



WINE News

Stuff Their Stockings with Whisky This Season



NOVEMBER 30, 2022 FEATURES

- 2 Hunter Laing Old & Rare and Old Malt Casks
- 3 K&L Exclusive Bourbon Barrels

Scotch and Bourbon for Everyone on the Nice List

By Andrew Whiteley, Spirits Buyer



In a world where spirits prices are continuing to spiral out of control, we have been able to anchor ours by relying on our biggest strength—relationships. Our strong relationships with suppliers all over the world have allowed us to find the earth's best tipples at the most direct and advantageous pricing possible.

We've built out this year's collection of direct spirits to levels we'd never imagined possible. We have done our

best to curate not only exceptional drinking experiences, but stunning pricing for our customers as well. The macroeconomic forces at work today, including the strong U.S. dollar and the collapse of the British pound and the euro, mean that we can pass those savings on to our customers and help keep this holiday season a happily spirited one.

In these pages, we're focusing on another of our strengths: whiskies. Our hearts lie with the brown stuff, and you'll find the best of the best in this newsletter. We're cutting straight to the chase: Scotch and Bourbon to fill every stocking in town—including your own (you've been so good this year!). Happy holidays!

Take Your Holidays Up a Notch with Scotch

By Andrew Whiteley, Spirits Buyer

The Spirits program at K&L is dominated by whisky, and Scotch in particular. Thanks to a robust independent bottling culture and the ability for us to directly import single casks, we've been able to buy full barrels of Scotch from small distilleries and big blue chip producers alike for over a decade. We've worked with some of the oldest and most iconic independent bottlers and introduced new ones to the United States over the years, and, here, at the end of 2022, it's no different.

We have some stalwarts of the industry and some up and comers represented on our shelves, and we've managed to get our hands on superlative casks—a feat in and of itself these days.

Another miracle of our phenomenal selection is that we've been able to convince producers to part with these casks and do business with us rather than put them up on the auction block in Scotland where

they might fetch astronomical prices. Collectors in London, New York, and Hong Kong have a sudden appetite for investing in whisky, but we

lucky drinkers are the ones who will reap the rewards. Why? At the end of the day, old-school Scots still want to see folks enjoying their finest export. And we wholeheartedly agree—after all, if Scotch isn't going to be consumed and enjoyed, what is the point? To that end we continue to import a record number of bottlings. I have no doubt that you'll find a cask that suits your tastes. Read on to our next page for a few of our favorites in stock.



Hunter Laing: The Exceptional Old & Rare and Old Malt Cask Lines

By Andrew Whiteley, Spirits Buyer

Hunter Laing & Co has been a critical partner to K&L over the years. They have provided access to some of the finest whiskies we've ever had the opportunity to purchase. Their famous Old Malt Cask label is known for exceptional value while their vaunted Old & Rare line has produced many legendary drams.



If you're looking for an unparalleled gift for the Scotch connoisseur in your life (or even if you just want a little something special for yourself), it would be hard to go awry with the Hunter Laing Old & Rare label. Not just anything qualifies for this moniker. It must meet several requirements—as you might expect from the name, each bottling must be both old and rare—but more importantly, it must be extraordinary in and of itself. If the whisky isn't over the top in quality, it won't make the cut for the O&R livery.



1995 Cragganmore 25 Year Old "Hunter Laing Old & Rare" First Fill Single Sherry Butt Cask Strength Single Malt Whisky (750ml) \$299.99

Cragganmore is a prized rarity on the independent market thanks to their famous blends. But add the fact that this bottling is in a first-fill Sherry butt? Unheard of. Extra rare. Consider also the 25 year age statement, and you have a recipe for success. But what of the quality of the cask itself? Peerless.

Let it rest in your glass and open up over the course of an evening. You'll be amazed at everything this whisky has to offer. Stunning from first sight: this rich, dark malt is laden with fruits, spices, nuts, and chocolates. See the website for full in-depth reviews of this special cask.



2002 Pulteney 18 Year Old "Hunter Laing Old & Rare" Single Bourbon Barrel Cask Strength Single Malt Whisky (750ml) \$200

If the Cragganmore is everything dark and rich embodied in a single malt, the Pulteney offers up the bright and lively. This gem of a distillery situated on the far North Coast of Scotland makes some of

the finest malt in the world. It was recognized as such by Jim Murray when he declared the now discontinued 21 Year Old expression World Whisky of The Year in 2012—with such an accolade, why on earth would the distillery stop producing it? Old expressions of Pulteney are just that rare! This is a choice Bourbon barrel at a formidable 18 years old and a robust 58.6% ABV. It should not be missed by lovers of old-school-style malt, especially if you have a taste for the slight briny character that many coastal distilleries exhibit.

The Old Malt Cask line from Laing delivers value unlike anything on the U.S. market today. We have 11 casks from OMC that can be had for under 100 bucks! Four of those are a new to Old Malt Cask's

U.S. program of releasing "advance samples," e.g., 200ml bottles that are the perfect stocking stuffers this holiday season. How often can you pop several pours of 15-year-old single malt in someone's sock for under \$35 bucks?



2009 Dailuaine 9 Year Old "Advance Sample By Old Malt Cask" K&L Exclusive Single Ex-Bourbon Barrel Speyside Single Malt Scotch Whisky (200ml) \$29.99

2003 Longmorn 15 Year Old "Advance Sample by Old Malt Cask" K&L Exclusive Single Refill Hogshead Speyside Single Malt Scotch Whisky (200ml) \$34.99



2004 Balmenach 14 Year Old "Advance Sample by Old Malt Cask" K&L Exclusive Single Ex-Bourbon Barrel Speyside Single Malt Scotch Whisky (200ml) \$34.99

2004 Glen Moray 15 Year Old "Advance Sample By Old Malt Cask" K&L Exclusive Single Refill Hogshead Speyside Single Malt Scotch Whisky (200ml) \$34.99



If you're looking for full sized enjoyment, don't miss these gems:



2006 Orkney 15 Year Old "Old Malt Cask" K&L Exclusive Single Refill Hogshead Cask Strength Orkney Single Malt Scotch Whisky (750ml) \$79.99 A lovely 15-year old from Orkney's most famous distillery. Heavy on heather, lemon, and honey and offers a touch of peat.

1991 Longmorn 21 Year Old "Old Malt Cask" K&L Exclusive Single Refill Hogshead Speyside Single Malt Scotch Whisky (700ml) \$149.99 An oddball older bottling of Longmorn that was distilled in 1991 and bottled in 2012. We had a rare opportunity to clear out the Laing warehouse on some older bottled stock of this classic distillery.



A plethora of lesser known distilleries were on offer this year, and, with the strong pound, we were able to get these single-cask, cask-strength bottlings onto our shelves for record low prices. As always see the website for full reviews.

2008 Benrinnes 13 Year Old "Old Malt Cask" K&L Exclusive Single Refill Hogshead Cask Strength Speyside Single Malt Scotch Whisky (750ml) \$59.99



2010 Auchroisk 11 Year Old "Old Malt Cask" K&L Exclusive Single First Fill ex-Bourbon Barrel Finished Cask Strength Speyside Single Malt Scotch Whisky (750ml) \$59.99



2009 Macduff 12 Year Old "Old Malt Cask" K&L Exclusive Single Refill Hogshead Cask Strength Speyside Single Malt Scotch Whisky (750ml) \$54.99



2010 Benrinnes 10 Year Old "Old Malt Cask" K&L Exclusive Single First Fill Ex-Bourbon Barrel Cask Strength Speyside Single Malt Scotch Whisky (750ml) \$54.99



Bringing Home the Bourbon: K&L Exclusive Barrels

By David Othenin-Girard, Spirits Buyer



We've amassed one of the most impressive collection of exciting single-cask American whiskeys in the biz, with special barrels from Kentucky to California all-hand selected by our buyers. Each and every one exhibits unique character and quality that makes it worthy of the "K&L Exclusive" title.



Barrell Bourbon "Private Release C94A - K&L Exclusive" Blend of Straight Bourbon Whiskeys (750ml) \$99.99

A blend of straight Bourbons: 10% 17-year old, 35% 10-year old, 25% 7-year old, and 30% 5-year old. The profile leans toward the more dusty and oxidative notes found in mature KY Bourbon. It's a dream for lovers of older whisky who don't want to pay the astronomical prices that older Bourbon commands these days.



Barrell Craft 5 Year Old K&L Exclusive Single Barrel #Z2G8 Straight Bourbon Whiskey (750ml) \$99.99

This is the last barrel from their coveted Kentucky Bourbon single barrels for this year. While they remain tightlipped about the exact source, you can rest assured that it is special: it was selected from the veritable ocean of Bourbon that Barrell has access to and then singled out to be good enough to bottle without their blending expertise. Sometimes a barrel of whiskey needs to be shared with the world exactly as it is—at cask strength and without chill filtration.



Corbin Cash 6 Year Old K&L Exclusive Single Barrel #53 Cask Strength Merced Straight Rye Whiskey (750ml) \$79.99

Corbin Cash was founded on the Sauza Family farm in Merced, where they've grown rye and sweet potatoes since 1917. When John David Sauza took over the family farm, he dreamed of making more of these crops. A decade later, they've got good stocks of older Rye whisky, and we're reaping the benefits. This single cask was distilled on September 25, 2015, and bottled just before its seventh birthday. Aged in 60-gallon char #4 Kentucky white oak coopered at Barrels Unlimited. Cask strength without chill filtration exclusively for K&L.

Ezra Brooks "Cask Strength" K&L Exclusive Single Barrel #7851171 Kentucky Straight Bourbon Whiskey (750ml) \$49.99 Once a staple of the bottom shelf, Ezra Brooks is now one of the most exciting brands

on the market. They've built a gorgeous new distillery, and their parent company, Luxco, was recently purchased by Indiana distilling giant MGP. We're seeing the first stocks from the new distillery alongside the old stocks from the Bernheim distillery in Louisville. We hand selected this barrel during our April visit, sourced from Bernheim and distilled in November 2017. In quirky Luxco fashion, they list these barrels as "Cask Strength," but they're all cut to 120 proof. This frankly incorrect labeling belies the whisky's excellence. It's well balanced with unbelievable richness and endless complexity.

Ezra Brooks "Cask Strength" K&L Exclusive Single Barrel #1225 Kentucky Straight Bourbon Whiskey (750ml) \$49.99 This excellent barrel is the first we've ever sold that was distilled at that new facility. Production is nearly identical to the previously sourced stock, but it's unique character is undeniable. It's the first example of what will certainly become a historically important distiller for decades to come.



George Remus "K&L Exclusive" Barrel #1109 Single Barrel Barrel Proof Indiana Straight Bourbon Whiskey (750ml)

\$59.99 The classic MGP high rye mashbill: 60% corn, 36% rye, 4% malted barley. Filled in 2017 and bottled in early September of 2022, this is Indiana Bourbon at its best: balanced, but full of character and brimming with rye spice tamed by sweet oak and vanilla.

LAWS Whiskey House "Experiential Barrel" K&L Exclusive Barrel #1206 Cask Strength Single Barrel High Malt Straight Colorado Bourbon Whiskey (750ml) \$74.99 This delectable, unusual Bourbon is unlike any we've tried. LAWS is committed to exploration and experiment, yet they never fail to ensure that every product is delicious. This single barrel, Kosher certified, has an extremely high malt mashbill—52% corn, 37%, malt and 11% wheat. Double distilled on September 19, 2016, and filled into ISC 53-gallon char 3 American white oak. Aged for 5 years, 8 months at the LAWS warehouse.

Woodinville "K&L Exclusive" Cask #7918 Cask Strength Straight 100% Rye Whiskey (750ml) \$74.99 The first Woodinville single barrel of Rye outside of Washington State is here! Bold, spicy, and bringing the heat at 57.61% ABV, this is a worthy first cask of what is hopefully many more to come. Woodinville sources all of their grain from a single farm in Quincy, Washington, which is also where the barrels age.

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