

SPIRIT JOURNAL

concentrated in its ripe and ready winey-ness and pruniness; added air contact brings out large-boned, demonstrative aromas of dark chocolate, cocoa butter, cream sherry, dates, black raisins, and sweet barley malt. Entry tastes include honey wheat bread, prune Danish, and lots and lots



sure to air brings out devilishly toasty/roasted aromas of crispy pork rind, sweet oak, vanilla, red grapes, and blackberry jam; as inviting a bouquet as I've recently had from The Laddie. Entry is vividly sweet and grainy, yet nimble in its textural weight and acidic agility; gains momentum by midpalate as the taste profile suddenly bursts with red fruit presence (red currants, mostly) and oaky vanilla. Finishes clean as a whistle, chewy, and concentrated. Tight, composed, no body fat. This Laddie absolutely Rocks.

Spirit Journal Rating:
★★★★/Highest Recommendation

Bruichladdich Links - Turnberry 14 Year Old Islay Single Malt Whisky

(Scotland; Winebow Inc., New York, NY)
46% abv, \$75.

Dark flax/amber hue; flawless purity. I catch immediate aromatic notes of

ripe; the taste profile at midpalate is deep-running, concentrated, cocoa bean-like, chocolaty, and honeyed. Ends masterfully in a velvet rush of sweet oakiness, cocoa, and cake frosting. Yet another gem from this heavenly series.

Spirit Journal Rating:
★★★★/Highest Recommendation

Bruichladdich Rocks Islay Single Malt Whisky (Scotland; Winebow Inc., New York, NY)

46% abv, \$47.

The gold color has a slight rosy blush to it, making it exotic and very pretty;

of honey; by midpalate the taste profile reads with the volume akin to War and Peace as hardy flavors of marzipan, treacle, blackberry preserves, cherries covered in dark chocolate, and orange flavored chocolates bombard the taste buds like the Blitz Kreig. Might not be everybody's expansive, aggressive, and sweet malt style, but that's fine by me, neighbors, 'cause that leaves more for the rest of us sickos.

Spirit Journal Rating:
★★★★/Highest Recommendation

BenRiach Tawny Port Wood Finish 15 Year Old Speyside Single Malt Whisky

(Scotland; Preiss Imports, Ramona, CA)
46% abv, \$95.

The gold dust/topaz/old Sauternes color dazzles the eye; perfect purity. The aroma after the pour is decidedly restrained after the mega-bouquets of the previous four BenRiachs, but what's here is obviously good quality and is crisp, more austere, and citrusy than the others; further air contact stimulates latent smells of oak, vanilla, nutmeg, and old leather. Entry is sensationally satiny, plummy sweet, and



unblemished clarity. Smells delightfully of fruitcake, banana nut bread, and sweet malt in the first aromatic go-rounds; seven minutes of further expo-



pineapple, papaya, and mango upfront; unexpectedly, aeration doesn't assist in stimulating further aromatic expansion as the bouquet goes flat and horizontal in the second stage. Entry is subdued, mildly nutty, grainy and malty, but without a clear direction; the taste profile at midpalate picks up some steam as flavors of vanilla, maple, and dry breakfast cereal take shape. Concludes light, lithe, and nuanced.

Spirit Journal Rating:
★★★/Recommended