

WHISKEY LOUNGE

WHISKY/WHISKEY OR UISGE BEATHA

The word whisk(e)y is the anglicized (read: to make more English) version of the Gaelic word “uisce” which comes from “uisce beatha” of which “uisce” means “water” and “beatha” means “life”. While phonetically it makes sense, ironically, (pro-tip coming at you here...) you would actually pronounce uisce beatha traditionally as “ish-ga bah-ha” or “wish-ga bah-ha”.

While the Irish translated “water of life” as uisce beatha, the Scottish translated the spelling to be uisge beatha.

Nevertheless, going back to the water of life, it is said that Irish Monks first invented whisk(e)y back around the 15th century after learning distillation techniques from the east. While these distillation techniques were developed to make perfumes and aromatics, medieval monasteries began to use distillation to create the water of life as a medicinal healing tool for things like smallpox.

The most common cereal grains used to make whisk(e)y are Barley, Corn, Rye + Wheat with the majority of whisky around the world having a base of either Barley or Corn.




TAJ

CAPE TOWN
SOUTH AFRICA

DIFFERENT STYLES OF WHISKY

BLENDED MALT

Vatted, or Blended malts, are produced by combining various malt whiskies from several distilleries. Vatted or Blended malts often reflect the distilleries from a particular region, such as Johnnie Walker 15 years (Green Label) and these are labelled Pure malt. They therefore cannot be described as Single malt.

BLENDED WHISKY

Blended whisky is created from both Single malts and Grain whisky. Blended whiskies are the perfect introduction to drinking whisky.

CASK STRENGTH

Whisky sold at the strength taken from the cask, normally contains between 57% - 60% alcohol per volume.

GRAIN WHISKY

Grain whisky is produced using continuous distillation process. Malted and un-malted cereals, which are cooked under steam pressure, are used and the resulting spirit is of a higher strength and therefore matures faster than a malt whisky.

DELUXE BLEND

Deluxe blends contain a higher percentage of malt whiskies and often show an age on the label. As with Single malts, this age reflects the youngest whisky in the blend.

SINGLE CASK

Single cask is a whisky from one cask or barrel., you are privileged to try some of the rarest Single malts from our private collection, which are usually bought from private collectors or purchased at auctions. They are rare not only because of their age and refinement, but also because some of the distilleries no longer operate. Some of these include Cask strengths and others may have spent a few decades in a cask.

SINGLE MALT

Single malt is distilled at an individual distillery and produced only from malted barley. Single malts may include whisky from several years' production, as long as it is from the same distillery. The age shown on the bottle reflects the length of time the youngest whisky included in the bottling has matured in an oak cask.



OVERVIEW

Our tastings are completely customisable based on your requirements. Our approach is to make the tasting fun and informal but informative. Although each tasting varies the basics for a general tasting are as follows:

- 3 whiskies arranged around a theme (see options below)
- Dedicated whisky presenter
- 60-minute guided tasting
- Tasting glasses provided

TASTINGS

IRISH WHISKEY TASTING | 3 Whiskies - R395

- Bushmills Original paired with a Dark Chocolate and Orange Truffle
- Silkie paired with a Salted Caramel Chocolate Truffle
- Sexton paired with Dark Chocolate Marzipan Truffle

SCOTTISH WHISKEY TASTING | 3 Whiskies - R395

- Glenkinchie paired with White Chocolate Cheesecake and Citrus Marmalade
- Glenfiddich paired with a Lavender Panna Shot with Raspberry Coulis
- Caolila paired with a Pumpkin Spice Tartlet and Vanilla Mousse

AROUND THE WORLD | 5 Whiskies - R695

- Three Ships 10 Y/O paired with a Smoked Salmon and Lime Mousse with a Cucumber Rose
- Paul John paired with Tandoori Chicken with Tamarind Chutney
- Jack Rye paired with a Brie Cheese and Caramelised Red Onion Crostini
- Jameson Select paired with Goats' Cheese and Cranberry, rolled in Pistachio
- Nikka paired with Mackerel Risotto Balls with Garlic Aioli

*All whiskies are served by 12ml tasting glass

TASTING THEMES

INTRO TO WHISKEY

Provides an overview into the world of Whisky, touching on history, production process, tasting guidance, and flavours. Line-up includes a single malt, blended malt, single pot still, and a grain Whiskey.

INTRO TO SCOTCH

Focuses on Scotch whisky covering the basics of Scotch history, requirements, production, categories, and flavours.

INTRO TO IRISH WHISKEY

Focuses on Irish whiskey covering the basics of Irish history, requirements, production, categories and flavours. Whiskies will include traditional Single Pot Still, grain and blends.

INTRO TO AMERICAN WHISKEY

From bourbon and rye to single barrel and barrel proof releases. Stray off the well-trodden path of commercial brands and get an insight into the history, flavours and producers of American whiskey.

INTRO TO ASIAN WHISKEY

Japanese whisky is not a new thing; understand the rich history of Japanese whisky-making along with some newer counterparts from Taiwan and India.

FLAVOURS OF WHISKY

From your lighter, softer styled whiskies, to your sherry bombs and peat monsters. Discover the wide array of flavours to be found in your favourite dram, and where they come from.

WOOD INFLUENCE

A closer look at the influence of wood on the flavour development of whisky, including the impact of various cask sizes, climates, various wood finishes (Sauternes, Port, Madeira, Rum, etc.).

5 NATIONS

Five whiskies from five different countries, usually staying away from the traditional whisky producing countries and focusing more on 'new world' whisky producers from Taiwan, France, India, South Africa, etc.

For bookings:

+27 21 819 2111 | restaurants.capetown@tajhotels.com