Scotch Whisky Training Seminar
Legal Definition of Scotch

- Distilled and aged in Scotland for a minimum of three years, in oak barrels and bottled at a minimum of 40% alcohol

- Single Malt must also be bottled in Scotland, Blended Scotch not necessarily.

- Enforced by Scotch Whisky Association (SWA).
Raw Materials

- Spring Water
- Yeast
- Grain or Barley
Blended Scotch & Malt Scotch

- **Blended Scotch**
  - Dewar’s White Label, Ballantine’s
  - Blended from grain & malt whisky
    - Grain = un-malted barley, other cereals e.g. wheat
  - Between 15-50% content is malt whisky
  - Malt component gives complexity
  - Higher malt % better the quality

- **Single & Blended Malt**
  - Made from barley only
  - Single Malt (Glenmorangie)
    - one distillery
  - Blended Malt (Johnnie Walker Green Label)
    - more than one
  - Batch distillation
  - Aged
Scotch Whisky Regions

Regions

- Lowlands (Glenkinchie)
- Highlands (Dalmore)
- Speyside (Macallan)
- Islay (Bowmore)
- Campbeltown (Springbank)
Production Process

Six Key Stages

- Malting
- Mashing
- Fermentation
- Distillation
- Maturation
- Bottling
Malting

- Barley is soaked in water to begin the germination process which will convert the starch within the grain to sugars
- Spread out over malt floorings and raked to rotate the grains
- Dried in kilns to stop the germination continuing
  - Peat can be added to the kiln giving smoky flavours
  - Especially on Islay (Laphroaig)
- The barley is now called “Malted Barley”
Mashing

- The Malted Barley is then ground down to a specific consistency in a mill and is now known as Grist
- Hot water added to the Grist, the sugars are dissolved in a large vessel known as a Mashtun
- This sugar-rich liquid is now called Wort
Fermentation

• The Wort is mixed with yeast for fermentation in a vessel called a Washback.
• The yeast converts the sugars in the Wort to alcohol (about 8% alcohol) and the liquid is now called Wash.
• This process takes 48-100 hours.
• Types of Washback
  – Wooden (Oregon Pine)
  – Stainless Steel
Distillation – Single Malt

• Single Malt – Batch distillation in copper potstills
  – Grain whisky is distilled in continuous stills called Column or Coffey stills
• The Wash goes into the “Wash Still” and is boiled, with the steam rising up and over the lyne arm into a condenser. The resulting liquid is now known as Low Wines (about 24% abv)
• The Low Wines are distilled a second time in the Spirit Still.
• The liquid now runs through a Spirit Safe and is separated, with the “middle cut” moving onto maturation. Now called “New Make Spirit”.
• The shape and size of the stills influence flavour
Maturation

- The New Make Spirit is filled into oak casks, about 68% alcohol
- The final quality, colour and flavour of whisky are influenced by:
  - Type of wood – usually European or American oak
  - How many times the cask has been used and previous contents (e.g. Sherry)
  - Style of warehouse and climate of location
- Minimum maturation is 3 years in order to be called Scotch whisky
Bottling

- Bottled at a minimum of 40% alcohol
- Bottling can take place on a production line, or in smaller quantities, by hand
  - For example, single cask bottlings
Wemyss Malts

- Wemyss Malts is an independent bottler of Scotch Malt Whisky
- As an independent bottler, Wemyss chooses the very highest quality of malts whiskies available to be part of the range
- It is a family owned company based in Edinburgh, Scotland
- Company launched 2005
Wemyss History

• Wemyss is pronounced “Weems”
• It’s the Scots word for caves
• Named after the caves on the rocky shore of Fife beside Wemyss Castle which is the historic family home of the Wemyss family
• This picture is on all the Wemyss whisky labels
Wemyss History

- The Wemyss family has a long association with whisky
- John Haig (founder of Haig’s) built his first distillery on Wemyss land at the turn of the 19th century
- Barley from the Wemyss Estate is still used by many leading distillers
- Cameron Bridge distillery is only a few miles away from the Estate
Wemyss History

• The chairman and founder of the Wemyss group is William Wemyss

• William is directly descended from the 3rd Earl of Wemyss (1678-1720)

• The Earl’s signature is used on the Wemyss range packaging

William Wemyss, Chairman and Founder

Signature of 3rd Earl of Wemyss
Wemyss Philosophy

• Wemyss understands that much of the malt whisky terminology can be confusing – even for the knowledgeable consumer

• The Wemyss malts range aims to be more accessible and understandable

• Wemyss uses the taste and aromas of individual whiskies to identify each bottling
Today, Wemyss uses the unsurpassed knowledge and expertise of Charlie Maclean.
Charlie is an authority on malt whisky having written many books on the subject.
He has developed the whisky recipes for the blended malts and oversees the cask selection for the single cask bottling range.
Blended Malts – A Definition

• A Blended Scotch Malt Whisky is a blend of different single malt Scotch whiskies
  – Single malts are distilled only from malted barley in a single distillery
• There are no grain whiskies in a Blended Malt, unlike a Blended Scotch which contains malt and grain whiskies
• Wemyss blended malts contain up to 16 different single malts Scotch whiskies
• There are 3 different Blended Malts in the Wemyss range
Wemyss Blended Malts – The Hive

• The Hive consists mainly of single malts from the Speyside whisky region
• The Hive has a honeyed sweetness in the taste
• Available at 8 years old (naked bottle) and 12 years old in a gift tin
The Hive Awards

Whisky Magazine World Whisky Awards 2012
Best Blended Malt Scotch – The Hive 12 years old

Whisky Magazine November 2011
Best Buy – The Hive 12 years old

Jim Murray Whisky Bible 2012
93/100 The Hive 12 Years Old

International Spirits Challenge 2012
Silver Medal - The Hive 8 years old
Wemyss Blended Malts – Spice King

- Spice King consists mainly of single malts from the Highland whisky region
- Spice King has a sweet spicy character that lingers pleasantly
- Available at 8 years old (naked bottle) and 12 years old in a gift tin
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Spice King Awards

Whisky Magazine World Whisky Awards 2013
Best Blended Malt Scotch – Spice King 12 years old

San Francisco World Spirits Competition 2013
Gold Medal – Spice King 12 years old

International Wine & Spirit Competition 2011
Silver Medal - Spice King 12 years old

International Spirits Challenge 2011
Silver Medal - Spice King 8 years old
Wemyss Blended Malts – Peat Chimney

• Peat Chimney consists mainly of single malts from Islay (Scottish island and whisky region)

• Islay malts are known for their smoky and peaty characteristics which comes from the peat used in the barley malting process

• Peat Chimney has a rich smoky taste

• Available at 8 years old (naked bottle) and 12 years old in a gift tin
Peat Chimney Awards

San Francisco World Spirits Competition 2012
Peat Chimney 8 years old – Double Gold Medal

Ultimate Spirits Challenge 2012 – Excellent/Highly Recommended
Peat Chimney 8 years old

International Wine & Spirit Competition 2013
Gold Medal – Peat Chimney 12 years old

Spirits Business Spirit Masters
Gold Medal – Peat Chimney 12 years old
**Wemyss Malts - Single Casks**

- Single Malt whisky is matured in oak casks and a single cask bottling is malt whisky from a single cask
- Wemyss truly exceptional single casks are chosen by Charlie Maclean
- Typically, between 300 and 600 bottles come from a cask
- Usually bottled at 46% abv, the whisky is neither coloured nor chill filtered
- The range celebrates the different regions – Islay, Speyside, Campbeltown, Lowlands and Highland
Lord Elcho Blended Scotch

• Launched September 2012, Lord Elcho is named after a Wemyss family ancestor

• Lord Elcho was one of the army commanders in the Battle of Culloden with Bonnie Prince Charlie

• Lord Elcho is also a 15 years old blended Scotch

• “A first rate blend.” Charlie Maclean
Coming soon .... Kingsbarns Distillery

- The Wemyss family is building a new Lowland distillery at Kingsbarns, by St. Andrews.
- Opening late Summer 2014
Keep up in touch!
Slainte!