

# WINE News

*Scotch and Bourbon  
Selections to Delight Dad*



## JUNE 13, 2023 FEATURES

- 1-3 Single Cask Scotch
- 4-5 Dad Loves Bourbon
- 6 Odds and Ends

## Just in Time for Dad: Whisk(e)y Season Comes Early!

By David Othenin-Girard, Spirits Buyer



**The whisk(e)y market has been on an upward trajectory for more than a decade and it doesn't show any signs of cooling.**

Since our clientele is the industry's most discerning and knowledgeable in the world, we know we cannot rest on our laurels. So we hand select single casks from across the whisk(e)y-making world to offer a better selection than any other store can.

Each year we celebrate whisky season, usually in the fall, with the arrival of a new container of single malt Scotch. This year, whisky season has come early for K&L, hallelujah! We've got a fresh batch of thoughtfully curated malts from the wonderful bottler Douglas Laing landing in time for Father's Day. We've been working with their Old Particular brand since its inception, and they continue to tap deep into

their vast stocks to find us unique, delicious malts at reasonable prices.

The K&L Spirits Buying team is poised to offer the most compelling values in the world whisk(e)y market today—and not just from Scotland. We've just returned from a buying trip to Kentucky, where we selected a plethora of special barrels of American whiskey at unbelievable prices. We're thrilled about the 18 fresh casks of whiskey currently on their way to the esteemed customers of K&L, and we have countless others already bottled and ready to drink. We're leaning on every supplier, bottler, and producer to access the very best stocks and to offer you the very best possible prices. We plan to continue to bring you extreme value and stupendous quality. We've got bourbon, rye, and apple pie... well maybe not so much pie. But what we have baked up is one of the best selections of single cask whiskies in the country. You can take anyone of these wonderful barrels to Pops and confidently say that it was curated by the industry's very best.

## Single Cask Scotch

**No other retail operation has devoted itself to offering curated single malt from a wide variety of bottlers as we have at K&L.** For more than a decade, we've travelled to Scotland to build relationships with the country's finest distillers, blenders, and bottlers of that most valued of all whiskies, single malt Scotch. Sure, everyone is talking about bourbon these days, but when push comes to shove it's still Scotch that's king on the shelves at K&L. That's no accident. We've developed direct relationships with numerous bottlers, which allows K&L to bring you maximum value. This unprecedented direct purchasing power means that not only can we offer unbeatable prices, but we

have direct access to the most exciting stocks. With a freshly landed container from our wonderful friends at Douglas Laing, another large drop of fabulous whiskies from the Hart Brothers, and a few cheeky newcomers, we're offering the widest variety of hand-selected single cask single malts on the market. Each is specially bottled for K&L without the addition of coloring or the use of chillfiltration technology. We don't even let them add water! All of our K&L single cask Scotch is bottled at natural cask strength, which means you should definitely be pouring a nice spring water back and adding as much or as little as you see fit. None of these whiskies should be consumed without at least

considering adding a drop or two of water—and some will benefit greatly from a dollop or more, plus some extended aeration in the glass. They've spent years in barrel and that means they may need a bit of time to truly come out of their shells to shine. Here is the list of exclusive casks for this year's whisky season. These totally unique single casks will never be replicated.

## *We Challenge You to a Duel*

Head-to-heads are some of the most interesting and enjoyable ways to experience single malts, and it happens often that our customers put two similarly distilled barrels next to each other to decide which suits their tastebuds more completely. But we've taken the notion of dueling casks to a new level: two barrels of different cask types and ages, bottled at the same time from the same distillery—THREE TIMES. These are excellent head-to-head pours, not necessarily to pick a winner—most will be obvious here—but to get a more complete understanding of these special distilleries.

**2009 Blair Athol 13 Year Old “Old Particular” K&L Exclusive Single ex-Bourbon Barrel Cask Strength Highland Single Malt Scotch Whisky \$64.99 vs. 1997 Blair Athol 25 Year Old “Old Particular” K&L Exclusive Single Sherry Butt Cask Strength Highland Single Malt Scotch Whisky \$279.99** This pair of Athols is about as fun a duo as we've ever had. The gorgeous Diageo-owned distillery just outside the quaint hamlet of Pitlochry is one of Scotland's goofiest and most underrated distillers. The home to Bell's Blend, it's a working museum complete with ivy-covered stone buildings and a bar built inside a mash tun. Their single malt isn't sold much outside of Scotland, but these two barrels show two sides of this beautiful malt. One nicely matured in good second-use hogsheads, the other starting to reach old age in a majestic old sherry butt. Each has its own rightful place, namely in your bar!

**2011 Caol Ila 11 Year Old “Old Particular” K&L Exclusive Single Hogsheads Cask Strength Single Refill Hogshead Islay Single Malt Scotch Whisky \$79.99 vs. 2014 Caol Ila 8 Year Old “Old Particular” K&L Exclusive Single Ex-Bourbon Barrel Cask Strength Islay Single Malt Scotch Whisky \$59.99** Another duo that should not be missed is these two stupendous barrels of Caol Ila. It's no secret that we love the underappreciated Islay legend and will pretty much buy anything we can get our hands on. It seems true that even the worst Caol Ila is better than most everything else. But these two should be considered on the very top end of the quality spectrum and an interesting exercise in how similar ages in different cask types can truly bring about significant flavor differences. Both remain sizzling and dynamic, but each has a totally unique character.

**1996 Invergordon 26 Year Old “Old Particular” K&L Exclusive Single Hogshead Cask Strength Single Grain Scotch Whisky \$79.99 vs. 1992 Cameronbridge 30 Year Old “Old Particular” K&L Exclusive Single Hogshead Cask Strength Single Grain Scotch Whisky \$139.99** While not as straightforward as the other match ups, these two old grain whiskies are extremely fun to try side by side. Both are of similar ages from two well-regarded single grain

distillers and are well priced for their incredible age. Each offers a unique and supple example of this often-ignored style of Scotch. Single grain whisky starts with a much more neutral spirit and almost always goes into less active wood, so it doesn't usually start to get anywhere worth looking at until at least 20 years old. Both of these fine casks brings something special to the table and having them side by side is a real treat. Check out our product page for specific flavors descriptions of each cask.

**2000 Laphroaig 22 Year Old “Old Particular” K&L Exclusive Single Hogshead Cask Strength Islay Single Malt Scotch Whisky \$349.99 vs. 2012 Laphroaig 10 Year Old “Old Particular” K&L Exclusive Single Ex-Bourbon Barrel Cask Strength Islay Single Malt Scotch Whisky \$89.99** The final bout in our dueling casks pairs these outrageously delicious, heavily peated Laphroaigs. Just a few years ago, the mere mention of this distillery as a potential cask purchase would illicit wild laughter from our suppliers. It is extremely hard to get on the open market and therefore stupidly expensive on the rare occasion that we do see it. The distillery itself has recently tried to release single casks, which, albeit very good, are less than 10 years old and cost upwards of \$200. But the whisky gods seem to have taken pity on our pour unpeated glasses and deemed them worthy to hold not one but two different malts from the Beast of Islay. This special distillery is one of a handful in Scotland to hand-malt significant quantities of their own barley. These two casks, while wildly different in age, both capture the rapturous complexity that Laphroaig lovers love to watch everyone else hate. Like it or not, this is the best deal we've seen on single cask Laphroaig in nearly a decade. You can't go wrong on either front here.

## *And Now... More Malt*

Each single cask we've selected this year was picked out not simply for its extreme value, but for the inherent uniqueness that it offers. All the barrels we have are intended to further the knowledge and enjoyment of the most discerning palates. While each might not suit all, there is at least one (hopefully several) for every palate. See what this year's whisky season has delivered:

**1997 Ardmore (Unpeated) 25 Year Old “Old Particular” K&L Exclusive Cask Strength Single Refill Hogshead Highland Single Malt Scotch Whisky \$199.99** This total jewel is unlike anything we'd ever come across before. The famous Highland peated malt, known for being a key element in the famous Teacher's blend, but without the PEAT! Absolutely bonkers. Try to find a better classic single cask of 25 year old Highland single malt at this price—we don't think it exists.

**2010 Auchroisk 12 Year Old “Old Particular” K&L Exclusive Single Refill Sherry Butt Cask Strength Speyside Single Malt Scotch Whisky \$59.99** Auchroisk has long been a stalwart in our portfolio, able to deliver wonderful quality often at very reasonable prices. The refill sherry butt is no different, but the prices seem even more outrageous considering where the rest of the market has gone. It's difficult to find any 12 year old single malt under \$60 these days,

but cask strength, single barrel is unheard of. Well, this may be our very last, but we're going to fight to keep the prices low. Here, we're in classic Speyside territory. With a splash of water this one will make any malt lover's night extra special.



**2008 Bunnahabhain 14 Year Old "Old Particular" K&L Exclusive Single Hogshead Cask Strength Islay Single Malt Scotch Whisky \$109.99**

Every time we get one of these Bunnah's in we tell anyone who will listen to buy buy buy. It's so rare to find proper cask strength Bunnahabhain, and these stocks from Old Particular are truly fun to experience. We've managed to keep the price right in line with the last barrel we did two years ago. This one offers a similar experience, showcasing the northern Islay distiller's ability to capture the essence of Islay's craggy coastline without any of the peaty intensity of its neighbors. There's no big wood or wine to get in the way and the crystalline character of this renowned distillery is on full display here. Don't be the one crawling back to us months from now hoping to find more of this special magic.

**2007 Glengoyne 15 Year Old "Old Particular" Single Hogshead Cask Strength Highland Single Malt Scotch Whisky \$74.99**

The old southern Highlander offers some of the most consistent quality on the market with their well-regarded and always sherried own bottlings. Here is the often-sherried malt's naked brother. A gorgeously medium-matured, second-fill hogshead that we're grateful was plucked out of the blending program of some multinational corporation to end up in its most singular form on our shelves. This is the easy choice for someone looking for solid quality malt, but not wanting to take too many risks with the flavor profile. Despite the increased prices at the distillery, these stocks are still extremely well priced, taking an actual decrease from the previous similarly aged barrel we'd sold.



**2008 Orkney's Finest 14 Year Old "Old Particular" K&L Exclusive Single Refill Hogshead Cask Strength Orkney Single Malt Scotch Whisky \$79.99**

It's an open secret that over the past few years Highland Park has sold a significant amount of stock to blenders and bottlers, but without the legal right to name the special distillery. Instead, they simply call it Orkney Malt, but we know it's not distilled at Scapa. And

thank goodness these whiskies didn't work in their current program. The distillery, one of the few to offer a proper single cask program, charges nearly triple the price for their own stocks. Albeit those are usually heavily sherried, but there's something remarkably refreshing and inviting about the lightly peated malt from Orkney that loves to shine through without the big tannins of European oak or nutty intensity of Oloroso sherry. This is just good, clean, heathery deliciousness and another extraordinary value that few other bottlers can match.

**2009 Dailuain 9 Year Old "Firkin Whisky K&L Exclusive" Oloroso & Amontillado Single Cask Speyside Single Malt Scotch Whisky \$79.99**



little youngster is one of the very few we've ever bottled that was aged in contact with oak that previously held Amontillado sherry wine. The subtle savory character imparted by the rare, fortified wine casks are coupled with the inherent sweetness of Dailuaine's malt—full of orchard fruit and zesty spice. This married with an equal amount of Oloroso-seasoned wood creates a unique offering unlike any we've previously presented.



**Aberlour 11 Year Old "Hart Brothers Finest Collection" K&L Exclusive Cask Strength First Fill Sherry Butt Unchillfiltered Speyside Single Malt Scotch Whisky \$99.99**

Aberlour is rare on the independent market, and, usually when we see it, it's been aged in completely quiet casks. Here we have a much more interesting example, thanks to its time in sherry. We're not sure what type of sherry, but it's likely a second-fill cask. It doesn't have the over-the-top wine character of the distillery's own "A'Bunadh" but instead offers refined elegance and a nuanced example of this special distillery.

**Dalmore 10 Year Old "Hart Brothers Finest Collection" K&L Exclusive Exclusive Cask Strength First Fill Sherry Butt Unchillfiltered Highland Single Malt Scotch Whisky \$74.99**

This is another tremendously unusual thing to see in the market today for precisely the same reason as the Aberlour. While on paper their specs are similar, the flavor profiles are wildly different. The Dalmore is much more brooding and denser with strong, dark malt and a rich peppery backbone. This one is an absolute sleeper so definitely pour this well before you plan to enjoy it, and consider at least a few drops of water.



**Caol Ila 10 Year Old "Hart Brothers" Single Hogshead Cask Strength Islay Single Malt Scotch Whisky \$69.99**

This lovely cask of Caol Ila is in the most classic style offered by this exceptional distillery. Medium peat and nicely pointed by a solid active hogshead, it provides great zesty citrus and billowing, clean white smoke notes balanced by a rich, creamy texture and sweet vanilla undertones. To call this an entry point into Islay is not to discount its quality whatsoever, but, if you're wanting to dip your toe in, don't be afraid to dose this with a solid splash of water—you'll enjoy the revitalizing complexity that a medium-peat Islay like this will afford you.

**Hart Brothers (Laphroaig) "PEATED" Islay Single Malt Scotch Whisky \$39.99**

The only new exclusive we have that's not in a single cask is this outrageous, unnamed Islay. Rumor has it that it's from the wonderful Laphroaig distillery, but only a few distillers offer something so peaty and intense, and we'd be happy to have any of them in this bottle at this outrageous price. No one is selling good Islay single malt for \$40 anymore. This is one to load up on since the U.S. was allocated just 49 cases of this excellent whisky. You'll want to keep several around to sip and mix with over the coming years because we're not sure when we'll see a deal this good again.





## Bourbon: America's Spirit and Your Father's Favorite

By Andrew Whiteley, Spirits Buyer



Whether you need a Father's Day gift (it's June 18th this year) or you want to celebrate July 4th with America's native spirits, bourbon and rye always have your back. Fresh off our buy trip to Indiana and Kentucky at the end of May, we have a renewed perspective on what is what when it comes to brown water and who is doing it right. While we won't see the barrels selected on this trip for

another three to nine months, we do have a ton of epic bourbon and rye on offer in the meantime.

If you can't decide, let us do the work for you—search **Father's Day** at [www.klwines.com](http://www.klwines.com) to see what curated American whiskey packs we have featuring rarities, staples, and exclusive whiskeys already packaged into the perfect gift. Or follow our guide below to some of our surefire hits.

### Bardstown



With so much good stuff it's hard to know where to begin, but you cannot go wrong with Bardstown. After all, it's pretty much the center of the bourbon universe.

Bardstown Bourbon Company is unique in the bourbon world for their far-ranging capabilities. This high-tech distillery is the heart and soul of more than 30 American whiskey brands. They are built to make the most flavorful and

customizable distillate at a large scale, and they've been creating high quality whiskey since day one. In addition to custom mashbills for just about everyone in the business, they also make their own spectacular whiskeys. Headed by the famed Steve Nally, the new Origin Series release is their first whiskey featuring 100% their own spirit. They patiently waited six years before releasing this age-stated winner. A harbinger of the many great releases to come. In addition to the largest allocation of this tough-to-find whiskey, we also have the lowest price in the state!



**Bardstown Bourbon Company 6 Year Old "Origin Series #1" Kentucky Straight Bourbon Whiskey (750ml) \$39.99** Orange zest, sweet oak, spicy rye, baking spice, and the perfect punch of 96 proof—all at 6 years old and just 40 bucks!

**Bardstown Bourbon Company "Discovery Series #9" Blended Whiskey (750ml) \$119.99** Bardstown's flagship premium release has been the Discovery Series. They've leveraged their long-standing relationships in the business for

exceptional whiskeys from all over the place and blended new and compelling whiskeys that are familiar and yet completely fresh takes on what whiskey can be. Disco #9 is perhaps the best in the series, and once again we have the best price going in the state. This will be one of the most complex and overtly delicious whiskeys you taste this year.



**Prohibition Craft Spirits "NULU Toasted Barrel" Single Barrel Indiana Straight Bourbon Whiskey (750ml) (Previously \$80) \$52.99** Another relative

newcomer doing amazing things in the Kentucky scene is the Louisville-based NULU. If these guys aren't on your radar, they need to be, as they're sure to be everywhere soon. A real bootstraps success story.

Specializing in finishing barrels we have their incredible Toasted Barrel release featuring MGP's wonderful bourbon at the sharpest price on the market. While most places are upwards of \$80, we are selling this whiskey for just \$52.99!

### Buffalo Trace



**Blanton's Straight From The Barrel Single Barrel Kentucky Straight Bourbon (700ml) (European Import) \$270.00** Blanton's remains the number-one-

requested bourbon in our store. Unfortunately, as bourbon continues booming and every single store in the country vies for allocations, it's harder than ever to get a hold of. We've had to get creative to give the people what they want—and we've succeeded. Blanton's

Straight From The Barrel (cask strength single barrel Blanton's) is so rare in the United States that many casual U.S.-based bourbon fans don't even know it exists. However, thanks to some odd corporate ownership structures, Blanton's SFTB is readily available in foreign markets. We've done our best to source this nectar from Europe in as large a quantity and at as sharp a price as possible. The Winesearcher average for this release is a whopping \$440! But we've got it without allocation at \$270.

### Wild Turkey

**Wild Turkey "Kentucky Spirit" Single Barrel Bourbon Whiskey**

**\$59.99** Is single barrel is your thing, but you don't want to spring for re-imported rarities? No problem. One of the original single barrel offerings out of Kentucky comes from Anderson County.

Wild Turkey has been selling Kentucky Spirit, bottled one barrel

at a time in their signature 101 proof for years! This is likely the best kept secret in the entire Bluegrass State.



## Heaven Hill

It's hard to find something in the Heaven Hill lineup that doesn't punch well above its weight class. Whether it's their ultra-limited rarities, which still come in at reasonable prices, or their everyday drinkers like Rittenhouse Rye for \$24, you are always sure to get way more than you pay for. Fortunately for drinkers everywhere, what used to be tightly allocated releases are becoming more and more accessible.



**Elijah Craig "Toasted Barrel" Kentucky Straight Bourbon Whiskey (750ml) \$54.99** The Toasted Barrel release begins its life as fully matured, barrel strength Elijah Craig Small Batch. It is then dumped into a custom toasted, new oak barrel built by Independent Stave Company. This second barreling provides an added kick that bumps up the Small Batch to the next level. When it was first released it was unobtainium, but in recent months it has settled into the steady workhorse that it was always meant to be—exceptional drinking at everyday pricing.



**Pikesville Straight Kentucky Rye (750ml) \$44.99** A victim of the pandemic supply shortages, everyone's favorite high proof rye had all but disappeared from the market thanks to a shortage in glass production capacity. Well they've finally caught up, and Pikesville 110 Proof Straight Kentucky Rye is back—and as good as ever. Whether you need to replenish your backbar or you're trying this for the first time, you're sure to find a new

household staple in this bottle.

## Undisclosed Sources

Just because you don't have a distillery doesn't mean you cannot bottle exceptional whisky. Bottling exceptional bourbon has always been more about who you know than anything else. Of course, you have to have excellent taste as well, but if you really want the good stuff, you've got to have the right connections. We have a number of exceptionally well-sourced whiskies from non-distiller producers.



**Frank August Small Batch Kentucky Straight Bourbon Whiskey (750ml) \$74.99** What

happens when impeccable taste meets high fashion design esthetic? Frank August happens. There is no bottle more attractive than Frank August, at least from a design perspective. As for taste—this tiny batch blend is superb and bottled at the wonderful 100 proof. You'd be hard pressed to find a better gift than this. It's visually and gustatorily striking, and your recipient will surely be taken by it.



**Calumet Farm 16 Year Old "Single Rack Black" Small Batch Kentucky Straight Bourbon Whiskey (750ml) \$129.99** Want an impressive age statement?

They've all but disappeared in the modern American whiskey landscape, and when you do get one, it's often uncomfortably expensive. Calumet has really focused on delivering big age statements at excellent prices since their inception. Their flagship 8 year old is super tasty for \$45, but it's the whopping 16 year old release that we really want to highlight. While the whiskey is sourced and the production distillery is undisclosed, we posit that some of the 14 and 15 year old age statements we were seeing in a famous KY single barrel "9 year old" program may have ended up in Calumet's hands. Regardless of where they are coming from, this small batch (just 19 barrels), 106 proof, 16 year old whiskey is stunning for just \$129.99.

**Hirsch "Extra Full Collection" Straight Bourbon Whiskey Pack (5x750ml) \$430.00** A non-distiller producer doesn't always have to source all of their distillate from one place—just take Hirsch for example. This "Extra Full Collection" is a smattering of everything they have to offer in one easy-to-get package. The core lineup features two small batch products, Horizon (sourced from MGP in Indiana) and Bivouac (Bardstown Bourbon Co. blended with an undisclosed Bardstown property). This collection also has their coveted Cask Strength release and the two most recent single barrel releases. While the source for the single barrels is nominally undisclosed, if you go digging you might find the answer—you'll be glad you did if you manage to snag one of these! The single barrels from this producer often sell for many times their retail price on the secondary market. We're down to our last few bottles and they are only available in this Hirsch pack.



# For Dads Who Like Surprises

By David Othenin-Girard, Spirits Buyer

Don't quote us on it, but there is more out there than whisk(e)y. We have a few picks here on our backpage that are sure to surprise and delight Dad—both are delicious and unique in their own rights. Andrew and I are both dads ourselves, and would be happy to receive any of the bottles in these pages to celebrate our day, but these two are surprising and special.

## Bolivian Spirit with Star Power

**Singani "63" Bolivian Muscat Brandy (750ml) \$29.99** We've long been fans of this fabulous muscat spirit brought to us by the renowned filmmaker Steven Soderbergh. This is not your normal celebrity brand, oh no. Steven fell in love with the national spirit of Bolivia while filming *Che* and has spent countless hours and dollars bringing it to the States so that he could personally have access to it. Turns out that's nearly impossible without creating a brand, which is why he created the now-famous 63 Singani.



After years of lobbying the U.S. government, Steven and the team at 63 have managed to get Singani officially added to the list of recognized national spirits. That means we don't have to call it brandy but can use the culturally appropriate term to describe any grape distillate made to the local specifications—Singani is the real deal. Just like Cognac, pisco, tequila, and any other nationally recognized spirit, Singani can now stand tall with the other great spirits of the world.

## California Vodka with a Cause

**OLGA Unfiltered California Vodka \$39.99** OLGA is handcrafted in California from the finest single-grain winter wheat and high-quality Russian River water. Named for the Latvian mother of the founder, their mission is to make the best-tasting vodka. Only distilled three times and bottled without any filtration whatsoever, this spirit offers a more complex experience with sweet aromas, subtle citrus on the nose, and a rich, round body. OLGA is meant to celebrate all that is beautiful and free.



Every bottle of OLGA supports the work of Rainbow Railroad in helping LGBTQI+ people escape persecution around the world.



### K&L REDWOOD CITY

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### K&L HOLLYWOOD

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