

WHAT IS UNIQUE ABOUT THE JAPANESE WHISKY PROCESS?

Initially, the objective & intention was to produce Scottish Tasting whisky in Japan, however they found that the public in Japan did not care for the peat & smokey notes as much.

“Three things have a big influence on Japanese whisky – water, climate and people.

First, the water. Japanese water is quite clear – we have very good mineral water from a well that we use to make the whisky.

Then the climate: Japanese summers are much warmer than Scottish ones. The temperature in the mountains where our whisky is stored in warehouses for maturation often hits 35C (95F) – but the winters are cold and the dynamics of the temperature fluctuation give the whisky a much deeper and more rapid maturation.”

Shinji Fukuyo, Chief blender Suntory

Another key factor is that unlike the Scottish trade, Japan’s distillers create their blends and vatted (Pure) malt whiskies using only their own whisky, and not taking in barrels from other distilleries, nor until recently selling barrels out to blending houses.



Masataka Taketsuru

(竹鶴 政孝 1894– 1979)

Founded Japan's whisky industry.

He was born in 1894 in Takehara, Hiroshima to a family that had owned a sake brewery since 1733. Studied in Glasgow and apprenticed with Longmorn & Hazelburn before returning to Japan and building Suntory’s first whisky distillery, later opening his own under Nikka

TASTING METHOD

Using this method you could look for three distinct sets of flavors or tastes in whisky

1st AROMA / NOSE

* Breathe over your glass with mouth & nose open to allow as much air as possible to reach your olfactory nerves! Swallow the air, and then slowly exhale and let your mind wander while deciding on the flavors you taste.

2nd PALETTE / TASTE

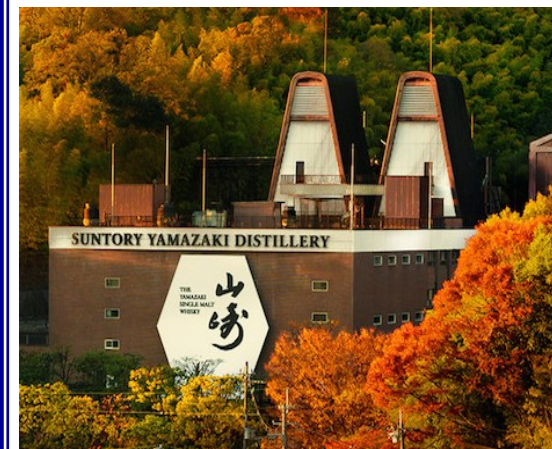
* Take a sip to your mouth, swirl & “chew” the spirit as you coat the inside surfaces of your mouth, again breathe through, swallow and exhale, again decide on tastes, flavors & textures.

3rd DILUTE & RE-TASTE

* Take the straw in your water glass and put your finger over the top, transport the water to your whiskey glass and drop in. The addition of a drop of water is known as “cracking” the spirit. This allows molecular bonds to break, freeing up a new range of aromas & flavors to be tasted and noted!

Remember that there can be a difference between Tasting & Drinking with friends. When you have an opportunity to try a new spirit, brand or label, try these steps. When drinking a “jack & coke” at happy hour its not as needed...

JAPANESE Whiskies



Whisky production in Japan began around 1870, the first release from a commercial distillery was in 1929

TRINITY HALL IRISH PUB

*Dallas' Whiskey Pub
Over 300+ Whiskies available
on the good days, sometimes
fewer after the weekend, with
best selection on delivery days!*

FUKANO DISTILLERY 40.6%

Single Cask Rice Whisky

Nose Fruit, toffee, vanilla, toasted bread, spice, coconut and a light bit of dark dried fruit.

Palate Dark sweets, vanilla, fruit, toasted grain, cinnamon, nuts and a touch of wood.

Finish Long and full of banana, caramel, coconut, wood and a bit of earth.

thewhiskeyjug.com

THE HAKUSHU 12 YEAR 43.0 %

Single Malt

Nose: Toasted barley, seed & nut loaf, chopped almonds and a little bit of barrel char. Hints of milk chocolate and dried grass bring sweetness.

Palate: More fruit but it's by no means a sweet whisky. Still rich, herbaceous and grassy, a waft of smoke along the way.

Finish: Quite short, though enjoyable with orange peel and a touch of minerals.

masterofmalt.com

HIBIKI JAPANESE HARMONY 43%

Blended Malt & Grain

Hibiki Japanese Harmony is made with malt whiskies from the Yamazaki and Hakushu distilleries, as well as grain whisky from the Chita distillery. The whiskies are drawn from 5 different types of cask, including American white oak casks, Sherry casks and Mizunara oak casks. The blend itself was crafted by the Suntory Whisky blending team, led by Master Blender Shingo Torii. An elegant expression, with wafts of honey, orange, a herbaceous touch or two and light oak.

masterofmalt.com

SUNTORY TOKI 43.0%

Blended 3 Distilleries & 3 cask types

Nose basil, green apple, honey

Palate grapefruit, green grapes, peppermint, thyme

Finish subtly sweet and spicy finish with a hint of vanilla oak, white pepper and ginger
[Distillers Site](#)

NIKKA COFFEY MALT 45.0%

Malted Barley, Non-Potstill

"The nose has darker aromas like pecan shells and a touch of char smoke. The palate is full of American whiskey flavors like vanilla, coconut, and maple, but the malt gives the whisky a balance that allows the whisky to not be oily and overly sweet. What also ties the room together is the spicy quality from the barrels that break up all of the sweet notes."

Distiller.com Reviewer Stephanie Moreno

NIKKA 17 YEAR PURE MALT

Nose: Fresh and fruity with fruit salad, berries, sultanas and some other dried fruit, vanilla, fragrant wood and honey.

Palate: Spicy and rounded with vanilla, blood orange and a little chocolate.

Finish: Medium-length, slightly bitter-sweet, oak, fruit and cocoa.

Masterofmalt.com

[Worlds Best Blended Malt 2012, 2014, 2015](#)
