

Elements of Islay Whisky

Tasting Notes

Ar1

Nose: Fresh and clean. Sweet and peppery, with soot and spices. Hints of milky natural caramel and smoked cereals and peat. With time, white chocolate & nougat, then becomes grassy and earthy with some bonfire characteristics. Water soothes the peat and lifts the grassy characteristics.

Palate: Honey, then white pepper, cinnamon, chilli powder, coal. Warm and mouthfilling when neat. A very big peat presence, but not overpowering thanks to some lovely sweet, syrupy malt notes. Water seems to make the palate more savoury and emphasises the spices.

Finish: Epic. Very long and warming, with persistent spice, pepper and earthy peat settling in, but also some honey to maintain the balance.

Comment: A deliciously intense sweet peat treat. Fine with water, but you'll get more joy out of it neat.

Ar2

Nose: An enticing, crystal-clear nose, showing hot spices and menthol alongside coalsmokey phenols. Some very faint bramble fruit slowly develops. Water brings forward cereals and toasty notes.

Palate: Very powerful. Quite hot and peppery again, with distinctive chilli heat at the front of the tongue. Some honey as well. Youthful leafiness, and very exuberant.

Finish: Lengthy. Massive. Warming and still very peppery. Water seems not to diminish its power.

Comment: Perhaps even more overtly phenolic than its predecessor, this is a muscular dram that committed peatheads will go crazy for.



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Br1

- Nose:** Amazingly fruity. Freshly-soaked barley with brown sugar notes and summer fruits. Develops damson, plum and a faint menthol hint, with some earthiness and a whiff of brine. Becomes more leafy when water is added.
- Palate:** Coal, barley sugar and burning wood. Creosote and treacle toffee. Then rosehip and tingling peppery spices. Liquorice and a pleasant doughiness. More assertive and savoury than the nose suggested, but mellows with a drop of water.
- Finish:** Lingering liquorice and hot pepper spices. The fruit creeps in alongside faint hints of woodsmoke and varnish.
- Comment:** Fresh, youthful and headstrong, this packs a punch at full strength, but becomes very approachable with the addition of a few drops of water.
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Cl1

- Nose:** Boiled sweets and cut grass initially, then more savoury notes move in. Expected alcohol prickle fades away to emerging sweetness. Some spices, then medicine cabinet aromas develop, before matches, buttered veg, toffee apple, tweed and honey. A complex nose that needs time to settle. Water brings out toffee biscuit and barley sugar.
- Palate:** Plenty of balanced peat, with woodsmoke, coal and bonfire. Peppery spice in the mid-palate, with some chilli and hot-buttered toast with honey. Water lifts the coal, spices and apple flavours.
- Finish:** Warming and long, with honey, pepper and coal surrounding a savoury cereal base, with occasional flashes of cooked apple. A salty tinge right at the death.
- Comment:** Another Element that likes a drop of water. Intense, powerful, uncompromising and extremely complex.
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Lg1

- Nose:** Classic honeyed flapjack character. Porridge, hot milk, sweet oatcakes, shortbread, cranachan. Wet peaty phenols and burnt toast in the background. A drop of water releases more sweetness and a hint of lychee and rosehip.
- Palate:** Absolutely massive. Coal. Huge, warm, peppery surge with a delicious honeyed edge and a faint hint of the exotic fruit from the nose. Mouthwatering. Intense smoked barley. This is clean as a whistle and sharp as a stiletto. Dangerously drinkable with water.
- Finish:** Extremely long, and very warming as the pepper slowly fades. This is exactly what you'd want to find in your hipflask during a long hike in the rain.
- Comment:** Bursting with life and character, with a real rugged depth and some very appealing sweet notes, particularly when lightly diluted. A very engaging, exuberant dram.
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Lp1

- Nose:** Initially grassy, with hints of golden syrup. The peat is quite restrained at first, manifesting as woodsmoke lurking in the background. A clean, young character with aromas of meadows and a lemony citrus note. Develops sweet cinnamon, soot and clove oil. Water brings out more of the lemony notes and some unexpected, but not unwelcome, aromas of legumes and mint.
- Palate:** Sweet honeyed cereal and coalsmoke - a quite dramatic peat entry. Smoked cereal, brown sugar, bonfires and crushed pepper, which keeps up with what is becoming a roaring peat / coal inferno. Water tames it, emphasising the coal and brown sugar.
- Finish:** Very long, warm and spicy, with compensating honey as the intermingled peat and spices slowly fade.
- Comment:** An immensely enjoyable whisky, big and potent on its own, but takes to water like a duck. Delightful.
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Pe1

Nose: Barley sugar, furniture polish, powdered milk chocolate. The faintest hint of smoked kippers, blending in with the obvious sherried influence. A highly-polished church pew. A favourite woolen jumper. With time a feast of subtle, ever-changing aromas arise from the glass - tinned apricot syrup, pot pourri, libraries, bandages, aged orange liqueur, damson jam...you get idea.

Palate: Amazing dried fruit, raisins, Christmas cake and toffee bonbons, then massive peat. Dense, almost chewy texture, with massive warm, sweet, hot, tannic presence on the tongue. Those brave enough to hold it on the tastebuds will find an earth-shattering intensity of flavour as the array of flavours from the nose unleash themselves onto the palate.

Finish: Epic. Absolutely immense. Almost unending.

Comment: For God's sake, don't add water. Take this in its natural state. An awe-inspiring reminder (as if one were needed) of the greatness of this lost jewel in Islay's crown.



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