

TRIED & TASTED

WHISKY

There's no better way to warm the cockles than with a wee dram – here are our top bottles from Scotland's top distilleries that won't break the bank

1 Bowmore Laimrig 15 Year Old

A stonking 54.1% ABV makes this a dram to really savour. It's incredibly complex, with whisky buffs gushing over its intense fruitiness, light peaty flavour and the quality of malt used to make it. The Islay distillery finishes this particular malt off in sherry barrels, giving it a unique, sweet flavour. **£65 from whiskyshop.com**

2 Wemyss The Hive 12 Year Old

A blend of 16 malt whiskies, mostly from Speyside, The Hive (40% ABV) is also matured in sherry casks for an added hit of sweetness. As the label and name suggests, there are big, bold honey notes in every sip, with a lingering

floral taste of spice. It's won all sorts of awards and the different flavours are very easy to pick up on, making it a great choice for budding connoisseurs. **£40 from Majestic Wines**

3 Haig Club

Apart from the fact that it comes in a fantastic looking bottle that's more like an aftershave than a whisky, this 40% ABV single grain variety does something the others don't,

working particularly well with mixers and in cocktails. It's light, sweet and designed to be the perfect dram for people who think they don't like whisky – mixed with coke or poured over ice, this is a delicious, moreish spirit which looks stunning in the cocktail cabinet. **£45 from whiskyshop.com**

4 Balblair 03

Balblair differs from other distilleries by releasing its whiskies by vintage rather than age (like wine), making each bottle feel just that little bit more special. This 2003 46% ABV single malt is bright, young and sprightly – both in

appearance and taste, with creamy, malty flavours up front and a lingering aftertaste of spice and wood. **£40.55 from masterofmalt.com**

5 Glengoyne 18 Year Old

Glengoyne is one of the Highlands' most respected distilleries and this 18 year old expression is a fine example of why Scottish whisky is world famous. Full-bodied, rich, nutty, spicy and sweet, it's a dram to be savoured, with every glass sipped slowly to truly appreciate the depth of flavour. A top choice for whisky fans who know their stuff. **£79.99 from glengoyne.com**

