

FEINTS AND FORESHOTS

THE MAGAZINE OF THE MALT WHISKY SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA INC.

SEPTEMBER 2015

ISSUE 45

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CALENDAR

 Thursday 24th September The Spring Equinox Tasting Australian Malt Whisky Showcase

EDITORIAL

he Committee of the MWSoA has been holding some fairly robust discussions in recent times regarding the mission and the vision of the Association.

With the continuing growth in interest in all things whiskyrelated and the growth of many groups associated with the enjoyment of whisky in Australia, the Committee has been working at how we can maintain our vision of promoting the enjoyment and appreciation of whisky.

One method is to work with whisky groups that are forming and to help them in their formation and ongoing development. Another is to hold regular tastings, dinners and events, all over Australia, as befits a national society.

We recognise that, as all our current committee members reside in Adelaide, and though this is a fairly central location, the tyranny of distance means that many interstate members cannot often attend events held in Adelaide. So the committee is calling on interstate members to volunteer to become regional and state coordinators of the Society. The committee would then work with these coordinators to hold regional events and tastings and provide resources and assistance in developing more vibrant local chapters of the Society.

Although we are separated by distance, today is the best time in history, using modern communications technologies, for us to break down the distances that separate us. If you're interested in becoming a coordinator and sponsor the development of a local chapter of the Society please email any of the committee and we'll give you every assistance in helping our Society grow and develop.

Even if you can't do that, why not like us on Facebook? Simply search for Malt Whisky Society of Australia on Facebook and join the community. We'd love you to stay in touch and share with us your thoughts and experiences.

Tomorrow my wife and I leave for a Tasmanian Adventure. You can guess it will feature some whisky-related excursions and I'll be writing about these in forthcoming issues of Feints and Foreshots. The last time I went to Tasmania was 48 years ago and there wasn't any whisky to be had then: I was way too young. I plan to remedy that this time round.

Viano Jaksa Editor Feints and Foreshots fnfeditor@mwsoa.org.au

A LIQUID GOLD INTERVIEW

y daughter is responsible for introducing me to Australian malts. My introduction was the now famous, Jim Murray 96 point, Liquid Gold, Southern Coast Distillers batch 002.

I recently had the pleasure of sharing a few drams with Adelaide whisky distiller Ian Schmidt, the man behind the now defunct Southern Coast Distillers and found out what he is

up to now.

- VJ Why did Southern Coast Distillers fold?
- **IS** Southern Coast never achieved the critical mass required to be a viable business. We made great whisky, just not enough of it. The shareholders were unable to agree on a way forward so the alternative was to shut the company down.
- VJ You are distilling again, for whom and what are you making?
- **IS** I started distilling for the Tin Shed Distilling Co two years ago, making single malts again. The first batches will come on the market in the next couple of months.
- VJ So you will be selling 2YO. Is that old enouah?
- IS Well, Jim Murray gave 96 points to SCD batch 002 and that was only a 2YO. We have done it before and I think we have done it again. You can be the judge!
- VJ What are you going to call it? Tin Shed?
- IS No, there are too many Tin Sheds out there. We are calling it INIQUITY. Naming a whisky is harder than making the stuff.
- VJ Iniquity? That means sinful, wicked or immoral doesn't it?
- Yes, but not me, alcohol in general and single malt in particular is what the name refers to. There is IS absolutely nothing good for you in alcohol. There is a mountain of scientific studies telling you how bad it is for your health and almost nothing published that says it is good for you, but it is delightful though. Anything this pleasurable is usually illegal, immoral or just plain fattening!
- VJ If your first go at distilling failed what makes you think this effort will succeed?
- IS The biggest obstacle to sustainability has now been removed and we are laying down many more casks than before. We have improved our techniques, our yield and our efficiency without screwing around with the quality. We are still not quite viable but getting close.
- VJ On another tack, why are Australian malts so expensive?
- A few reasons. The most obvious is the economies of scale that we in Australia don't enjoy. That is IS an enormous difference that is multiplied through the distribution chain. If it is not expensive we can't make the industry work. Next is the supply and demand equation. Most of the more established



left: Ian Schmidt among the barrels at the Tin Shed Distillery below: the boutique still bottom: the product, ready to go out the door.





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Australian Distilleries are selling everything they make and they are ploughing the profits back into their businesses so they can make more of the stuff. Lastly there is the quality price point. Expensive compared to what? Most Australian singles are also single cask and guite a few of the more expensive ones are cask strength. The closest comparison product would be a SMWS bottling as they are all single cask bottlings and usually cask strength, but they make Australian whiskies look cheap!

VJ You have been quoted as describing Scotch whisky as being Mc Beige. Would you like to expand on that?

IS My personal opinion is that modern scotch malts are well made and pleasant drinks, but not a patch on the same expressions from just ten years ago. If you are lucky enough to taste side by side two distillery bottlings of say the same 10yo, distilled and bottled ten or more years apart you will see my point quickly enough. It is like comparing a water colour with an oil painting. You can have a very good, very enjoyable water colour, but it usually lacks the texture and punch and richness of the oil painting.

VJ Australian whiskies are held in high regard around the world at the moment. What makes them so good?

IS Good question. We made a 96 point, world class 2yo whisky straight up. I am only just now starting to appreciate what we did right back then. Most Australian distillers are owner-operated, family businesses and they are passionate about their trade. It has taken me the best part of 50 years to find something I am really passionate about and actually quite good at, even if only by chance and copying what Bill Lark did. As a group we are all trying to make the best possible whisky, as opposed to the highest yielding, most profitable whisky. Much has been said about our yeast, our malt and our small stills so I won't repeat all that. I think the biggest contributing factors in order of importance are our attitude, our wood and our climate.

VJ That is an interesting perspective. What are we drinking now by the way? It's magnificent.

Is I am glad you like it. It is a bespoke bottling I have done for the MWSoA. It is 50% ABV and that little bit of extra alcohol carries the flavours a little better and demands more respect for the whisky. It has a wonderful nose. In fact one of my wife's friends wants to buy a bottle to use as perfume!

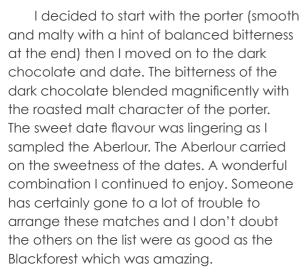


BOILERMAKER HOUSE

n my recent trip to Melbourne I decided to visit a new whisky bar called Boilermaker House which is located at 209-211 Lonsdale St. Boilermaker House is owned by the same people as Eau de Vie Melbourne. As you walk in you pass the cured meats and cheese bar (which can be ordered with matching beer, wine or spirits) and are faced with a bar with 12 taps of craft beer (rotated regularly) a wall of whisky that will soon number 700 and around 70 other bottled beers. A most impressive selection to choose from.

An American Boilermaker cocktail is a shot of whisky followed by a beer which is sipped. Boilermaker House in Melbourne presents it's own take on this and provides a number of matched beer, food and whisky options. From the list of six options presented selected the Blackforest option which was described as "Dark and sexy, ripe black fruits, dark chocolate and spice". It consisted of Aberlour 16 & Newstead 21'7" Porter (Brisbane) paired with dark chocolate topped with a date. I love the Aberlour 16, Porters (especially ones I haven't tried before) and dark chocolate. So it turned out to be a very easy choice for me.

When it was served I asked if there was a best way of approaching the match and the advice given was "You can try it in any order you like just don't dunk the whisky in the beer".

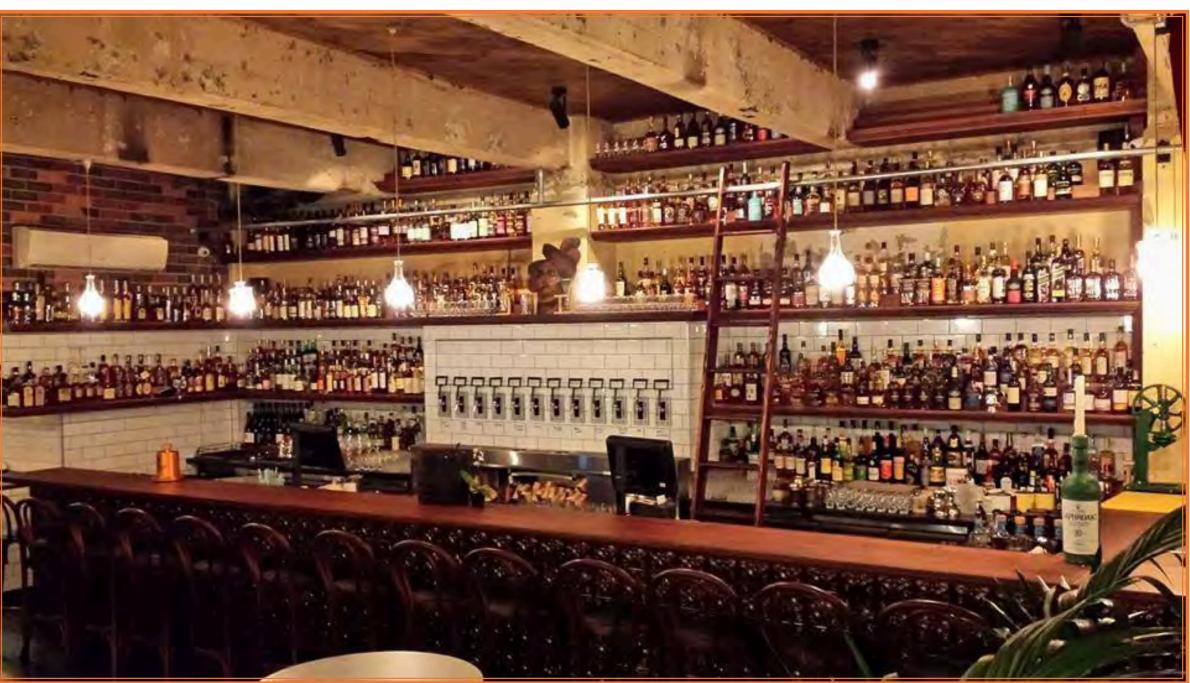


The whisky list (I mean book) was enormous and took me quite some time to read through. The list was arranged in groups with helpful headings to assist your decision. The headings were: Big Belters, Fresh as a Daisy - Floral herbaceous light elegant, Fruit Ninjas and Salty Sea Dogs.

I selected a few obscure drams that I'd been interested in tasting for quite some time and several of the bottles had to be opened as the bar is still very new. The bar staff were very helpful with whisky selections steering me away from drams that were not up to scratch and suggesting some very tasty drams based on the criteria I provided. It is a shame they close at 3am as I could have quite comfortably spent the rest of the week there.

I will definitely be visiting Boilermaker House again on my next trip to Melbourne.





Aaron Baxter

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AUSTRALIAN MALT WHISKIES: WHY THE FUSS?

JOIN THE MWSOA AND FIVE OF THE STARS IN THE AUSTRALIAN MALT WHISKY FIRMAMENT AND FIND OUT.

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FEATURED PRESENTERS

Patrick Maguire Head Distiller, Sullivans' Cove

Cameron Syme Director and Distiller, Limeburners

Jane Sawford Marketing Manager, Overeem **Stewart Ferguson**

National Sales Manager, Hellyers Road **Craig Johnston**

Distiller, Lark

EVENTS DETAILS

Date: 24 September 2015

Format: Sit down 3 course dinner, with 5 different whiskies each presented by the producer.

Time: 6.30 for 6.45pm

Venue: Pot Still Room, Rob Roy Hotel, 106 Halifax Street, Adelaide

Pricing: \$100 general admission with discounts for MWSoA members (\$85).

BOOK NOW

www.eventbrite.com.au/e/australian-malt-whisky-showcase-tickets-18184062019

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Limeburners western australian Single Malt Whisky - ALBANY www.distillerv.com.au



MWSOA BESPOKE BOTTLING -LIMITED EDITION

he Malt Whisky Society of Australia is pleased to announce its latest, members only, bespoke bottling. It's our second home grown product and a stunning example of Australian malt whisky at its very best. Add to this that it's from a closed distillery and it's clear that this is a rare opportunity to buy a piece of Aussie malt whisky history – a gem from Southern Coast Distillers.

This is a very limited, rare and exciting bottling, only 50 x 700ml bottles available at 50% ABV, specially selected by the committee from a range of top class casks, individually numbered and signed by the distiller.

To avoid disappointment your committee has decided to allocate the bottles on a lottery basis, one bottle per member.

If you would like to own one of these bottles, please send an e-mail to committee1@mwsoa.org.au and your name will be put into the lottery.

Names will be randomly selected on 30th September 2015 and members will be informed if successful.

The price is 160 + p&p.

Good luck to all and may the spirit be with you.

Paul Shand



ENQUIRIES: CHAIR@MWSOA.ORG.AU • MORE INFORMATION & BOOKINGS WWW.MWSOA.ORG.AU NB: PRESENTERS AND WHISKIES ARE CORRECT AT TIME OF PRINTING

NOTES FROM THE GROG LOCKER

This month we feature a host of tasting notes for your pleasure and for you to consider when contemplating what to buy for your whisky shelf. I welcome you to share your whisky tasting experiences and opinions with other members. Please use the same format as you see here for your notes and email your contributions to fnfeditor@mwsoa.org.au. (I can email you a template to use, if you like). If questioned, you can always reply that you're conducting research for Feints and Foreshots.

Нівікі 17ҮО. (43% ABV)

SUNTORY HOLDINGS LIMITED, **OSAKA, JAPAN**

he transformation of the Japanese whisky industry and appreciation of their whisky is a phenomenon difficult to describe. The question is why has taken the world until recently to accept that Japan produces some of the best whiskies ever made? The auction prices for whiskies from demolished distilleries Karuizawa and Hanyu attest to their uniqueness and quality as well as their rarity. However, it's not just malts that routinely take the honours at international tasting events; the blends are also up there in the honours list as great whiskies of the world.

APPEARANCE

Light Gold

NOSE



Full but delicate with sweet nougat, vanilla, lime and white grape, and a hint of honeyed hazelnut

TASTE

Smooth and delicate with a hint of spice. Lemon custard with raisins, ripe banana and light oak.....23.5

FINISH

Smooth spicy finish with citrus peel and desiccated coconut and toffee in the relatively short finish22

BALANCE

Wonderfully balanced and integrated fruit, oak and spice	
--	--

One of the world's great blends, delicate yet full flavoured. A whisky for all seasons, but possibly best enjoyed as an excellent aperitif. This is a blend for malt whisky drinkers – no doubt about that in my mind.

Redbreast 15 (46% ABV)

NEW MIDLETON DISTILLERY, COUNTY CORK, IRELAND



nother resurrection is occurring, this time a bit closer to Scotland. Irish whiskey before the fall was regarded as the world's best by many. Ireland is back with a vengeance and producing some stunning malts. This is one of them.

APPEARANCE

Golden Brown (texture like the sun).

NOSE

Honey, barley sugar, vanilla, marzipan, dark Victoria plums, strawberry, and a slight hint of sweet oak - exquisite. Vanilla oozes out after a while alongside ripe oranges and

TASTE

Wow ! warming high cacao chocolate, over-ripe red plums. Smooth and robust, everything in balance with a hint of late spice and tannins......24

FINISH

Medium warming dry finish with some under-powering sweetness, and tannin

BALANCE

Nicely balanced and integrated dark fruit, oak and

A great full flavoured whisk(e)y. Like a great Shiraz or Gran Reserva Rioja, best enjoyed on a cold winter or

Paul Shand



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Paul Shand





ARDBEG CORRYVRECKAN NAS (57.1% ABV)

MOET HENNESSY, ISLAY, SCOTLAND



APPEARANCE

Medium amber with autumn gold highlights.

NOSE

Fruitcake and fig jam, cough lollies (Irish moss), woody herbs, resin and tar.

PALATE

Sherry and smoke, jam on toast.

FINISH

Lingering, warm and herby, some charcoal.

BALANCE

Nicely rounded and surprisingly sophisticated considering the proof. Lots of depth.



Sherry and Ardbeg don't always work, but this is both subtle and powerful. Very impressive ... 90/100

GLENFARCLAS 21 (43% ABV)

J & G GRANT, SPEYSIDE, SCOTLAND

his was from our Treasures from the Vault Winter Solstice Tasting and this bottling didn't have the profile of a 90/100 whisky.

APPEARANCE

Medium dark amber with ochre/red highlights.

NOSE

Slightly Musty to start; Old cupboards, cardboard, coconut and dry sherry.

PALATE

Medium sweet, caramel, apricot jam.

FINISH

Woody and slightly bitter.

BALANCE

The nose improves over time and the rest is acceptable.

Glenfarclas 21 has regularly featured in our awards and yet it sometimes shines and sometimes Not. There might have been a dodgy cask in the vatting.

Craig Daniels







GLENMORANGIE 18YO EXTREMELY RARE (43% ABV)

GLENMORANGIE PLC/MOET HENNESSY, NORTHERN HIGHLANDS, SCOTLAND

his was from our Treasures from the Vault Winter Solstice Tasting and this bottling didn't have the profile of a 90/100 whisky.

APPEARANCE

Bright, Honey gold, with green apple highlights

NOSE

Honey, Grapefruit, vanilla, marshmallow.

PALATE

Nectarines, peach, candied orange peel.

FINISH

Mixed stone fruits, orange and grapefruit pith bitters.

BALANCE

Develops along unexpected routes and gets more interesting and intriguing.

Subtle and sweet from the outset and rewards patience. Definitely develops positively in the glass.



KILCHOMAN MACHIR BAY NAS (46% ABV)

EDRINGTON GROUP, ISLAY, SCOTLAND

his was from our Treasures from the Vault Winter Solstice Tasting and this one was almost certainly bottled in 2012, as Machir Bay only had two releases (that I'm aware of) and This was the first one. I scored it 4 points higher than the judges in 2012.

APPEARANCE

Pale lemon gold with unripe sultana green highlights.

NOSE

Lots of egg and bacon pie, with strong bitter greens (rocket and cress). Then sweeter with muscovado sugar. Then the smoke and BBQ hotplate kick in.

PALATE

Smoky and quite sweet, cigarette ash and aromatic phenols. Some lemon notes.

FINISH

Sweet then smoky, sweet pipe tobacco. Begins to disintegrate over time, showing the youth.

BALANCE

Nose and palate are fine, let down a little by the finish.

Craig Daniels

ISSUE 45

Craig Daniels





MWSOA INDEPENDENT BOTTLING OF Southern Coast Cask 48 (50% abv)

SOUTHERN COAST DISTILLERS, ADELAIDE, SOUTH AUSTRALIA

DISTILLED APRIL 06 - DOUBLE BARRELLED

his whisky will be available very soon to members only, limit of one bottle per member.

APPEARANCE

Bright gold with autumnal highlight **NOSE**

Oak and autumn leaves, chocolate and cinnamon with raisins and stone fruit. With a little water some citrus comes to the fore before a sherry influence takes over. The nose is constantly evolving in a most pleasant manner.

PALATE

Sour fruit and ginger with good balance and some lingering spice. The alcohol is prominent, but not dominant.

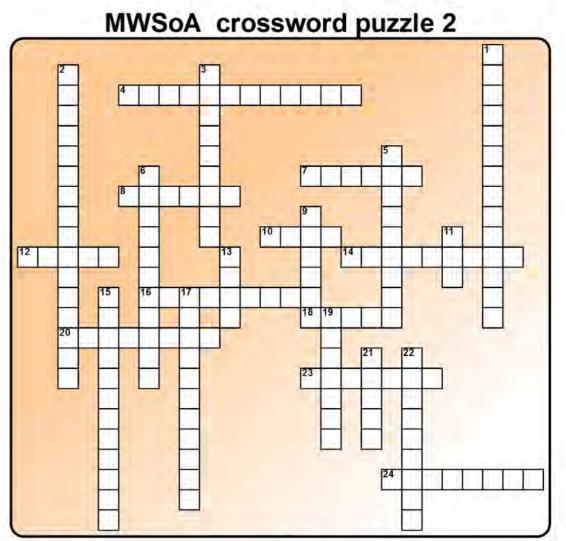
FINISH

Sour fruit that slowly, slowly morphs into wood spice and just hangs around for a very long time.

BALANCE

Pretty good provided you do not overdo the water.

 MALT WHISKY SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA THE THIRD SOCIETY BESPOKE BOTTLING SOUTHERN COAST DISTLLERS CASK 48 DISTILLED 2004 BOTTLED EXCLUSIVELY BY MWSOA 2015 BOTTLE 39 OF 72 50.0% ABV



Across:

4 It's Westering Home for this Islay malt

- 7 Space age whisky
- 8 He/She prepare's whisky's bed

10 An alcoholic drink, orinating in the navy and also called a "weak beer" or a "bob smith"

- 12 This barley might make you see better
- 14 The most popular glass for malties
- 16 Distilled when the cow jumps very high

18 A eukaryotic organism and member of the fungus kingdom

- 20 Scotland's densest spiritual region
- 23 Colouring for consistency

24 The most northerly mainland distillery in Scotland

Craig Daniels

Down:

1 Takes the oils out of the whisky (5, 8)

2 The Nose - insured for 1.5 million

3 Let's hope they look after their Saints better in heaven !

5 This robin has put pot still whiskey back on the map

6 A scotsman of Irish Fame (4,7)

9 This shoulder comes from the malt barn - ooh ohh ahh ahh

11 Thin Lizzy said there's some in the ...

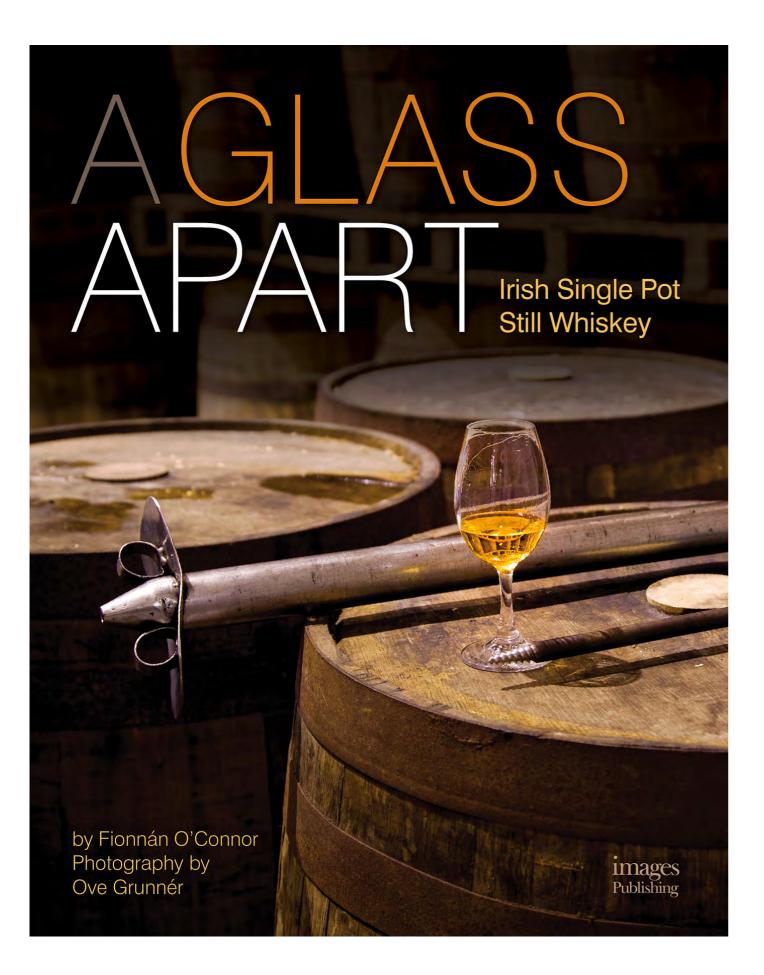
13 US tv series based in Vietnam or a mixture of malted barley and water !

15 European species is not as tight as its cousin across the Atlantic (7, 5)

17 The seafarers choice of whisky (3, 8)

19 The absolutely pure cratur, tasteless of course

21 That essential ingredient: dihydrogen oxide
22 This brand hath some fury - more than meatloaf and Darwin



A GLASS APART IRISH SINGLE POT STILL WHISKEY

BY FIONNÁN O'CONNOR PHOTOGRAPHY BY OVE GRUNNÉR

rish single pot still whiskey has a romantic mystique for many whiskey critics because of its tragic history as the 'lost sister' of single malt scotch. Ireland's history and politics resulted in the near-annihilation of the national drink and there's an almost eerie beauty to the 'silent' distilleries that still dot the Irish countryside. These distilleries inform the aesthetic of the title and, indeed, there is visual poetry in the barrels, pot stills and photogenic amber spirits that convey the Irish whiskey world.

Although Irish whiskey is currently the fastest-growing global spirits category and Irish 'pure pot still' has long been a favourite drink among whiskey critics and connoisseurs, the existing literature is still surprisingly sparse. This book illustrates the production, history, and appreciation of Irish pot still whiskey and will introduce casual drinkers to the richness of these whiskeys as well as being a collectors' item for established whiskey connoisseurs.

AUTHOR BIO

Fionnán O'Connor tasted his first glass of Green Spot in a pub in Galway 10 years ago and has spent an excessive number of subsequent evenings trying to uncover what exactly made that tipple so bewilderingly delicious. He has travelled extensively across the distilleries of Ireland and Scotland and has a particular affection for Islay scotch, American rye, and, of course, Irish single pot still.

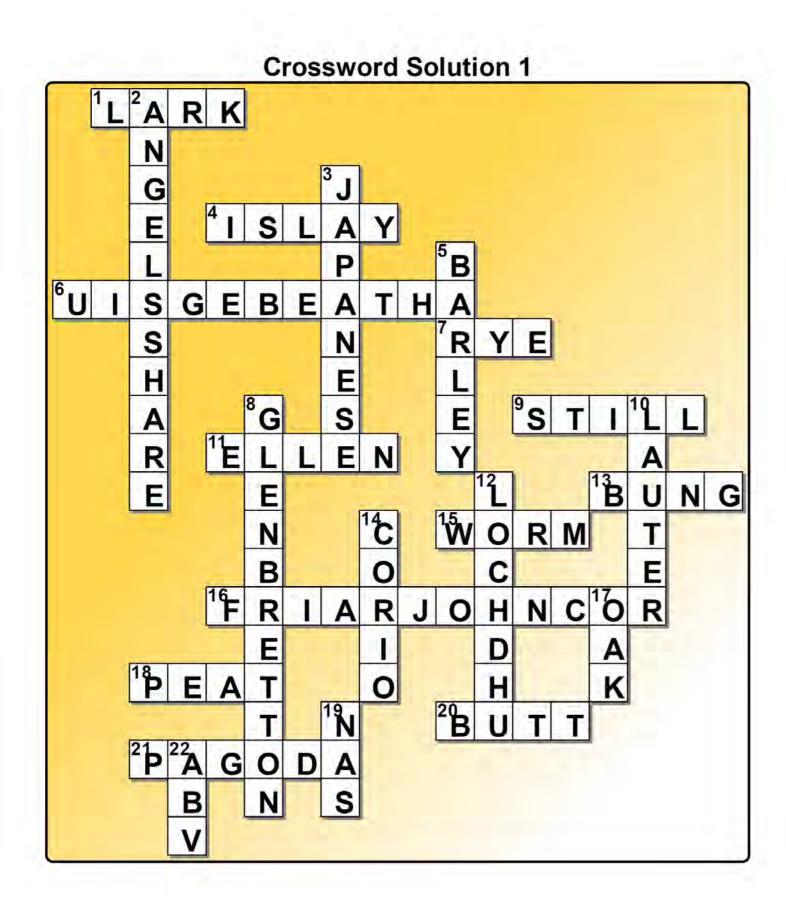
As an English major, he taught classes on The History and Appreciation of Whisky through UC Berkeley's Celtic Studies department while working as a brand ambassador for the Bushmills single malts and running seminars on whiskey appreciation through the legendary San Francisco cocktail bar Bourbon & Branch.

He has since served as a historical consultant and whiskey lecturer for distilleries across Ireland, worked as an independent bar staff educator, and currently volunteers on the committee of the Irish Whiskey Society. He has represented Irish whiskey before the European Union as an independent critic and written articles on Irish distilling for magazines across the industry.

He lives in Dublin, where he divides his time between his postgraduate studies and the welcome wonders of a certain ginger alternative.

Feints & Foreshots will feature a review of the book "A Glass Apart" in its next issue.

The book will be published in October 2015 and will sell for \$AU60.00



Here's the solution to the last issue's Crossword Puzzle. The solution to this month's Crossword Puzzle will appear in the next issue of F'n'F.



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MALT WHISKY SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA INCORPORATED

The Malt Whisky Society of Australia has commissioned a Members' Polo Shirt that depicts the Society's colours and highlights the Society's logo.

> At a cost of \$AU 25.00 (plus \$8 p&h, for Australian delivery only) it represents excellent value for money and will make an excellent gift.

CHEST CIRCUMFERENCE	QUANTITY
CHEST CIRCOMPERENCE	REQUIRED
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114 cm	
120 cm	
126 cm	
132 cm	

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& Handling (\$8.00)	\$
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MALT WHISKY SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA

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MALT WHISKY SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA SOUVENIR GLASS ORDER FORM





IN FEBRUARY 2013 THE MWSOA COMMISSIONED 300 BADGED GLENCAIRN WHISKY GLASSES FOR THE FOURTH MALT WHISKY CONVENTION AND FOR SALE TO MEMBERS. WE HAVE 180+ REMAINING. THE MWSOA LOGO IS WHITE AND FUSED TO THE GLASS.

LIMIT OF 6 GLASSES PER MEMBER

Number of Glasses	Member's Only Price (AUD)	Postage, Packaging and Insurance (AUD)	Total (AUD)
Single	\$10.00	\$6.50*	\$16.50
Trio	\$30.00	\$9.50*	\$39.50
Six Pack	\$55.00	\$12.50*	\$67.50

Method of Payment Direct Deposit Cheque Cash

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