



# Feints and Foreshots



## WELCOME TO

Feints and Foreshots #29

You'll read the following - and more - inside this edition

### MWSOA AGM ANNOUNCED

Read all the details to the right!

### EVENT REVIEWS:

It has been a busy tasting season! Read all about our tastings of Talisker on **P. 6**, The best of the Whisky Awards on **P. 5**, and Graham Wright's Melbourne tasting of the new Springbank malts on **P. 3**.

### WHISKY AWARDS COVERAGE

All the winners and coverage of the night await on **P. 9**.

**Plus Christmas whiskies, Scottish treats and more inside!**

## STOP PRESS – STOP PRESS – STOP PRESS

Notice - MWSOA Annual General Meeting (AGM) 2009

Section 10.4 of the MWSOA Constitution states:

- Written notice of not more than 28 days and not less than 7 days of all General Meetings shall be displayed at the premises of the Association and distributed to all Members who do not visit the premises regularly.

So here's the official notice:

**The AGM will be held at the Rob Roy Hotel,  
108 Halifax Street, Adelaide at 2.00pm on  
Saturday 12 December 2009.**

All positions are declared vacant on the day and are up for election, so if you want to stand for office or want to have a vote on who should represent you and you're in Adelaide on Saturday 12 December, please come along.

Of course if you can't make it on the day you can nominate for the committee and/or apply (using forms available on the website) for a proxy vote and assign your vote to someone who will be there. You have to be a current financial member of the Society to do both.

The formal proceedings will be followed immediately by a freestyle tasting of a selection of malts remaining from the Whisky Awards, along with some finger food. There will be a small cover charge for the tasting, but none to attend the AGM.

So, if you're in Adelaide on 12 December, please come along and participate in our corporate governance and find out where we've been and where we might be heading.

The newly elected committee will be charged with shaping the vision for the future of the MWSOA and making it happen.

**~SEASONS GREETINGS AND A HAPPY~**

**NEW YEAR TO OUR MEMBERS**

**FROM THE MWSOA**



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## œ MWSOA EVENTS DECEMBER 2009 - MARCH 2010 œ

\* MWSOA AGM & Christmas Tasting, (Adelaide) – Saturday 12th December 2009, 2pm, Rob Roy Hotel.

Whisky isn't just for drinking in the festive season! Impress the family with this Scottish Christmas treat:

### Crannachan

#### Ingredients

1lb/500g raspberries  
6 tbsp whisky  
3oz/75g pinhead oatmeal  
6 tbsp malt whisky  
3 Tbs Heather Honey  
1pt/600 ml Double cream



#### Method

- ♦ Spread oatmeal on a baking sheet and toast in a medium oven until crisp for 3-6 minutes.
- ♦ Be careful they don't burn.
- ♦ Leave cool.
- ♦ Whip the cream until it is thick but not stiff.
- ♦ Blend all the raspberries (except 2 which are for decoration) until they form a smooth purée.
- ♦ Combine oatmeal, whisky, sugar and cream and raspberries.
- ♦ Spoon the mixture into tall glasses
- ♦ Chill for an hour or two before serving.

*Just before serving, decorated if you wish with freshly whipped cream, a few fresh raspberries and drizzled with a wee bit honey.*

<http://www.scotlands-enchanting-kingdom.com/raspberry-recipes.html>



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## **EVENT REVIEW:**

### **Springbank Whisky Tasting, The Melbourne Supper Club, September 2nd, 2009**

Review by Nic Lowrey, Tasting Notes by Graham Wright



In the sympathetically elegant surroundings of the Melbourne Supper Club Tea Room, Graham Wright of The Odd Whisky Coy hosted a Melbourne tasting of the Springbank single malt range, which included the first chance for most of us to try the Springbank Australian exclusive malt, the 11yo Port Wood, plus the Kilkerrin Work In Progress malt. Graham hosted proceedings with interesting anecdotes about Springbank and a thorough introduction of the various malts. He has provided tasting notes to the malts below. For current availability please check with [The Odd Whisky Coy](http://TheOddWhiskyCoy.com).

#### **Springbank 18yo 700ml 46%**

The superstar finally arrives. We've been hanging out for this for ages. Medium to full bodied style, matured in both ex sherry (80%) and ex bourbon casks. Only 7800 bottles produced and now totally sold in the UK! This malt is all about precision & refinement...nothing is out of place: from the restrained nose of fruit cake with marzipan and a hint of pine smoke to the very long, lightly peated, crisply malty & fruity palate & dry smokey finish, this malt hums. And keeps on humming for quite some time.

#### **Springbank Madeira 11yo 700ml 55.1%**

The latest release of the Wood Finishes range from Springbank. And this is a very classy edition to this already venerable range. Eleven years in Madeira casks accounts sweetness on the nose, with notes of butter shortbread, demerara sugar, and chocolate orange. Look a little deeper and the astounding complexity of the flavours from the Madeira casks become apparent. On the palate there's plenty of brown sugar, hot chocolate, a hint of mint and butter and the gentlest hint of peat spice. Madeira just works so well with single malt whiskies! Nice one!



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## **EVENT REVIEW continued:**

### **Springbank Whisky Tasting, The Melbourne Supper Club, September 2nd, 2009**

#### **Springbank PSI Small Cask 700ml 53.3%**

I and a number of colleagues were confronted late last year by a dozen small bottles of Springbank, all were blind with hardly any information as to what we were tasting. One, and only one, stood out. And we were all agreed, this malt is a blinder! Meet Shane Kalloglian's private- but-official bottling of a unique Springbank whisky. Only 612 bottles made and all of it consigned to Australia! Matured in small (50 to 80lt) port & sherry casks, this whisky has an enormous amount of depth, weight, pungency & flavour that belies its 11yo age. Bravo Mr Shane...what a whisky!!

#### **Kilkerrin 5yo Work In Progress 700 46%**

Shane and I have just completed a number of tastings of this whisky across Syd, Melb & Adelaide and this "Work In Progress" just shined. Yes, there is a whiff of "feintiness" on the nose (not fully matured spirit) but the clean and intensive attack on the palate, the crisp & chewy malt along with some bracing peat, made for a splendid and highly complex & captivating malt. Even at 5 years! Just imagine it at year 10!! I just could nose this malt all night...so very intriguing. Kilkerran is the first single malt to come from Springbank's new standalone Glengyle distillery. And unlike a lot of distilleries' marketing departments, Mitchell's are at least truthful in saying that this is a "Work In Progress".

#### **Duthies Cragganmore 700ml 46%**

Wow! An Indie bottling of Cragganmore...now that's a rare thing. And this Crag from Duthies, a new range of well aged & well priced malts from Wm Cadenhead, is probably the most forceful Cragganmore I've seen for a very long time. It's all chocolate, toffee, cinnamon & fudge on the nose but then the palate lets rip with dried fruits and citrus flavours and then a wave of sweet fudge envelops the entire mouth followed by a sweet & lingering finish.







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## **EVENT REVIEW:**

**MWSOA's 'Pleasant Surprises'** brought award winning malts to Melbourne. Thursday 12th November, Presse Wine Bar, Elwood.



**Chairman Craig Daniels** presented a selection of malts which had made a noteworthy splash at the 2009 MWSOA Whisky Awards. to an enthusiastic audience. This was MWSOA's first Victorian tasting for quite a while and in attendance were Melbourne Malts figurehead Stephen Harbour and David Baker from Bakery Hill distillery.

Craig provides a tasting summary of the award winners made available on the night:

### **Glenmorangie 18 Extremely Rare :**

mix of bourbon and sherry wood on the nose – light and delicate with vanilla, coconut icecream, tropical fruits (mango and ripe peach), more fruit salad, some citrus blossom and malt. Impeccably well behaved in the glass and classy: refined and almost lowland in style; perilously slurpable.



### **Bruichladdich 16 Cuvee 'E':**

curiously subdued early but with a definite spirit prickle, some fruity wood and a hint of liquorice all sorts. Forward alcohol on the palate with stone fruits (cherries and apricots), quite rounded with wine notes and a touch of bitterness.

### **Lark LD39:**

coconut, mink oil leather polish, polished wood – exotic timbers (sandalwood, incense), rum and raisin icecream, lots of wine notes on the palate (plum pudding) and a hint of wine vinegar. Nice balance of sour cherries, wood, nuts and some tannic bitterness; maybe the wood is getting the upper hand. Full bodied, well rounded. Mouthfeel is nice and rich.



### **Isle of Jura Superstition:**

Leather and honey and earthy notes (barnyard, compost, forest floor), more leather and honey with hints of smoky bacon crisps, slow roasted pork bellies and veal stock. Earthy character continues in the palate as does the leather with some sherry character as well. Hint of white pepper on the front palate. Quite complex – earthy peat rather than carbolic and tar.

### **Benromach Peat Smoke 2<sup>nd</sup> Batch:**

Tarry peat over fruit syrup (pears and peaches), citrus (lemon oil), straw and hay, vanilla and candied citron. Sweet syrupy palate with bitter lemon and carbolic and tar, Finish has lemon zest and more tar. Sweet, clean as a whistle with citron, tar, white rubber and reminiscent of a young Ardbeg sans the hospital corridors and sterile dressings.



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## TALISKER - *The Golden Spirit of Skye* Tasting Report by Craig Daniels

Just what is it about Talisker that manages to engage and excite malt whisky drinkers? I suspect it's the high standards that the distillery has maintained over the decades along with a flavour profile that is a bridge between Islay and the Highlands. It's been well regarded for centuries since when Robert Louis Stevenson grouped it with Islay and Glenlivet.

On Tuesday 17th of November, 14 members and friends of the MWSOA met to evaluate and enjoy a distillery vertical from a long-lived and consistent performer in the malt firmament.



Thankfully, there was a slight break in the weather with the maximum around 34 deg C, which made a change from the relentless 38-39 degrees of the previous week.

The whiskies were donated by Bryan Te Wani of Diageo and the final trio are only available through Porter's Liquor in Sydney. The quartet were very well received and there was a lively banter around the table about which one was the best. Everyone agreed that they were all very good but there was a protracted and robust discussion of their relative merits, especially of the 18 versus the 25, which by general acclimation were the top pair.

In the MWSOA Whisky Awards 2009, the malts were ranked with the 25yo being the highest scoring of the four, with the Talisker 10 closely on its heels with the Talisker 57 North third and the Talisker 18 bringing up the rear.





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Craig Daniels - Talisker Tasting Report... continued



I must admit that I'd go with the order in the competition as I thought the 10 held up very well in the more rarified company. The Talisker 18, which had plenty of champions was, in fact, the least "Taliskerish" of the four. The length-of-time in wood had polished the rougher edges off the spirit and given it a pronounced vanilla character (bourbon biscuits) along with a medley of fruits (rockmelon, apricots, cherries) but with little of the leather and nuts normally associated with the classic profile. The Talisker 57 North had the trademark leather, ointment, autumn leaves with burning leaves in the finish, but with the extra proof providing additional muscularity. The Talisker 25 was more typical but with a lot of polished oak, white pepper and an atypical citrus note, yet amazingly refined considering the high proof. I still like the 10 as it has the leather, tar and a funky earthiness.

It was a great night and it was a slight shame that more members couldn't experience such a stellar quartet. One of the members was to remark *"That was a top evening's entertainment."*

***Thanks to Bryan Te Wani of Diageo for donating the malts, to Mal and Stacey O'Farrell for the venue and high standard of food and to fellow presenter Matthew Rosenberg for organizing and collecting the money.***





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## FEINTS AND FORESHOTS

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## The Ultimate Christmas Whisky? What's your preferred Christmas dram?

### Everyone has their favourites -

MWSOA Chairman Craig Daniels shares his tip for a Christmas tippie:

#### Old Pulteney 12.

It's a 'Goldilocks' whisky; not too heavy and not too light, medium weight with a toffee/fruity nose and palate; nose has lots of fruit salad & tropical fruit character and the palate has more of the same along with little bits of chocolate and praline and soft toffee, a subtle hint of sherry and then bourbon vanilla creams that will go with all sorts of Christmas fare and it's eminently affordable; a quality whisky that you can serve to anyone from the novice to the connoisseur without embarrassment and there's no carbolic or barnyard aromas/flavours to clash with traditional Christmas fare.



Graham Wright from The Odd Whisky Coy suggests:

#### Tullibardine 1966 700ml 48.81%

A big, wonderful, full flavoured, no holds barred sherry monster. A rich rosewood colour, with treacle, creme caramel, dried fruit, marzipan, Christmas pudding, flavours and that's not all...there is so much going on in this malt. Fabbo! And guess what? I'd have with a highly traditional Christmas pud!!



Franz Schuerer from The Australian Gourmet Pages is fond of the flavours of festivity:

Christmas is a time of nuts, dried fruit, mandarins and joy for all mankind and all this calls for a dram.

#### Glenfarclas Family Cask 1962 (bottled in 2006) 54.8%

is the ultimate Christmas Whisky for me. Not only is it the best Glenfarclas expression I have ever tasted, it also incorporates all the lovely, traditional flavours we associate with the Festive Season.

It's warm, sweet, full of roasted nuts and short bread on the nose, Christmas pudding flavours on the palate with gorgeous, citrus zest overtones and a long, cigar box-laden finish. It's the ultimate Christmas Whisky, bringing the ultimate Christmas Cheer







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## MWSOA Whisky Awards: And the winner is....

by MWSOA Chairman Craig Daniels

On 2 August 2009, 49 malt whiskies were judged blind by an expert panel of nine. As a result of this judging the Society has awarded Trophies and Medals to the most successful whiskies.

**Trophy for Best Overall Whisky - Glenfarclas 30**

**Trophy for Best Australian Whisky - Lark Distillery Cask# LD 39**

**Head Judge's Trophy for Malt Excellence - Originé 12**

**MWSOA Chairman's Trophy for Best Value Malt - Isle of Jura Superstition**

**The "Pourer's Prize" Trophy - Limeburners M24**

**Members' Choice Trophy – Glenfarclas 30**

### Medals Awarded and Final rankings of all medal winners

<b>Gold</b>	<b>Ranking</b>
• Glenfarclas 30 YO	1
• Benromach Peat Smoke 2 <sup>nd</sup> Batch 2002/2008	2
• Glenfarclas 15 YO	3
<b>Silver</b>	
• Talisker 25 YO	4
• Lagavulin 16 YO	5
• Talisker 10 YO	6
• Ardbeg 10 YO	7
• Glenfarclas 12 YO	8
• Glenmorangie 18 YO 'Extremely Rare'	9
• Lark Dist Cask # LD39	10
• Isle of Jura Superstition NAS	11
• Octomore 5 YO 'Bourbon Barrels' Btd 2008	12
• Dalmore 12 YO	13
• Bakery Hill Cask Strength 60	14
<b>Bronze</b>	
• Talisker 57 North	15
• Ardbeg Blasda	16
• Glenfarclas 25 YO	17
• Bruichladdich 16 YO 'First Growth – Cuvée E'	18
• Talisker 18 YO	19
• Dalwhinnie 15 YO	20
• G&M Inchgower 15 YO	21
• Glenmorangie Astar NAS 100 Proof	22
• Glenkinchie 10 YO	23
• Glenmorangie Nectar D'Or	=24
• Bruichladdich Links 14 YO	=24
• Oban 14 YO	26



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## MUSINGS FROM THE CHAIR - Whisky Awards Edition

by Whisky Awards Organiser Ian Schmidt

The 2009 MWSOA whisky competition was my first effort at organising such an event. I had earned the right to run it as I had suggested that we should go ahead with the competition as a substitute for the cancelled Hobart Convention. Funny how that seems to work in a committee! How hard could it be? Just send out the invitations, collect the entries, gather a few whisky drinking mates together, and hey presto, you have a whisky judging competition!

Well it isn't that simple. Step one, getting the entries, is not as simple as it sounds. Most of the distributors' contact details were out of date, so a lot of footwork is required to update these and find the right person to talk to within an organization who has the authority and interest in participating. Even during the three month lead up to the competition, several contacts within companies changed, so we had to start all over again a couple of times. This was probably the hardest part of running the competition and several well known brands were conspicuous by their absence. My apologies to those distributors and distillers, we will catch you next year.

The hard work of attracting entries was soon rewarded with whisky galore on my office floor, over \$7,000 worth. This created its own problems of course, insurance, security and the constant temptation to conduct quality testing on some of the more intriguing malts. The problems were solved with locking the malts away out of sight and out of reach. That part was easy.

The MWSOA has of course run successful whisky competitions before so there was a fair bit of corporate memory to call upon with respect to venues, organisation and judges. Most important was the willingness of our last chief judge, Peter Godden, to again participate and help with running the technical side of the event. Amongst other things Peter teaches people how to become wine judges and is well qualified to take charge of the two panels of judges, make it all work and produce meaningful results. Peter finds whiskies a lot more interesting and exciting than wines to judge, which helps to explain his willingness to get involved. All up, with judges, pourers, glass washers, and photographer we had a team of about 14 or 15 people to judge 52 entries.

Unlike previous competitions run by the society, this time we actually minted special medals for presentation to the winners. Surprisingly this is relatively rare and was appreciated by the winners. They look the part and add to the credibility of the event.

An interesting aspect of the event was that we specified that in addition to the nominal entry fee we requested 2 bottles of each entry. This was not compulsory and indeed, not surprisingly, we didn't receive many duplicate bottles of the very expensive whiskies, but we did for most of the entries. This is important because we are a not for profit society and exist for the benefit of our members. The benefit for members in this instance is that there is sufficient whisky to allow us to take them to the members at the Awards Presentation Dinner as well as to run some themed tasting events for the members, both in Adelaide and interstate. The members, as opposed to the judges, were able to taste all of the entries at the presentation dinner and vote for the Members' Choice Award.

The feedback we have received from both members and competitors is that the event is a good one. The members like it because they get to experience a wide range of whiskies, side by side, many of which they will have had no previous experience with, especially the very expensive expressions. The distillers and distributors liked it because, unlike most of the overseas competitions, this one is inexpensive to participate and it is run by a not for profit consumer group peak body. Their whiskies are exposed to their client base within Australia in a very cost effective manner.

Next year we will be running the event again. For logistic reasons the judging will take place in Adelaide. The Awards Dinner and the opportunity to taste the entries will travel to Melbourne to share the experience amongst the membership Australia wide. We will have more entries next year and will need an expanded panel of judges, so if you think you have a good palate and you are up to the surprisingly tough task of being a whisky judge, let us know. May be next August you will be in Adelaide judging whiskies!