



BALLYFIN

WHISKEY OR *UISCE BEATHA* MEANING “THE WATER OF LIFE”, IS RECORDED IN IRISH ANNALS AS EARLY 1100 A.D.

To say the least it is an integral part of our culture. Today worldwide whiskey is experiencing a renaissance of it's own. Here at Ballyfin we aim to provide an insight into the world of whiskey making, focusing mostly on our superb range of Irish whiskeys. However comparing whiskeys from Scotland, the United States and Japan to our own here in Ireland can tell a fascinating story. Although all whiskeys share the same basic attributes the array of styles and flavor can astound.

IN THE BAR HERE AT BALLYFIN WE OFFER FOUR DIFFERENT OPTIONS FOR TASTING WHISKEY

Option one

A taste through the different styles of whiskey made here in Ireland. We start with a grain whiskey and although used in most blended whiskey, it's a style rarely produced on its own. The second whiskey is a blended whiskey, which in Ireland in general comprises of pot still whiskey blended with grain whiskey. We then taste a pot still whiskey, which is the quintessential Irish whiskey in the sense that is unique to Ireland. Pot still whiskey is made from using both malted and un-malted barley at the fermentation stage. We finish on a single malt whiskey, which is also peated. Single malt whiskey is made using only malted barley. | €60

Option two

Pot still whiskey came about as a result of the Irish Government in the early 1800's introducing a tax on malted barley. Not to be outdone the distillers changed their whiskey style to using a mash of both un-malted and malted barley. The ratio is generally about 60:40 hence they slashed their tax bill by up to 60%. The result was an incredibly complex style of whiskey that had been triple distilled before ageing in oak casks. We will taste four pot still whiskeys which range from floral and honeyed to robust and spicy. The dramatic changes in flavor are a result of the ageing of all whiskeys in oak barrels. As much as 80% of the final flavor of a whiskey is due to the extended maturation in the oak barrels. | €75

Option three

Ireland continues to produce some of the finest whiskeys the world has to offer. Whether it be a single cask whiskey that the master blender has determined perfect as is, or a rare blend of aged whiskeys from a variety of casks. It would be hard here for the Middleton range of whiskeys not to dominate. From Middleton Barry Crockett to Jameson's Rarest Vintage Reserve this tasting will sample four of the very best whiskeys produced in Ireland. | €200

Option four

A world view of whiskeys tells an interesting story. From the different cereals used to different flavors passed on by the use of different oaks, one can get an idea of how complex whiskey really is. We will taste four types, beginning with the uniquely Irish pot still whiskey, on to a smoky Scotch, then to a corn based style whiskey that is America's bourbon, and finishing on a Japanese single malt aged solely in Japanese oak. | €75