

Whisky and Other Scottish Wonders

Reading List

See this image Scotland's Secret History: The Illicit Distilling and Smuggling of Whisky

by Jim Murray

Illicit distilling in Scotland was seen as a 'right of man' at the end of the 17th century. Attempts to enforce excise duty on the spirit were therefore met with resistance, ranging from riots to more and more ingenious ways of avoiding paying tax. In this book Charles MacLean and Daniel MacCannell give a fascinating insight into the day-to-day struggles that led to the increase in illicit distilling from the mid-1600s, then to its eventual demise in the early twentieth century. The Cabrach, a wild and sparsely populated part of Aberdeenshire, became renowned for its production of illicit whisky. Local inhabitants mixed farming and distilling with great skill, creating a network of stills and distribution to evade customs. Using new research first-hand historical accounts and official records, the authors show how spirits from this small parish were made and travelled far and wide, across the border to England and across the North Sea to France, firing up revolution and lending solidarity to the struggles of the Jacobites.

Whisky: Malt Whiskies of Scotland

by Dominic Roskrow

This beautifully presented Little Book is an excellent introduction to the world of Scotch whiskies. It includes the major Scotch whiskies and the distilleries that produce them.

The book includes details of the very best of Scottish single malts and deluxe whiskies, covering Speyside (Cardhu, Glenfarclas, Glenfiddich) the Highlands and Islands (Blair Athol, Glenmorangie, Talisker), to Islay (Ardbeg, Laphroaig), the Lowlands (Auchentoshan, Glenkinchie) and Campbeltown (Glen Scotia). It is completely up-to-date, including new Scottish distilleries which have yet to bottle spirit or establish a core product.

What's more, an introduction exploring the current whisky boom and how distilleries are coping with this surge in demand makes this attractive Little Book a great introduction for anyone looking to learn about whisky.

Scotland: A History

by Wormald

A series of studies by well-established scholars of Scottish history, from Roman times until the present day, that offers the opportunity to go beyond the old myths, legends, and romance of Scottish history to the much more rewarding knowledge of why Scotland was a remarkably successful, thriving, and important kingdom, of international renown.

Glasgow; A History of the City

by Michael Fry

Beloved, reviled – and not only by Glaswegians – **Glasgow** isn't just the Industrial Revolution nor the Victorian slums. Founded in the sixth century, its forebears pushed back the Romans.

The roof of its cathedral, founded in the twelfth century, survived the Reformation. Its fifteenth-century university welcomed Adam Smith and the Enlightenment. It prospered from sugar, tobacco, cotton and slavery in the eighteenth century, and saw the rise of the Red Clydesiders in the twentieth.

Glasgow's not just a city, it's an urban civilization in itself, **unique and fruitful**. Its denizens have seen the city rise and fall, they have survived bombs and demolitions, and somehow kept their **humour intact**.

Now these people and this city play a pivotal role in Scotland's future, and in the future of the UK. **It's time for a book that tells the story in all its complexity.**

A History Of Scotland

by Neil Oliver

Scotland is one of the oldest countries in the world with a vivid and diverse past. Yet the stories and figures that dominate Scottish history - tales of failure, submission, thwarted ambition and tragedy - often badly serve this great nation, overshadowing the rich tapestry of her intricate past.

Historian Neil Oliver presents a compelling new portrait of Scottish history, peppered with action, high drama and centuries of turbulence that have helped to shape modern Scotland. Along the way, he takes in iconic landmarks and historic architecture; debunks myths surrounding Scotland's famous sons; recalls forgotten battles; charts the growth of patriotism; and explores recent political developments, capturing Scotland's sense of identity and celebrating her place in the wider world.

Whisky Words: Whisky and Distilling in the United Kingdom Through the Victorian Age

by Aaron Barker

Media coverage of whisky and distilling of all sorts is at an all-time high. The number of resources available to curious imbibers are unlimited and continually expanding. Print options range from books to magazines to newspaper features. Brand Ambassadors are found at the corner of nearly every bar. Electronic outlets are beyond overflowing with websites, blogs, podcasts, video channels, corporate materials and pages, posts and tweets from every corner of the social media universe. There seems to be no end.

But it wasn't always this way.

As the whisky industry began to 'mature' from the Excise Act of 1823, information began to slowly trickle out. This book is a look at what was available to the whisky enthusiast in the following period of growth in the UK, the Victorian Age. Stories, articles and chapter-ized material sourced from engineering and technical journals, newspapers and period magazines, in-depth and expansive descriptions of the whisky-making process lead into distillery visits that both pre-and post-date Alfred Barnard's legendary tour. John's Lane (Powers), Royal Irish, Ardlussa, Jura, Jones Road, Ben Nevis, Oban and London's Thames Bank Distillery (from 1842) are all documented here in tones ranging from purely technical to downright jovial. Barnard's rare work "A Tourist's Visit to Argyllshire and West Highlands" is examined twice. Local whisky thievery and distillery expansions in the 1890's are further detailed alongside publicly reported newspaper articles on whisky's greatest scandal and trial, The Pattison Whisky Crash.
