

Whisky Tasting Notes - Camp Southeast 2017

Chivas Regal Blended Scotch –

Tasting Note by The Chaps at Master of Malt

Nose: A creamy, aromatic melange of vanilla custard, hints of aniseed, lemon curd and butter toffee. Wood shavings and dried banana chips develop with just a hint of cassis.

Palate: More of those banana chips showing through on the palate, this time there's a creamy hit of barley malt too, pepped up with a little allspice. Notes of ground walnut and caramel.

Finish: Light spice and black pepper on the tail. Lingering notes of cereal sweetness.

Overall: A spicy, beautifully balanced blend. Lots going on here.

Glenlivet Nadurra – Scotch Noob

The Glenlivet Nadurra, now, is more my speed. Not colored or chill-filtered and bottled at cask strength, the Nadurra supplies what the standard expressions are missing: concentrated flavor. It's been aged at least 16 years in only ex-bourbon (American oak) barrels. My admittedly blurry notes from WhiskyFest 2011 include this phrase about the Nadurra: "Very nice. Worth buying." — what more can I say?

Bottled 09/11 (Batch 0911p) at 53% ABV.

Nose: LOTS of vanilla. Am I allowed to say "Vanilla Bomb"? Perfumey. Some light, but non-cloying touches of butterscotch. White peach and buttered toast. A satisfying, concentrated aroma.

Palate: Significant burn for the relatively low ABV. Raspberry comes through as the burn subsides, as does candied ginger and some of that vanilla. Surprisingly little evidence of the house-characteristic green apple, which may be buried under all of that bourbon-cask influence. Progresses towards nutty, with marzipan and some coconut.

Finish: There's the coconut. Medium-long finish and finally some sweet maltiness.

Overall: If you're looking for a good solid Speysider without heavy-handed wine finishes or sherry aging, this one fits the bill, and isn't overpriced. Also, if you'd like a gentle introduction to cask-strength whiskies, this one is a lot easier to handle for a first-timer than something like [Aberlour a'bunadh](#) or a cask-strength from Islay.

Willet Bourbon – The Whiskey Reviewer

Rating: A-

The Willett Distilling Company, aka, Kentucky Bourbon Distillers, produces over a dozen different bourbons, plus a rye or two mixed in for good measure, spread out over several different brand names. They may be best known in some circles for their Small Batch Boutique Bourbon family, which includes Noah's Mill, which happens to be one of my favorite bourbons on the shelf.

The eponymous Willett series consists of two bourbons and a rye, including the Willett Pot Still Reserve, which is widely considered to be both the top of the actual Willett and one of the best whiskeys coming out of Kentucky Distillers.

The Bourbon

Bottled at 94 proof (47% ABV), Willet Pot Still Reserve is a single barrel straight bourbon which first made an appearance in 2008, and since has grown into a well-respected and highly rated offering.

The Pot Still Reserve stands out at the store due to its bottling. This is a bottle you'll likely want to keep and continue using as your new whiskey decanter around the home. It features an exceedingly long and thin neck, which widens into a flattened circular bubble of a base, with a cork topper. What does it look like? A pot still, of course, and more specifically, the distillery's very own 750-gallon pot still.

On the nose, you'll notice a honey sweetness, with a touch of spice and molasses, and an overall intense aroma. The intensity continues on the palate with a quick burn interlaced with a range of flavors, including a honey and molasses sweetness, and a light citrus. Willett Pot Still Reserve coats your throat as you take a sip, offering a pleasant, un-stinging warmth which remains for some time, leaving you with the spicy remains of what had been a sweet sip.

Add some water or ice, and that's when Willett Pot Still Reserve really comes out to play. You'll find a light, fruity and floral aroma on the nose, a robust taste which adds nuttiness to its repertoire, and a sweet, soft, caramel and toffee finish.

Altogether, a very high quality bourbon with a lot to offer and a few unique streaks in there, and you get a great keeper of a decanter, too. Win-win.

The Price

Willet Pot Still Reserve has a wide distribution, and can be found at various online outlets for between \$36 and \$45. I've also seen it on the shelf for much more than that – so don't overspend when you can get such a quality bourbon for such an accessible price from the right store.

High West Double Rye – The Whiskey Reviewer

Two of my current favorite whiskeys come from High West. Among the larger list of favored whiskeys is The Double Rye. This is a marriage of two straight rye whiskeys. One is a two year old of the familiar MGP 95% rye and 5% malt stock. The other is a much older 16 year 53% rye, 37% corn mashbill whiskey from Barton.

The Whiskey

High West Double Rye comes in a beautiful bottle, with their mountains and “H”/”W” inside a large horseshoe icon on the glass giving the bottle a tactile feel. The labeling is also attractive with the color of the whiskey, dark gold and light copper, pulling it all together. The exclamation point in the title Double Rye! helps set the tone for a proper expectation, matching the billing as “the most excitable member of the High West family.”

The whiskey looks to be on the thin side of the whiskey spectrums in the bottle, and yet the legs appear to be long and thin in the glass. The nose is as you would expect: spicy. However, it is a demur aroma of rye, cinnamon, menthol and pine nuts. The aroma is apparent, but it doesn't come across as any kind of bold statement. There isn't any nasal burn, but just a soft and steady drumbeat of rye and spices.

The taste is a surprise after that sampling of aromas, and comes across as more of a bold statement. It is a thin whiskey, but with lots of flavor, a full-flavored mouthful of a rye complimented with wildflower honey, eucalyptus and other various spices. It doesn't coat the mouth in any sense, but the flavor begins immediately at the front before jumping strongly to the back.

At 92 proof, there isn't any harshness and Double Rye goes down very easily. The rye flavor isn't subtle and it lives up to its name primarily in the back of the mouth. The finish is medium length and strength.

This is not a wild on the edge rye whiskey. Instead, it is a flavorful, easy drinking whiskey that makes me dream about Manhattans and I don't drink many mixed drinks. Drinking it neat allows you to experience a very comfortable ride on the Rye Train. However, if you enjoy a whiskey (rye) forward mixed drink this may be your whiskey of choice.

The Price

There seem to be plenty of bottles of High West Double Rye available around the country. You can grab a bottle for anywhere from \$29.99 to \$49.99, locally and online. If you haven't experimented with a rye whiskey, this is a great place to start.

Crown Royal Monarch 75th Anniversary – Caskers Selection

In 1939, King George VI and Queen Elizabeth made history when they became the first reigning monarchs to journey across North America, traveling the distance by train. Prior to their arrival, a local entrepreneur set out to craft a whisky that the King and Queen could enjoy in the privacy of their rail car. After sampling over 600 different blends of whisky, and scouring through hundreds of different types of glass, labels and bottles, the entrepreneur created what he believed to be the perfect whisky and called it Crown

Royal. At the beginning of their journey, the King and Queen were gifted ten cases of the whisky from Canada to enjoy on their journey.

Today, Crown Royal Monarch 75th Anniversary Blend commemorates both the arrival of the King and Queen to North America, and Crown Royal's 75th anniversary. "Crown Royal was originally created for royalty, crafted over time and the fact that the whisky is still being enjoyed 75 years later is really special to all of us at Crown Royal, [READ MORE](#) " says Andrew MacKay, the master distiller at Crown Royal.

Crown Royal Monarch 75th Anniversary Blend is a unique blend of whiskies produced by Crown Royal, and includes a special whisky from the historic Coffey rye still, residing in Manitoba. The whisky has an aroma of oak, sweet caramel, rye and maple syrup. The aroma gives way to an exceptionally smooth flavor profile, with touches of oak spice, black pepper, clove, dark roasted coffee, espresso and milk chocolate. The balanced flavors lead to a finish that is only slightly spicy.

The whisky is "one of the best crafted spirits from Crown Royal"and showcases "everything we love about Canadian whisky,"according to *Drink Spirits*. "We're excited to share this special limited edition blend with consumers," says MacKay, "and look forward to celebrating many more years of unmatched whisky." Pick up a bottle today!

Aroma of oak, sweet caramel, rye and maple syrup. Exceptionally smooth flavor profile, with touches of oak spice, black pepper, clove, dark roasted coffee, espresso and milk chocolate. Finish that is only slightly spicy.

Lagavulin 16 yr – Master of Malt

Lagavulin 16 Year Old Bottling Note

A much sought-after single malt with the massive peat-smoke that's typical of southern Islay - but also offering richness and a dryness that turns it into a truly interesting dram. The 16 year old has become a benchmark Islay dram from the Lagavulin distillery

Tasting Note by The Chaps at Master of Malt

Nose: More like Lapsang Souchong tea than Lapsang Souchong! One of the smokiest noses from Islay. It's big, very, very concentrated, and redolent of iodine, sweet spices, good, mature Sherry and creamy vanilla. Stunning.

Palate: Very thick and rich. A massive mouthful of malt and Sherry with good fruity sweetness, but also a wonderful sweetness. Big, powerful peat and oak.

Finish: Long, spicy finish, figs, dates, peat smoke, vanilla.

SAGAMORE RYE WHISKEY

Here at The Whiskey Wash we cover the launch of new whiskies, be it American or otherwise, on almost a daily basis. Many of them are purely passion plays, the idea of one small entrepreneur's dream of distilling or bottling something which hopefully will gain them some notoriety and claim in the ever evolving whiskey market. What happens though when you are already a billionaire in another industry and decide to jump into craft whiskey as a new venture? That's something to think about as you read about the new Sagamore Spirit Rye Whiskey and its backer Kevin Plank, the billionaire founder and CEO of Under Armour.

Plank, according to the Baltimore Business Journal, decided some three years ago he wanted to develop whiskey which was touched by water from his Sagamore Farm "by time the Preakness came around in 2016." Well, that time is now, and his new sourced (for now, see below) whiskey is here, taking the form of something which has been initially distilled and aged in Indiana, according to Baltimore news sources.

While you might think at first, oh great, more MGP juice, things seem to be a little different with this particular rye whiskey animal. The distilling team behind it took two different straight rye whiskies — a high rye and a low rye — and blended them with "spring-fed water" from Plank's previously mentioned farm to create what's described as "an 83 proof Maryland-style rye whiskey." The water, said to be the same which "fuels [the farm's] champion thoroughbreds," was trucked some 22 miles from the "limestone spring" at the farm to the current bottling facility before being used to cut to proof the whiskey blend.

The resulting Sagamore Spirit Rye Whiskey, of which we have official tasting notes at the end of this story for, is now being released into the local markets for around \$40 a bottle. Its temporary bottling home will be replaced by a more permanent, super fancy distillery by year's end, again according to local news sources. It has been reported, at that point, that all aspects of production, ranging from

Sagamore and Plank, by the way, did get it all done in time for Preakness. They are, in fact, a sponsor of the upcoming race. Their new whiskey also joins another recently launched local whiskey brand from Old Line Spirits.

"We couldn't be more excited to launch and bring the tradition of rye whiskey back to Maryland," said Brian Treacy, President of Sagamore Spirit, in a statement. "We are proud to make spirits worthy of our state's distilling heritage."

"Our water and our mash bill make us unlike anything else on the market," added co-founder Bill McDermond. "We've waited patiently for the spirit to age to perfection. We believe it's reached a quality that's both complex and captivating."

- Color: A fall bonfire glow-amber with gold undertones
- Aroma: Complex and captivating aromas of warm cinnamon, vanilla bean, honey, and nutmeg.
- Palate: Smooth mouth-feel, with caramel and molasses up front and peppery baking spices on the end.
- Finish: A refreshing and zesty rye spiciness.