



Time to look at some of my current favorite whiskies, my top 10 from 2017.

(10) Dewar's Signature

This is a nice elegant, easy drinking whisky, that comes in at 40% Alcohol By Volume (ABV) and in my opinion does not need any water to calm it down or open it up, it's perfect as it is.

Featured in issue 153, March 2017

Approximate Cost per bottle - \$200.00 a bottle.

Tasting Notes;

Nose - Berry fruits. Vanilla chocolate fudge

Palate - Fruit conserves, vanilla and chocolate

Finish - Long finish with honey and a hint of smoke



(9) Springbank 12-year-old "Burgundy"

As you have probably guessed from the name, it was aged in fresh Burgundy wine Casks. This is a limited edition, bottled at a cask strength of 53.5% which helps give nice bold flavors.

Featured in issue 160, June 2017

Approximate Cost per bottle - \$110.00 a bottle.

Tasting Notes;

Nose - Raisins & red currants

Palate - Think pancakes spread with Nutella & drizzled in cream

Finish - An initial herb/spice note, fading to vanilla & mint ice cream





(8) Bushmills "Sherry cask"

Unfortunately; it's only available to buy in the travel retail sector. I say unfortunately because, it is a lovely whiskey and quite the surprise, for me, at least, it is the first time I have tasted an Irish whiskey that has a sherry finish. I could have easily mistaken this for a quality Speysider.

Featured in issue 157, May 2017

Approximate Cost per bottle - \$130.00

Tasting Notes;

Nose - Sherried fruits and honey

Palate - Dried fruits dipped in chocolate

Finish - Chocolate, spicy fruits



(7) Oban 14 year old

I like this single malt a lot and would recommend it to everyone, even Speyside fans, who live in fear of smokey/peaty Western Isle whiskies. This is west coast, not islands, and its smoke and peat are restrained. This is a very nice whisky.

Featured in issue 27, December 2011.

Approximate Cost per bottle - \$70.00

Tasting Notes;

Nose - Sweet, fruity, with sea salt, small amounts of peat & smoke

Palate - Rich fruit, honey, malt, spice & light smoke

Finish - Sweet oak with a pinch of salt





(6) Glenfiddich 15-year-old

In my opinion, the best tasting whisky (against price), on the market today a constant in my whisky cabinet. This is also my break through whisky, after years of trying to taste something specific listed in the tasting notes, this is the one that delivered.

Featured in issue 11, April 2011

Approximate Cost per bottle - \$55.00

Tasting Notes;

Nose - Rich, spicy with oak

Palate - Honey, Pears & vanilla.

Finish - Baked pears with some spice



(5) Springbank 18-year-old

This is yet another stellar whisky from the folks at Springbank. It's not a cheap whisky, but in this case you definitely get what you pay for. If you should purchase this fine scotch, and are inclined to the occasional cigar, try it with a Partagas Corona they match up very Well.

Featured in issue 135, June 2016

Approximate Cost per bottle - \$160.00

Tasting Notes;

Nose - Strawberry, rhubarb, Marzipan

Palate - Honey, fruit, oats, liquorice

Finish - Long with coconut, chocolate and a hint of smoke





(4) Highland Park 15-year-old

I have yet to taste a Highland Park that wasn't worth buying and putting on my bar, and it's a damn shame that they decided to stop producing this whisky. If you see one buy it, you won't be disappointed.

Featured in issue 152, February 2017.

Approximate Cost per bottle - \$90.00

Tasting Notes;

Nose - Citrus and smoke

Palate - Peaty smoke, with sherried sultanas

Finish - Smokey and long



(3) Springbank 15-year-old from the Campbeltown

region (once proclaimed the 'whisky capital of the world') of Scotland. This is an outstanding whisky, I like this a great deal, highly recommended.

Featured in issue 110, May 2015.

Approximate Cost per bottle - \$100.00

Tasting Notes;

Nose - Dark chocolate, Christmas cake, almonds, toffee

Palate - Raisins, dark chocolate, marzipan & vanilla

Finish - Long with vanilla, Oak, sherry & cocoa





(2) Dalmore 18-year-old

I am very familiar with the Dalmore whiskies and was fully expecting huge amounts of Christmas fruitcake and spices, like those in the 15-year-old. To my surprise, this was much more subdued, more mellow and very easy to drink, it still has lots of fruit, but it also has chocolate aspects. Buy one, it's so worth it.

Featured in issue 162, July 2017

Approximate Cost per bottle - \$115.00

Tasting Notes;

Nose - Chocolate, raisins & orange

Palate - Chocolate, coffee, raisins, pear & orange

Finish - Citrus & oak



(1) Highland Park "Ice"

This is a rather special whisky from Highland Park called "Ice edition". What does it taste like? A little bit of Heaven (or Asgard), this is a truly wonderful whisky, the Pineapple with the peat smoke makes for an unusual, but tasty combination.

Featured in issue 150, January 2017

Approximate Cost per bottle - \$375.00

Tasting Notes;

Nose - Pineapple, mango hint of smoke

Palate - Peat smoke, pineapple and citrus

Finish - Long with a little heat





Below is a simple guide to help you choose your single malt Whisky, and the flavor notes you should expect from it. Being Scottish I recommend you find a likely candidate and try it in a bar before buying the whole bottle. In this issue of the newsletter, I only have my **top ten whiskies of 2017** shown.

