



Feints and Foreshots

March 2013

Issue 38

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To reserve your place
for the 2013 MWSOA
Convention
go to
<http://www.MWSOA.org.au>

Book by 28th March to
receive earlybird discount

To contribute an article or
review to Feints and
Foreshots, or to contact
the editor, email
fandfeditor@mwsOA.org.au



Welcome to the March 2013 Edition of Feints and Foreshots.

2012 was a busy year for the MWSOA.

We challenged our taste buds with a new kind of Whisky Tasting: the Whisky and Chocolate pairing events held in Adelaide in conjunction with reputed Adelaide Chocolatier Steven ter Horst.
<http://www.steventerhorst.com.au/>.

We also launched our long researched and much agonised over Society Bottling. Much of 2012 was spent by your committee organising, selecting, launching and delivering to you the Society Signature bottling. Read more about this on page xx.

In 2013 we are excited to announce that we will be holding our 4th MWSOA Whisky Convention, and this edition will be mostly devoted to news about the Convention.

Conference programme: pxx

Signature Glenfarclas Conference
bottling: pxx
MWSOA signature glasses: pxx

To register for the conference please visit our website and complete a delegate registration form.
http://mwsOA.org.au/web_images/Delegate%20Registration%20Form%202013.pdf

We look forward to a very exciting year for the MWSOA and to sharing it with you here in Feints and Foreshots.

A very happy 2013 to you.



Feints and Foreshots

Book for the MWSOA Convention by March 28th to receive Earlybird Discount Tickets

MWSOA 4th Whisky Convention 2013

Australia's 4th Malt Whisky Convention – Programme (February 2013)

Friday 31st May 2013

Delegate check-in, Welcome Reception -
Member & Sponsors Evening
2.00 - 6.00pm Registered Delegate Check-in
7.00 - 7.10pm MWSOA Chair's Official Opening
(Balcony Rooms 1-3 (First Floor))
7.10 - 9.30pm Pre-convention
cocktail reception including selected Sponsor
product launches and/or presentation/s

Saturday 1st June 2013

Australia's 4th Malt Whisky Convention
8.15 - 9.30am Board the Magical Mystery Malt
Tour in Grote Street; travel to Adelaide Hills
9.30 - 11.45am Brewery Tour,
Cooperage demonstration and Malt tasting.
11.45-1.00pm Lunch
1.00 - 1.50pm Bus trip back to Hilton Hotel
2.15 - 4.00pm 1st Delegate Masterclass – "The
Glenfarclas" with Ian McWilliam. (including the
40yo and the Family Cask 1982)
4.00 - 4.30pm Afternoon Tea
4.30 - 6.00pm 2nd Delegate Masterclass – "The
Australian Malt Whisky Showcase" Five
different Australian distillers and/or producers
present one each of their current releases. Also
features the Pentangle Australis Raffle.
6.00 - 7.15pm Informal and free-
time

The Gala Dinner

"Whisky and Food Matching" - with John
Dunbar and Derrick Casey
7.15 - 7.30pm Greetings and table allocation
7.30 - 7.50pm Opening Address
7.50pm Entrée & Whisky One
8.40pm Main Course & Whisky Two
9.50pm Dessert & Whisky Three
10.30 - 11.30pm Acknowledgements
and Close

Sunday 2nd June 2013

Plenaries and Presentations

9.15 - 10.20am	"Bronzed Spirit: A History of Australian Whisky" with Bernard Lloyd
10.20 - 10.40am	Tea and Coffee break
10.40 - 11.45am	"Geology: Bedrock of Malt Whisky" with Prof Paul Shand
11.45 - 11.55am	Closing address by MWSOA Chair.
12.00 - 12.30pm	Lunch

The Great Whisky Exposition

8.00 - 11.00am	Industry and Exhibitor Set Up
11.00am	Trade-only entry to the Great Whisky Exposition
12.30pm	Delegate Entry to the Great Whisky Exposition
1.30pm	General (Public) Admission to the Expo
4.20pm	Last Pour
4.30 - 5.00pm	Room Clearance & Pack up

Contact Details

Malt Whisky Society of Australia Incorporated
(Organisers)

Chairman – Craig Daniels 0412 239 046

Venue Liaison – John Dunbar 0488 664 012

Hilton Adelaide

Convention Liaison – Linde Borgers (08) 8237
0619, mobile 0431 202 308

Reception – (08) 8217 2000



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MWSOA 4th Whisky Convention 2013

Australia's 4th Malt Whisky Convention Adelaide 2013

May 31st - June 2nd 2013



Australia's oldest connoisseur
focused whisky festival



Held under one roof at Hilton
Adelaide



Specialist masterclasses and
presentations



International and local guest
speakers



Massive trade and consumer show

Gala whisky dinner



Exclusive convention whisky

Early bird discount tickets

Bookings open soon

www.mwsoa.org.au



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Society Signature Glassware



In response to member feedback from our 2010 survey, the MWSOA has produced limited edition Society souvenir glassware which will be available for delegates who attend the 2013 MWSOA Convention.

Any remaining glasses will be available for sale to members after the convention has concluded. To express your interest in purchasing Society glassware please email contact@mwsOA.org.au.



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MWSOA Convention Bottling 2013



The MWSOA is proud to announce our Convention Bottling of the Glenfarclas 10 Cask Strength.

This exciting Society bottling will be available to MWSOA members as part of their registration package when booking for the 2013 MWSOA Convention. To register please visit <http://www.mwsoa.org.au>.

Register before 28th March 2013 to receive Earlybird discount tickets.



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Book Review

Book review: Davin de Kergommeaux - Canadian Whisky reviewed by Craig Daniels



It's not often that I get to review a book written by a friend and I'm proud to be able to review Davin de Kergommeaux's book on Canadian Whisky. Davin is a fellow Malt Maniac and while we do count many authors amongst our number, Davin has spent a fair chunk of his life researching and preparing this book and he's come up with a wee ripper.

My contact with Canadian whisky was meager, to say the least, yet I had heard American servicemen based in Australia wax lyrical about Crown Royal De Luxe from the PX and there was a constant buzz on the internet about Bush Pilot. But if you've never tried anything other than Canadian Club and Seagrams 7 Crown then both your horizons and understanding are limited.

Every distilling culture seems to have its antecedents and its internal logic. It might be surprising but Davin's research reveals that very little of Canadian distilling had its roots in Scotland or Ireland and most of the early distilling culture came from Holland and Germany where malted barley certainly wasn't king of grains and that in the absence of diastase from malt, you'll also learn that the enzymes are provided through microbiology.

mixers. Again this is not criteria that I personally recognize as in my scoring hierarchy, as if you need to add a mixer to make it palatable then the whisky isn't worth more than 50points, yet this is clearly a history of a spirit that was designed to be a mixer as well as a premium spirit. As very few Canadian whiskies are single malts and almost all are blends they can't be judged on the same scale as my beloved single malts. I'm not a malt snob and there are great Canadian Whiskies out there; you just need to hunt them down.



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Book Review cont.

And ironies abound. You'll learn that it's ironic that 'rye' became a byword for Canadian whisky south of the border when very little of the mash-bill after 1920 if any, was actually rye but almost always corn and wheat. Other interesting tidbits include the development of brands through blending although the blending process is not one that the Scots or Irish would recognize, but involves top-dressing with heavier flavoured spirit from wildly different mash-bills and maturation barrels. It's not top-dressing in the way that Scots would understand it, but a way of making a distinctive blend using different weight spirits.

And of course, no discussion of Canadian whisky would be complete without a discussion of Prohibition. When you actually have a look at the geography of those bits of North America so viciously contested in the 1920s, then you cannot but understand how doomed the war on booze was. Another interesting fact in the book is that a lot of American businessmen set up legal distilling in Canada both during and after prohibition as they were less than 30 miles from the border and often not much farther from where their families resided. It would just be a regular commute today, but I guess they didn't want to cross the border unless they were squeaky clean.

I'm not such a big fan of the tasting notes as they don't include scores, but I understand why as a lot of these whiskies are incredibly cheap (at least in Australian dollar terms) and a lot are designed to be mixers. Again this is not criteria that I personally recognize as in my scoring hierarchy, as if you need to add a mixer to make it palatable then the whisky isn't worth more than 50points, yet this is clearly a history of a spirit that was designed to be a mixer as well as a premium spirit. As very few Canadian whiskies are single malts and almost all are blends they can't be judged on the same scale as my beloved single malts. I'm not a malt snob and there are great Canadian Whiskies out there; you just need to hunt them down.

Well done Davin for a work of passion and scholarship and thanks for expanding my whisky horizons.

The book is available from on-line retailers.