



ARCHIVE WHISKIES

Compass Box Whisky Co.

Over the years we have created a number of limited edition whiskies, bespoke whiskies for trade customers, whiskies for charity, and we have had to retire several whiskies when certain distillery stocks were no longer available. Below, you'll find a list of these whiskies. If you have questions about any of these products, simply send us an email.

ELEUTHERA 46% 2002-2005 - All Markets

Originally available in all our markets, "Eleuthera" was our very first vatted malt. Typically it combined 15 year-old malt whisky from the village of Brora, aged in re-charred hogsheads, with 12 year-old malt from the village of Port Askaig. Jim Murray said of our first release: "Quite simply, one of the most complex and truly magnificent vatted malts of all time. A collector's piece." Sadly, when the 15 year-old malt we needed was no longer available aged in re-charred casks, we decided to retire "Eleuthera" rather than overhaul the recipe.

MONSTER 54.9% 2003 - Private Customer (USA)

This was the precursor to today's "The Peat Monster." We made this whisky originally for the Goldsteins of Park Avenue Liquor Shop in New York. It was a cask strength bottling of just two casks, one distilled in Port Askaig, the other in Kennethmont. The popularity of "Monster" was such that we decided in 2004 to launch it as a permanent part of our range, at 46%, called "The Peat Monster."

JUVENILES *Original Bottling* 53.9% 2003-2005 - European Markets

"Juveniles," the original bottling, was made for Tim Johnston and his Juveniles wine bar in Paris. Originally, we made something just for Tim to sell at his restaurant, but our French importer, then all our European importers, asked to sell it. The whisky combined three malts (distilled in the villages of Brora, Longmorn and Muir of Ord), all aged in first-fill bourbon barrels. This was one of the first malts ever to be able to boast this type of high quality oak aging. Unfortunately, when the distillery owner of each of the distilleries ran out of aged stock of this quality, we decided to retire the whisky. Note: in 2007 we released a *Juveniles 20th Anniversary* single cask bottling in a different style).

ELIXIR 40% 2004 - Private Customer

This was a version of our "Orangerie" infusion we did in 2004 for our good friend Jonathan Downey and his Milk & Honey club in London.

DOUBLE SINGLE 46% 2004 - Private Customer

"Double Single" was a bespoke whisky we did at the request of the famous Craigellachie Hotel of Speyside, in Scotland. Their elegant idea was to combine a single cask of malt whisky with a single cask of grain whisky, to create a combination that married perfectly together. The result was a silky, rich, vanilla-malty whisky, made from perfectly mature casks of Cameron Bridge grain whisky and malt whisky distilled in the village of Brora.

MARIAGE 49% 2005 - Belgium

In 2005, our importers in Belgium picked a special marrying cask of "Eleuthera" which we sent to Belgium where it was hand-bottled as "Mariage" in a 50cl bottle.

ARCHIVE WHISKIES

2005-2010



MARIAGE-ASYLA / MARIAGE-ELEUTHERA

43.6% / 49.2%

2005 - France

In the latter part of 2005, our French importer, La Maison du Whisky, celebrated its 50th birthday.

To commemorate this, we had the owner, Thierry Benitah, pick one marrying cask each of "Asyla" and "Eleuthera" which we bottled in Scotland just for him as "Asyla Mariage" and "Eleuthera Mariage." Like the "Mariage" bottling for Belgium, these were at slightly higher strength from our classic bottlings of these whiskies.

BIG BLOCK 46%

2006 - Private Customer

In 2006, we made a bespoke set of 25 bottles of whisky for Jeff Murphy, a London resident. Jeff won this opportunity at a charity auction for Cancer Research UK. "Big Block" was named after a famous car engine Jeff collects. The whisky, a smoky, rich malt, lived up to the name.

FLAMING HEART 48.9%

2006-2007

Flaming Heart was a big, bold malt whisky that combined peaty smokiness with the richness of French oak aging. It was a style all its own in the world of Scotch Malt Whisky, very big, peaty, with smoky notes enhanced by rich, sweet, spicy (clove) undertones from new French oak aging.

CANTO CASK SERIES

2007

See separate pages at bottom.

MORPHEUS 46%

2007 - London

Compass Box "Morpheus" (the Greek god of dreams) was a bespoke bottling of just over 900 bottles made for Milroy's of Soho in London. In keeping with the whisky's name, we pursued a visionary notion: the combination of strong peaty notes with an underlying richness and sweetness.

THE PEAT MONSTER RESERVE 48.9%

2008 - All Markets

To celebrate the 5th birthday of our best selling whisky, we bottled a limited release reserve version of *The Peat Monster*. Even peatier, smokier, richer and higher-strength than the classic version, it was available only in magnums. Only 1,325 cases of 4 magnums each (1.5L and 1.75L) were produced.

HEDONISM MAXIMUS 46%

2008 - All Markets

This reserve version of our classic whisky "Hedonism", which we called "Hedonism Maximus", was packaged with a label that paid homage to one of Scotch whisky's classic labels from the early 20th century.

For "Hedonism Maximus" we used 42 year-old whisky from the Invergordon distillery in the northern Highlands, and complemented it with 29 year-old whisky distilled at Cameron Bridge in Fife, Scotland's oldest continuously operating distillery. The result was a truly rare and truly remarkable whisky for the serious Scotch whisky hedonist.

OPTIMISM 46%

2009 - Whisky Live, London

"Optimism" was created as a hopeful antidote to the global economic malaise of 2009. We bottled by hand just 163 bottles on site at the 2009 London Whisky Live Festival. The purpose of the bottling was to remind and inspire people to be optimistic: make the best of any situation, discover the opportunities in adverse circumstances, be brave but pragmatic, envision wild success!

THE SPICE TREE CASK STRENGTH 54.6%

2009 - Whisky Live, Paris

"The Spice Tree Cask Strength" was created especially for Whisky Live Paris at Pavillon Gabriel in 2009. We bottled just 100 bottles at 54.6% by hand from a 25 litre demijohn. The purpose of the bottling was to celebrate the return of "The Spice Tree" after three years absence, following the ban on the previous incarnation in 2006. This Cask Strength version served to showcase the spicy charms of the new "The Spice Tree" in an exclusive and even more powerful, impressive style.

DOUBLE SINGLE 10TH ANNIVERSARY 57%

2010 - All Markets

To celebrate our 10th anniversary we brought back a small-batch whisky we first and last made in 2004. "Double Single" was a marriage of two single whiskies - one single malt and one single grain. The idea highlighted the true virtue of blending grain whisky with malt whisky to create a truly elegant style. "Double Single 10th Anniversary" was a one-off, limited release of 876 bottles made of 18 year-old single malt whisky from the Glen Elgin distillery (76% of the vatting) combined with a single cask of 21 year-old grain whisky distilled at Port Dundas (24%).

ARCHIVE WHISKIES

2010-2012



FLAMING HEART 10TH ANNIVERSARY 48.9%

2010 - All Markets

To celebrate our 10th Anniversary, “*Flaming Heart*” returned in its third limited edition, with a new label illustrated by Alex Machin. “*Flaming Heart*” combined Highland, Islay and Island single malts, aged in a combination of American and French oak casks, to create a smoky-sweet flavour profile like no other Scottish malt whisky.

HEDONISM 10TH ANNIVERSARY 43%

2010 - European Markets

The single cask, distilled in 1971 at the Invergordon Distillery, while much older than typically used for *Hedonism*, represented perfection in maturation, the basis for all the casks selected for *Hedonism* going back to that first batch in 2000. This special edition, one-off bottling of only 144 bottles, was meant to be a suitable toast to all who had helped *Compass Box* in its first decade.

THE LAST VATTED MALT 53.7%

2011 - European Markets

This was a valedictory farewell to the Vatted Malt, one delivered with honour and pride. At midnight on November 22nd, 2011, an era ended. After that point, it became illegal for whiskymakers to use the term Vatted Malt to label a Scotch whisky made from the combination of two or more single malts. From 23rd November 2011, this style of whisky by law had to be labelled as a Blended Malt Scotch Whisky. To mark the occasion, *Compass Box* created a limited edition bottling, “*The Last Vatted Malt*”, made from a marriage of fine, old single malt whiskies from Islay and Speyside distilleries.

This whisky combined intense aromas and flavours of dried fruits and maltiness underscored by a subtle, sweet smokiness, all robed in the revealing signs of whiskies of antiquity. It was composed of two single malts: approximately 22% of the recipe was whisky distilled at the younger of the two distilleries in the village of Aberlour in 1974 (36 years-old), aged in a first fill sherry butt. The balance was from the famed distillery in the village of Port Askaig on Islay, made in 1984 (26 years-old), aged in American oak hogsheads.

THE LAST VATTED GRAIN 46%

2011 - European Markets

A limited edition bottling made from a marriage of fine, old single grain whiskies. The foundation of the recipe was based on 42 year-old grain whisky from the Invergordon distillery (approximately 31% of the recipe) and 29 year-old whisky from the now-closed Carsebridge distillery (14%). The middle and top notes of the whisky came from 20 year-old whisky distilled at the now-closed Port Dundas distillery (20%) and 14 year-old whisky distilled at the Cameron Bridge distillery (35%).



THE SPICE TREE: THE SECOND COMING

The Return of the 'Illegal Whisky'

In 2005 we bottled and launched what we believed to be one of the most significant new Scotch malt whiskies of recent times when we launched The Spice Tree. In 2006 we were forced to stop making it.

What was special about *The Spice Tree* was the secondary maturation we put the malt whiskies through using new French oak sourced from 195 year-old forests. The oak was the highest quality cooperage oak available—fine grain, two years air dried and heavily toasted to our specifications.

For the secondary maturation process, we borrowed a technique widely used by winemakers over the last 30 years. We inserted the new oak in the form of flat staves into used whisky barrels, effectively rejuvenating what would otherwise for us be a useless barrel.¹

Alas, the Scotch Whisky Association (known affectionately as the SWA) heard about what we were doing and decided they needed to stop us. They suggested that our technique of using high quality oak “inner staves” was not appropriate for making Scotch whisky on the basis it had never been done before. Never mind that the whisky was winning awards, very positive reviews from whisky writers and developing a loyal base of whisky drinkers.

The SWA went so far as to threaten taking us to court to stop us from making *The Spice Tree*. However, in doing so they inadvertently gave birth to what many in the press and trade jokingly referred to as our “illegal whisky”.

As a consequence, we received a burst of whisky press attention and word-of-mouth that we could not have dreamed of. Sales of *The Spice Tree* raced ahead and in a matter of a few weeks, our supplies were depleted.²

Nevertheless, our ability to wage a legal battle versus an entity as well-funded as the SWA was negligible, so with the proverbial gun pointing at our head, we suspended production of *The Spice Tree*.

Until now.

In the last three years we have been working on alternative methods for creating a similar flavour profile³ to the original *Spice Tree* bottlings.⁴ Rather than using flat stave inserts in our barrels, we have worked with our oak supplier in France and our coopers in Scotland to develop a method for creating heavy toasted cask heads which impart a flavour profile similar to the flat staves used for the original *Spice Tree* bottlings.⁵ We use oak with three different levels of toasting on the barrel heads, thus allowing us to blend the resultant whiskies to create additional layers of complexity. To achieve the degree of flavours we seek from the oak requires as much as two years in contact with the oak.⁶

So, *The Spice Tree* returns.

As in the past, *The Spice Tree* is a 100% malt whisky from northern Highland distilleries, (notably and primarily malt whisky distilled at the Clynelish distillery). The whiskies are all in the neighbourhood of ten years-old, primarily from first-fill casks, when we re-rack them into our special barrels with the heavily toasted new French oak heads.

The Spice Tree is a very rich malt whisky and therefore we feel it is suitable for the following occasions: after dinner sipping, as an accompaniment to certain cheeses, and especially, in cocktails. We believe *The Spice Tree* has a flavour profile that is much more suited to culinary cocktail making than most any other Scotch whisky, owing to its rich, bold flavours.

One other important difference between the original *Spice Tree* and the new incarnation is the packaging: the new pack design, with its seemingly hallucinogen-inspired tree, will not be mistaken with the original.

JG, August 2009



Notes to Previous Page

¹ As you may know, the tradition in the Scotch whisky industry is to reuse barrels, (or casks), as many as four times. The problem with this “traditional” method is that the more times you use a cask, the less flavour it can impart to the whisky and the slower the maturation. In our view, this is the chief reason so many Scotch whiskies are boring. By far, most Scotch whiskies are aged in these “refill” casks. We have a well documented fanaticism for quality oak, and use primarily what is called “first fill” casks. As an extension of our oak fanaticism, we began experimenting years ago with secondary maturation using new, or “virgin” oak, something rarely done in Scotch whisky. This led to the development of *The Spice Tree*.

² For the full story in all its detail, see the PAST WHISKIES section of our web site.

³ That flavour profile is as follows: sweet-associated aromas of the spices you find in many ginger bread recipes: clove, ginger, cinnamon, nutmeg, along with dark (or “baked”) vanillas; the palate is full, round and sweet and the spice and vanilla aromas follow through and complement a core malty-distillery character in the whisky; the finish is very long, and you pick up reminiscences of baked-cherry pie you get in the oak used for some pinot noir wines. This is an unabashedly oaky style (although hardly the degree of oakiness of, say, bourbon) and one we believe is extremely delicious for it.

⁴ Of which there were two.

⁵ This is a similar process to that we developed for our whisky Oak Cross, except that for *Spice Tree* we use more heavily toasted oak and leave the whisky to age on it longer.

⁶ Whereas the whisky for Oak Cross sees six to 18 months on less heavily toasted wood. To fully understand what we’ve done requires a bit of geeky detail. You may wish to Google “oak toasting levels”.



CANTO CASK

Scotch Malt Whisky, Limited Release Bottlings, Single Cask, Cask Strength

The Canto Cask Range is a first for Compass Box: a range of 16 single cask, cask-strength Scotch malt whiskies. Each cask held the same malt whisky, but for the last 18 months the whiskies were aged on a range of different new oaks, both French and American, in a variety of different toasts.

Canto Cask is a one-off range of single cask, cask strength malt whiskies. The whiskies are very special because they have all aged the last 18 months (of their 13 years) on new French and American oak of varying degrees of toast. Perhaps the best way to explain what the Canto Cask range is about is to share with you part of a letter I sent to our Compass Box importers around the world in May of 2007.

"When I started work almost two years ago on what became OAK CROSS, I began laying down many casks of malt whisky into different types of casks, all with different types of new oak. These were casks with new oak heads installed on refill American oak bodies. In all, I created six different types of these hybrid casks, five in French oak of different toast levels, and one of American oak. I chose one of these cask types to use for OAK CROSS, and the others have been aging away, waiting for a role.

Now I've figured out what I'm going to do with them. I'm going to offer them to you, our global importers, for distribution in your markets—one or two casks per market.

This summer we will bottle them as single casks, (at cask strength), as part of a Compass Box series called CANTO. The word canto comes from a Latin word and is the principal form of division of a long poem. I like the idea of each of these single casks being a different element of an overall idea, just as a canto within a poem.

The French oak used here is Sessile oak. It is all fine grain and two years air-seasoned (air dried outdoors). This is the highest quality/grade and most expensive French oak you can buy for cooperage purposes.

The French oak heads have been given one of four custom toast levels, each specified to bring out specific flavours, which you will taste in the whisky. The American oak is likewise of the same quality and grade, and is also custom-toasted for us. These whiskies have been aging in these special casks for at least 18 months.

As you may be aware, it is rare to use new oak for a Scotch whisky. Among those few who do, no one we know of uses oak of the quality grade we use. And certainly no one we know has developed custom toasting like we have. These are special whiskies.

Nothing like this series has ever been done before in Scotch whisky. I hope you enjoy taking part!"

John Glaser, Whiskymaker

Flavour Descriptors

The Canto Cask whiskies are big, very rich, 100% Scotch malt whiskies. They each have a tremendous amount of flavour owing to the combination of malt distillery characters interwoven by the flavours of the new oak.

Recommendations

We recommend diluting these cask strength whiskies with slightly chilled water, to taste.

Distillery Sourcing

Malt whiskies from the Highland villages of Brora, Alness and Carron.

Wood

Primary maturation in a mix of first-fill and refill American oak. Secondary maturation for 18 months on new American or French oak of different toast levels. In all, five different oak-toast combinations are featured in this range.

Bottling Details

Bottled at natural cask strength (52-55%). Each cask yielded between 200 and 250 bottles. Natural colour. Not chill filtered.



The Canto Cask Range

Canto Cask Range	Country Available	New Oak Type & Toast Level	For Information
Cask 6	UK	French, toast 7	info@compassboxwhisky.com
Cask 10	Denmark	French, toast 4	dhl@qualityworld.dk
Cask 15	Spain	French, toast 8	alexilla@infonegocio.com
Cask 17	Japan, Greece	French, toast 7	info@compassboxwhisky.com
Cask 20	Germany	American, toast 5	gs@prineus.com
Cask 27	South Africa	French, toast 4	eden27@mweb.co.za
Cask 35	Italy	American, toast 5	info@compassboxwhisky.com
Cask 36	Holland	American, toast 5	b.t.wijn@worldonline.nl
Cask 37	New Zealand	French, toast 9	info@compassboxwhisky.com
Cask 46	USA	French, toast 7	info@parkaveliquor.com
Cask 47	France	French, toast 7	www.whisky.fr
Cask 48	Germany	French, toast 8	gs@prineus.com
Cask 50	Denmark	French, toast 6	dhl@qualityworld.dk
Cask 123	France (Fauchon)	French, toast 4	www.fauchon.com
Cask 124	France	American, toast 5	www.whisky.fr
Cask 125	South Africa	French, toast 8	eden27@mweb.co.za