

2016 International Whisky Competition

Official Results

Awards, Scores and Winners



International Whisky Competition Committee

Chicago, IL USA

Monday, May 16, 2016

www.whiskycompetition.com

2016 Highlights

Foreword

The 7th edition of the International Whisky Competition took place in Chicago over three days, from April 20 to 22. A world-class tasting panel made of whisky, spirit, beer and wine experts blind tasted each whisky on an individual basis. Each whisky was scored using a comprehensive 100-point scale system developed by Sebastien Gavillet, IWC Head of Tasting Panel and author of *Discovering and Mastering Single Malt Scotch Whisky*. This process undoubtedly makes the International Whisky Competition one of the most professional competitions of its kind in the world. No whisky scored below 71.

A World-Class Scoring System

Judges had to blind taste, judge and score each whisky individually during five minutes based on the four main segments and eleven sub sections below:

- **Sight:** Colours (0 points), Visual appeal (5 points)
- **Nose:** Intensity and complexity (15 points), Distinctiveness of aromas (10 points), Balance of aromas (10 points)
- **Taste-Mouth Feel:** Palate and balance (10 points), Alcohol, body and complexity (10 points), Distinctiveness of flavours (10 points), Balance between flavours (10 points)
- **Finish:** Length and finish (10 points), Quality of finish (10 points)

Unique Medals with Winners Based on Scores

Medals are important and we believe too many medals were awarded in the past by other spirits competitions, making the public suspicious of them. That being said, we're the only competition providing three medals for each category so that each win is unique and not duplicated with generic awards of lesser value.

2016 IWC Top Award

Whisky of the Year

Glenmorangie Signet (97 Points)



Glenmorangie Distillery, winner of the Golden Barrel Trophy

Blind Tasting Notes from some of the judges:

- "Well balanced, beautiful smooth finish."
- "Fantastic dram! Beautifully made and very complex."
- "Just a well-made whisky, near perfect."
- "Elegant & delicate nose with an explosion of flavours on the palate."
- "An exquisite marriage of newer and older barrels."
- "Whoever made this whisky should be very proud."

Master Distiller of the Year

Dr Bill Lumsden, The Glenmorangie Company, Director of Distilling and Whisky Stocks

2016 IWC Winners by Category

Scotland | Ireland | USA | Canada | Rest of the World

Best Single Malt Whisky

Scotland

1st Place: Glenmorangie Signet (97 Points)

2nd Place: Kilchoman Machir Bay (94.5 Points)

3rd Place: Ardbeg 10 Year Old (94.2 Points)

Best Cask Strength (over 55% ABV)

1st Place: Aberlour A'Bunadh (93.3)

2nd Place: Ardbeg Corryvreckan (91.8)

3rd Place: The Glenlivet Nàdurra Peated Whisky Cask Finish (90)

Best Peated Whisky

1st Place: Kilchoman Machir Bay (94.5)

2nd Place: Ardbeg 10 Year Old (94.2)

3rd Place: Kiln Embers (Wemyss Malts) (93.2)

Best Single Malt Scotch NAS (No Age Statement)

1st Place: Glenmorangie Signet (97)

2nd Place: Kilchoman Machir Bay (94.5)

3rd Place: Aberlour A'Bunadh (93.3)

Best Single Malt Scotch 12 Year Old

1st Place: Aberlour 12 Year Old (89.9)

2nd Place: The Dalmore 12 Year Old (87.6)

3rd Place: Aberfeldy 12 Year Old (87.1)

Best Single Malt Scotch 13-17 Year Old

1st Place: Craigellachie 13 Year Old (89.5)

2nd Place: Aberlour 16 Year Old (88.3)

3rd Place: The Dalmore 15 Year Old

Scotland

Best Single Malt Scotch 18 Year Old

- 1st Place: The Glenlivet 18 Year Old (88.5)
- 2nd Place: Glenmorangie 18 Year Old (88.4)
- 3rd Place: Aberlour 18 Year Old (87.1)

Best Single Malt Scotch Over 20 Year Old

- 1st Place: Prometheus 26 Year Old (91.6)
- 2nd Place: Glenmorangie Quarter Century 25 Year Old (91.4)
- 3rd Place: Craigellachie 23 Year Old (90.5)

Best Single Malt (Highlands)

- 1st Place: Glenmorangie Signet (97)
- 2nd Place: Aberlour A'Bunadh (93.3)
- 3rd Place: Glenmorangie Quarter Century 25 Year Old (91.4)

Best Single Malt (Islands)

- 1st Place: Jura Superstition (89.2)
- 2nd Place: Scapa Skiren (87.5)
- 3rd Place: Jura Origin (87)

Best Single Malt (Islay)

- 1st Place: Kilchoman Machir Bay (94.5)
- 2nd Place: Ardbeg 10 Year Old (94.2)
- 3rd Place: Ardbeg Corryvreckan (91.8)

Best Blended Scotch Whisky (All Categories)

- 1st Place: Johnnie Walker Green Label 15 Year Old (96.8)
- 2nd Place: Dewar's Scratched Cask 12 Year Old (96)
- 3rd Place: Teacher's 25 Year Old (94.6)

Best Blended Scotch Whisky NAS (No Age Statement)

- 1st Place: Johnnie Walker Double Black (94)
- 2nd Place: Johnnie Walker Blue Label (91.3)
- 3rd Place: Rock Oyster (Douglas Laing) (91.1)

Best Blended Scotch Whisky 12 Year Old

Scotland

1st Place: Dewar's Scratched Cask 12 Year Old (96)

2nd Place: Dewar's The Ancestor 12 Year Old (94.3)

3rd Place: Johnnie Walker Black Label (89.8)

Best Blended Scotch Whisky 13-17 Year Old

1st Place: Johnnie Walker Green Label 15 Year Old (96.8)

2nd Place: Dewar's The Monarch 15 Year Old (91.7)

Best Blended Scotch Whisky Over 18 Year Old

1st Place: Teacher's 25 Year Old (94.6)

2nd Place: Chivas Regal 18 Year Old (88.8)

3rd Place: The Exclusive Blend 1991

Best Blended Malt Scotch

1st Place: Johnnie Walker Green Label 15 Year Old (96.8)

2nd Place: Rock Oyster (Douglas Laing) (91.1)

Best Value Scotch (Under \$30 and scored over 85 points)

1st Place: Johnnie Walker Red Label (89)

2nd Place: Dewar's White Label Scratched Cask (87.1)

3rd Place: Dewar's White Label (85.2)

Best New Release (Introduced within past year)

1st Place: Kiln Embers (Wemyss Malts) (93.2)

2nd Place: Glenmorangie Milsean (90.1)

3rd Place: Lossit Classic Selection (The Lost Distillery) (86)

Best Irish Whiskey (All categories)

Ireland

1st Place: Midleton Barry Crockett Legacy (94.7)

2nd Place: Redbreast 12 Year Old Cask Strength (90.7)

3rd Place: Barr an Uisce Single Malt (90.6)

Best Blended Irish Whiskey

- 1st Place: Writers Tears Pot Still Blend (88.7)
- 2nd Place: Jameson Select Reserve Black Barrel (86.4)
- 3rd Place: Barr an Uisce Blended (85.9)

Best Pot Still Irish Whiskey

- 1st Place: Midleton Barry Crockett Legacy (94.7)
- 2nd Place: Redbreast 12 Year Old Cask Strength (90.7)
- 3rd Place: Green Spot Château Léoville Barton (90.3)

Best Single Malt Irish Whiskey

- 1st Place: Barr an Uisce Single Malt (90.6)
 - 2nd Place: The Irishman Single Malt (87.5)
 - 3rd Place: Hyde 10 Year Old No.1 President's Cask
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Ireland

Best Bourbon Whiskey

- 1st Place: Chattanooga Whiskey 1816 Cask (92.3)
- 2nd Place: Wild Turkey 101 Bourbon (92)
- 3rd Place: Hirsch Small Batch Reserve Straight Bourbon (89.8)

Best American Rye Whiskey

- 1st Place: Sazerac Straight Rye (91.6)
- 2nd Place: OYO Dark Pumpernickel Rye (87.5)
- 3rd Place: William Wolf Rye (86.7)

Best American Whiskey

- 1st Place: Battle Cry Oloroso Sherry Finish (Sons of Liberty) (93)
- 2nd Place: OYO Oloroso Wheat Whiskey (92.8)
- 3rd Place: Chattanooga Whiskey 1816 Cask (92.3)

Best American Single Malt

- 1st Place: Battle Cry Oloroso Sherry Finish (Sons of Liberty) (93)
- 2nd Place: Uprising Pedro Ximenez Finish (Sons of Liberty) (92.1)
- 3rd Place: Balcones "1" Texas Single Malt (91.3)

USA

Best Small Batch Bourbon

- 1st Place: Chattanooga Whiskey 1816 Cask (92.3)
- 2nd Place: Hirsch Small Batch Reserve Straight Bourbon (89.8)
- 3rd Place: Russell's Reserve 10 Year Old Bourbon (89.3)

Best Texas Bourbon

- 1st Place: Sixth Street Bourbon (Dime Box Distillery) (86.6)
- 2nd Place (tie): Ironroot Harbinger Bourbon (85.8)
- 2nd Place (tie): Yellow Rose Outlaw Bourbon (85.8)

Best Texas Whiskey

- 1st Place: Balcones "1" Texas Single Malt (91.3)
- 2nd Place: Sixth Street Bourbon (Dime Box Distillery) (86.6)
- 3rd Place (tie): Ironroot Harbinger Bourbon Whiskey (85.8)
- 3rd Place (tie): Yellow Rose Outlaw Bourbon (85.8)

Best Texas Rye Whiskey

- 1st Place: Herman Marshall Rye (85.9)
- 2nd Place: Yellow Rose Straight Rye (85.6)

Best Oregon Whiskey

- 1st Place: Chute Eight American (Indio Spirits) (87.7)
- 2nd Place: Stein's Straight Ram Rye
- 3rd Place: Stein's Bull Bourbon

Best Moonshine

- 1st Place: World's Best Moonshine (Dark Corner Distillery)
- 2nd Place: Tennessee Moonshine 92 (Full Throttle Sloonshine)
- 3rd Place (tie): Copper Barrel White Lightning
- 3rd Place (tie): Artisan Grain Original Moonshine

Best American Super Premium

- 1st Place: Wild Turkey Rare Breed (89)
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Best Canadian Whisky

Canada

- 1st Place: Forty Creek Barrel Select (89.8)
- 2nd Place: Lot No 40 (88)
- 3rd Place: Glen Breton Rare Aged 14 Years (86.2)

Best Canadian Rye

- 1st Place: Lot No. 40 (88)
- 2nd Place: J.P. Wiser's Rye (85.2)

Best Canadian Super Premium

- 1st Place: Glen Breton Rare Aged 14 years (86.2)
 - 2nd Place: J.P. Wiser's 18 Year Old (85.4)
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Best French Whisky

Rest of the World

- 1st Place: Bastille 1789 Single Malt
- 2nd Place: Moon Harbour Pier 1
- 3rd Place: Bastille 1789

Best Indian Whisky

- 1st Place: Antiquity Blue Ultra Premium Whisky (89.3)
- 2nd Place: Royal Challenge Finest Premium Whisky (86.3)
- 3rd Place: McDowell Signature Rare Aged Whisky

Best World Whisky

- 1st Place: Mackey Tasmanian Single Malt Whisky (Australia) (87.3)
- 2nd Place: Redlands Estate Single Barrel Pinot Noir (Australia)
- 3rd Place: Golden Spirit Imperial Premium Rare Aged (Myanmar)

2016 Whisky People & Distillery Awards

Master Blender of the Year

Dr Jim Beveridge, Master Blender for Johnnie Walker

For the second consecutive year, Dr Jim Beveridge wins the Master Blender of the Year for creating the highest scoring blended whisky of the competition, the Johnnie Walker Green Label 15 Year Old, with 96.8 points.

Distillery of the Year

Aberlour Distillery

Aberlour Distillery submitted almost their entire range of whisky expressions which together averaged around 90 points and showed the most consistency in quality and scores compared with samples blind tasted during last year's competition.

Brand Ambassador of the Year

Richard Paterson, Master Blender and Master Distiller, Whyte & Mackay, Jura, The Dalmore

“Celebrating 50 years in the whisky business, Richard Paterson has been one of the most vocal and ardent promoters of whisky in the recent years. For his creativity, inventiveness and disruptive ways to promote whisky, he was unanimously selected by members of our tasting panel to be this year's Brand Ambassador of the Year.”

- Sylvain Allard, Managing Director, IWC

Blog of the Year

The Whiskey Wash, USA

thewhiskeywash.com

There have been many new whisky blogs launched in the last 5 years but none have seen such a meteoric rise as The Whiskey Wash, backed with one of the largest social media following. Addressing the booming American interest in whiskey, this is a remarkable and inspiring website regrouping some of the most talented and passionate whisky writers out there.

Acknowledgments

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