The World of Scotch Whisky

Many countries produce whisky, but Scotch can only be made in Scotland and by definition must be distilled and matured - in Scotland - for a minimum of 3 years. Scotch Whisky has been made for more than 500 years and uses just a few natural ingredients - water, cereals, and yeast.

Scotland is home to around 100 malt and grain distilleries, making it the greatest concentration in the world. Many of the Scotch Whisky distilleries featured on this map bottle some of their production for sale as Single Malt (ie, the product of one distillery) or Single Grain Whisky.

However, the majority of all Scotch Whisky is consumed as Blended Scotch Whisky. This means as many as 50 of the different Single Malt and Single Grain Whiskies are blended together, ensuring that the individual scotch whiskies harmonise with one another and the quality and flavour of each individual blend remains consistent down the years.

Malt whisky is usually classified in one of five main categories - Highland, Lowland, Speyside, Islay, and Campbeltown - according to the geographical location of the distillery in which it is made. In many ways, the geography and climate of each region influences the character of the whisky produced there.



Highland Malt

The Highland region is geographically the largest Scotch Whisky producing region. The rugged landscape and changeable climate, and in some cases, coastal locations, are reflected in the character of its whiskies, which embrace wide variations.

As a group, Highland whiskies are rounded, robust and dry in character, with a hint of smokiness/peatiness. Those near the sea carry a salty tang; in the far north the whiskies are more notably heathery and slightly spicy in character; while in the more sheltered east and middle of the region, the whiskies have a more fruity character.

12. ABERFELDY — John Dewar & Sons Ltd
13. ARDMORE — Beam Global Spirits & Wine
14. ISLE OF ARRAN — Isle of Arran Distillers Ltd
15. BALBLAIR — Inver House Distillers Ltd
16. BEN NEVIS — Ben Nevis Distillery (Fort William) Ltd
17. BLAIR ATHOL — Diageo
18. CLYNELISH — Diageo
19. DALMORE — Whyte & Mackay Ltd
20. DALWHINNIE — Diageo
21. DEANSTON — Burn Stewart Distillers plc
22. EDRADOUR — Signatory Vintage Scotch Whisky Co Ltd
23. FETTERCAIRN — Whyte & Mackay Ltd
24. GLENCADAM — Angus Dundee Distillers plc
25. GLENDRONACH, THE — Benriach Distillery Co
26. GLEN GARIOCH — Morrison Bowmore Distillers Ltd
27. GLENGLASSAUGH — Glenglassaugh Distillery Co
28. GLENGOYNE — Ian Macleod Distillers Ltd
29. GLENMORANGIE — Glenmorangie Co Ltd
30. GLEN ORD — Diageo
31. GLENTURRET — The Edrington Group Ltd
32. HIGHLAND PARK — The Edrington Group Ltd
33. ISLE OF JURA — Whyte & Mackay Ltd
34. LOCH LOMOND — Loch Lomond Distillery Co Ltd
35. MACDUFF — John Dewar & Sons Ltd
36. OBAN — Diageo
37. PULTENEY — Inver House Distillers Ltd
38. ROYAL BRACKLA — John Dewar & Sons Ltd
39. ROYAL LOCHNAGAR — Diageo
40. SCAPA — Chivas Brothers Ltd
41. TALISKER — Diageo
42. TEANINICH — Diageo
43. TOBERMORY — Burn Stewart Distillers plc
44. TOMATIN — The Tomatin Distillery Co Ltd
45. TULLIBARDINE — Tullibardine Ltd

Speyside Malt

Speyside, a region that borders much of the length of the River Spey on the eastern side of the Highlands, is home to half of Scotland's Scotch Whisky distilleries which are drawn together around a system of rivers.

The whiskies of this region are noted for their elegance and complexity. The flow of water over hills of granite and through moors of peat, add a refined smokiness to many of the malt whiskies and the slightly more sheltered nature of the terrain imparts a specific gentleness and delicacy to their character.

46. ABERLOUR — Chivas Brothers Ltd
47. ALLT A'BHAINNE — Chivas Brothers Ltd
48. AUCHROISK — Diageo
49. AULTMORE — John Dewar & Sons Ltd
50. BALMENACH — Inver House Distillers Ltd
51. BALVENIE, THE — Wm Grant & Sons Ltd
52. BENRIACH — Benriach Distillery Co
53. BENRINNES — Diageo
54. BENROMACH — Gordon & MacPhail
55. BRAEVAL — Chivas Brothers Ltd
56. CAPERDONICH — Chivas Brothers Ltd
57. CARDHU — Diageo
58. CRAGGANMORE — Diageo
59. CRAIGELLACHIE — John Dewar & Sons Ltd
60. DAILUAINE — Diageo
61. DUFFTOWN — Diageo
62. GLENALLACHIE — Chivas Brothers Ltd
63. GLENBURGIE — Chivas Brothers Ltd
64. GLENDULLAN — Diageo
65. GLEN ELGIN — Diageo
66. GLENFARCLAS — J & G Grant
67. GLENFIDDICH — Wm Grant & Sons Ltd
68. GLEN GRANT — Glen Grant Distillery Co Ltd
69. GLEN KEITH — Chivas Brothers Ltd
70. GLENLIVET, THE — Chivas Brothers Ltd
71. GLENLOSSIE — Diageo
72. GLEN MORAY — La Martiniquaise
73. GLENROTHES — The Edrington Group Ltd
74. GLEN SPEY — Diageo
75. GLENTAUCHERS — Chivas Brothers Ltd
76. IMPERIAL — Chivas Brothers Ltd
77. INCHGOWER — Diageo
78. KININVIE — Wm Grant & Sons Ltd
79. KNOCKANDO — Diageo
80. KNOCKDHU — Inver House Distillers Ltd
81. LINKWOOD — Diageo
82. LONGMORN — Chivas Brothers Ltd
83. MACALLAN, THE — The Edrington Group Ltd
84. MANNOCHMORE — Diageo
85. MILTONDUFF — Chivas Brothers Ltd
86. MORTLACH — Diageo
87. SPEYBURN — Inver House Distillers Ltd
88. SPEYSIDE — Speyside Distillers Co Ltd
89. STRATHISLA — Chivas Brothers Ltd
90. STRATHMILL — Diageo
91. TAMDHU — The Edrington Group Ltd
92. TAMNAVULIN-GLENLIVET — Whyte & Mackay Ltd
93. TOMINTOUL — Angus Dundee Distillers plc
94. TORMORE — Chivas Brothers Ltd

Islay Malt

Islay, a small island off the west coast of Scotland, may be only 25 miles long but is home to 8 distilleries.

The whiskies from this area have more than a hint of saltiness due to the fact that Islay is frequently lashed by Atlantic storms. Sea spray blows across the island, impregnating the peat used in the malting of the barley and blows into the warehouses where casks of Scotch Whisky lie maturing, thus affecting the taste and aroma.

The result is that some of the Islay whiskies are pungent and powerful with a distinctive whiff of sea air in them. Other distilleries that are in a more sheltered location, and use less peat during malting have a gentler but still clearly identifiable character.

1. ARDBEG — Glenmorangie Co Ltd
2. BOWMORE — Morrison Bowmore Distillers Ltd
3. BRUICHLADDICH — Bruichladdich Distillery Company
4. BUNNAHABHAIN — Burn Stewart Distillers plc
5. CAOL ILA — Diageo
6. KILCHOMAN — Kilchoman Distillery Co Ltd
7. LAGAVULIN — Diageo
8. LAPHROAIG — Beam Global Spirits & Wine

Campbeltown Malt

Campbeltown is a remote town at the southern end of the Mull of Kintyre on the west fringe of Scotland. At its peak, Campbeltown was home to more than 30 distilleries.

Campbeltown whiskies are robust in character and carry the salty tang of the sea.

9. GLENGYLE — J & A Mitchell & Co Ltd
10. GLEN SCOTIA — Loch Lomond Distillery Co Ltd
11. SPRINGBANK — J & A Mitchell & Co Ltd

Grain Whisky

Grain whiskies form the heart of Blended Scotch Whiskies. Located primarily in the Lowlands of Scotland, with the exception of one in the Northern Highlands, grain whisky distilleries operate a continuous distillation process from a mash of cereals, always including malted barley, but unlike malt whiskies, also using other unmalted cereals, as well as yeast and water.

The main purpose of grain whisky is as the base to which the malts are added creating Blended Scotch Whisky, but a small proportion is bottled as a Single Grain and enjoyed for their subtle character.

100. CAMERONBRIDGE — Diageo
101. GIRVAN — Wm Grant & Sons Ltd
102. INVERGORDON — Whyte & Mackay Ltd
103. LOCH LOMOND — Loch Lomond Distillery Co Ltd
104. NORTH BRITISH — The North British Distillery Co Ltd
105. PORT DUNDAS — Diageo
106. STRATHCLYDE — Chivas Brothers Ltd

Lowland Malt

The Lowland whiskies are produced in the south of Scotland, identified on the map as the area south of a line between Dundee and Greenock.

Lowland whiskies reflect the calm, lush countryside of the region and tend to be light, soft and mellow and gentle on the palate.

95. AILSA BAY — Wm Grant & Sons Ltd
96. AUCHENTOSHAN — Morrison Bowmore Distillers Ltd
97. BLADNOCH — Co-ordinated Development Services
98. DAFTMILL — The Cuthbert Family
99. GLENKINCHIE — Diageo

Around 40 of the distilleries featured on this map open their doors to the public and unveil some of the secrets of making Scotch Whisky to over one million visitors a year. A copy of a booklet showing the location of these distilleries, along with contact information and opening times, can be obtained from:

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