



@ Ardbeg Distillery

The most important distilleries

Scotland

Single Malt Whiskies from around 140 distilleries are currently available. Around 40 distilleries have already closed down and the warehouses are unloading. It is pleasing to note that a dozen new distilleries have opened in Scotland in recent years. You will not find well-known names such as Johnnie Walker, Chivas Regal or Ballantines in this list. These are Blended Whiskies and brand names, not distillery names. The following list gives you some important representatives of Scottish distilleries.

You can find a complete overview on our website Whisky.com.

Scotland (Malt) Ardbeg Balvenie Bowmore	Bruichladdich Dalmore Dalwhinnie Glendronach	Glenfiddich Glenlivet Glenmorangie Highland Park	Lagavulin Laphroaig Macallan Talisker
---	---	---	--

Ireland

Ireland has experienced constant ups and downs in terms of its Whiskey distilleries. At times, only four of numerous Irish distilleries remained due to sales problems. These four distilleries produced many different Whiskies for a long time. In the last decade, Irish Whiskey has experienced an impressive renaissance. New distilleries have been founded and old distilleries restored. Today, Irish Whiskey is back in fashion! For historical reasons, Ireland mainly produces Blended Whiskey. The differences in taste result from the mixture of various malt and industrial Whiskies.

There is another special feature in Ireland. Whiskey is distilled both in pot stills and in column stills. The selection is even greater due to the blending of malted and unmalted grain.

For the connoisseur, the most important Irish Whiskey brands are:

Single Malt Bushmills (Single Malt) Jameson Connemara	Blended Paddy Powers Teeling
---	--

The USA

Scotland is not the only country to produce outstanding Whiskies. The counterpart to the Scottish Single Malt is America's Kentucky Straight Bourbon. It is mainly made from corn, as the first Scottish and Irish settlers did not find enough barley for distilling. Over time, the taste of the population shifted and today Kentucky Straight Bourbon is a completely independent beverage.

There is a remarkable range of distilleries in The USA, which together produce around 100 different brands of Bourbon. The special types of grain and different yeasts give each Bourbon an individual taste.

The most important American Whiskey distilleries are listed on the following table.

Kentucky Straight Bourbon Buffalo Trace (Blanton's) Four Roses Bernheim (Elijah Craig) Jim Beam (Knob Creek)	Maker's Mark Wild Turkey Labrot & Graham (Woodford) Tennessee Whiskey Jack Daniel's
---	--

ATTENTION! Jack Daniel's is not a Bourbon. The Jack Daniel's distillery is located in Tennessee, the southern neighbor of the US state of Kentucky. Tennessee Whiskey is characterized by a special activated carbon filtering process during production. This makes the Whiskey softer.

If you want to buy an American Whiskey, we recommend trying special releases from Jim Beam and Jack Daniel's in addition to the standard bottlings. Specialist retailers have a much larger selection than supermarkets.

Japan

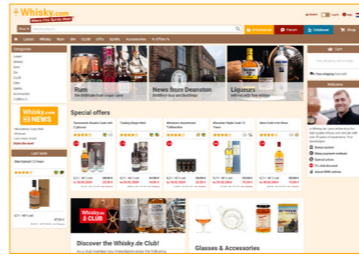
Whisky has been produced in Japan since 1924, with ever-improving results. Originally, Scotland was the model.

Today, the Suntory and Nikka distilleries are among the world-famous distilleries. Japanese Whisky represents the entire spectrum of Whisky production. There are Single Malt, Grain and Blended Whiskies in Japan. Namely Blends are popular here and have a higher reputation than Single Malt Whiskies! In addition, the Whisky is matured in a wide variety of casks such as ex-Bourbon, Oloroso sherry and Japanese Mizunara casks.

Here are some interesting Japanese Whiskies:

Single Malt Suntory Yamazaki Suntory Hakushu Nikka Yoichi	Blended Suntory Hibiki Harmony Nikka from the Barrel
---	---

Welcome to Whisky.com



8,000 pages with almost 40,000 photos about Whisky, over 2,000 registered Whisky distilleries and 6,000 distillery photos are available on Whisky.com website. Reports, articles, a 150-page catalog and over 3,000 tasting videos are also included. This makes Whisky.com one of the most comprehensive Whisky sites on the Internet.

In our online store, we offer you a large selection of over 3,000 different high-quality Whiskies, Rums and Gins. Take a look now at: Whisky.com/Shop

Have fun discovering and enjoying!



Horst Lüning



Benedikt Lüning



Whisky.de
Whisky.com



Whisky.de
Whisky.com



Whisky.de
Whisky.com



whisky.de/newsletter
whisky.com/newsletter

Whisky.de GmbH & Co. KG
Am Grundwassersee 4 · D-82402 Seeshaupt
Tel. +49 (0) 88 01 - 3020 000
Fax +49 (0) 88 01 - 26 37
E-mail: info@whisky.de

Last updated November 2023



Guide



Lagavulin Distillery



Glenmorangie Distillery

Helpful tips to begin with the following topics:

- What is Whisky?
- Which Whisk(e)ys do exist?
- What characterizes a good Whisky?
- Which Whisky to start with?
- Which Whisky glass?
- Whisky durability and storage
- Whisky as an investment
- Is Whisky bad for health?
- Significant distilleries

Thank you for taking the time to read our short and detailed guide. We look forward to assist you in choosing the right Whisky and enjoying it. If you are just beginning to delve into the world of Whisky, start with a bottle we recommend for beginners and postpone tasting more complex Whiskies until later. This approach helps to avoid initial frustration and ensures that you can enjoy the full pleasure of this special beverage. With the basic knowledge in this guide, you will be well equipped for the Whisky world!

What is Whisky?

According to international law, the term Whisky may only be used to describe an alcoholic beverage that has been produced under the following conditions:

- Produced exclusively from grain
- Matured for at least 3 years in oak barrels
- Bottled with at least 40% vol. alcohol

Within the European Union Regulation No. 110/2008 regulates these criteria. German grain would therefore also be Whisky if it was matured in oak barrels. There are many other conditions that go beyond the scope of this introduction. For example, a Thai rice spirit can also be called Whisky.



@ Bowmore Distillery

Which Whisk(e)ys do exist?

If you order a Whisky at a bar, you can usually choose between Scotch, American Bourbon or Irish Whiskey. In addition to these largest Whisky producer countries in the world, countries such as Japan, Canada and India are also significant Whisky producers. Whisk(e)y from the USA and Ireland is usually spelled with an ‚e‘ before the ypsilon.

Another important characteristic when categorizing Whiskies is the production method. Globally, Blended Whisky is the most common variant. Blending refers to the mixing of malt and industrial Whisky. Malt Whisky is made from malted barley, whereby the germination process plays a decisive role. Industrial Whisky, on the other hand, is produced in large quantities in industrial plants from unmalted wheat or corn. Another category is American Bourbon. These Whiskeys are primarily made from a grain mixture consisting of corn, rye and barley.

Our main focus in this guide is the intense Single Malt Scotch Whisky (malt Whisky). This type offers the greatest variety. With around 1,200 different bottlings from over 140 distilleries, everyone will find the right drop for them.

What characterizes a good Whisky?

As we all know, taste is debatable. Perhaps you are completely satisfied with the taste of an inexpensive Whisky from the supermarket? But what are the actual quality characteristics of a good Whisky?



@ Glenfiddich Distillery

A good Whisky is determined by various factors. For us, there are four important aspects: Ingredients - Origin - Distillery - Age.

Good Whiskies contain high-quality ingredients which should be clearly visible on the label. The country of origin should also be stated on the bottle. In regard of Single Malts, the name of the distillery should be displayed. Last but not least, the age can be an indicator of the maturity in the cask. Whisky matures faster in small casks than in large ones.

When ranking Whiskies according to their quality, we would come up with the following order:

1. Whisky from the supermarket € 10,00 - 12,00
2. Blended Whisky from ca. € 20,00
3. Single Malt from ca. € 30,00

The price ranges listed here refer to 0.7 Liter bottles.

The best Whisky?

There is no such thing as the best Whisky! It is and remains a matter of taste! However, we will show you which criteria you can use to judge a Whisky.

Which Whisky to start with?

Whisky offers a wide range of aromas, from aniseed to cedar wood, which can be sensed in a Whisky. To experience the full flavour potential of a Whisky, it is recommended to start with a mild Single Malt Scotch Whisky. Compared to a Blended Whisky, a Single Malt is characterized by its rich taste.

It starts with the aroma, which can range from meadow flowers to hay and grasses to various fruits. For beginners in particular, it is advisable to avoid smoky Whiskies at first, as the intense smoke masks other aromas through your nose.

Smelling is followed by tasting, where flavours such as caramel, honey and more subtle notes of seaweed or nuts can be detected. The slow lingering taste in the mouth is known as the finish and can be long and warm or sharp and pungent. Some Whiskies leave a sweet or dry aftertaste.



The production method of Single Malt Whisky contributes to the development of a wide range of flavours. In contrast, inferior Whiskies can have unpleasant notes such as sulphur, old leather, soap or tar.

Our Whisky descriptions on Whisky.com are divided into aroma, taste and finish.

Sherry

There are a variety of Whiskies that are aged in different Sherry casks. The so-called finish gives the Whiskies a distinctive fruitiness and sweetness as well as nutty, dry aromas. This Whisky is very popular due to its complexity and depth.

Smoke

In contrast, there are Whiskies that are given a smoky taste by barley malt kilned over a peat fire. The peaty-smoky aroma is very dominant.

Both the deep sweetness of a Whisky and a prominent smoky aroma find their fans. However, the smoke should be approached with caution! Better to keep in mind that everyone has their own preferences, find out what you like the best!

We recommend the following Whiskies for beginners:

Aberlour 10Y	sweet and balanced	Glenfiddich 15Y	fruity and soft
Auchentoshan 12Y	soft and flowery	Glenmorangie 10Y	fresh and flowery
Balvenie 12Y	nutty, full of Sherry	Highland Park 12Y	Sherry, honey and less smoke
Glenlivet 12Y	balanced, round	Glenfarclas 10Y	Lots of sweetness

Which Whisky glass?

John Wayne and Humphrey Bogart coined the image of a guy drinking his Whisky from a bottle or a tumbler. The advertising for the well-known brands suggests other forms of enjoyment such as „on ice“ or „with cola“.

However, these ways of drinking Whisky hide the actual aroma and taste. Whisky should preferably be consumed at room temperature from a nosing glass, which is tulip-shaped and narrows towards the top. This allows the aroma to concentrate in the glass and be better perceived.

To soften the sharpness of a Whisky, add a few drops of still water. This helps to develop the aroma, but it should be added carefully to avoid diluting the Whisky. So-called cask strength Whiskies are bottled undiluted from the cask, have a high alcohol content and should not be consumed neat, otherwise the strong alcohol will numb the lips.



Whisky durability and storage

An opened bottle of Whisky lasts for around six months to a year. After this time, the oxygen in the air in the bottle begins to change the taste of the Whisky as it can oxidize.

You can extend the shelf life of an opened bottle by carefully decanting the Whisky into a smaller bottle without bubbling. Ideally, store unopened bottles upright. In contrast to wine, Whisky has a service cork. As it is often opened and closed again, it must not be as tight as the cork of a wine bottle. Whisky can leak if the bottle is lying down and the cork is loose.

Keep Whisky in a cool, dark and dry place to preserve its taste and appearance. Cellar storage is only suitable if the label remains dry.

Whisky as an investment

Whisky means enjoyment, but also an interesting and unusual way to invest your assets. You can profit from the increasing demand for Whisky, but you should take a few important factors into consideration:

- Get to know the subject before you buy. Find a competent contact person to help you select the right varieties.
- It is a long-term investment; short-term profits are unlikely to be made.
- There is no official market you can sell Whisky as a private individual.
- Profits made are subject to income tax.

The advantage of this investment is less likely to cause a financial loss.

Is Whisky bad for your health?

To claim that „Whisky is always good for your health“ would be both presumptuous and wrong.

Recent medical studies suggest that small amounts of alcohol per day can prolong life expectancy. We would like to draw your attention away from these controversial theories to another fact: drink carefully and consciously..

Don't drink alcohol casually, but enjoy a small amount of good Whisky slowly and with pleasure.

Many people drink a beer in the evening. The question is: „How much alcohol have you consumed with the beer?“.

The table shows you how much alcohol different drinks contain and asks the reader to be aware of this.

	% vol. Alcohol	Amount consumed	Pure alcohol contained
Beer	~ 5%	0,5 Liter	25 ml
Wine	~ 12%	0,25 Liter	30 ml
Whisky	~ 40%	0,04 Liter	16 ml

For the amateur, this reveals a surprise. You can drink almost two double Whiskies before you have consumed the same amount of alcohol as a glass of wine.

IMPORTANT: Do not drink your Whisky with beer or wine. Enjoy it instead! Diluted with a third of soft, still water, you will certainly smell and sip your Whisky for as long as you would drink beer. Moreover water helps against thirst!