



THE
NORDIC
CASKS #1

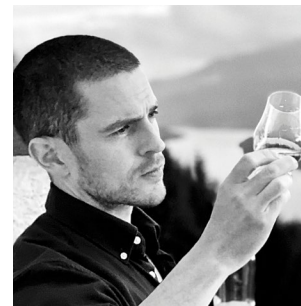


Jonny McMillan and the Nordics

Jonny is our Assistant Reserve Spirits Manager responsible for sourcing casks from around the world. Since joining the company full time in 2015, Jonny now assists Doug McIvor with cask buying and selection, with a focus on developing our whisky portfolio and world whiskies within it.

“The Nordics is one such region that has intrigued me and, although young it is already developing its own identity and character. The people of this rugged and majestic landscape, not dissimilar to Scotland, have long been known for their love of great whiskies. They are now drawing inspiration for their own production both from the robust drams of Scotland and also from the precise and chiselled Japanese style – while injecting their own influence throughout.

Of all the emerging global whisky regions, the Nordics has so far perhaps had the least acclaim, but with distillers of such quality and passion it’s unlikely to remain that way for long.”



Jonny McMillan
Assistant Reserve
Spirits Manager

J. McMillan

Thomas Øhrbom of Whisky Saga on the developing Nordic region



Thomas Øhrbom
Whisky Saga

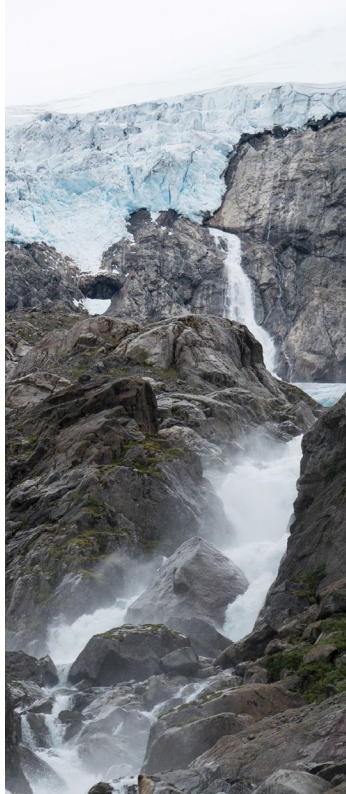
A stylized, handwritten signature of Thomas Øhrbom in dark ink.

“Nordic whisky has interested and fascinated me for over a decade now.

Mackmyra Distillery in Sweden started the modern-day whisky revolution in the Nordics in late 1999, releasing their first whisky in 2006.

The first modern-day Norwegian whisky was released in December 2012. In August 2013 I attended a week-long whisky academy at Box Whisky (now High Coast Distillery) in Sweden, and I was thoroughly hooked on the Nordic whisky vibe. I got to see first hand the intense focus on quality in all aspects of whisky production.

When Mackmyra started there were no other whisky distilleries in the Nordics. Today there are more than 50 active whisky distilleries in the Nordic region, and more are on the way.



All Nordic distilleries are small, and most are tiny in comparison to the well-known distilleries in Scotland. They will never be able to compete on quantity. Labour is expensive, logistics is challenging and they have little production of malted barley (and even less peated malt) and few cooperages. No wonder they have to focus on quality!

At the same time they are trying to define their own style. Being young they still have the freedom and luxury of experimenting such as trying out different yeast strains, playing around with different peat sources, and sourcing fantastic and unusual casks .”





KYRÖ DISTILLERY COMPANY

Kyrö Distillery, famously founded “in a sauna” in 2012, pays homage to the Nordic love of rye by producing a malted rye whisky.

Kyrö combine a very long ferment with the Finnish heritage rye variety Reetta to achieve a much more subtle and complex character than American rye is known for.

This is a truly remarkable distillate and one which is carving out its own genre of whisky.

Kyrö 2016

Tasting Notes

The first ever independent whisky bottling from Kyrö is suitably immense.

The nose is evocative of warm rye bread with lashings of butter, plenty of rich vanilla and the perfect balance of wood spice - genuinely mouth-watering.

The palate is remarkably complex for its young age; while there is certainly the spice and vigour one would expect from rye, there's a wonderful fruitiness balanced against it alongside mashed banana, pine needles and some plum jam.

The finish is perhaps the real star however: long lasting spicy rye notes dance across the palate mingled with delicate oak.

With a spirit like this, Kyrö is destined for a place at the high table of global rye producers.



Cask: #16037

Cask type: Barrel

Region: Finland

Distilled: 2016

ABV: 54.6%

Bottles: 256





High Coast, formerly known as Box Distillery, was founded in 2010, making it one of Sweden's oldest distilleries and among the world's most northerly.

The distillery produces both heavily peated and unpeated whisky under the watchful eye of production managers Roger Melander and Lars Karlsson, both passionate lovers of whisky themselves.

High Coast draw inspiration from both the rugged whiskies of Scotland and the precise beauty of the Japanese style to create something that may well surpass both.



High Coast 2013

Tasting Notes

This is an unpeated example from High Coast, with a rich colour from its Sherry wood maturation.

A rich, farmy nose reminiscent of the great North Highland whiskies gives smoked bacon, seaweed and dried prune notes.

The palate is intense at first, with powerful Sherry notes and wood spice initially dominating, but a little time on the palate shows the depth of this distillate, offering tobacco, blackcurrant jelly and juicy dates.

The quality of Sherry cask shines through on the finish, giving waves of wood spice and jellied fruits.

A phenomenal sherried whisky from a phenomenal distillery.



Cask: #1384

Distilled: 2013

Cask type: Hogshead

ABV: 60.9%

Region: Sweden

Bottles: 290



FARY LOCHAN

DANISH SINGLE MALT WHISKY

Founded by Jens-Erik Jørgensen in 2009, Fary Lochan is a small family-owned distillery in South Jutland, Denmark that fills just 50 casks per year.

Fary Lochan is famed for their nettle-smoked distillate which is only produced for a few weeks of each year.

The rest of production is focused on producing a well-balanced spirit increasingly renowned for its heavy structure and oily texture, which works marvellously well in ex-Sherry wood.

Fary Lochan 2014

Tasting Notes

This is a rare cask of Fary Lochan's famed nettle-smoked whisky.

The nose is immediately evocative of garden bonfires and ancient woodland foliage after a heavy rainfall, but opens to show fresh zesty green fruits and nettle leaves – truly unique and quite spellbinding.

The texture on the palate is amongst the thickest of any whisky, nearer virgin olive oil than water – what a remarkable body.

Flavours of smoked nettle leaves, camphor, lime and melon abound.

One could easily overlook Fary Lochan on the world stage, but this attractive little Dane has serious depth, and more smoky character in one dram than a pint of Lagavulin.



Cask: #06

Cask type: Hogshead

Region: Denmark

Distilled: 2014

ABV: 60.9%

Bottles: 243





When it was built Myken Distillery was the most northern distillery in the world, producing the first ever Arctic whisky.

Situated on a tiny island 32 km from the Norwegian mainland, Myken, led by founder Roar Larsen, produces a malt just as rugged as its surroundings.

The distillery experiments with yeast strains, barley varieties and even uses desalinated sea water for its production.



Myken 2017

Tasting Notes

The first ever independent bottling from this tiny distillery is of their lightly peated spirit at 8ppm.

The nose is initially very gentle and takes a little time to open up, but those with patience are rewarded with light green fruit, bonfire ash and zesty lime.

The palate is lusciously peated, medicinal and coastal with notes of wild garlic and sooty chimneys.

The peat pops out even more on the long ashy finish, as one contemplates whether this is perhaps the Norwegian cousin of Longrow or Talisker, and whether the west coast of Norway will soon rival the west coast of Scotland.



Cask: #15

Cask type: First Fill
American Standard
Barrel

Region: Norway

Distilled: 2017

ABV: 61.4%

Bottles: 246

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Wine & Spirits Experts



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