

TOP-FLIGHT TASTING *Try with Water to Find Your Favorite Flavor*



BAKER'S



BOOKER'S

LAPHROAIG

# High-Proof Pours

Examine five expressions with incredibly rich mouth-feel and explosion of complex flavors straight from the barrel—these are whiskies in their purest form.

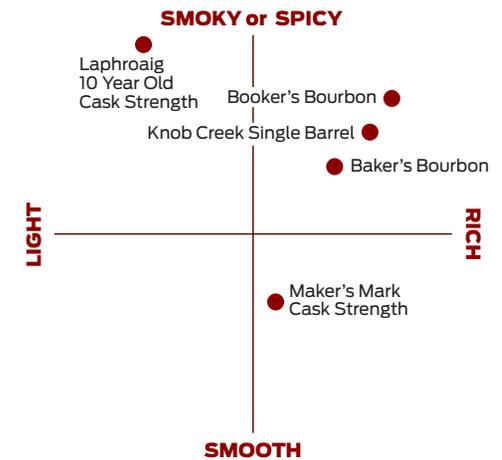
**1**  
Maker's Mark®  
Cask Strength

**2**  
Baker's® Bourbon  
Single Barrel

**3**  
Knob Creek®  
Single Barrel Reserve

**4**  
Booker's® Bourbon

**5**  
Laphroaig® 10 Year Old  
Cask Strength



# High-Proof Pours

Use this page for your personal tasting notes.



## 1. Maker's Mark® Cask Strength

The purest form of Maker's Mark, bottled at barrel proof, offers a big oak aroma and richer, more robust flavors of spice, vanilla, and smoke. There is a long finish with no roughness or bitterness.

ABV: 55.45%

Nose \_\_\_\_\_

Palate \_\_\_\_\_

Finish \_\_\_\_\_

My Rating \_\_\_\_\_



## 2. Baker's® Bourbon Single Barrel

Perfect for neat pours, Baker's shows the incredible diversity of single barrel bourbon. At 107 proof, it is robust and multi-layered but never too overpowering—burnt caramel, toasted almonds, and even a certain creaminess develop toward a lingering finish.

ABV: 53.5%

Nose \_\_\_\_\_

Palate \_\_\_\_\_

Finish \_\_\_\_\_

My Rating \_\_\_\_\_



## 3. Knob Creek® Single Barrel Reserve

This quintessential modern bourbon has incredible complexity and versatility, especially when in single barrel form. Heavy notes of oak and leather, and intense baking spices on the finish make this great for sipping neat or with a little water.

ABV: 60%

Nose \_\_\_\_\_

Palate \_\_\_\_\_

Finish \_\_\_\_\_

My Rating \_\_\_\_\_



## 4. Booker's® Bourbon

A favorite among more experienced bourbon fans, Booker Noe created his eponymous whisky at barrel strength to allow consumers to drink it however they wished—neat, with ice, or diluted with water to the strength they prefer. Unfiltered and full-flavored, there are heavy notes of toffee, fudge, and peanuts, which are kept in check by the potent influence of the oak.

ABV: 63.35%

Nose \_\_\_\_\_

Palate \_\_\_\_\_

Finish \_\_\_\_\_

My Rating \_\_\_\_\_



## 5. Laphroaig® 10 Year Old Cask Strength

Very powerful on the nose, with medicinal notes and hints of smoke and seaweed. The palate offers a massive burst of peat flavor with just a hint of sweetness.

ABV: 58%

Nose \_\_\_\_\_

Palate \_\_\_\_\_

Finish \_\_\_\_\_

My Rating \_\_\_\_\_

# High-Proof Pours



Barrel-proof whisky (also known as cask-strength whisky) is literally the proof of a whisky as it comes from the barrel. That usually means in the 110- to 130-proof range, though some cask-strength whiskies soar above 140 proof.

While that might sound like too much heat to handle, lately these high-proof pours have become a sensation among whisky connoisseurs. They offer an incredibly rich, almost oily mouthfeel and,

of course, an explosion of complex flavors.

Best of all, and what many drinkers particularly love about barrel-proof whisky, is that they can add water to both decrease the proof to a level they find most pleasing, and experiment with a drop or two or three to open the nose and palate profile. Adding small amounts of water adds dimension to the flavor journey. The high-proof whiskies in this tasting also work great in cocktails!

## Tasting Tips for Club Members

### **Nosing:**

Inhale with an open mouth so you don't put your nose to sleep.

### **Swirl Gently:**

Just coat the bottom third of the glass. Not a big swirl, as with wine. The alcohol in whisky will evaporate just fine at its own pace.

### **Food and Water:**

Snack before the tasting and drink water to keep yourself hydrated. Nothing too spicy; nothing too sweet.

### **Glasses:**

Smaller tulip-shaped glasses are good for aroma and nosing. Tumblers, Highball and cocktail glasses serve their purpose also.

### **Keep Notes:**

Appreciate what you're tasting and record it. Your impressions might change next time you taste.

### **Take Pictures:**

Use your phone or device to remember your favorites.

### **Ice:**

Let the flavor, texture and aromas evolve with some well chosen ice. Your glass of whisky becomes a journey.

### **Color:**

Appreciate the color, which might tell you about the wood used to finish the whisky. Avoid added caramel, which could hide the truth.

### **Warming:**

Feel free to hold the glass in your hand and warm it up a bit. You'll get more aroma and possibly boost the flavor.

### **Time:**

Slow down. Many whiskies develop new flavors and complexity if you wait before the next sip: appreciate the finish.

### **See, Sip, Swirl:**

Look at the color, then swirl and sniff the whisky to see what the aroma reveals.

### **Compare:**

Having a variety of expressions is fun. Comparing notes with friends is even more fun.

### **Clean Glasses:**

Rinse and dry between expressions. The previous whisky could interfere with the taste of the next. A wet glass could add too much water.

### **Sips:**

Small sips, with the glass rim on the center of your tongue, to avoid the

alcohol heat. Swirl or "chew" the whisky and let it disappear.

### **Adding Water:**

Add water to open the nose, but only after you've tasted neat; add only a drop or two at a time.

### **Flights:**

Having several expressions around a theme can develop a greater appreciation of the varieties of whisky.

### **Progressive Order:**

Makes a huge difference in your appreciation of each expression. Light to rich; least to most sweet; no smoke to smokiest.

### **Watch Glasses:**

Help to hold in the aroma. Very handy if you're tasting multiple expressions over time and want to go back and compare.

### **Flavor Maps:**

Flavor maps are a fun way to measure your comparative whisky tastings. As you taste through these expressions, see if you agree with how our experts have plotted them.