

## WHAT IS MAKES JAPANESE WHISKIES UNIQUE?

“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

## THE HIBIKI 17 YEAR 43.0 %

**Nose:** Quite full. There are notes of honey and wax, resin and oak. There are notes of gentle smoke and cacao, hints of cooked fruit and a nutty note.

**Palate:** Sweet and rich. There are crisp notes of mixed peels, raisin and custard with a little zest and plenty of oak.

**Finish:** Long with notes of oak and cocoa and sherried peels.

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This whisky is named after Kiichiro Iwai, known as “The Silent Pioneer of Japan Whisky,” and the former mentor of Masataka Taketsuru, the founder of Nikka and Suntory Whisky. Iwai sent Taketsuru to Scotland to learn the art of whisky-making. Taketsuru returned to Japan, presenting a whisky-making report- the Taketsuru Notes- to Iwai. Taketsuru was the first Japanese to learn the art of whisky-making.

## 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!



**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

## JAPANESE Whiskies *August 8th 2017*



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

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

**OHISHI DISTILLERY 43.5%**

Malted Rice Whisky

**Appearance:** Mahogany. Medium legs. Darker than expected given the very dark green bottle.

**Nose:** Very warm, high alcohol presence. Much like a very young single malt. Notes of brown sugar and dried flowers.

**Palate:** Sweet on the front end, floral progressing through the finish. Flavors of black licorice candy and spiced gumdrops. Hint of clove. The finish is quite floral, somewhat reminiscent of some Speyside malts and high-rye bourbons. Medium burn. Bright and warm throughout the finish.

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**IWAI MARS 40.0%**

Kiichiro Iwai, the name sake for this Mars Whisky, was a silent pioneer of Japan whisky. This whisky is inspired by great whiskies of America. A majority of corn balanced with light malt aged in ex bourbon barrels. Ideal for daily sipping, in a mint julep or an old fashioned.

*TASTING NOTES: Sweet with fruit flavors like pear, quince and hints of red fruits and vanilla.*

Distillers Site

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**HIBIKI 12 43%  
Blended Malt & Grain**

**Nose:** Juicy marmalade with real chunks of orange, cooked apples dusted with cinnamon, thick honey and plum wine.

**Palate:** Crushed almonds, stewed fruits, clove-studded oranges. Sherried malt and a subtle core of oak.

**Finish:** Bright and flavoursome with crisp apple and citrus.

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**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

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**IWAI TRADITION 40.0%**

***IWAI TRADITION***

This is malt driven spirit is truly a reflection of contemporary Japanese whisky. Incredibly balanced, soft and layered. A blending of sherry, bourbon and wine casks with hints delicate hints of peat make for a harmonious whisky that would make Iwai-san proud.

*TASTING NOTES: Ripe Cherry, honey toffee with a beautiful ginger spice.*

Distillers Site

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**YAMAZAKI 12 YEAR 43.0%**

**Nose:** Good body with plenty of nut oils and zest, a pleasant floral character with a little tropical fruit and a rooty note.

**Palate:** Smooth and soft with good sweetness and winter spice. A lovely citrus note develops with more tropical fruit notes and a little rum.

**Finish:** Medium with fruit and zest.

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