

CONNOISSEUR'S LIST

COGNAC

Although the cognac-producing region is very small, its famous distillates are greatly varied. Thousands of vintners and distillers engage in the creation and blending of this high-alcohol-content, luxury brandies.

Remy Martin Louis XIII 40% vol. 788
Dark gold with red lights, spicy bouquet with slight floral scents on top chocolaty fruit tones.

Tres Vieille Reserve de Lafite Rothschild 40% vol. 480
Velvety, soft, warm, warming, with tones of brown sugar, vanilla and with hints of cigars.

Martell XO 40% vol. 136
A piquant, spicy sansation with notes of black pepper and coriander, rounded by aromas of fig, walnut and sandalwood

Martell Cordon Bleu XO 40% vol. 127
Rich and complex with orchard fruit candied plum and apple harmonising with roasted notes of mocha coffee.

Hennessy VSOP 40% vol. 49
Flower notes, some yellow fruit, an idea of sweetness. Fruit, spicy, cinnamon from the palate.

Hennessy XO 40% vol. 97
A rich, creamy cognac with a lively aroma of ripe fruit and spices like cinnamon and vanilla.

Camus XO Elegance 40% vol. 67

Slightly sweet and floral entry. Light body, with a fair amount of flowers and fruit on the nose.

Remy Martin VSOP 40% vol. 49

Floral and fruity tones on the nose. Soft on the palate and dry, bitter sweetness in the aftertaste.

Frapin Château Fontpinot XO 40% vol. 39

Floral and fruit filled with a rich, long finish, well balanced and absolutely delicious.

Croizet VSOP 40% vol. 32

Complex aromas of orange zest, dark chocolate shavings, cedar, and lilac with a round fruity medium body and a warming, leather patina, minerals, and chocolate ganache finish.

Croizet XO 40% vol. 89

Aromas of caramel, passionfruit, toasted croissant, sesame oil, and cured meats with a velvety, crisp, dry-yet-fruity medium body and a warming, layered, long espresso beans, red bean bao, milk chocolate with roasted almonds, caraway, and dried peach finish.

ARMAGNAC

Armagnac is a grape brandy produced in the Gascony region of France, since at least the 15th century. A fuller-bodied style of brandy when compared to Cognac, often aged for many years and makes an excellent digestive.

Prince D'Arignac XO 40% vol. 32

Intense with aromas of cocoa, vanilla, spices and candied fruits. Honey and lime blossom on the palate. The finished with an extremely long.

Chabot XO 40% vol. 57

White plums and a touch of wood on nose. Sensuous, sweet, with a bit of brown sugar. There's a seductive smokiness that takes on a pipe-tobacco quality.

BRANDY

Brandy is distilled from grapes and achieves its golden brown colour from ageing in toasted barrels. South African brandy, which is made in the same manner as Cognac using a double distillation process in pot stills, is highly respected worldwide.

Boschendal Potstill 10 Years 40% vol. 63

This blend consists of different ages, minimum 10 years, resulting in tropical pineapple, passion fruit, dried peaches, dates and fig flavours with hints of citrus and sherry.

SINGLE MALTS

THE HIGHLANDS

Wild seas and impenetrable moorland dominate the landscape, creating a breeding ground for powerful peaty drams, whilst still leaving room for floral, silky elegance.

Aberfeldy 12 Years 40% vol. 51

Some sherried fruit with a trailing hint of smoked on the nose. Sweet, malty, a gentle peat but nonetheless the mouth feel is very clean on the palate. Finished with malt, a faint hint of citrus.

AnCnoc 12 Years 40% vol. 59

Aromatic, quite robust. Honeysuckle, fresh flowers, cereals, barley on the nose. Madeira, winter spices, mocha, Crème de Cacao, herbal of hints and toasted granary bread on the palate.

AnCnoc 18 Years 46% vol. 79

Unrefined sugar and satisfying raw honey with blood orange and satsuma segments on the nose. Honeyed and spiced. Vanilla, lemon, gooseberry and fig rolls on the palate.

Ardmore Traditional 46% vol. 45

Lots of barley and cereal notes, oodles of rich bourbon, smoke and peat still present on the palate. Charming interplay through the caramel sweetness and the vanilla spiced oak.

- Balblair 2004** 46% vol. 54
Juicy blood orange, crushed almonds, brown sugar on the nose. Quite nutty and sweet, though creamy vanilla and oak keep it grounded on the palate. Finished with Citrus and waxy oak.
- Balblair 1995** 46% vol. 54
Hints of green apples, coconut and vanilla can be detected, alongside the signature Balblair characteristics. Imparted a spicy note with a distinctive vanilla fragrance.
- Dalmore Valour** 40% vol. 54
Crumbly shortbread drizzled with toffee and dotted with plump raisins deeper notes of candied orange peels on the nose. Chocolatey and rich, with treacle and malt loaf. Chocolatey and rich, with treacle and malt loaf.
- Glendronach 12 Years** 40% vol. 58
Rich cereals, struck match, raisin and cinnamon. Opens with some sweeter PX and lots of delicious raw ginger before becoming creamier with hazelnuts. Fruits, peels and buttery.
- Glen Garioch 12 Years** 48% vol. 69
Earthy, stewed fruit on nose. Rich, mouth filling, toasty oak, dried fruit, hint of mocha on palate. Finished with Spicy and smooth. Well balanced.
- Glenmorangie Signet** 46% vol. 77
The nose begins with chocolate raisins and sugared mixed peels. Sweet, syrupy cinnamon and before a suggestion of Terry's Chocolate Orange rises. A hint of lime rind, lychees and dates.

- Teaninich 10 Years** 43% vol. 66
Pale gold colour, with an aromatic, fruity and smoky nose. Medium to rich body, with an appetizing and lightly peaty palate. Leafy and herbal and complex finish.
- Tomatin 12 Years** 40% vol. 55
Tasty combination of fruit and spice, with fresh aromas of green apple balanced by richer, spicier notes of cinnamon, nutmeg and Parma violets, along with a touch of milk chocolate
- Tomatin 15 Years** 46% vol. 67
Gentle, balanced with orchard fruits, oak, blossom, orange too, creamy vanilla, toffee on the nose. Creamy and soft with a prominence of fruit and malt, caramel, citrus on the palate.
- Tomatin 18 Years** 46% vol. 76
Rich and sherried, with orchard, citrus and dried fruit – apples, oranges and sultanas on nose. Sweet and honeyed, with a backbone of citrus, fruit cake, chocolate and spice of palate.
- Tullibardine 225 Sauternes Finish** 43% vol. 51
Citrus peels and allspice. Notes of creamy vanilla, golden syrup, cocoa butter and black pepper on the nose. Spiced palate entry with notes of candied orange and Seville marmalade.
- Tullibardine 228 Burgundy Finish** 43% vol. 51
Spiced, with notes of red berry fruit, vanilla and toasted oak on nose. Creamy, nutty palate entry with notes of sweet custard, apple peel, red berries and orange blossom honey on palate.

ISLAY

The region is known for its peaty single malts. Most of them produce strong, peaty and smoky whiskies, which divide whisky drinkers into two camps: love or hate. There is no middle ground.

Ardbeg Uigeadail 46% vol. 65

Multifaceted, notes of peat and little flourishes of dark sugar, freshly ground espresso beans, cereal notes and a most sophisticated tar on the nose. Led by sweet, ripe fruit and black forest.

Ardbeg 10 Years 46% vol. 51

A ridge of vanilla leads to mountain of peat capped with citrus fruits and circled by clouds of sea spray on the nose. Sweet vanilla counterbalanced with lemon and lime followed by smoke.

Bowmore 12 Years 40% vol. 30

Amber in colour with a salty, sea weedy and malty nose. Medium body, the palate is complex with lots of flavour development. Remarkable long and salty finish

Bowmore Cask Strength 56% vol. 50

Fresh sea wind with sweet malt and smoke on the nose. Strong at the start, heavy on the malt with peat smoke on the palate. Finished with long and strong.

Bowmore Dusk 45% vol. 62

Fruity and well-balanced, with notes of cedar wood, oak smoke and salinity. Very wine-like, with hints of hemp, calves leather. Floral, peaty, apple peels on the nose. Soft and fruity.

Bruichladdich Links 45% vol. 60

Dominant honeyed fruit foundation. Fresh and appetizing “sea breeze” character dovetails nicely. Fuller, rounded, and with a bit more going on here than the Full Strength expression.

Bunnahabhain Eirigh Na Greine 46.3% vol. 55

A limited-edition Bunnahabhain that combines the distillery’s signature flavours of fruit and nuts, and hints of sea salt and smoke with rich, sweet spice from ageing in red-wine casks.

Bunnahabhain Cruach-Mhona 50% vol. 59

Cruach-Mhona, gaelic for ‘peat stack’, a pile of drying peat bricks cut for fuel, is a departure from Bunnahabhain’s usual style, adding in some peat to their normally unpeated spirit.

Caol Ila 12 Years 43% vol. 59

Intense and rich, with malted barley and gentle floral touches overcome by smoky notes. Light and fresh, with toffee, vanilla and pear balanced by smoke and ashy touches on the palate.

Laphroaig 10 Years 40% vol. 46

This opens on big, smoky muscular peat notes. There are spices, and liquorice, as well as a big dose of salt. This whisky has become slightly sweeter in recent years, and it appears beautiful.

SPEYSIDE

Speyside is the Whisky Manhattan. Speyside malts from these fifty or so distilleries are known for being frugal with peat and lavish with nutty fruit flavours. Apple, pear, honey, vanilla and spice all have in the Speyside style.

Aberlour Double Cask 12 years 40% vol. 61

Big sweet butter hit, with maple syrup, brown sugar, plump raisins, nutmeg, milk chocolate and more of the char from the nose. Medium length, with chocolate, raisins and more char.

Aultmore 12 Years 46% vol. 67

Very fresh and vibrant. Clean, refreshing notes of Cox's apple and pear, with a gentle creaminess and some aromatic floral notes, too. A touch richer on the palate than expected, but still soft and fruity, with some sweet pastry/custard-tart notes. Florality lifts the palate.

Balvenie Triple Cask 12 Years 40% vol. 62

Oak shaving mingled with a whiff of camp-fire-cooked sausages. A sweet elixir formed from the teardrops of Mermaids followed by a subtle hint of South Pacific Volcanic ash.

Craigellachie 13 Years 46% vol. 67

Aromas of oozing toasted marshmallows, and baked apples studded with cloves, with the tang of sulphury, cordite lingering in the background. Taste delivers malty, sweet complexity, with a finish that is slightly smokey.

Glen Grant 10 Years 40% vol. 44

Medium bodied. Vanilla, toffee apple. Herbal, hint of smoke on the nose. Firm. Sweetness, fruity, vanilla. Gentle peat, malty on the palate. Finished with a dry, supple peat, toffee

Glen Grant The Major's Reserve 40% vol. 33

Custard sweets, candied lemon, zingy apple and a general youthful freshness on the nose. Soft and oily, apple skin, sour lemon zest, and a light touch of sponge cake batter on the palate.

Glen Moray 15 Years 40% vol. 56

Matured in a combination of bourbon and sherry casks. A rich, sweet and full-bodied whisky with notes of spiced dark chocolate and butter toffee.

Glen Moray 18 Years 40% vol. 75

Sweet as it opens with white chocolate and caramel on the nose. A hint of charred oak smokiness develops. Sea salt flakes, banana fritters and chocolate raisins on the palate.

Glenlivet 18 Years 43% vol. 64

Dark chocolate and glacé cherries, with apple and creamy vanilla-infused crème brûlée on the nose. Thick and fruit, with cream, stewed apple, candied orange and sweet vanilla on the palate.

Macallan 12 Years 40% vol. 64

Classic dried fruit & butterscotch on the nose. Creamy and honeyed with some marmalade, cinnamon and warm pastries from palate. Finished fruity with vanilla and sultana.

- Macallan Select Oak** 40% vol. 66
Toasted oak, pepper and marshmallows, fruits, Black Forest Gateaux. Nutty, almonds, calves leather, vanilla, sherried peels and ginger.
- Macallan 15 Years** 43% vol. 86
Notes of rich, lush stone fruits and Bramley apple, a hint of peel and some Calvados. There are some dry wood notes with a definite mustiness. The palate is quite full and round.
- Speyburn 10 Years** 40% vol. 44
Nose is quite citrusy and zesty. Sugared orange peels and herbal notes, wood shavings and pine oil, rubbed spearmint leaves and winter spice. The palate is of medium-body and quite smooth.
- Singleton 15 Years** 40% vol. 68
A cautious start with soft hints of melon and summer citrus fruit, opening up to reveal firm waxy notes and rich floral aromas; a whole garden of geraniums and roses.
- Tomintoul 10 Years** 40% vol. 37
Medium-body and well-balanced. There are notes of vanilla fudge and barley. Tones of malt extract and espresso, hints of mochaccino and oak.

THE ISLAND

The Islands represent a very diverse region and one that is not strictly recognized as a region by the Scotch Whisky Association - technically the Islands are a part of the Highlands.

Isle of Jura 16 Years 40% vol. 58

Fragrant, slightly floral, some minerality at first, becomes increasingly creamy with a hint of orange. Mixed nuts, redcurrant, green apple and finally dark chocolate and spice on the nose.

Talisker 10 Years 45.8% vol. 57

A fresh and fragrant nose. Thick, pungent smoke comes sweet pear and apple peels, with pinches of maritime salt from kippers, seaweed on the nose. Beautiful balance from the palate.

THE LOWLANDS

The Lowlands can play truant from peat or salinity. Triple distilled malts are characteristic of the region, offering a gentle, elegant palate. Produced drams doted on by lovers of the aperitif and mellow malt.

Auchentoshan Springwood 40% vol. 45

Light and fragrant with classic bourbon-cask vanilla and honey, with hints of orange oil shining through. Chocolatey on the palate, with continued vanilla fudge and citrus peels.

BLENDED SCOTCH WHISKY

Roughly nine out of 10 bottles of Scotch sold around the world are blends – that is, a mix of grain and single malt whiskies. These products are the lifeblood of the industry and the liquid expression of an art form.

Chivas Regal 18 Years 40% vol. 61

Lightly sour fruit, with milky coffee, chocolate touches and oaky vanilla on the nose. Oak focused, with cinnamon and nutmeg spice, hints of dried fruit, and lashings of vanilla.

Compass Box Oak Cross 43% vol. 74

Light but bold, confident aromas of clay, flowers, some spice, suntan lotion & jojoba. Peanut oil and oak. Luscious mouth feels heather honey sweetness that turns to spicy excitement.

Dewar's White Label 40% vol. 33

Honey, peach, apple & wood on the nose. Cut hay. Medium bodied, vanilla fudge, smoke, toffee, heather honey & oak on the palate. Finished with a good length, cut herbs, honeyed sweetness.

Dewar's The Monarch 15 Years 40% vol. 66

Nice balance of sherry spice, hints of nut and apple skin leading onto a palate of walnut, fresh malt and juicy sultanas with a little vanilla and toffee. A slightly grassy finish with notes of dried fruits.

Dewar's The Vintage 18 Years 40% vol. 86

Bright and tart aromas of red cherries and citrus peel married with honey, heather, dry grass, and vanilla almond cookies. The palate sings a slightly different tune with early notes of malt, melodies of delicate smoke and wisps of briny sea breeze. There are subtle fruity vanilla flavors and the whisky has a delicious creamy texture.

Famous Grouse 40% vol. 33

Balanced, biscuit-laden palate with a core of thick, creamy malt. Just a hint of spice and the vaguest whisper of smoke really bring a great deal of complexity.

Haig Club 40% vol. 62

Apple crumble, expressed lemon peel and a touch of mango. Millionaire's shortbread, banoffee pie, coconut milk, dried grass, orange Turkish delight and cardamom on the nose.

Johnnie Walker Blue Label 40% vol. 82

Notes of oak, crisp spice, dried fruit, pastries. Berry fruits, aniseed, hints of cedar, a touch of spice and citrus on the nose. Good toffee and hints of very wistful smoke.

Johnnie Walker XR 21 Years 40% vol. 82

Spiced apple, smoky and a little toasted brioche on the nose. Herbaceous. This gives way to orange and lemon by the bucket-load, followed by another kick of smoky malt on the palate.

Monkey Shoulder 40% vol. 48

Malty, creamy delivery with a suggestion of berry fruit. Juicy, cloves and butterscotch on the nose. Manuka honey, hot-buttered-toast and dried apricot develop on the palate.

IRISH WHISKEY

Irish whiskeys are often thought to be smooth, fruity, and triple distilled and many of them are, but this isn't the full story. The Irish are widely credited as being the first to distil whiskey, though this is strictly contested by the Scots.

Bushmills Black Bush 40% vol. 37

A distinctive aroma with spicy, malty and nutty sweet sherry notes. Hint of spicy fruit. Floats across your tongue to the back of your throat where it rests as slight sherry sweetness.

Connemara Peated Single Malt 40% vol. 43

Well-smoked and peated, heather freshness and floral notes with a honeyed sweetness on the nose. Smooth with notes of malt and peat, honeyed smoke and barley sweetness on the palate.

Teeling Single Grain Whiskey 46% vol. 49

Honeyed apple flesh and red grape, sweet and slightly floral with fragrant vanilla and spice, and brown sugar on nose. It's treacle on the palate, but light and buttery with dried cranberry.

The Irishman 12 Years 43% vol. 63

From the exquisite aroma there is no mistaking the influence of the ex-Bourbon casks with the light sweet spicy notes of vanilla, cinnamon and even a tincture of clove.

AMERICAN WHISKEY

What began as a way for dirt-poor early American farmers to scratch a living from their fields has become one of the world's great drinks. Kentucky Straight Bourbon has survived temperance, Prohibition and war.

Jack Daniel's, Gentleman Jack 40% vol. 43

Light and fruity. Honey, crisp apples and a little bit of toasted oak for good measure on the nose. Corn, dried fruits, vanilla toffee and a hint of spice on the palate.

Knob Creek 9 Years 50% vol. 51

The nose is quite spicy and sweet. Also melted salty butter on granary toast; there are notes of toasty oak and a touch of rye with caramel sweetness. The palate is quite peppery and full.

Maker's Mark 45% vol. 43

Fruity and rich. There are lovely notes of spiced honey and mixed peels, a little malmsey, hazelnut and a touch of cut fruit with toasty oak providing a backbone on the nose.

Rebel Yell Small Batch Rye 45% vol. 59

There's that spicy rye in place of the wheat off the bat with sweet vanilla and hints of chocolate on the nose. Woody sultanas, rich warming spice and vanilla from the palate.

INDIAN SINGLE MALT WHISKY

India's climate proffers a speedy maturation. They are often examples of youthful exuberance, enjoyable and of a defined style in their own right. Plenty of tropical fruit and toffee, there have been a few peaty offerings too.

Amrut 46% vol. 35

Intense scent of barley and grain, nutty, citrus, apricot. On the Palate - barley, honey develops with allspice, apricot, rum. Finish with apples, apricot, greengages, malt, fruit.

Amrut Intermediate Sherry 46% vol. 37

Intense dark fruit, banana and cake light vanilla. On the palate, dark chocolate, rich dry Sherry and nuts.

Amrut Portonova 48% vol. 41

Fruity, chocolate-driven nose with syrup, toffee and a hint of coconut, pepper and red berries. On the palate, ruity and intense with tropical fruits, redcurrant jelly, baked bananas and cinnamon. Finish with long and fruity, hints of cranberry.

Amrut Fusion 50% vol. 35

Rich scent of barley, fruity. big on citrus, spices, creamy sweetness. A hint of peat. On the palate- oaky, rich, gentle peat, coffee, dark chocolate. Finish with long, spiced, marmalade, sweetness.

TAIWANESE SINGLE MALT WHISKY

Had always been kept primitive and protected from the outside world by the Syue-shan mountain range which is abundant in high quality natural water that comes from deep within the mountain range.

Kavalan Solist Ex-Bourbon Cask 57.8% vol. 85

Delightfully complex, multi-dimensional single malt whisky, with vanilla, fruit and coconut highlights. Matured in hand selected American ex-Bourbon casks.

Kavalan Bourbon Cask 46% vol. 78

Muted marshmallow and bubble gum in the opening whiffs. Slowly builds with added vanilla and stone fruits continuing through to an initially lean, then well rounded fruity/malty mid palate featuring stewed pear and sweet spices.

Kavalan Classic 40% vol. 79

Elegant, floral (pleasant & refreshing fragrance of the butterfly orchid), fruity and seductive. With hints of honey, mango, pear drop, vanilla, coconuts and suggestions of chocolate.

Kavalan Sherry Oak 46% vol. 81

Rich sherry-cask notes - dates, prunes and raisins, with spice and savoury umami touches. Sweet and thick, with dried berries, black pepper, tobacco and dark chocolate.

Kavalan Concertmaster 46% vol. 85

Port Cask Finish

Red grapes and clove, followed by a good whack of vanilla. A little bit of tobacco leaf and cookie dough on the nose. Brown sugar mixed with ground cinnamon and white pepper.

JAPANESE WHISKY

The Japanese have received great acclaim for their expanding range of single malt whiskies. These are produced just as any single malt whisky, distilled from nothing other than yeast, water and malted barley at a single distillery before a maturation of at least three years and a day in oak casks.

SINGLE MALT

Yamazaki 12 Years

43% vol.

233

Body with plenty of nut oils and zest, a pleasant floral character with a little tropical fruit and a rooty note. On the palate, smooth and soft with good sweetness and winter spice. A lovely citrus note develops with more tropical fruit notes and a little rum.

SINGLE GRAIN

Suntory Chita

43% vol.

68

Honeydew melon, citrus and honey'd cereal on the nose. Vanilla sponge cake and more honey. A touch of orchard blossom on the palate. Finished with a medium length, rather zesty.

BLENDED

Hibiki Japanese Harmony 43% vol. 81

Sherry casks and Mizunara oak casks. An elegant expression, with wafts of honey, orange, a herbaceous touch or two and light oak.

Mars Iwai Tradition 40% vol. 64

Ripe orchard fruit, berries, nutty & earthy undertone with faint smoke and vanilla. Rounded and rich, buttery, caramel, pear, oak, grass, peppermint.

Suntory Special Reserve 40% vol. 70

Peaches, apple custard, crepes with sliced banana and sweetened whipped cream. On palate cloves, ginger cookies and or traditional spicy ginger ale. Creamy and mellow.

Suntory Royal 43% vol. 75

Sweet toffee and caramel. Artificial aromas, like Werther's original toffee. Hints of fruity notes, ginger and other minty spices.

TEQUILA

Beyond shots, slammers and hangovers, Tequila is a remarkable drink which can express the nuances of its raw material arguably better than any other spirit on the planet. The key to its unique flavour is the spikily distinctive blue agave plant, which gives Tequila its trademark flavour combination of fruit, pepper and spice.

Corralejo, Reposado 37% vol. 33

Smoke from the American oak, seems at the fore, then the cinnamon, clove, nutmeg and black pepper kick in. Mushrooms notes before twirling into flavours of dark chocolate and vanilla.

**ArteNOM Seleccion 1549
Organico, Blanco** 40% vol. 43

Nose along with ripe pineapple, salt, light cinnamon, subtle green jalapeño pepper, and dill. On palate, rich roasted agave flavor, ripe pineapple, and banana with spicy white pepper.

Casamigos, Blanco 40% vol. 45

Fresh, with clean notes of lemon, black pepper, and nutmeg. Faintly buttery, too, lifted by aromatic floral notes. Rich, smooth mouthfeel & clean. Touch of vegetal with the agave and green-pepper notes coming through.

Casamigos, Reposado 40% vol. 51

Fragrant nose, with aromas of black pepper, violets, nutmeg and vegetal notes from the agave. Elegant and subtle. Smooth mouthfeel, with black pepper, heady floral notes and rather rich texture.

Casamigos, Añejo 40% vol. 55

Rich, with refreshing black-pepper hit. There's some perky spiciness in there, plus sweet vanilla and custard notes from the barrel. Nice agave savouriness, balanced by creamy notes from the oak, enlivened by black pepper. Still fresh and vibrant.

Jose Cuervo Reserva de la Familia, Extra Añejo 40% vol. 79

Aromas of fresh vanilla-fudge, medium oak and roasted agave. The mouthfeel is thick and unctuous, deep oak, agave, roasted pineapple, vanilla pound-cake and piloncillo sugar.

MEZCAL

Alipús San Luis, Blanco 47.1% vol. 42

Durian, cream, butter cream frosting, overripe tropical fruit all burst on the nose. On the palate, salinity, chili pepper, and cashew fruit come to play.

Casamigos, Joven 40% vol. 58

Balanced and elegant, offering harmonious hints of tamarind, pomegranate, banana and mango. Fresh herbal mint aromas, dried oregano and thyme lend character to the mezcal. The delicate tones of smoke, hints of licorice and mineral nuances lead to a long silky finish.

VODKA

Vodka is much more interesting than it might appear to the casual observer. Scrape beneath the surface and you'll find a spirit with a rich and diverse history, made from a variety of raw materials, each of which affect the finished product's final taste.

Grey Goose, France 40% vol. 41
Crisp, sweet and clean, with lemon and coconut. Very soft with double cream sweetness and a touch of developing bitterness. Lingering warmth with cream and sweet anis.

Belvedere, Poland 40% vol. 41
Notes of vanilla and rye on the palate, the finish is crisp and clean with lingering white pepper spice. Distinctive creamy mouth feel. Its aromas is a blend of vanilla, rye and white pepper.

Royal Dragon Imperial, Russia 40% vol. 55
Infused with edible 24-carat gold leaves from Switzerland, for those who like to enjoy an unmatched level of perfection. Five-times distilling produces supreme softness and purity.

RUM

Rum is such an evocative spirit. It transforms, transcends and instantly transports the drinker to the sun-washed shores of the West Indies. It always has a sense of joviality, and also the unabashed decadence surrounding a libation made from sugar.

Bacardi 8 Year Old Reserva Ocho, 40% vol. 57
Puerto Rico

The nose is fresh and perfumed with notes of oak and peels, a little syrup with a fennel note. The palate is sweet and rich with tropical fruits, peels and winter spice. The finish is gentle and luscious.

Chairman's Reserve Forgotten Casks, 40% vol. 41
Saint Lucia

On nose, spicy and intense with coffee beans and cocoa, maple spice and vanilla, a little potpourri and coffee beans. On palate, shows dark rich spices, apricot jam, golden syrup, toffee brittle, coffee and treacle.

Phraya Gold, Thailand 40% vol. 42

Rich vanilla, honey and coconut, layered with gentle spiciness of cloves and raisins. Smooth, crème brûlée and butterscotch.

Diplomático Reserva Exclusiva, 40% vol. 44
Venezuela

Complex fruit cake and rum'n'raisin ice cream, sprinkled with cocoa and baked bananas on the nose. The texture is very generous, rounded by the oak.

Diplomático Single Vintage 2000, 43% vol. 120
Venezuela

Golden syrup and dried fruit lead the palate, with vanilla ice cream and oaky flavours - cinnamon, green leaves and tree bark. Rum 'n raisin fudge as well as real raisins, apricots, dates and richly pungent honey round things out.

Diplomático Ambassador 47% vol. 198
Venezuela

Rich and fruity with a buttery biscuit base, cinnamon, dried apricots, dates and Nutella. The predominant flavour, however, is of really good sweet pipe tobacco.