

SPINK

e-Catalogue

SFW40 - Spink x Cask 88 E-Auction - e-Auction

Lot 1

**IMAGE
PENDING**

SPINK
WHERE HISTORY IS VALUED

CAWDOR-2016-#372Note: 'Royal Brackla' is the name used by official releases from the Royal Brackla distillery, and 'Cawdor Springs' is a pseudonym that is occasionally used for spirit produced at the distillery. Any bottles produced by third parties may not take the name 'Royal Brackla', but can indicate that the whisky was distilled at 'Royal Brackla Distillery'.Distillery: Royal Brackla DistilleryRegion: HighlandAge: 5 yearsDistillation Date: 7th November 2016Cask type: Sherry ButtPeated?: NoRe-gauge ABV: 68.5%Re-gauged Litres of Alcohol (RLA): 290.3 litresNew Bulk Litres: 423.8 litresRe-gauge Date: 27th July 2022Bottles: 605Cask Number: 372Gorgeously Indulgent Sherry Butt From a Distillery with Royal ApprovalCask DescriptionThe SpiritBrackla distillery takes its water from Cawdor springs, a source of pure and sweet water once any twigs leaves from the ambulatory Birnham wood are filtered out. This water is used to make a spirit that is exceptionally clean and sharp in flavour.A medium-long ~70hr fermentation produces clear fruity and floral aromas, which are aggressively refined in tall stills that have upward-angled line arms. Only the very lightest aromatics can escape these stills and become part of this spirit.The WoodThis whisky has been introduced to a sherry cask early in its life, and this ensures that the indulgent essence of sherry will go right to the whisky's core. Since Brackla's spirit is so clear and aromatic, this combines with the sherry wood to produce a whisky that is almost as perfumed as retsina or communion wine. In the words of its previous owner, 'the liquid is gorgeous'The MastersThis whisky was distilled under the purview of operations manager Iain Lochhead, who came to whisky from the world of science and bioengineering. Under his watch and technical nous, Royal Brackla's distillation processes were perfected, and the reasons for why certain techniques had traditionally been employed were given a scientific backing. The distillery also improved its energy efficiency and water usage in this time.The HistoryBrackla distillery, founded and licensed on the estate of Cawdor castle in 1817, has one of the longest histories among all Scotland's distilleries. Furthermore, it is the first distillery ever to be granted a Royal Warrant: the ability to bear the royal crest and create products to supply the royal household - a privilege shared only with Royal Lochnagar and Laphroaig.The distillery's founder, Captain William Fraser, did not suffer fools or people who tried to impede his plans. Described as 'aloof, arrogant, spiteful and dishonest' by his enemies, the Captain's stubbornness was of great benefit to Scotch whisky as a whole. Frustrated by local moonshiners eroding his market share at Brackla, he shipped his whisky further afield, eventually becoming the most celebrated malt in London in the 1830s. From there, the first Royal Warrant was granted by King William IV and renewed by Queen Victoria, catapulting the newly re-named 'Royal Brackla' to stardom.Tasting NotesNose:Very nutty on the nose, especially pecan and coconut. These sit in a brittle of caramel, burnt toffee and apricots and sesame seeds. A little spiciness of chilli and lemongrass follows.Palate:Dark chocolate and orange torte, dusted with cocoa powder and pistachio nuts. Rhubarb and fig compote joins the torte, while the finish tapers off into spiced chai, tobacco leaf and a tingle of szechuan pepper.

Estimate
HK\$8,000 to HK\$11,000

Lot 2

**IMAGE
PENDING**

SPINK
WHERE HISTORY IS VALUED

BEN NEVIS-2013-#237Distillery: Ben NevisRegion: HighlandsAge: 9 yearsDistillation Date: 16th May 2013Cask type: Refill Bourbon BarrelPeated?: NoRe-gauge ABV: 58.4%Re-gauged Litres of Alcohol (RLA): 100.6 litresNew Bulk Litres: 172.2 litresRe-gauge Date: 27th July 2022Bottles: 246Cask Number: 237A Complex Dram Characteristic of the Beloved West Highland DistilleryCask DescriptionThe SpiritSince inception, Ben Nevis distillery has produced excellent west-Highland character whisky with a full body, floral notes overlapping the richness of honey and dried fruits. The distillery is unusual in Scotland for keeping up a tradition of mixing some brewer's yeast in during fermentation. This slower, fussier breed of yeast is less efficient at making alcohol, but particularly good at generating fruity esters. This trade-off is immediately apparent in the rich bouquet of Ben Nevis' spirit.The WoodBen Nevis typically matures whisky in ex-bourbon hogsheads to start, before finishing them in ex-sherry casks to lend extra body and texture. This Ben Nevis is still in its first stage ex-bourbon hoggie, actively in the process of layering the flavours that sit at the core of Ben Nevis malt.This leaves the owner of the cask with a choice - re-rack the whisky into a sherry cask and produce a classic style Ben Nevis, or leave the whisky in the original Hogshead for a longer period of more gentle ex-bourbon maturation. There's also the opportunity to see how Ben Nevis might interact with a novel cask type never seen before. Ben Nevis is robust - it can take it!The MastersBen Nevis had the steady hands of Colin Ross at its helm since 1989, in an unbroken stint until his sad death last year. Colin navigated his beloved distillery into the 21st century without sacrificing the particular historical quirks that make Ben Nevis special. In 2015, he was inducted into the Whisky Hall of Fame, an honour reserved for the brightest stars in the industry."Colin takes people on a journey with him. He instils his work ethic and values, and is an incredible motivator, allowing people to realise their potential. His door is always open and he makes time to listen and offer advice." - from the Whisky Hall of FameThe HistoryThe Ben Nevis distillery is one of the most scenic in Scotland, situated between the shores of Loch Linnhe and the foot of the UK's highest mountain from which the distillery takes its name. It has been around since licensing began, when its founder - the colourful 'Long John' Macdonald took out a licence in 1825. Over the centuries, Ben Nevis distillery has been a producer of both single malts and coffey still whiskies, often blending them on site to create 'the Dew of Ben Nevis'. In 1989, the distillery was purchased by the Nikka group, who had long been importing Ben Nevis' whisky to Japan to create novel blends of Japanese and Scottish heritage. These days, with the changes in Japanese whisky regulations, Nikka have re-focused on the excellent single malt whisky of Ben Nevis whose popularity grows in markets around the world.Tasting NotesNose:Textbook Ben Nevis on the nose - a hit of fruity, with some earthiness in support. Peach, apple and sultana lead into heather, cut grass and damp moss. Milk chocolate and middle-eastern sweetmeats are also on offer.Palate:Bitter orange marmalade, liqueur fudge and hazelnuts, all scattered with desiccated coconut. A light coffee cake served with vanilla chantilly. A longish liquorice finish.

Estimate
HK\$10,000 to HK\$13,000

Lot 3

**IMAGE
PENDING**

SPINK
WHERE HISTORY IS VALUED

PORT DUNDAS-2009-#756146Distillery: Port DundasRegion: LowlandsCask type: Ex-Bourbon HogsheadPeated?: NoRe-gauge ABV: 58.0%Re-gauged Litres of Alcohol (RLA): 126.4 litresNew Bulk Litres: 218 litresRe-gauge Date: 5th August 2022Bottles: 311Cask Number: 756146One of the last casks ever filled at an awe-inspiring Glasgow grain whisky distilleryCask DescriptionThe SpiritPort Dundas used to be the biggest distillery by capacity in the 1930s, with over two million gallons of spirit coming off their three Coffey and five pot stills every year. Their single grain whisky was conceived to be the backbone of flagship blends, but it is a fantastic spirit in its own right, and of particular interest to those who are discovering the joys of aged single grain whisky. Their use of barley and rye is common in Scottish grain whisky distilling, but the addition of American corn to the mix gives the spirit a full-bodied creaminess, which may have positioned them as a real innovator if their doors were still open today.The WoodPort Dundas owners Diageo also own American whisky brands Seagrams 7 Crown and Bulleit Bourbon, so it would not be unreasonable to assume that this ex-bourbon Hogshead previously held some of this liquid. Loved for its ability to accentuate oaky, sweet and vanilla notes in the whisky they hold, ex-bourbon cask maturation has brought appropriate depth of character to a spirit that was already developing a surprisingly full-bodied and floral character. This cask could withstand many more years, even decades, of maturation, so there is the opportunity to explore re-racking to take this spirit in a new direction.The MastersOwners Diageo announced the closure of the Port Dundas distillery in July 2009, so by the time this cask was filled in October 2009, the distillery was already in its final distilling days. As a result, this cask is full of some of the very last spirit to come off the stills at this former powerhouse. The Port Dundas stocks held by Diageo have been used in some of the most beloved blends of all time, including White Horse and Johnnie Walker, and only a handful of age statement expressions from this distillery have ever made it to market. To own one of the few remaining casks of spirit from the Port Dundas distillery is to own a true piece of whisky history.The HistoryPort Dundas was a magnificent sight in central Glasgow - the largest combined single malt and single grain distillery in Scotland during the golden years of blended whisky. It owed its status to being constantly innovative. One of the first places to install the emerging Coffey Still technology before the blending boom made all lowlanders get them, and a pioneering user of corn and rye before they were cool, Port Dundas literally went against the grain. Their flame deserves to be carried further.Tasting NotesNose:The nose is an interesting interplay between floaty floral aromas, and smooth dairy. Green bananas, honeydew melon and rose petals lead, carried in on a wave of unsalted butter, vanilla creme anglaise and fresh burrata.Palate:Surprisingly full bodied for a grain whisky. Peach melba, gummy bears and pine resin are almost viscous on the tongue. Milk bottle gummies follow and turn the flavours towards an umami finish of beef tartare and walnut-spice. Quite a journey!

Estimate
HK\$8,500 to HK\$11,000

Lot 4

**IMAGE
PENDING**

SPINK
WHERE HISTORY IS VALUED

DALRYMPLE-2015-#21 Distillery: Ailsa Bay Region: Lowlands Age: 7 years Distillation Date: 28th August 2015 Cask type: Ex-Bourbon Barrel Peated?: No Re-gauge ABV: 60.7% Re-gauged Litres of Alcohol (RLA): 89.6 litres New Bulk Litres: 147.6 litres Re-gauge Date: 27th July 2022 Bottles: 210 Cask Number: 21 Sweet Shop Delights From a Distillery with Exacting Specifications Cask Description The Spirit Ailsa Bay is a lowland distillery, set up by William Grant and Sons to be experimental, informed by science, and use an exacting approach to producing single malt whisky. While Ailsa Bay's spirit is usually peated, the Dalrymple variety uses no peat. You'd be forgiven for thinking you'd wandered into Balvenie distillery if you managed to gain access to Ailsa Bay (they are not a visitor-focused distillery) - the stills here are shaped like those at Balvenie to produce a spirit that is very like the beloved Speysider. This 2015 spirit was sweet from the outset, with many fruity and confection-like aromas. The Wood Seven years in an ex-bourbon barrel has enhanced the natural sweetness of the Dalrymple spirit. Vanillin levels are quite high, and the whisky feels soft and velvety on the palate, implying a certain oiliness that bodes well for a longer maturation. If you wish to take this excellent ex-bourbon style whisky down a more 'Balvenie' route, it would likely take re-racking into a sherry cask very well, enjoying some spice to go with its sweetness. The Master Brian Kinsman is a chemist by training, inclined towards a scientific view of whisky - and a desire to understand it at a fundamental level. His 25 year career with William Grant & Sons began with his exceptional nose impressing his employers. In his current position of Master Blender for the company, he has developed an innovative and precise distilling regime at Ailsa Bay distillery, finding the perfect balance of sweetness and smokiness, down to the part per million of the whisky's chemical components. Though there is no peated malt used in the creation of this Dalrymple, the other elements of this whisky have been precisely engineered according to Mr. Kinsman's exacting specifications. "Every cask is different, which is why blending is more of an art than a science and built up through a lifetime of experience. Our whiskies will long outlive me." - Brian Kinsman The History Ailsa Bay distillery is built alongside William Grant & Sons grain whisky distillery Girvan, on the previous site of Ladyburn distillery. It is the third most southerly whisky distillery in Scotland and is one of the key players in the resurgence of Lowland single malt. It was built relatively recently, in 2007, at a time where the popularity of Balvenie and Glenfiddich was such that these distilleries couldn't keep up with demand. Ailsa Bay's 8 stills are the same shape as those at Balvenie to enable this new distillery to be scientific in its approach and be able to produce whisky that's not just reminiscent of Balvenie, but also to experiment with the formula, producing more peaty, fruity, malty or nutty variants. Tasting Notes Nose: This is sweet in true Ailsa Bay distillery style - with great intentionality in the levels of vanilla, citrus, and soft sweets like marshmallows, foam bananas and strawberry bubblegum. There's a drying note of sage and sea air just at the edge of perception. Palate: A more malty, pastry note joins the fruitiness of the nose, introducing apple strudel, Italian meringue and milk chocolate eclairs oozing fresh cream. The citrusyness from the nose now manifests as the sourness of baking apples. The finish is surprisingly malty and fudgy, but quite short.

Estimate
HK\$4,400 to HK\$5,500

Lot 5

**IMAGE
PENDING**

SPINK

WHERE HISTORY IS VALUED

TULLIBARDINE-2012-#652947Distillery: TullibardineRegion: HighlandsAge: 10 yearsDistillation Date: 21st May 2012Cask type: Ex-Bourbon BarrelPeated?: NoRe-gauge ABV: 58.5%Re-gauged Litres of Alcohol (RLA): 90.3 litresNew Bulk Litres: 153.9 litresRe-gauge Date: 5th August 2022Bottles: 219Cask Number: 652947A Classic Highland Malt Offering the Full Orchard, Floral and FruityCask DescriptionThe SpiritAt ten years old, this feels like classic Tullibardine, really committing to the floral, grassy and honey aromas that are a hallmark of Highland whiskies. The distillery's chosen character, as overseen by master distiller John Black, is shown proudly.The WoodThe spirit and the cask complement each other well, without either one dominating the other. Continuing to mature this whisky in ex-bourbon ought to round out the flavours and give them greater depth and coherence, without changing the whisky's character dramatically. A complementary re-rack could work very well, especially into a lighter spirit cask, such as dessert wine or calvados.The MastersThe Tullibardine in this cask was distilled at the start of one era, and the end of another. One year previously, the distillery had been bought by Terroirs Distillers, a French family company who owned wineries and distilleries in France, always with an eye for the land that produced their drinks. Fed by the superb waters of the Ochil Hills, Tullibardine relied on its terroir in a way they found familiar.Sadly, it is also one of the last Tullibardines distilled by the late John Black, a giant of the Scotch whisky industry who served at 12 distilleries over a 55 year career. Tullibardine was his last distillery, and there are special release bottles that bear his name. He died in 2013 and is sadly missed."Whisky is my passion, and I have put my heart and soul into this distillery. I always say that if you find a job you love then you stop 'working'. I am very lucky in that I have to nose and taste whisky in the line of duty and I have been very privileged to have experienced some of the greatest whiskies in Scotland." - John BlackThe HistoryA brewery stood on this site near Blackford since 1488, taking advantage of the excellent water that slowly filters down from the Ochil hills. This brewery provided a cask of ale to King James IV after his coronation - the same James IV whose request to Friar John Cor gives us our first written evidence of Scottish distillation. James IV has been a great supporter of the drinks industry in Scotland.The Tullibardine distillery was built in 1947 by the legendary architect William Delmé-Evans, who was a driving force in the construction of post-war boom distilleries in Scotland. Tullibardine was his first; the realisation of his desire to design and build a modern gravity-flow distillery. Initially created to make a nuttier malt, it has now opted for a lighter and fruitier style.Tasting NotesNose:Very light and floral, with notes of acacia honey, mown grass and orchid flowers. There is also orchard fruitiness in the guise of green apple or dry perries.Palate:Baked pears and apple crumble, both infused with cloves are at the fore. There's a waxiness like a beeswax candle with more honey notes. The finish becomes more herbal and grassy, and then breadly like risen dough.

Estimate

HK\$7,500 to HK\$10,000
