

# MMA 2013

Unplugged



After 10 great years  
Of Malt Maniacs Awards

## MMA – A little history

The Maniacs first discussed holding an independent, amateur whisky competition back in 2003 which was an era of very few other competitions and certainly no 100% amateur ones of any great scale.

The fundamental rules were to be:

- No entry fee
- 100% Amateur
- 100% blind

Of course, back in 2003 The Maniacs collective was much smaller than it is today with just twelve members and none were from whisky's professional ranks but MMA was born and that first year saw 61 entries being submitted with nine judges taking part.

For the record three gold medals were awarded that year to Talisker 21y 1981-2002 OB, Brora 30y OB bottled 2002 and Ardbeg 21y 'committee bottling' with the overall Supreme Winner being the Talisker.

Since then our Supreme Winners have been:

- **2003 Talisker** (21y, 1981-2002, OB)
- **2004 Brora** (30y, bottled 2003, 55.7%, OB)
- **2005 Laphroaig** (31y, 1974-2005, 49.7%, OB for LMDW)
- **2006 Yamazaki** (1984-2005, 56%, OB)
- **2007 Laphroaig** (27y, 1980-2007, 57.4%, OB)
- **2008 Lagavulin** (21y, 1985-2007, 56.5%, OB)
- **2009 Karuizawa** (1972-2008, 65%, No.1 Drinks)
- **2010 Glendronach** (38y, 1972-2010, Cask 700, 49.5%, OB for Taiwan)
- **2011 Glendronach** (39y, 1972-2011, Cask 712, Oloroso Sherry Butt, 49.9%, OB)
- **2012 Glendronach** (40y, 1972-2012, Cask 713, Oloroso Sherry Butt, 50.2%, OB for LMDW)

Today in 2013 our fundamental rules haven't changed and even though our collective has grown to 31 members including five professionals, we still uphold our traditional values as entrants pay no entry fee other than having to send us one bottle of each whisky they choose to submit. Our judges are chosen only from our amateur members who each have to pay for their own sample bottles (we use only new glass bottles to prevent any contamination) and their own postage to receive the samples. The competition also remains 100% blind as judges only receive a series of numbered samples and have to rely purely on their noses, palates and eyes without knowing anything about the whiskies, not even abv. We even impose what we call a 'radio silence' upon judges as they aren't allowed to discuss any aspects of MMA or judging during the competition. The benefits of this are that each judge has the ability to work at their own speed, in their own environment and typically spend much more time with each sample than they would in a 'professional' competition held centrally at a single location over just a few days.

In 2011 when Malt Maniac Krishna Nukala flew over to Germany to help with the filling weekend he was still enthusing about that 2010 winner; Glendronach 1972 as he commented *"That cask 700 was superb, surely they can't match it and do it again this year?"* which indeed they managed with the superb 39y Cask 712. Then 2012 Saw a titanic battle for the Ultra-Premium Supreme Winner with the Glendronach Cask 713 and sister cask to the 2011 winner once again answering Krishna's question of *"Surely they can't do it again, can they?"*

So what about MMA 2013?

As usual our competition is split into three categories based upon typical price of the entries; Daily Drams is for whiskies up to a price of €50. Premium category is for whiskies priced from @€51 to €150 and Ultra-Premium category for whiskies over €150. Within each category we offer up to five 'Awards' comprising Supreme Winner (the entry with the highest average points total across all judges' scorecards, then Best Sherried Whisky, Best Peated Whisky, Best Natural Cask and a Thumbs Up award for an entry which we believe deserves a special mention. Now, without further ado welcome to the Award-winning entries of MMA 2013:

## Ultra-Premium category

### Supreme Winner

**Karuizawa 1973-2013, No.1 Drinks, cask No.1607, 67.7%**



#### What some of our judges said:

Robert Karlsson "Wow, taste is so intense. Lots of wood, all the spices and so big on sherry influence. Quite excellent indeed and a pure-bred sherry monster." 92 points.

Krishna Nukala "..... Leaves with stunning burst of fire crackers!" 92 points.

Keith Wood "I love the mixture of solid, rich aromas and flavours, a *great*" 90 points.

**Overall MMA score; 91 points**

## Ultra-Premium; Best Sherried Whisky



Glenfarclas Family Casks, 1989-2012, cask No.11046, 56.6% abv, OB for TSMC Taiwan to celebrate the 176<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Glenfarclas distillery.

### What some of our judges said:

Krishna Nukala "Lots of complexity, very smooth and spicy long finish" 91 points.

Robert Karlsson "Really big and bad sherry monster here. Well not so bad, absolutely no off notes. Excellent stuff." 91 points.

Keith Wood "Delightful on nose and palate. Nothing out of place, rich, dark, slightly dry." 91 points.

**Overall MMA score; 90 points**

## Ultra-Premium; Best Natural Cask Whisky



Karuizawa 1983-2012, No.1 Drinks for LMDW "Cocktail Series", Hogshead, cask No.8597, 62.1%abv.

### What some of our judges said:

Krishna Nukala "Brilliant palate; a sugar volcano explosion" 92 points.

Robert Karlsson "Very powerful, strong! Wonderful fruits and so intense. This is a seriously good dram." 92 points.

Keith Wood "Deliciously intense" 91 points.

Tim Puett "Tons of fire here, it's a hot one with some citrus" 86 points.

**Overall MMA score; 88 points**

## Ultra-Premium; Best Peated Whisky



**BenRiach 1985-2012, 27y, (OB), Peated / Virgin American Oak, cask No.7188, 48.9%abv.**

### **What some of our judges said:**

Tim Puett "Finish just keeps on going, very nice." 92 points.

Krishna Nukala "Ah! Now something very interesting! Rich fruits, lovely floral notes like gardenia in the rear. Succulent sweetish honey notes" 89 points.

Keith Wood "Was that really dandelion & burdock towards the end? Certainly mildly herbal, I Love it." 89 points.

Robert Karlsson "Needs a little time to open up and does so rather well." 87 points.

**Overall MMA score; 87 points**

## Ultra-Premium; Thumbs-Up Award

**Teeling Whiskey Company, 21y Vintage Reserve, single malt Irish whiskey, 46% abv**



**What some of our judges said:** Robert Karlsson "This is a really special (and tasty) whisky. Wonder what it can be. I want a case!" 92 points.

Oliver Klimek "Wonderfully fruity but also light and fragrant. The finish is enormously long." 90 points.

Keith Wood "Aromatic, floral, gentle & smooth on nose, then again on palate. A real star." 89 points.

Krishna Nukala "Phenolic and fruit combination. Very sweet and more phenols on palate. Lovely spicy and sweet finish." 87 points.

Tim Puett "Smells like biting into a gumdrop. Finish introduces herbal and grassy notes." 86 points.

**Overall MMA score; 87 points.**

## Premium category

### Supreme Winner



**Kavalan Solist, Sherry cask No. S060821049, 57.8%abv.**

#### What some of our judges said:

Robert Karlsson "Taste is also, wow! What on earth is this? Huge complexity on so many things, leather, coffee, dried fruits, cherry kernels, still round and attractive. So special. What an experience to drink this one. I love it." 94 points.

Krishna Nukala "Brilliant, delicious and spicy" 93 points.

Keith Wood "Heavy, rich, massive, dry, toasted, earthy. Just enormous." 87 points.

**Overall MMA score; 91 points**

## Premium; Best Sherried Whisky



**Glendronach, 1994-2012, 18y, Oloroso sherry butt, Cask No.68, 56.6%, OB for Kenny Hsu Taiwan,**

#### What some of our judges said:

Krishna Nukala "On the palate it's like a rich dessert, loooong sweet finish." 92 points.

Robert Karlsson "Thick sherry inspired taste here. Orangey, rich. Dates, raisins. Some spent matches in the aftertaste also. Big whisky for sure." 89 points.

Keith Wood "Wow - intense, lightly toasted, lots of dark fruits, wood, very dark chocolate, maybe even a hint of coffee? This certainly packs a punch." 87 points.

**Overall MMA score; 89 points**

## Premium; Best Natural Cask Whisky



**Clynelish, BBR for LMDW, 1996-2013, Cask No.6421, "57.1%**

### **What some of our judges said:**

Robert Karlsson "Complex promising nose. Very special taste here I'd say." 90 points.

Krishna Nukala "Excellent palate. Very sweet and spicy." 88 points.

Tim Puett "Warming all the way to the back of the mouth." 86 points.

Keith Wood "Nice light fruitiness. Creamy custard? Some pepperiness. Lovely aperitif or summer dram." 84 points.

**Overall MMA score; 85 points**

## Premium; Best Peated Whisky



**Amrut, bottled 2013, Cask No.BA18/2013, Blackadder "Raw Cask", 63%**

### **What some of our judges said:**

Robert Karlsson "Taste immediately on a rather excellent berried smokiness. Round, sweet, sooty and so drinkable." 91 points.

Tim Puett "Deep smoke and sweet alfalfa hay." 91 points.

Krishna Nukala "Excellent smoke with phenols." 88 points.

Keith Wood "Mouth-filling, rich and herbal Exotic fruitiness. Earthy, solid. I like." 86 points.

**Overall MMA score; 89 points**

## Premium; Thumbs-Up Award



**Celtique Connexion, "Islay", 1999-2013, "Celtic Whisky Compagnie (Jean Donnay), 46%**

### **What some of our judges said:**

Robert Karlsson "Intriguing, very interesting and tasty." 91 points.

Krishna Nukala "Brilliantly smoky with lots of complexities." 91 points.

Oliver Klimek "A combination of peat and sweet wine that actually works is a rare beast. This one is truly remarkable." 90 points.

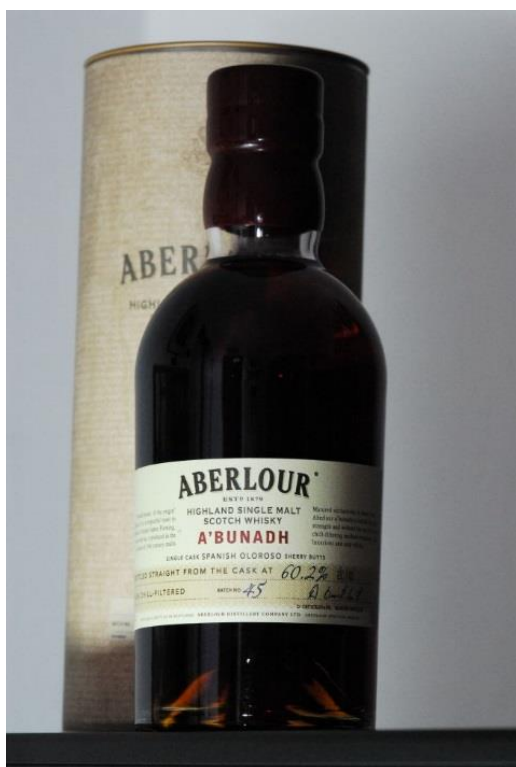
Keith Wood "Wonderfully deep yet delicate." 88 points.

**Overall MMA score; 88 points**

**Awarded the Thumbs-Up Medal for excellent quality at a very affordable price.**

## Daily Drams category

### Supreme Winner



**Aberlour A'Bunadh, Batch 45, OB, Oloroso sherry butts, 60.2%**

### **What some of our judges said:**

Tim Puett "Love it, warm, lingering." 92 points.

Krishna Nukala "I get that intoxicating floral notes of Naga malli - Cannon Ball Flower." 90 points.

Robert Karlsson "Wow, quite a mouthful this one. Huge on dark fruits, the whole compote. Faultless and evil, not for the faint of heart." 87 points.

Keith Wood "Very nice after-dinner treat." 87 points.

**Overall MMA score; 87 points**

## Daily Drams; Best Sherried Whisky



**Glendronach, 2002-2013, 10y, OB for The Whisky Fair, PX Sherry Puncheon, cask No.710, 52.8%**

### What some of our judges said:

Krishna Nukala “Lovely palate. Full bodied, spicy and sweet. Excellent long and spicy finish with whiff of smoke in the end.” 90 points.

Robert Karlsson “Quite some liquorice in the taste, rather intense spices and mandarins again. Raisins in the aftertaste. Big taste, considerably bigger than the nose I'd say.” 86 points.

Keith Wood “Lovely palate after a slow starting nose. I love the smooth, rich creaminess.” 86 points.

**Overall MMA score; 86 points**

## Daily Drams; Best Natural Cask Whisky



**Springbank, 12y Cask Strength, OB, 50.3%**

### What some of our judges said:

Robert Karlsson “Compact and well-composed, elegant dried fruits, nice fresh malty sweetness. Good clean spices.” 90 points.

Krishna Nukala “Lovely sweet and smooth whisky.” 87 points.

Keith Wood “Peated? Not quite but it is nice and earthy with floral tendencies.” 87 points.

Tim Puett “Jujubes, gumdrops, bubblegum, lingering .....” 86 points.

**Overall MMA score; 86 points**

## Daily Drams; Best Peated Whisky & Thumbs-Up Award

I believe this is the first time one whisky has ever won two awards within the same MMA competition. BenRiach Curiositas was awarded Thumbs Up for exceptional quality at a fantastic price.



**BenRiach, Curiositas, 10y, OB, 46%**

### What some of our judges said:

Robert Karlsson "Powerful dark sooty taste. Big oomph, fresh citrus fruits in the aftertaste. Seriously tasty beast here." 91 points.

Oliver Klimek "Extremely complex and medicinal nose, burnt rubber, dry peat and phenols dancing on your palate." 88 points.

Keith Wood "Smoky raspberries. Nice & light with lovely mild peaty smoke." 86 points.

Krishna Nukala "Smoky, syrupy and lots of spices with green peppers." 83 points.

Tim Puett "Leaves me wanting more." 83 points.

**Overall MMA score; 86 points**

MMA should be considered to be two competitions all rolled into one; firstly and primarily we have the actual Awards which I have just detailed above. All except the Thumbs-Up Awards are decided upon highest average scores across all judges within each category. The Supreme Winners are the outright highest scoring whiskies, then Best Sherried, Natural and Peated are the highest scoring entries by cask and whisky type. The scores do play a part in our Thumbs-Up Awards, but perhaps more importantly we consider other parameters like value for money and consistency of quality.

Secondly, we award a series of medals to recognise the overall quality of entries; any entry managing an average score of 90 points or more across all judges will receive a gold medal which means that, in our opinion, these are exceptionally outstanding whiskies. 85-89 Points will receive silver medals which confirm that, again in our opinion, these are excellent and highly recommendable whiskies. Any which gain 80-84 points receive bronze medals and are acknowledged as good everyday drams.

This year we have awarded four Gold Medals which, along with our Silver and Bronze Medals are detailed in our official MMA 2013 Judges' Scorecard:



## Our official scorecard showing all MMA scores and also individual scores from each judge:

Pts	Gold Medals	PdS	KW	OK	MvM	DW	RK	OH	HC	TP	KN
91	Karuizawa 1973/2013 (67.7%, Number One Drinks, Ex-Sherry Oak, C#1607, 138 Bts.)	87	90	88	86	93	92	94	94	91	92
91	Kavalan 'Solist' (57.8%, OB, NAS, Sherry Cask, C#S06082, 2013*)	85	87	88	92	94	94	93	90	89	93
90	Glenfarclas 1989/2012 (56.6%, OB The Family Casks, C#11046, 591 Bts.)	92	91	85	85	86	91	88	92	92	91
90	Yamazaki 1993/2012 (57.5%, OB for LMDW, Sherry Butt, C#3T 70070, 300 Bts.)	86	86	86	90	91	93	92	90	85	93

Pts	Silver Medals	PdS	KW	OK	MvM	DW	RK	OH	HC	TP	KN
89	Glendronach 18yo 1994/2012 (56.6%, OB for Kenny Hsu - Taiwan, Oloroso Sherry Butt, C#68, 621 Bts.)	85	87	86	84	89	89	95	90	92	92
89	Kavalan 'Sherry Oak' (46%, OB for LMDW, NAS, Oloroso Sherry Casks, 2013*)	86	92	87	85	85	91	92	89	88	91
89	North British 50yo 1962/2013 (53.3%, Douglas Laing Directors Cut, C#9783, 150 Bts.)	88	89	92	84	90	89	84	91	91	88
89	Grand Castle 18yo 1993/2012 (56.7%, Various Independent Bottlers, C#3598, 600 Bts.)	84	88	87	89	90	89	89	88	90	91
89	Caol Ila 9yo 2003/2013 (59.6%, Adelphi, C#301261, 285 Bts.)	90	88	89	81	87	91	89	89	91	90
89	Amrut 'Peated' (63%, Blackadder Raw Cask, NAS, C#BA18/2013, 268 Bts., 2013)	90	86	87	88	86	91	88	90	91	88
88	Glendronach 42yo 1971/2013 (44.6%, OB, C#1246, 432 Bts.)	87	89	88	83	88	93	90	87	88	91
88	Celtique Connexion Islay 1999/2013 'Sauternes Finish' (58.7%, Celtic Whisky Compagnie, 332 Bts.)	90	88	90	90	86	91	89	85	84	91
88	Lagavulin 1991/2007 'Distillers Edition' (43%, OB, PX finish, lgv 4/495)	87	86	89	91	79	89	93	91	89	90
88	Karuizawa 1983/2012 (62.1% Number One Drinks for LMDW, Hogshead, C#8597, 282 Bts.)	87	91	85	84	90	92	86	90	86	92
88	Amrut (62.3%, Blackadder Raw Cask, NAS, Sherry Cask, C#BA17/2013, 236 Bts., 2013)	91	85	88	84	87	87	96	83	92	90
88	Longmorn 17yo 1996/2013 (57.3%, Signatory CS Collection for LMDW, 1st Fill Sherry Butt, C#72321, 620 Bts.)	89	86	85	83	88	87	89	88	93	93
88	Highland Park 25yo 1988/2013 (55.7%, Cadenhead Small Batch, 1086 Bts.)	84	88	87	87	88	90	86	87	92	92
88	Amrut 'Single Cask' 2009/2013 (62.8%, OB, C#2699, PX sherry cask)	87	88	89	82	87	91	88	85	92	91
88	Longrow 11yo 'Red' (53.7%, OB, 9000 Bts., 2013*)	90	85	86	84	90	92	88	88	83	90
88	Bunnahabhain 1990/2013 (50.9%, Whisky Doris, 228 Bts.)	89	86	87	85	86	86	88	90	87	91
87	Laphroaig 15yo 1998/2013 (60.8%, Signatory Vintage for TWE, C#7000393, 551 Bts.)	90	88	87	83	80	87	90	90	88	91
87	Tomatin 1991/2013 (51%, OB for TSMC, Oloroso sherry butt, Balance, C#31742, 667 Bts., 700ml)	90	87	88	86	88	92	88	83	82	90
87	Teeling 21yo 'Vintage Reserve' (46%, Teeling Whisky Co., 2013*)	90	89	90	91	77	92	91	80	86	87
87	Aberlour 'A'Bunadh Batch #45' (60.2%, OB, NAS, Oloroso Sherry Butts, 2013*)	89	87	82	83	91	87	85	86	92	90
87	Yoichi 1998/2013 (62%, OB for LMDW, New Butt, C#100215, 427 Bts.)	85	90	87	87	87	89	89	81	84	92
87	Mosstowie 35yo 1973/2012 (54.3%, La Maison du Whisky 'Artist' Range #2, Sherry Butt, C#7621, 562 Bts.)	86	86	84	85	86	92	91	88	85	88
87	Benriach 27yo 1985/2013 (48.9%, OB, C#7188, 257 Bts.)	85	89	88	83	87	87	85	85	92	89
87	Caperdonich 35yo 1977/2013 (50.2%, Cadenhead Small Batch, 384 Bts.)	84	90	85	72	89	92	88	90	89	90
87	Kavalan 'Solist' (57.1%, OB, NAS, vinho barrique, C#W080225020, 192 Bts., 2013)	82	87	87	82	93	91	78	90	87	91
87	Octomore 5yo 'Edition: 06.1/6_167' (57%, OB, 2013)	85	87	86	80	87	88	88	90	90	86
87	Glendronach 'Cask Strength' (55.2%, OB, NAS, Batch #2, 70cl, 2013)	87	86	86	85	88	86	85	87	91	86
87	Inchmurrin 16yo 1996/2013 (62.8%, Master of Malt Single Cask, 428 Bts.)	86	83	84	85	85	92	96	84	86	86
87	Craigduff 40yo 1973/2005 (49.6%, Signatory Vintage Cask Strength Collection, C#2516, 616 Bts.)	85	88	85	87	84	90	90	90	85	83



Pts	Silver Medals	PdS	KW	OK	MvM	DW	RK	OH	HC	TP	KN
87	Redbreast 21yo (46%, OB, Single Pot Still, 2013*)	90	86	90	87	84	89	85	84	87	84
87	Port Charlotte 2001/2013 (57.5%, Malts of Scotland, Rioja Hogshead, C#MoS13027, 358 Bts.)	87	86	87	86	88	89	87	86	85	85
87	Bowmore 22yo 1990/2013 (46.8%, Wilson & Morgan Barrel Selection, C#3321-3350, PX sherry)	72	91	90	85	87	93	84	84	85	94
86	Glenturret 35yo 1977/2013 (47.5%, Berry Bros. for LMDW, C#25)	83	87	86	85	80	85	88	90	91	89
86	Mortlach 23yo 1988/2012 (56.3%, Blackadder Raw Cask, Refill Sherry Butt, C#4741, 562 Bts.)	90	87	87	84	92	82	84	80	90	88
86	Glendronach 20yo 1993/2013 (53.6%, OB for The Whisky Agency, C#4, 665 Bts.)	87	88	86	83	89	84	83	86	89	88
86	Aberfeldy 16yo 'Ramble' (56%, OB for The Whiskysop, 643 Bts., 2013*)	86	90	85	85	87	89	78	85	86	92
86	Glen Grant 37yo 1974/2012 (47.8%, Berry Bros, C#7643)	78	87	82	90	90	91	89	87	85	83
86	Bunnahabhain 24yo 1988/2013 (49.8%, Berry Bros, C#4111, sherry oak)	83	84	83	87	91	76	89	92	86	91
86	Benriach 10yo 'Curiositas' (46%, OB, Peated, 2013*)	85	86	88	82	86	91	86	91	83	83
86	Glann Ar Mor 'Kornog' (58.7%, OB for Auld Alliance, Brittany France, 2013)	85	86	86	83	86	87	87	87	91	83
86	Edradour 2006/2013 (59.2%, OB for TWE, 452 Bts.)	83	87	87	85	84	87	85	84	87	92
86	Glendronach 10yo 2002/2013 (52.8%, OB for The Whisky Fair, C#710, 665 Bts.)	89	86	87	82	88	86	84	88	81	90
86	Bowmore 16yo 1997/2013 (56.1%, Riverstown, Hogshead, C#2013:205, 251 Bts.)	88	87	85	81	86	89	85	88	85	86
86	Bushmills 21yo (40%, OB, Single Malt, Bourbon & Sherry, Madeira Finish, 2013*)	92	87	87	88	86	88	87	82	83	80
86	Benrinnes 14yo 1998 (54.6%, Exclusive Malts for whisky.com.tw, C#999, 689 Bts., 2013*)	85	89	91	86	87	90	73	83	85	91
86	Laphroaig 16yo 1996/2013 (48.4%, D. Laing, Old Particular for LMDW, Refill Hogshead, C#DL10002, 323 Bts.)	89	88	85	81	88	88	82	86	90	83
86	The Glenlivet 16yo 1997/2013 (46%, Signatory Vintage Unchillfiltered Collection, C#123546, 742 Bts.)	80	86	85	84	89	90	79	90	87	89
86	Old Pulteney 2006/2013 (57.5%, Malts of Scotland, Sherry Hogshead, C#MoS13033, 124Bts.)	86	85	85	83	84	87	84	85	87	92
86	Glendronach 10yo 2002/2013 (54.1%, OB for TWRI, C#1513, 482 Bts.)	90	86	84	89	85	87	86	84	76	91
86	Talisker 1996/2008 'Distillers Edition' (45.8%, OB, Oloroso finish)	86	84	86	86	87	83	83	85	87	90
86	Springbank 12yo 'Cask Strength' (50.3%, OB, 2013*)	83	87	83	83	86	90	85	87	86	87
86	Glendronach 10yo 2002/2013 (55.3%, OB for Dutch Uisge Society, C#1743, 312 Bts.)	89	88	84	85	85	88	79	85	86	87
86	Tomatin 30yo (46%, OB, 700ml, 2013*)	91	88	89	87	79	90	82	85	83	82
86	Speyside 40yo (40%, Master of Malt Secret Bottlings, 2nd edition, 2013*)	84	89	84	83	85	88	88	90	77	88
86	Tamdhu 23yo 1990/2013 (52.9%, Blackadder Raw Cask, C#10928, 224 Bts.)	88	87	81	81	82	89	89	91	85	82
86	Glenfarclas 1990/2013 'No. 17 Alexander Selkirk' (46%, OB, 1200 Bts.)	87	87	84	83	84	86	87	87	89	81
86	Kavalan 'Solist' (57.1%, OB, NAS, Bourbon cask, C#B080816080, 210 Bts., 2013)	89	87	85	80	86	86	86	85	83	88
86	Talisker 10yo (45.8%, OB, 2013*)	86	85	86	84	88	89	83	87	83	84
85	Clynelish 1996/2013 (57.1%, Berry Bros. for LMDW, C#6421)	84	84	83	87	81	90	86	85	86	88
85	Cragganmore 20yo 1993/2013 (50%, Wilson & Morgan Barrel Selection, C#1902-1904)	89	87	88	80	83	87	81	81	86	91
85	Glenburgie 21yo 1992/2013 (50%, Wilson & Morgan Barrel Selection, C#4895-4900)	88	88	85	83	84	90	79	84	87	85
85	Kornog 'Sant Ivy 2013' (58.6%, OB, Glann ar Mor distillery, France)	85	84	86	84	88	88	80	90	86	81
85	Midleton 1997 (59.5%, OB Single Cask for LMDW, Single Pot Still, First Fill Bourbon, C#7102, 228 Bts., 2013*)	84	88	87	76	86	87	85	81	89	88
85	Sullivans Cove 2000/2013 'French oak' (47.5%, OB, C#HH0392, 510 Bts.)	92	87	84	80	87	87	80	82	85	87
84	Glengoyne 1972/2013 (46.8%, Malts of Scotland, Angel's Choice, Bourbon Barrel, C#MoS13009, 124 Bts., 35cl)	84	90	84	84	82	93	86	76	84	86
84	Bruichladdich 2002/2013 (55.2%, Malts of Scotland, Bourbon Barrel, C#MoS13026, 235 Bts.)	88	87	86	82	80	89	78	82	89	88
84	Lagavulin 16yo 'Port Ellen' (43%, OB, 2013*)	87	86	73	87	78	84	88	91	88	87
84	Bushmills 10yo (40%, OB, Single Malt, Bourbon Port & Sherry, 2013*)	90	87	85	90	82	79	87	85	81	82
84	Redbreast 12yo 'CS' (58.6%, OB, Batch: B1/12, Single Pot Still, 2012*)	89	84	85	85	83	81	86	87	84	84
84	Amrut 'Single Cask' 2009/2013 (62.8%, OB, bourbon cask)	86	86	78	84	85	83	84	81	90	91
84	Glenglassaugh 30yo (44.8%, OB, decanter, 2013*)	84	91	79	85	86	87	80	85	83	87
84	Glendronach 12yo 'Original' (43%, OB, 2013*)	90	77	76	90	85	89	81	86	86	86
84	Talisker 'Port Ruighe' (45.8%, OB, port casks, 2013)	85	84	84	86	86	82	83	88	84	86
84	Edradour 15yo 1997/2012 (55%, Signatory Straight From The Cask, Moscatel, 141 Bts.)	84	84	84	81	87	87	85	88	83	82
84	Midleton 'Very Rare' (40%, OB, 2013)	85	86	85	81	83	87	85	92	78	83
84	Lark 'Cask Strength' (58%, OB, C#486, 2013, 50cl)	86	86	88	84	86	88	84	69	82	92
84	Bunnahabhain 6yo 2006/2013 (60.7%, Berry Bros, C#800097)	88	85	90	82	83	87	83	90	87	70
84	Imperial 17yo 1995 (55%, Berry Bros for whisky.com.tw, C#50347, 2013*)	81	85	86	85	83	84	83	84	86	87
84	Littlemill 1998/2013 (52.1%, Malts of Scotland, Sherry Hogshead, C#MoS13035, 185 Bts.)	88	86	80	89	87	80	83	76	86	89
84	Nikka 'From the Barrel' (51.4%, OB, NAS, Blend, 50cl, 2013*)	88	87	77	84	86	88	89	83	80	82
84	Islay Blended 'Big Peat Christmas Edition' (54.9%, Douglas Laing, NAS, 2013)	89	88	80	81	81	82	83	89	87	84
84	Jura 23yo 1989/2013 (57.6%, Signatory Vintage Cask Strength Collection, C#30708, 196 Bts.)	84	86	84	83	76	83	88	84	87	89
84	Peat Reek (60.6%, Blackadder Raw Cask, Hogshead, 216 Bts., 2013*)	90	83	84	71	80	87	87	88	89	84
84	Port Charlotte 'Scottish Barley' (50%, OB, NAS, 700ml, 2013)	88	86	88	81	82	78	82	87	85	86
84	Highland Park 'Cask Strength' (56%, OB, 2013*, 35cl)	84	85	80	82	86	86	79	90	86	85
84	Clynelish 15yo 1997/2012 (57%, Blackadder Raw Cask, Hogshead C#5724, 230 Bts.)	83	83	86	83	84	88	81	82	85	87
84	Balblair 1975/2012 (46%, OB)	86	88	83	88	82	84	86	77	80	88
84	The Glenlivet 16yo 'Nadurra' (53%, OB, Batch #911P, 2011)	85	87	87	79	82	85	82	87	84	84
84	Glen Moray 27yo 1986/2013 (56.8%, Adelphi, C#1931, 243 Bts.)	84	86	85	80	80	84	84	83	88	87
84	Balmenach 24yo 1988/2013 (54.4%, Signatory Vintage Cask Strength Collection, C#2794, 238 Bts.)	80	85	84	83	81	84	84	87	88	85
84	Powers 12yo 'John's Lane Release' (46%, OB, Single Pot Still, 2013*)	87	86	80	81	82	78	82	88	89	87
84	Armorik 'Millesime' 2002/2012 (56.1%, OB, Warenghem, C#3261, France, 748 Bts.)	82	80	86	82	86	90	86	86	80	82
84	Black Snake '1st Venom' (59.1%, OB, NAS, VAT No. 1, Sherry Butt Finish, 390 Bts., 2012)	85	85	81	84	81	88	81	77	90	88
84	Ballechin '8' (46%, OB, NAS, Sauternes Cask, 6000 Bts., 2013)	84	86	86	74	86	88	79	85	82	89
84	Arran (49.4%, That Boutique-y Whisky Company, NAS, 459 Bts., 2013*)	85	88	84	78	88	84	82	80	87	82
84	Speyside 35yo (43%, Master of Malt Secret Bottlings, 5th edition, 2013*)	86	85	84	85	82	86	84	83	77	86
84	Nikka 21yo 'Taketsuru Pure Malt' (43%, OB, Blend, 2013*)	82	88	83	82	83	90	86	79	79	85
84	Compass Box 'Peat Monster 10th Anniversary Ed.' (48.9%, OB, NAS, 2013)	88	88	84	80	85	84	83	89	75	81
84	The Glenlivet 18yo (46%, OB, 2013*)	89	85	83	85	82	81	74	86	86	86
84	Midleton 'Barry Crockett Legacy' (46%, OB, NAS, Single Pot Still, US Bourbon, C#016715, 2013*)	91	85	86	68	76	83	89	88	86	84
83	Highland Park 25yo 1988/2013 (55.7%, Cadenhead Small Batch, 1086 Bts.)	86	83	88	80	74	86	83	86	85	83
83	Highland Park 12yo 'Fascadale' (46%, Adelphi, Batch 5, 1483 Bts., 2013)	85	86	87	75	79	88	83	87	80	83
83	Ben Nevis 16yo (54.8%, Riverstown, Oak Butt, C#2012:22, 392 Bts., 2012)	90	82	85	79	81	82	86	80	86	82

83	Balblair 1989/2013 (46%, OB, 2013*)	86	88	83	80	88	83	83	84	81	77
83	Talisker 'Storm' (45.8%, OB, NAS, 2013*)	85	85	85	69	80	86	84	87	86	85
83	Blairfindy 16yo 1997/2013 (56.2%, Blackadder Raw Cask, Hogshead, C#BF2013-2, 287 Bts.)	89	84	91	71	80	80	89	85	85	78
83	Clynelish (50.6%, That Boutique-y Whisky Company, NAS, batch #2, 319 Bts., 2013*)	83	86	80	83	87	84	78	84	83	84
83	Lark 'Distillers Selection' (46%, OB, Port wood matured, C#387, 2013)	86	85	86	82	86	74	79	83	83	87
83	Bladnoch 21yo (54.9%, Riverstown, Hogshead, C#2012-23, 296 Bts., 2012)	84	84	84	82	81	84	78	85	85	84
83	Balvenie 12yo 'Single Barrel' (47.8%, OB, C#12759, 300 Bts., 2013*)	84	85	83	82	86	83	81	88	80	78
83	Glenrothes 18yo 1994/2013 (46%, Cadenhead, 642 Bts.)	82	85	80	84	82	84	77	88	85	83
83	Benriach 20yo (43%, OB, 2013*)	82	82	86	82	81	85	78	86	81	87
83	Smoking Islay (55%, Blackadder, 386 Bts., 2013*)	78	86	75	72	85	89	87	87	87	83
83	Singleton of Glen Ord 15yo (40%, OB, 2013*)	86	83	80	85	84	90	76	80	80	84
83	Caperdonich (45.7%, That Boutique-y Whisky Company, NAS, 120 Bts., 2013*)	87	88	84	86	81	79	86	80	77	80
83	Glenogyne 18yo (43%, OB, 2013*)	86	85	82	85	82	80	80	88	79	80
83	Dalwhinnie 15yo (43%, OB, 2013*)	83	84	82	84	81	86	83	86	77	81
83	Aberlour 18yo (43%, OB, 2013*)	88	86	82	73	82	83	82	85	80	86
83	Ben Nevis 21yo 1990/2013 (46%, C#23, The Maltman, 312 Bts.)	84	86	83	83	82	80	82	80	84	83
83	Linkwood 1997/2013 (45%, Gordon & MacPhail for LMDW, Refill Sherry Hogshead, C#10811)	70	89	87	83	86	88	75	79	78	90
83	Glenrothes 'Minister's Reserve' (43%, OB, 2013)	85	85	84	76	78	85	82	78	84	88
83	Inchgower 18yo 1995/2013 (50%, Hunter Laing Old Malt Cask, C#HL9983, 242 Bts.)	85	87	81	83	82	81	73	87	83	83
83	King Car (46%, OB, NAS, Kavalan distillery, Taiwan, 2013)	87	86	78	85	81	73	88	81	82	84
82	Glenallachie 8yo 2004/2013 (53.5%, Whisky Doris, 377 Bts.)	85	86	85	79	86	83	83	82	68	87
82	Powers 'Signature' (46%, OB, NAS, Single Pot Still, 2013*)	84	83	81	84	79	82	81	87	79	83
82	Jameson 'Gold Reserve' (40%, OB, NAS, 2013*)	87	80	82	84	74	83	82	86	83	82
82	Lark '20th Anniversary' (50.5%, OB, para port barrel quarter cask, 2013*, 50cl)	87	82	85	84	94	87	65	68	83	88
82	Highland Park 'Einar' (40%, OB, 2013*)	88	86	85	70	87	77	79	87	85	78
82	Edradour 11yo 2001/2012 (57.2%, OB, Barrique, 303 Bts.)	88	85	67	73	85	84	88	84	84	84
82	Bladnoch 21yo 1991/2012 (52.9%, The Whiskyman, 118 Bts.)	86	86	83	73	84	80	78	85	83	83
82	Glenfarclas 17yo (43%, OB, 2013)	83	84	78	83	80	85	83	87	79	79
82	Yellow Spot (46%, OB, NAS, Single Pot Still, 2013*)	85	84	81	64	82	82	84	90	84	85
82	Singleton of Dufftown 15yo (40%, OB, 2013*)	87	82	82	82	87	83	76	83	76	82
82	Armorik 'Double matured' (46%, OB, Warenghem Distillery, single malt, France, 2013)	87	80	88	76	82	84	74	85	84	80
82	Campbeltown Loch 21yo (46%, OB, 2013*)	91	86	81	78	78	80	78	83	80	84
82	Smoking Islay (59.9%, Blackadder, 318 Bts., 2013*)	78	87	71	82	86	90	80	88	87	70
82	Glenogyne 15yo (43%, OB, 2013)	84	83	75	85	83	79	81	86	76	86
82	Redbreast 15yo (46%, OB, Single Pot Still, 2013*)	85	85	79	84	78	70	84	82	86	84
82	Bruichladdich 21yo 1991/2013 (55%, Blackadder Raw Cask, Hogshead, C#3047, 282 Bts.)	83	85	78	83	79	83	86	80	84	75
82	Mortlach 14yo 1998/2013 (46%, The Maltman, C#10998, 376 Bts.)	83	87	82	77	81	82	80	82	80	82
82	The Glenlivet 37yo 1974/2012 (46%, Berry Bros for whisky.com.tw, C#5247)	78	88	87	78	79	87	82	83	73	80
81	Sullivans Cove 2000/2013 (47.5%, OB, C#HH115, 240 Bts.)	85	83	82	79	84	83	82	76	79	81

Pts	Bronze Medals	PdS	KW	OK	MvM	DW	RK	OH	HC	TP	KN
81	Bruichladdich 2007 'Islay Barley Rockside Farm' (50%, OB, 700ml, 2013)	85	86	81	73	84	77	82	86	79	81
81	Jameson 'Select Reserve' (40%, OB, NAS, Small Batch, 2013*)	84	80	85	84	78	78	80	83	78	84
81	Dalmore (49.1%, Asta Morris, C#AM005, 2013*)	87	80	85	70	87	84	80	82	76	82
81	Singleton of Glen Ord 12yo (40%, OB, 2013*)	84	81	82	82	85	80	78	78	77	84
81	Kavalan (40%, OB, NAS, 2013*)	84	81	83	70	83	81	80	87	81	81
81	Aberlour 12yo (43%, OB, 2013*)	84	84	74	83	83	84	78	82	75	83
81	Balvenie 17yo 'Doublewood' (40%, OB, 2012)	84	83	79	76	78	80	79	85	82	83
81	Sullivans Cove 2000/2013 'Double cask' (40%, OB, C#DC063, 1398 Bts.)	78	82	85	78	81	85	82	86	79	72
81	Highland Park 'Harald' (40%, OB, 2013*)	86	79	81	74	85	81	73	85	82	82
81	Singleton of Glendullan 12yo (40%, OB, 2013)	86	80	82	72	80	83	83	79	77	85
81	Ledaig 1997/2013 (46%, Gordon & MacPhail Reserve for LMDW, Refill Sherry Hogshead, C#461, 318 Bts.)	86	65	82	84	82	73	84	82	79	88
81	Tomatin 'Legacy' (43%, OB, 2013*)	87	84	76	81	82	81	68	77	85	84
81	Bushmills 10yo (40%, OB, Single Malt, Bourbon & Oloroso, 2013*)	87	76	82	83	75	80	84	82	84	72
80	Highland Park 'Svein' (40%, OB, 2013)	86	81	82	73	77	82	76	83	82	81

Key Award Winners are shown in bold Text

Ultra Premium Category

Premium Category

Daily Dram Category

Gold Medal – 90 points and over

Silver Medal – 84 to 89 points

Bronze Medal – 80 to 84 points

Judges PdS: Patrick de Schulthess – KW: Keith Wood – OK: Oliver Klimek – MvM: Michel van Meersbergen  
 DW: David Wankel – RK: Robert Karlsson – OH: Olivier Humbrecht – HC: Ho-cheng Yao  
 TP: Tim Puett – KN: Krishna Nukala

## Inside MMA 2013; Scoring & judging

I was recently asked if we impose any specific judging method or criteria on our MMA judges, perhaps like the repartition system of, for example a 25/25/25/25 split of scores between attributes like appearance, nose, palate & finish ... etc.

We prefer not to impose such criteria, or for that matter any specific judging criteria other than keeping everything totally blind. Each of our judges, although amateur, is highly experienced in whisky tasting and already has their own tried and tested methods of scoring and most have already scored hundreds, if not thousands of whiskies in our online database; The Malt Monitor. Of course this means that there is an emphasis on personal preference, but judging and scoring is always subjective and will vary a little between individuals, so this is exactly why we utilise a panel of 10-12 judges for MMA and take an average score across the board from all those submitted.

### Here's what a couple of our members replied when asked about their own scoring criteria:

*"I for one do never use 'repartitions' (such as 25/25/25/25) because I've never managed to find one that would work with all whiskies. I tend to think that 'proportions' between nose and palate, for example, change with styles and, above all, with the whiskies' ages." Serge Valentin.*

*"Regarding the scores to be allotted to appearance, nose, palate etc... I strongly feel that it will not work out. Scoring for appearance is definitely ruled out for me. Even if points were to be given to each parameter; how many points would you allocate to appearance, how many to nose, how many to palate, how many to finish and the last dimension which is most important for me; how many to overall feeling and impression?" Krishna Nukala.*

*"I too disagree with the 25/25/25/25 scoring process as to me it so limits the range of scores for particular items. I usually have a first impression of score after the initial nose/taste.....and then I might adjust once I have had a few more noses/tastes. But I usually fall within a few points of my initial impression. If I am at all conflicted, I will mark it for a re-taste. But this is based upon what I recall from what I have liked and disliked before." David Wankel*

Finally on this topic, I'm affording the last word to one of our professional members; *"Like you, my scores are founded on experience, and based on overall flavour (aroma, taste, mouth-feel, finish); but unlike you, I never publish my scores!" Charles Maclean.*

## Inside MMA 2013; A few general thoughts

Once scores have been submitted and judges learn what the entries actually were, there is obviously much discussion as the 'radio silence' is lifted. Here are just a couple of those comments:

*"I scored three young Amruts very high (for me), and it is definitely one I'm going to follow for now on. I really liked those high strength Amrut BA's and the OB! I liked the Kavalans too." Tim Puett.*

*"Do we see the resurrection of the 'standard' 10, 12 15 or 18y distillery bottlings?" Michel van Meersbergen.*

*"I am impressed by how well Amrut and Kavalan did. They have three bottles each with 87+ points." Oliver Klimek, then Oliver continued by offering a comment about the younger Glendronach entries this year; "these are pretty excellent so we can expect some good later vintages in the future."*

## Inside MMA 2013; Logistics and timeline

MMA has two defining dates; firstly 1<sup>st</sup> December, or as near as possible to the 1<sup>st</sup> which is when we aim to release the results. Secondly what we call the filling weekend which is when we pour the entries into judges' sample bottles and, by definition this is also the deadline for receipt of entries.

This all sounds easy, right? Well, not quite because we have other considerations too; who will judge this year? Sample bottles need to be ordered, invitations to participate have to be sent out, entries have to be received, stored, catalogued and numbered .... And so on ....

MMA 2013 began for me in late July as I put together our letter of invitation to prospective entrants, but this year things burst into life a wee bit earlier than usual as I was contacted in June by two (new to MMA) distillers wishing to enter this year, in fact I received entries from one before my letter of invitation had even been sent out.

The filling weekend date was set for the last weekend in September so we have our deadline which means by early August the first invitation was mailed out and, as often happens this created the first mini *whisky rush* with various entries arriving within a few days then, nothing. In those first ten days or so entries quickly reached double figures then everything went quiet. Of course, August is the main holiday season and everyone was enjoying sun, surf and sand rather than sitting at their desks thinking of whisky. What about judges for 2013? There goes another plea; "Dear Maniacs, who'd like to subject their noses, palates and livers to sampling up to 200 whiskies in no more than six weeks?" Yes, that's what being a judge amounts to. By the time samples have been filled, packed, posted, delivered and received the typical time left for judging is 4-6 weeks depending upon postage times.

Poor Krishna, I thought German customs were difficult, but it seems Mumbai are on another level where everything goes in, but nothing comes out, even after three weeks of waiting!

Speaking of customs, last year our super-efficient and rather over-zealous German customs did their utmost to wreak havoc onto MMA as they showed their expertise with google in attempting to find values of entries so they could charge me what they considered to be the correct Duty. On one occasion they even sent me away whilst they spent 24 hours googling ..... Welcome to 2013 and ***The Cunning Plan***; let's confuse German Customs by not using them and have non-EU entries sent to a different country with a more relaxed attitude, then forward them to me within the EU. **It worked!** Not a single Euro cent paid in Duty, except of course (!) for the single parcel which just happened to be the one sent directly to me in Germany as it was a late entry with time constraints. I still think if they hadn't seen me at all this year they'd probably have sent me a letter asking why.

So, it's early September, no more entries received, time to send out the post-holiday / vacation reminder which immediately solicited responses with promises for entries.....

## But what about the *whisky rush*?



At this point, sadly, one of our judges had to drop out as his job demanded he volunteer for some extra evening work during November, then another 'maybe' judge confirmed his (work) diary was also too full and he wouldn't be able to make it. So now we have 10 left from our original 12, but it looks like our remaining judges' livers will have something of a reprieve this year. Now what to do with these .....



It's mid-September and just two weeks to our filling weekend, we have our 10 judges, sample bottles (and closures) aplenty, poly-chips for packing too .....



And a grand total of 60 entries received so far, oops sorry, make that 59.....



Then it happened; ***The Whisky Rush***, with every ring of the bell I could be heard shouting “there’s whisky in them thar vans” whilst rushing to the door. At one point our tiny cul-de-sac was jammed with three, or was it four vans queuing to deliver.

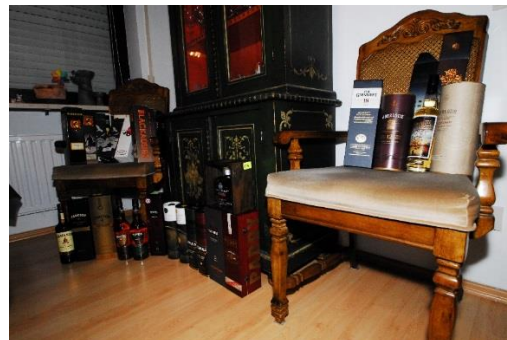
There followed the most manic, or was it maniacal week ever with 60 (sorry 59) entries hastily rushing towards the 200 mark. MMA 2013 was very much alive and well, maybe too alive and well as we very quickly neared that 200 limit. One which we had to impose after the infamous MMA of 2010 which received 262 entries and, quite literally, took its toll on our judges.

By now with every ring of the bell I could be heard screaming “Noooooooo, not more whisky in them thar vans”.

Then it arrived; Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> September, the official MMA 2013 filling weekend.

The doorbell rang, it must be Oliver arriving to help? No, it was a rather haggard-looking delivery man handing me a parcel, saying “another one for you.” Remember that broken bottle? Its replacement arrived with just a couple of hours to spare.

**For those who like “during and after” pictures:**



This only left the task of postage to be completed and just over €1000 paid in two days for parcels to be sent world-wide to our judges who were anticipating a rather modest MMA 2013, little did they know.

### **What about the left-overs?**

Our optimum number of MMA judges each year is 10-12 and each judge can choose between 3cl or 6cl samples. You may think choosing 6cl is a no-brainer but when it comes to far-away judges the difference in postage costs can be very significant, as can the attitude of their local Customs officers as we've clearly seen with Krishna this year, so a few of our judges opt for 3cl samples. This usually means we do have a few drops, OK maybe a few cl, left over after filling. But what do we do with these drops?

I'm happy to say that none are wasted. Firstly, after judging is completed I refill my own set of sample bottles so I have a complete set of entries for future reference.



**My three years (so far) of MMA as getting on for 550 samples now sit in my study and comprise a worthy reference of 2011-2013.**

This came in useful earlier this year when fellow Maniac Oliver Klimek and I decided to have an evening of no compromise as we put eight Glendronach expressions, including two MMA Supreme Champions and five Gold Medallists from 2011 & 2012 MMA's together in a head to head.

**Finally, why not have a bit of fun with the remaining drops so welcome again to MMA 2012**



From left to right; mostly peated, totally mixed up and mostly sherried.

**Empty bottles too?**



**Now here's one final thought from me:**

Just in case you were wondering about that broken bottle whose replacement arrived with literally just a couple of hours to spare before the deadline on the actual filling weekend?



Keith Wood is a relic of the late 1950's and a self-proclaimed Old Luddite. He currently lives in Bavaria and is married to the delightful Sabine who doesn't quite share all his passion for whisky.

He has been one of the Malt Maniac collective since the beginning of 2011 and has organised the last three Malt Maniacs Awards and, although he threatens "second thoughts" each year at the end of MMA, he's looking forward to continuing to organise them for many more years to come.

Slàinte Mhath,  
Keith Wood

**Errata:**

**Kavalan Solist, Cask No. 060821049** erroneously listed as Cask No.S06082 in the scoresheet.

**Master of Malt Undeclared Speyside 30y** erroneously listed as 35y in the scoresheet.

**Craigduff 40y, 1973/2013** erroneously listed as 1973/2005 in the scoresheet.

**84 points Bushmills 16y (OB, single malt, bourbon, port & sherry, 2013\*)** erroneously listed on scoresheet as Bushmills 10 (which achieved 81 points and is listed further down the sheet.)