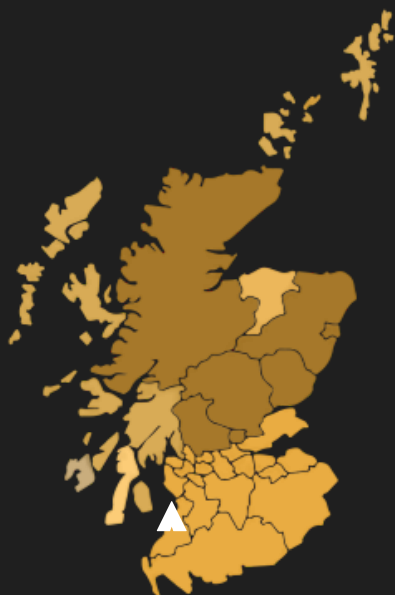


Ailsa Bay

REGION

There are five Scottish whisky distilling regions; Highlands (including Islands), Speyside, Islay, Campbeltown and Lowlands, each with their own distinctive characteristics. Key to understanding the flavour distinctions between various Single Malts is knowing these regions and the kind of whiskies that they produce.



Region

Lowlands

Production Type

Single Malt

Distillery Status

Active

Brands

Ailsa Bay

HISTORY OF AILSA BAY

The distillery that uses technology to not only make their whisky tastier but smarter

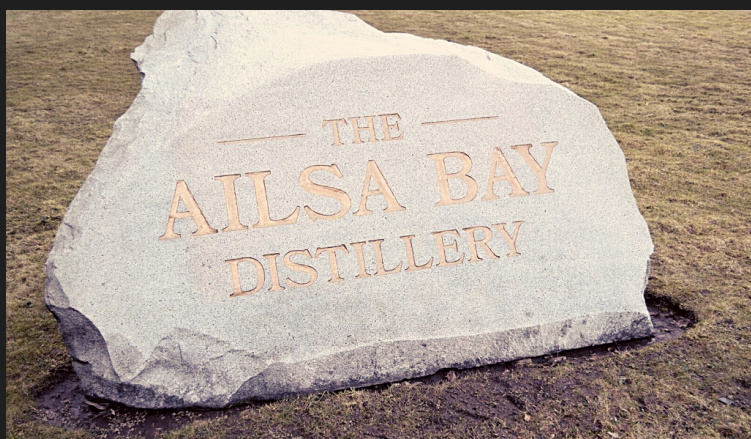
Established in 2007 by William Grant & Sons, on the site of former Girvan based grain distillery, Ladyburn, Ailsa Bay is an extremely innovative new age distillery. A distillery which loves to be the first to adapt to new technology, Ailsa Bay loves to push the envelope and lead the way for the industry to truly move into the 21st century. The distillery takes its name from Ailsa Craig, a large granite rock which sits a few miles out in the Atlantic Ocean which is actually the source for all of the UK's curling stones.

The opening of Ailsa Bay was attended by HRH Prince Charles and there has been huge interest in the distillery since. Ailsa Bay distillery was originally built to ease the pressure on another of Grant's distilleries, Balvenie, following a surge in popularity of Grant's blended whiskies as well as two flagship Single Malts, Glenfiddich and Balvenie. The plan was for Ailsa Bay to be an extremely versatile distillery with large production capability, to replace the reliance on Balvenie for Grant's Blends. As such, the distillery has no less than 8 stills, giving it a mammoth 12 million litre annual capacity and the versatility to produce various differing malts.

There are four key characteristics which are produced, being estery, nutty, fruity and heavily peated. Living up to its new age tag, Ailsa Bay is extremely high tech, scientifically distilling and measuring its spirit to very precise parameters. The distillery is also the first in Scotland to use the process of "micro maturation", where their new make spirit is filled into small, Hudson Baby Bourbon casks of between 25 and 100 litres where they mature for 6 to 9 months. These small casks stimulate intense interaction between spirit and wood, rapidly maturing the spirit. The spirit is then refilled into larger, more standard casks for the remainder of their maturation period.

As well as being a key component for Grant's blends, Ailsa Bay released their first Single Malt bottling in February 2016, a no-age heavily peated offering which showcased the full flexibility of the distillery's setup using a combination of innovative techniques for the spirit cut points, vatting, maturation and sweetness measurement. The spirit is scientifically distilled to 022 parts peat and 019 parts sweet before going through the process of micro maturation, resulting in a precise balance of oaky sweetness and smoky notes, a Malt which won Best Lowland Scotch at the 2019 World Whiskies Awards.

2019 saw Ailsa Bay incorporate blockchain technology, allowing consumers to digitally track their whisky throughout the full process of distillation and maturation to the store floor. This of course has been extremely innovative and acts as an open ledger to track authenticity and prevent counterfeiting, again the first Scottish distillery to adopt emerging blockchain technology.



AILSABAY FACTS

Everything you ever wanted to know about the inner workings of Ailsa Bay Distillery

CAPACITY (MLPA) 12	HEAT SOURCE Steam	MALT SUPPLIER Various	YEAST TYPE Liquid	CRIST WEIGHT (T) 12
WASHBACK TYPE Stainless Steel	FERMENTATION TIME: 60hrs	Filling Strength 63.5%	WATER SOURCE Penwhapple Reservoir	
NEW-MAKE STRENGTH 70%	CONDENSER TYPE Shell and tube (Four Stainless Steel)	SINGLE MALT PERCENTAGE: 4%		
NEW-MAKE PHENOL LEVEL 5-22PPM	WAREHOUSING Racked, Palletised			
SPIRIT STILL SHAPE Onion with Boil Ball		WASH STILL SHAPE Onion With Boil Ball		

STILLS
16
SPIRIT STILL SIZE
(L) 12,000

MASH TUN TYPE
Lauter

WASHBACK SIZE
(L) 50,000

Wort Clarity
Medium

WASH STILL SIZE
(L) 12,000
WASHBACKS
24



ACCOLADES AND RANGE OF WHISKY

Although Ailsa Bay is one of the youngest Distilleries in Scotland they are at the forefront of technological adoption when it comes to their production process. Ailsa Bay is the only single malt that is assessed by using two calculation methods, (PPPM) and (SPPM). This lesser known method, devised by malt master Brian Kinsman, is a precise measurement that measures sweet parts per million. As well as new measurement gradients the distillery also benefits from Micro maturation, Precision Distilling and Blockchain technology for the tracking of all its bottles.

- Best Scotch Lowlands, Ailsa Bay Sweet Smoke 1.2, World Whiskies Awards 2019
- Lowland Whisky Of the Year, Ailsa Bay, Whisky Advocate 2016

Ailsa Bay may only have a few releases to date but these come with rave reviews, and Ailsa Bay is definitely one distillery to keep your eye on for the future.



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