

# SCOTLAND WHISKY

SEE THE COUNTRY TASTE THE SPIRIT

## Single Malt Scotch Whisky Regions



Scotland can be broken into four geographical regions when looking at strong characteristics in Single Malt Whisky. As with everything, there are exceptions to the rule, but in very broad terms these descriptions will assist you when choosing whiskies:

### **The Lowlands**

The Lowland region lies south of a line drawn from the Clyde estuary, on the west coast, to the Tay estuary on the east coast. There are fewer distilleries in the Lowland region than in any other of the regions. Whiskies from Lowland distilleries tend to be much softer and lighter in character. They often display very malty, grassy characteristics and more subtle delicate aromas

than whiskies from other regions. Examples of brands include Glenkinchie and Auchentoshan

### **The Highlands**

Moving north of this imaginary line stretching from the Clyde to the Tay takes us into the Highland region. The Highland region includes most of the rest of mainland Scotland. Given the size of the area, a very large number of characteristics can be found in Highland Malt Whiskies. Generalisations about the Highland region are less valid, as its whiskies will range from dry and heathery to sweet and fruity -some even have a touch of smoke partly due to their proximity to the west coast. Brands from this region include Glenmorangie, Old Pulteney, Glenturret and Aberfeldy.

### **Speyside**

Technically Speyside lies within the Highland region. It is home to approximately half of Scotland's malt whisky distilleries. This small area of land located to the north west of Aberdeen produces mellow, sweet, malty and particularly fruity, malt whiskies. Speyside whiskies include Glenfiddich, The Macallan, Aberlour, Glenfarclas, and Strathisla.

### **Islands (excluding Islay)**

The Islands stretch from the Orkney Islands located to the north coast of Scotland, all the way down the west coast encompassing Skye, Jura, Mull, and Arran. The Islands produce whiskies with coastal influences e.g. salty tang, fresh sea air. They vary significantly in their character with a number having strong peaty flavours e.g. Highland Park, and others which are lighter and Highland in style e.g. Isle of Jura.

## **Islay**

The most robust and strongly peated single malts are distilled on Islay. With the most heavily peated and smoky tasting whiskies originating from distilleries located on south coast of the Island. Brands from Islay include Laphroaig, Lagavulin, Bowmore and Ardbeg.

## **Campeltown**

Historical a very significant region based around the settlement of Campeltown on the Mull of Kintyre (made famous by the Paul McCartney song). There were once 30 distilleries in area, but now there are only three. The most famous of the remaining distilleries is the independently owned Springbank. The distilleries use to produce distinctly briny whiskies.