

WHISKEY GALORE

On February 5th 1941 the SS Politician, an 8000-tonne cargo ship bound for New Orleans from Liverpool, ran aground off the Isle of Eriskay in Scotland's Outer Hebrides laden with, amongst other things, a quarter of a million bottles of whiskey.

When the locals learned from the rescued crew exactly what the ship was carrying, a series of illegal salvage operations took place at night, before the customs and excise officials arrived. The islanders periodically helped themselves to the whiskey before winter weather broke up the ship. Boats came from as far away as Lewis as news of the whiskey travelled across the Outer Hebrides. No islander regarded it as stealing, as for them the rules of salvage meant that once the bounty was in the sea, it was theirs to rescue.

This of course was not the view of the local customs officer, Charles McColl, who was incensed at the blatant thievery that was going on. Not a penny had been paid in duty for this whiskey so Mr McColl whipped up a furore. Villages were raided and crofts were turned upside down.

Mr McColl, who had already estimated that the islanders had stolen 24,000 bottles of whiskey, ensured that there would be no more temptation. He was granted permission to explode the ship's hull and as one islander, Angus John Campbell, commented: "Dynamiting whiskey. You wouldn't think there'd be men in the world so crazy as that!"

The tale was used by Compton Mackenzie for his book "Whiskey Galore" and later for the Ealing Studio motion picture of the same name.

We recommend all our whiskies to be enjoyed with a wee dash of water

WHISKEY

Scotland *With such a broad range of distinctive styles, Mecca for whiskey fans. Made from malted barley, with blends adding wheat, corn or oats, and matured in Bourbon casks, though sometimes sherry or port casks are used*

Speyside *In Scotland's north-east, this is the region that initially brought Scottish whiskey to the world*

Benromach Peat Smoke 11
Very clean & sweet, with smoke not big but dominating

The Macallan 10yo 12
Prominent oloroso notes, spicy fruit & silken texture

Duthies Cragganmore 15yo 13
Light but intense with barley & spice, a hint of smoke & a creamyvanillin finish

Glenfiddich Solera 15yo 12
Soft, light & delicate with gentle fruit & spicy complexity

Compass Box Asyla 9
Multi-regional blend, vanilla, a spicy, citrus tang, sea salt

Campbeltown *In the south-west, the original home of Scottish whiskey. At the start of the 20th century in this town of 2,000 people there were 21 distilleries*

Hazelburn 8yo 12
Gentle with subtle malt, vanilla, baby oranges & peat

Longrow CV 13
Molassed barley, mocha, praline, vanilla & balanced peat

Springbank 1998 18
Thick & rich with cocoa, butterscotch & malt

WHISKEY

Islay	<i>Further west than Campbeltown, the home of some epic whisky, where smoked peat & sea salt come to the fore</i>		
Ardbeg 10yo	<i>An elegant smoke bomb with vanilla, citrus & sea salt</i>	12	
Islands			
Talisker 10yo (Skye)	<i>Zingy spice with peat, chocolate & barley</i>	11	
Highland Park 12yo (Orkneys)	<i>Silky, honey-edged malt, touches of peat, vanilla & citrus</i>	10	
Highlands	<i>With the majesty & romance we associate with Scotch these whiskies are often earthy with delicate heather</i>		
Glengoyne 10yo	<i>Powerful yet light, with marmalade, barley & coffee hints</i>	11	
Dalwhinnie 15yo	<i>Lush, delicate honeyed malts with heather & gentle peat</i>	11	
Oban 14yo	<i>Sweet, rich oloroso spice & fruit, velvety finish</i>	13	
Ireland	<i>Generally triple distilled with malted & unmalted barley, a sweeter, more rounded flavour</i>		
Knappogue Castle 1995	<i>Banana skins, custard, dry barley, oak & spice</i>	13	
Jameson	<i>Dry barley, cocoa, honey & light grape</i>	8	
Red Breast 12yo	<i>Gentle barley sweetness & spice, light & luscious texture</i>	12	
Wales			
Penderyn	<i>Madiera truffle, spicy fruit, cocoa & orange zest</i>		14
Sweden			
Mackmyra	<i>Smooth, rich & spicy with creamy malt & banana</i>		14
Australia			
Bakery Hill Cask Strength	<i>Rich barley, subtle liquorice, cocoa & vanilla</i>		14
Bakery Hill Peated	<i>Rich but clean, chocolate, almond, spice & gentle peat</i>		12
America	<i>Made predominantly from corn, with wheat & rye, Bourbon Kentucky bourbon must be matured in virgin oak casks</i>		
Buffalo Trace	<i>Elegant with corn, vanilla, marmalade & coconut</i>		10
Woodforde's Reserve	<i>A lighter style with corn & rye to the fore, citrus & vanilla</i>		10
Basil Hayden's	<i>Sweet corn, baked banana, cream, vanilla & citrus</i>		10
Maker's Mark	<i>Gentle with honey, fruits, spice & crème brulee</i>		9
Old Granddad	<i>Complex, viscous gem of spice, marmalade & oak</i>		10
Rittenhouse Rye	<i>Firm, fruity rye abounds, cocoa, burnt toffee & spice</i>		10
Whisky flights	<i>half shots of any three whiskies (eg The Macallan, Dalwhinnie, Talisker)</i>		16