

The World of Blends

Taste through multiple distilleries, grains and distillation methods from multiple whisky cultures to see how blends have become some of today's most exciting whiskies around.

1

Suntory Japanese Whisky Toki®

2

Canadian Club® Classic 12 Year Old

3

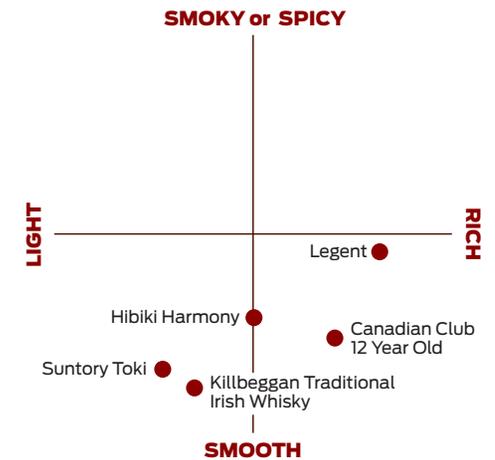
Killbeggan® Traditional Irish Whiskey

4

Hibiki Japanese Harmony®

5

Legent® Bourbon



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Use this page for your personal tasting notes.



1. Suntory Japanese Whisky Toki®
A blend—featuring whiskies from Hakushu, Yamazaki, and Chita Distilleries—inherently designed for Highballs, this clear gold whisky is herbal and fruity, with subtle notes of peppermint, green apple, white pepper, and ginger.
ABV: 43%

Nose _____

Palate _____

Finish _____

My Rating _____



2. Canadian Club® Classic 12 Year Old
A Canadian blend that offers delicate spiciness and creamy vanilla notes, it's balanced with rich wood and luxurious honey. It has a long and dry finish, with enduring butterscotch.
ABV: 40%

Nose _____

Palate _____

Finish _____

My Rating _____



3. Kilbeggan® Traditional Irish Whiskey
Double distilled in the traditional Irish whiskey style, this approachable pour offers a soft almond nougat flavor with notes of caramel, peach, and vanilla, finishing with a persistent dryness and woody oak tones.
ABV: 40%

Nose _____

Palate _____

Finish _____

My Rating _____



4. Hibiki Japanese Harmony®
This harmonious blend of multiple malt and grain whiskies is delicate and luminous—notes of green apple, grapefruit, honey, peppermint, and thyme, among others.
ABV: 43%

Nose _____

Palate _____

Finish _____

My Rating _____



5. Legend® Bourbon
A bourbon that redefines the category, this is Kentucky straight bourbon as blended in the Japanese whisky style. Intensely layered due to the use of sherry and red wine finishing casks, flavors include tart cherries, dried fruit, and smoky char.
ABV: 47%

Nose _____

Palate _____

Finish _____

My Rating _____

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Whatever you've heard about blends, the old stereotypes are a thing of the past. Today's blends are some of the most exciting whiskies on the market. The problem is, many consumers don't quite understand what modern blends are. If, at one time, distilleries might have used blends to unload some unpalatable grain spirit, today, you don't need to worry about that issue.

Instead, today's whisky blends are exciting combinations of multiple distilleries, multiple grains, multiple distillation methods, and even multiple cultures. In tasting through these five luxury blends, you'll notice a cavalcade of aromas, flavors, and complexities. You'll find how blends are highly approachable pours, perfect for savoring or turning into Highballs or mixed drinks.

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. That's a low ABV; 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, high-ball 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 and 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.