

Age in Scotch Whisky

The high regard for age statements in the United States may frequently lead us astray. A Scotch whisky with a ten-year-old age statement on the label is not necessarily a better whisky than one with no age statement at all. Naturally, aging is important in making a Scotch (or any other whisky) mellow and more palatable, but the quality of the whisky and the skill of the blender's hand must be there first. Some fully aged Scotch is laid away in casks, after it has been blended, for maturing for periods of up to one year. The law stipulates an aging period of at least three years for Scotch whisky, and none can enter the United States under four years of age.

Practically all Scotch malts remain in their casks for a minimum of five years. Blends with higher percentages of malt whiskies are usually aged longer than those with more grain whiskies. Thus, when a brand is marketed with different age statements, it is not simply the same whisky aged for different lengths of time. The whisky indicating the oldest age was fuller to begin with, and always required more time in cask to mellow.

What Flavor?

Listed below are various flavored brandies. Can you match the flavors?

1. Calvados.
2. Eau-de-vie de poire.
3. Framboise.
4. Kirschwasser.
5. Mirabelle
6. Fraise
7. Slivovitz

1. Apple 2. Pear 3. Raspberry 4. Cherry 5. Plum 6. Strawberry 7. Plum

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