

Country Scotland

Type Single malt

Distillery Ardmore

Region Speyside (Highland)

Name Traditional cask

ABV 46

Cask Oak and quarter cask

Colour Burnished Gold

Bottle volume 1000ml

Price €/cl 0.39

Recommended retail price €/cl 0.57

Place of purchase Heathrow T1



Nose At bottle strength the influence of the two styles of maturation casks compliment each other producing a full bodied smooth aroma. The maturity that shows through comes from the America barrels and the spicy creamy nose from the old style smaller casks. A touch of water allows the full complexity of the Highland Peated Malt to appear. The rich softness linked with smooth, slightly dry aroma is combined with just enough earthy peat smoke to avoid being overpowering. Full of caramel. Toasted oak is evident and rich and just the faintest peat has muscled its way through.

Palate At bottle strength the full rich flavours burst and fill the mouth with a creamy peat tang and a touch of vanilla's soft gentleness. If a touch of water is added then the flavours increase with the addition of a sweet ripe fruit start followed by the tang of peat. Lots of barley and cereal notes, oodles of rich bourbon, smoke and peat still present. Charming interplay through the caramel sweetness and the vanilla spiced oak.

Finish Full, succulent and quite long. The full bodied smoothness can be best appreciated at bottling strength but with a touch of water the full complexity can be recognized. Has a sharp edge, more caramel and sugary barley notes and a lanolin smoothness and more tapering smoke.

Ratings 4/5 masterofmalt.com, 82/100 connosr.com, 83.5/100 allthingswhisky.com