



FINN  
THOMSON  
300 YEAR WHISKY LINEAGE

2023 PRODUCT  
RELEASE THREE

# The Bottler's Art

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## TIMING IS EVERYTHING

When has a whisky reached its potential?  
When has time finished its alchemy and the  
angels had their share?

As Master Bottler, Finn Thomson decides.

With 300 years of family whisky history and  
personal tutelage from some of the most  
respected names in the Scottish whisky  
industry, Finn may stand on the shoulders of  
giants. But the weight of decision rests on  
his own.

Finn is responsible for calling the moment  
when a whisky's flavours are at their finest;  
quirks and eccentricities at their most  
beguiling. Whether it's a decades-old cask  
from the family collection or an entirely new  
creation, this is as much art as science. Wood,  
water and weather have had their say. The only  
guides that count now are taste, scent and  
intuition.

The result is unique. Every time. By design.





The  
Core

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## ROYAL BRACKLA

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AGE 10 YEAR OLD  
SINGLE MALT

CASK EX -ISLAY HOGSHEAD

AVB 58.2%  
CASK STRENGTH

YIELD 312 BOTTLES

### THE STORY OF THIS CASK

One of the great joys of being an independent bottler is finding casks that are so different to the usual style found at a distillery. In an industry where consistency is so important, it is rare to find individual casks that stand so far apart from the recognised flavour profile of the official bottlings.

This cask is exactly that. What's more, it is a throwback to the original style of the distillery and indeed the style that made it so popular that it was the first distillery to be given a Royal Warrant back in 1835. Royal Brackla then was celebrated for its peatiness.

Whereas in times past Brackla's smokiness came from the peated malt it used, here the peat comes from its full maturation in an ex-Islay cask. An advert in the Morning Post in 1836 described Royal Brackla as "peat flavoured, but far from rank - strong, but not fiery, and produces the most exquisite Punch or Toddy". I couldn't describe this particular cask better myself.



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## BENRINNES

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AGE 11 YEAR OLD  
SINGLE MALT

CASK AMERICAN OAK PX FINISH

AVB 51.2%  
CASK STRENGTH

YIELD 281 BOTTLES

### THE STORY OF THIS CASK

Benrinnis is a distillery that can hold its own even in the most active of casks. The distillery prides itself on creating a rich and savoury flavour profile that was historically created through partial triple distillation.

That production method was tweaked in 2007 but the meaty house style remains. This cask is typical of the distillery but when I sampled it for the first time in 2020 I noticed it also had a level of sweetness that I wouldn't have expected. So, in April 2021 I made the call to embrace that rich character and re-rack this whisky into an American Oak Pedro Jimenez cask.

The hope was that the PX would help that inherent sweetness along whilst not overpowering that recognisable Benrinnis character. Two years on and I believe the cask has hit the sweet spot of the perfect balance between distillery character and cask influence.

There is still a rich meatiness to the whisky but with an added sweetness from the sherry. Bottled at cask strength all that intensity of flavour is embraced - this is a whisky for those that want big flavours and no nonsense.



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## CAOL ILA

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AGE 11 YEAR OLD  
SINGLE MALT

CASK FIRST FILL BOURBON

AVB 53.6%  
CASK STRENGTH

YIELD 263 BOTTLES

### THE STORY OF THIS CASK

For decades, many consumers have considered the age of a whisky to be the defining factor when it comes to an assumption on quality. Some of the world's best known whiskies carry the 12 year old age statement, suggesting that the industry is in agreement that this is the benchmark age for both single malts and blends.

Johnnie Walker Black Label is one of these. When I quizzed my Grandfather on his favourite drams of all time he was quick to highlight Black Label as his go-to, value for money whisky. The subtle smokiness that Black Label is famed for is a result of the influence of Caol Ila within the recipe.

This cask of Caol Ila however is 11 years old, or to be exact, 11 years and 11 months old. Bottled just a month short of its 12th birthday, it will not carry the hallowed 12 year old age statement. But with single cask releases timing is everything and this cask is already singing all the right notes. Sitting proudly on the shelf at 11 years old I'm confident that this will outshine many an older release and prove that age is just a number.



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## MANNOCHMORE

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AGE 13 YEAR OLD  
SINGLE MALT

CASK FIRST FILL BOURBON

AVB 53.4%  
CASK STRENGTH

YIELD 296 BOTTLES

### THE STORY OF THIS CASK

The humble bourbon cask whisky is often overlooked these days by whisky drinkers in pursuit of heavily sherried or peated malts. Yet it is still estimated that almost 90% of Scotch whisky goes into wood that was once used for maturing bourbon.

It has therefore become more and more fashionable for drinkers and producers alike to go in search of alternative cask types to stand out from the crowd. Yet when done well the classic bourbon cask whisky is a joy to behold. This Mannochemore is exactly that. Mannochemore is a distillery that produces an incredibly light style of whisky and the spirit can be easily overwhelmed by overly active casks.

This light style is a match made in heaven for a well chosen bourbon cask though. The trademark vanilla influences of the bourbon are front and centre here and with every sip I've been brought back to childhood days eating vanilla ice cream from the Allan Water Café in Bridge of Allan where I grew up. This is a whisky that showcases the best of a style of whisky that is often overlooked but deserves so much more credit when it is done well.





SINGLE MALT SCOTCH WHISKY  
**11**  
BENRINNES  
308329  
09/08/2011 10/04/2023  
51.2% AMERICAN OAK  
PRODUCT OF SCOTLAND

*Finn Thomson*



FINN THOMSON WHISKY  
PRIVATE CASK COLLECTION  
SINGLE MALT SCOTCH WHISKY  
**11**  
BENRINNES  
308329  
09/08/2011 10/04/2023  
51.2% AMERICAN OAK  
PRODUCT OF SCOTLAND

1772



17  
72  
300 YEAR LINEAGE