

FULL  
RESULTS

**This year's competition saw more than 200 whiskies do battle over three tasting rounds for the coveted titles of the best whiskies in the world**

## JUDGING PANEL

### CHAIRMAN OF JUDGES

Dave Broom

### EUROPE

Rob Allanson, Whisky Magazine  
Thierry Benitah, La Maison du Whisky  
Robin Laing  
Charles MacLean  
Martine Nouet  
Dominic Roskrow  
Keir Sword, Royal Mile Whiskies

### USA

Charles Cowdrey  
William Dowd  
Mike Miller, Delilah's  
Tonya LeNell, LeNells

### JAPAN

Masashi Goto, Main Malt bar  
Nobuyuki Nakamura, Campbelltown Loch bar  
Koukichi Kuribayashi, Mejiro Tanakaya  
Hideo Yamaoka, Shogakukan Inc.

It has been a hard fought competition this year, with some interesting and surprising results. There have been intensive rounds of tastings by *Whisky Magazine's* independent editorial panel drawn from the best journalists and retailers across the world, and also by industry representatives made up of master blenders, distillers and brand ambassadors.

To get to the final results three rounds of blind tastings were held. Round one was conducted by the editorial panel at their homes. The judges were simply sent sample bottles marked with the ABV and category.

We split the whiskies up by regions and styles. The entries, which increased from last year's competition, were then divided up among the judges, who then tasted and marked the spirits out of 10.

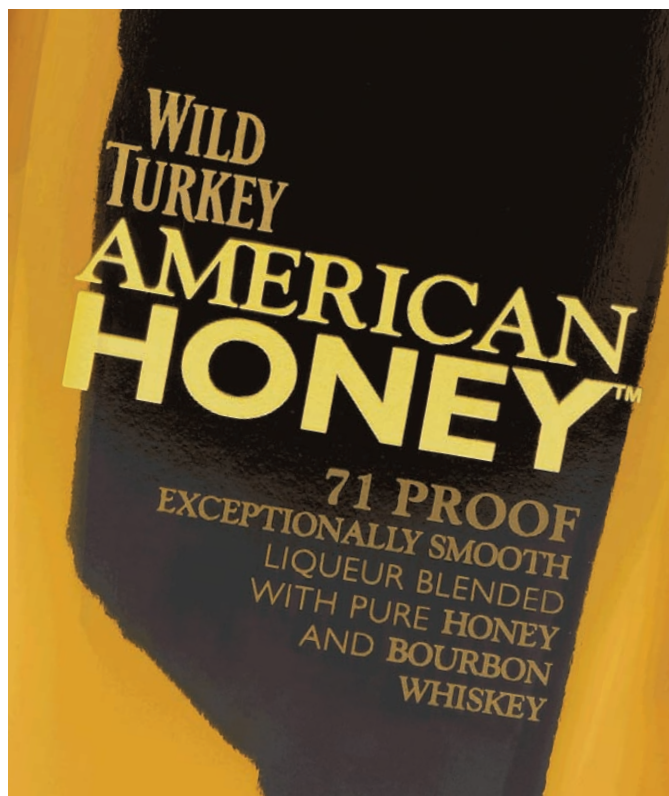
The highest scoring whiskies in this round gave us the subcategory winners, for instance the best Speyside whisky 12 Years and under, which then went forward to the second round of tastings, held in London with some of the best noses in the industry judging them.

The winners of this second round gave us our category winners, for instance best Highland whisky, which were then sent back to the editorial panel to do battle for the overall titles.

The competition featured some eye-opening whiskies and the judges had a hard time separating the very good from the good. The scores reflected this struggle with some whiskies only beating their contemporaries by a few points.

In some categories, particularly if only one whisky entered it was still put through the tasting wringer to make sure it passed the judges exacting standards and was deserving of the award.

Our congratulations go to the winners and we hope that you will have fun exploring some of the whiskies that performed exceptionally this year.



## WORLD'S BEST WHISKY LIQUEUR WILD TURKEY AMERICAN HONEY

The nose offers spicy oranges, lemons and cinnamon, like a warm house on a winter's day when mum has been baking citrus pies. This is not a cloying liqueur like some on the market but still has a viscous mouthfeel. The spirit glides around the mouth imparting sweet notes of vanilla and citrus.

The bourbon is there if you search for it, but it has been tamed a little by the addition of bags of spices and honey.

At 71 Proof you get an extremely long and satisfying finish with very little alcoholic burn, but you do get that lovely warming feeling inside. The addition of real honey gives this liqueur a real heart of sweetness that is difficult to resist. Guaranteed to melt any opposition offered by even the most vocal naysayers of whisky liqueurs

**Rob Allanson**

### CATEGORY WINNERS

World's Best Scotch Liqueur – Arran Gold  
World's Best non-Scotch liqueur – Wild Turkey American Honey



## WORLD'S BEST GRAIN WHISKY COMPASS BOX HEDONISM

Citrusy and grassy. Orange, lime. Lemonade soda. A big whiff of vanilla. Drying hay. Very smooth and refreshing. A slight sherbety feel on the tongue. The finish is short but clean and sweet. A well structured and balanced dram

**Martine Nouet**

Very light in colour with nice light grain on the nose. This whisky is light and refreshing with perfect balance of subtleties – bready, toffee, green tea, butter cookie, and lemongrass. Smooth and well balanced finish with lingering grain notes

**Mike Miller**

Black liquorice candy

**Charles Cowdrey**

Elegant creation with a gentle structure. Rye, sweet grassy notes with herbal dirt as well.

Very good

**William Dowd**

The nose shows Tutti frutti ice cream, pecan pie, butterscotch. The palate is sharper and spicier than the nose, with banana skin and under-ripe peach. Ordered, rounded and pleasant finish. Some people are predicting single grains could be the next big thing. This is a fine example. The nose gives it plenty to live up to

**Dominic Roskrow**



## WORLD'S BEST NEW RELEASE GLENROTHS 25 YEARS OLD

Medium amber hue with a nice light malty nose. This clean and accessible malt has an interesting and layered flavour profile of almonds, sherry, malted barley, chocolate, dried plum and iodine. The finish is long and equally layered – hearty with a bit of heat

**Mike Miller**

Sherry and fruit notes. Rich, creamy body. Some oak. Beautifully balanced

**William Dowd**

Elegant, rich and deep. Earthy, sylvestry. Wet moss, mushrooms opening on indoor aromas. Gingerbread, honey, toffee. Superb dovetailing aromatic display. Full bodied. Rich intense sherry notes. Oak shines through dried fruit flavours. Intense liquorice flavours. Beautiful. A Speyside laird

**Martine Nouet**

Sweet and floral, blackcurrant Starburst, candy on the nose. Barley sugar, grapefruit and lemon. Nice balance of fruit, spice and an underlay of wispy smoke to finish

**Dominic Roskrow**

### CANDIDATES

The best new release is selected from those proprietary bottlings which have won a gold medal in *Whisky Magazine's* tasting section during the year. They were:

*Glenroths 25 Years Old*  
*Benriach 30 Years old*  
*Glenlivet Cellar Collection 1969*  
*Talisker 30 Years Old Special Release*



## WORLD'S BEST BLENDED MALT WHISKY BLUE HANGER 30 YEARS OLD

Wow! Boom! A standout even in this company. Citrus, specifically grapefruit

**Charles Cowdrey**

Fruit and heavy perfume, aged, thick, frest vinyl. Fruit taste and shortish finish

**Charles MacLean**

Vanilla, biscuit, alcohol sneaks out. Tad too rich with lush, sweeter front and then oak comes through on dry finish. Finishes on flapjacks, butterscotch, then hit of wood and left with alcohol bite, even diluted

**LeNell**

Sweet tinned pears, crystallised pineapples on the nose. A summer fireworks display of a palate, all sparkling, zesty and sweet with citrus fruits, aniseed.

Finishes with sweetness and aniseed – like those little coloured bits you sometimes get given at the end of an Indian meal. A wacky and wonderful whisky – a trend-setting delight

**Dominic Roskrow**

### WINNERS

#### SUB-CATEGORY WINNERS

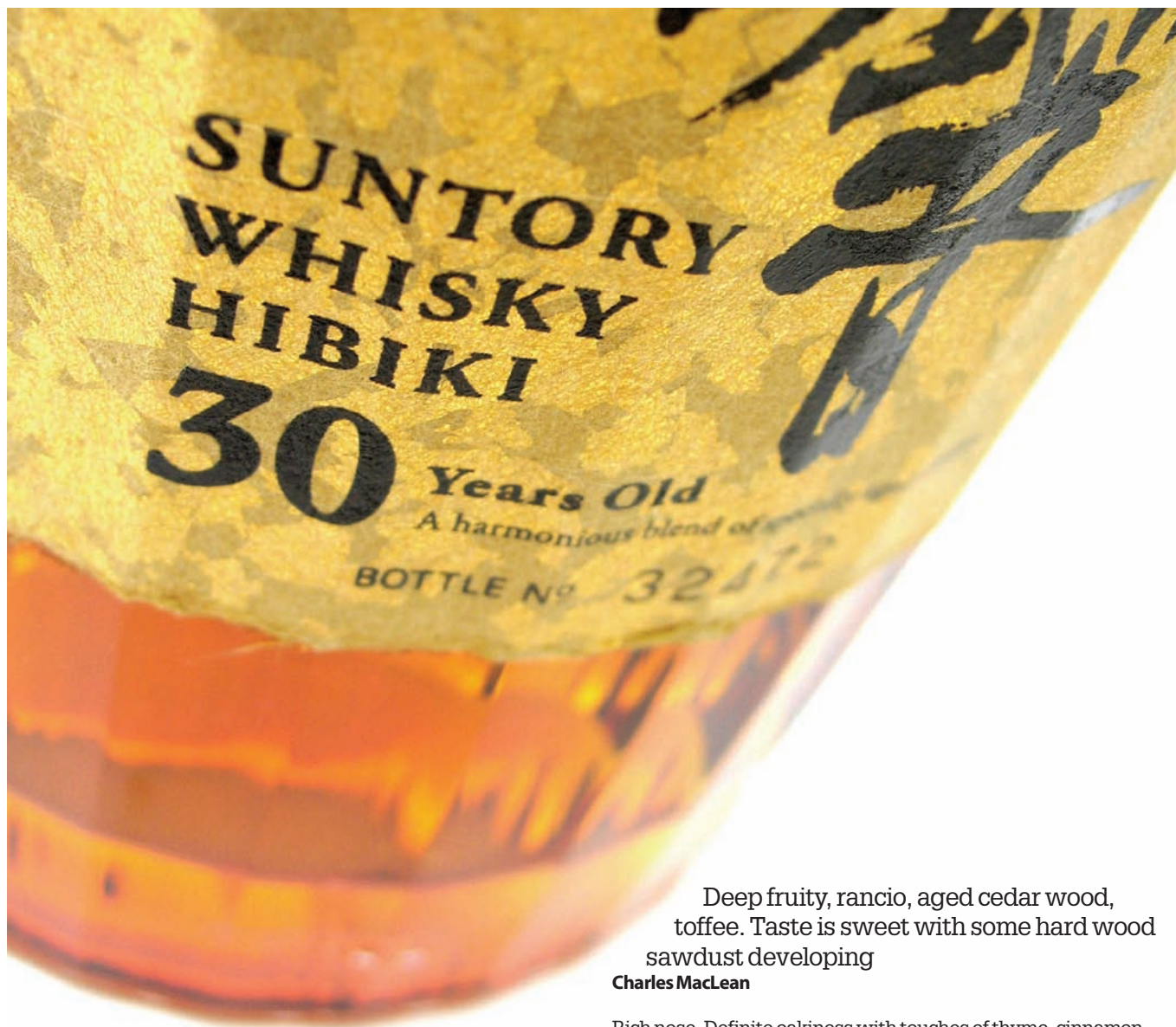
Scotch Blended Malt 21 and over – *Blue Hanger 30*  
Scotch Blended Malt no age – *Compass Box Morpheus*  
Non-Scotch Blended Malt 12 and under – *Ichiro's Malt Mizunara*  
Non-Scotch Blended Malt 13-20 – *Taketsuru 21 Years Old*

#### CATEGORY WINNERS

World's Best Scotch Blended Malt – *Blue Hanger 30*  
World's Best Non-Scotch Blended Malt – *Taketsuru 21 Years*

# WORLD'S BEST BLENDED WHISKY

## SUNTORY HIBIKI 30 YEARS OLD



Deep fruity, rancio, aged cedar wood, toffee. Taste is sweet with some hard wood sawdust developing

**Charles MacLean**

Rich nose. Definite oakiness with touches of thyme, cinnamon. Very balanced dram

**William Dowd**

Nose shows clean, orange marmalade, medium intensity, fruity fading into spice and pepper. Sweet citrus fruit with bittersweet chocolate/coffee. Dry, light to medium body. Hint of smoke at back end. Touch of white pepper bite. Finishes on dried orange peel bitterness

**LeNell**

Pleasant reddish hue and enticing malty/sherry nose. Complex, dense and well layered with notes of dried fruits, almonds, caramel, chicory and cinnamon, it finishes fairly dry and has seen some serious wood time

**Mike Miller**

Rich and full nose, with blackberry and raspberry notes. The palate is wood up front, suggesting age, then a wonderful mix of currants, spices and oak, all beautifully checked and balanced. Wonderful and long finish

**Dominic Roskrow**

### WINNERS

#### SUB-CATEGORY

Scotch Blended 12 and under – *Islay Mist 12 Years Old*  
 Scotch Blended 13-20 – *Islay Mist 17 Years Old*  
 Scotch Blended 21 and over – *Hankey Bannister 40 Years Old*  
 Scotch Blended no age – *Dewar's Signature*  
 Japanese Blended 12 and under – *Nikka From the Barrel*  
 Japanese Blended 13-20 – *Tsuru 17 Years Old*  
 Japanese Blended 21 and over – *Suntory Hibiki 30 Years Old*  
 Irish Blended 12 and under – *Jameson 12 Years Old*  
 Irish Blended 13-20 – *Kilbeggan 15 Years Old*  
 Irish Blended no age – *Bushmills 1608*

#### CATEGORY WINNERS

World's Best Scotch Blended Whisky – *Hankey Bannister 40 Years Old*  
 World's Best Japanese Blended Whisky – *Suntory Hibiki 30 Years Old*  
 World's Best Irish Blended Whisky – *Kilbeggan 15 Years Old*

# WORLD'S BEST AMERICAN WHISKEY

## GEORGE T. STAGG



Coconut, mom's apple and pear pie with cinnamon. Highly aromatic, cigar dipper and very big

**Charles MacLean**

Powerful alcohol and initial spice. Persimmon, orange notes detectable, but finishes with a whisper

**William Dowd**

Concentrated flavours, rich, full, robust, spicy cinnamon, prune, pepper.

Finishes even with dilution to 40% the alcohol bite is still pronounced

**LeNell**

Deep mahogany hue, pronounced aroma of oak, tobacco & vanilla. Very rich flavor profile – cinnamon, dried orange peel, spearmint, star anise, dark chocolate and toasted coconut. The finish is long and intense, very dry and oakly

**Mike Miller**

Surprisingly restrained and attractive on the nose, with rich fresh plums and pears, honey and vanilla. Magnificent blend of candy, fruits, hints of spice, cocoa and tobacco pouch. Finishes like a Pink Floyd encore. Big, brash, colourful and goes on and on. Totally loveable. An unforgettable blockbuster

**Dominic Roskrow**

### WINNERS

#### SUB-CATEGORY WINNERS

Canadian Blended no age – *Canadian Club Reserve*  
 Canadian Blended no age – *Crown Royal Cask No. 16*  
 Bourbon 7 and under – *Baker's*  
 Bourbon 8 and over – *George T. Stagg*  
 Bourbon no age – *Four Roses Single Barrel*  
 Wheat no age – *Bernheim Original Wheat*  
 Rye no age – *Russell's Reserve Rye whiskey*

#### CATEGORY WINNERS

World's Best Canadian Blended Whisky – *Canadian Club Reserve*  
 World's Best Bourbon Whiskey – *George T. Stagg*  
 World's Best Wheat Whiskey – *Bernheim Wheat*  
 World's Best Rye Whiskey – *Russell's Reserve Rye whiskey*

# WORLD'S BEST SINGLE MALT WHISKY

## YOICHI 20 YEARS OLD

**WWA<sup>08</sup>**  
**WORLD WHISKIES AWARDS**



Dense Dr Pepper or Vimto with an aroma that explodes with water. Hair laquer. Oak lactones  
**Charles MacLean**

The nose is rich, earthy and eventually blackcurrant, with almost violet perfumey note. Amazing mix of big smoke and sweet blackcurrant almost strawberry-ish fruits hits the palate. A Malteser of a whisky, with the big peaty flavours at the heart but wrapped in a layer of sweet fruit. Big, long and sweet finish, with the fruit and the smoke battling each other all the way  
**Dominic Roskrow**

Initial heat is highly flavoured with honey, oak and the faintest touch of peppermint. Smoky finish  
**William Dowd**

Medium amber hue with a bold nose of sherry tobacco and old leather. Very interesting, complex and bold flavour profile hazelnuts, orange peel, a hint of the sea, some smokiness, leather and dark cigar tobacco. The long dense and lingering finish is dry and oak driven  
**Mike Miller**

Caramel, oatcakes, bourbon sweetness. Round and full bodied, starts with sugared pecans, vanilla, sweet malt, then moved into more hazelnut and fruit cake in the finish. Sweetness coats the mouth, liquid dessert, makes me want to eat cookies  
**LeNeil**

### WINNERS

#### SUB-CATEGORY

Highland 12 and under – *Glenmorangie Nectar D'Or*  
 Highland 13-20 – *Old Pulteney 17 Years Old*  
 Highland 21 and over – *Old Pulteney 21 Years Old*  
 Highland 4 no age – *Balblair 1989 Vintage*  
 Speyside 12 and under – *The Balvenie 12 Years Old*  
 Speyside 13-20 – *The Glenlivet 18 Years Old*  
 Speyside 21 and over – *The Glenrothes 1978*  
 Speyside no age – *The Glenrothes Select Reserve*  
 Irish 12 and under – *Tyrconnell Sherry Finish*  
 Irish 13-20 – *Bushmills 16 Years Old*  
 Irish no age – *Connemara Cask Strength*  
 Japanese 12 and under – *The final vintage of Hanyu*  
 Japanese 13-20 – *Yoichi 20 Years Old*  
 Japanese 21 and over – *Ichiro 23 Years Old*  
 Other no age – *Privus 04*  
 Other no age – *Privus 05*  
 Other no age – *Penderyn*  
 Island Non Islay 12 and under – *Talisker 10 Years Old*  
 Island Non Islay 13-20 – *Highland Park 16 Years Old*

Island Non Islay 21 and over – *Talisker 30 Years Old*  
 Island Non Islay no age – *The Arran Malt*  
 Islay Unpeated 12 and under – *Bruichladdich 12 Years Old*  
 Islay Unpeated 13-20 – *Bunnahabhain 18 Years Old*  
 Islay Unpeated 21 and over – *Bunnahabhain 25 Years Old*  
 Islay Peated 12 and under – *Ardbeg 10 Years Old*  
 Islay Peated 13-20 – *Lagavulin 16 Years Old*  
 Islay Peated 21 and over – *Lagavulin 21 Years Old*  
 Islay Peated no age – *Lagavulin Distillers Edition*

#### CATEGORY WINNERS

World's Best Highland Single Malt Whisky – *Glenmorangie Nectar D'Or*  
 World's Best Speyside Single Malt Whisky – *The Glenrothes 1978*  
 World's Best Irish Single Malt Whisky – *Bushmills 16 Years Old*  
 World's Best Japanese Single Malt Whisky – *Yoichi 20 Years Old*  
 World's Best Other Single Malt Whisky – *Privus 05*  
 World's Best Island Non Islay Single Malt Whisky – *Talisker 30 Years Old*  
 World's Best Islay Unpeated Single Malt Whisky – *Bunnahabhain 25 Years Old*  
 World's Best Islay Peated Single Malt Whisky – *Lagavulin 16 Years Old*  
 World's Best Island Single Malt Whisky – *Talisker 30 Years Old*