegs I have ever tasted. Full range of the distillery's typical flavours, lyrically combined.	Dave Nose: Dry, amazingly intense. Incredibly concentrated aromas: tarry rope, peat oil, lanolin, red herrings dangling from hooks in the smokehouse. HUGE. Palate: Sweet, concentrated, pent-up start. Then lime, lanolin, coal tar soap and all those weird aromas. Finish: Bone dry. Comment: For true believers only. The most intense, full-on Ardbeg I've ever come across.
	 9¼	 7¾

Facts	Eagle Rare Single Barrel 10 Years Old, 45%	
Region Kentucky Price per bottle ◆ Availability USA and specialist retailers in UK	Michael Nose: Creamy. Spicy. Palate: Smooth. Vanilla. Condensed milk. Coconut. Orange. Tropical fruits. Finish: Gingery finish. Warming. Comment: Slightly less sweet than the last bottling I tasted.	Dave Nose: Perfumed, lemon cooked fruits. Fairly lean with (in time) cocoa/coffee cake, winey notes. Whiff of cigar smoke as well. Palate: Attractive if slightly (surprisingly) austere. The mid-palate has lovely concentrated jammy fruits alongside some good spicy rye. Finish: Softens and begins to mellow. Comment: Quite a mouthful which takes no prisoners.
	 7¾	 7¼

New Releases, in association with *Royal Mile Whiskies*

A huge range of single malt whiskies available online at www.royalmilewhiskies.com and offline at Royal Mile Whiskies, 379 High Street, Royal Mile...