

# WHISKY:EDITION

Whisky reviews. Since 2022.



## Ardmore 12 Years (2012/2025) - Signatory Vintage

The Highlands are renowned for their distinctive single malts, and for over a century, the Ardmore distillery has been synonymous with powerful, smoky whiskies with unmistakable character. When a renowned independent bottler such as Signatory Vintage brings its expertise to bear, the result is often a true treasure. This 12-years Ardmore from 2012, bottled at a proud 60.70% ABV after maturing in bourbon barrels, promises an exciting journey through history, combining Highland tradition with American influence. Can this dram live up to the high expectations and reconcile the distillery's characteristic 'dirty' profile with the mild elegance of a bourbon barrel?

TYPE	COUNTRY	REGION	DISTILLERY
Single Malt	Scotland	Highlands	Ardmore
BOTTLER	AGE	ABV	PRICE/LITER
Signatory Vintage	12 Years	60.7% Vol.	107.07 €/l

### TASTING NOTES

#### NOSE

The fascinating complexity of this Ardmore is revealed right from the first sniff. Coconut caramel dominates the initial impressions – a clear indication of the twelve years of maturation in bourbon barrels. But behind this, a tropical fruit explosion unfolds: juicy mango dances with stony fruits for attention. What makes this whisky really interesting, however, is the subtle, earthy smoke that lays like a mysterious veil over the sweet notes. A subtle hint of rubber rounds off the bouquet and gives it an industrial note that fits perfectly with the Ardmore DNA.

#### PALATE

The true strength of this dram is revealed on the palate. Despite its impressive 60.70% ABV, it is surprisingly voluminous and mild – a testament to Signatory Vintage's skilful cask selection. BBQ flavours run through the taste like a common thread, supported by burnt coconut, which adds a wonderful roasted note. Fresh lemon notes provide lively acidity, while malty sweetness and brown sugar give the whole a warm, inviting base. The balance between power and elegance is remarkable.

#### FINISH

It starts off intensely earthy, accompanied by light wood notes that testify to barrel ageing. A meaty note – almost rustic – joins in and underlines the robust Highland character. Surprisingly, the finish is not too long, but all the more concise for it. Spicy components mix with honey sweetness to create a harmonious finish.

### THOUGHTS

#### MARCEL

This Ardmore brings plenty of fun to the glass with its smoky, slightly gritty character, proving that a robust Highland whisky can be surprisingly mild and approachable despite a proud 60.7% ABV. Ideal for anyone willing to take on a sturdy yet playful dram – perfect for cozy evenings filled with character and a touch of adventure.

#### SASCHA

At 60.7% ABV, this 12-years Ardmore impresses with a remarkable balance between intense smoke and the sweet finesse imparted by the bourbon barrel. Its clear structure, supported by lively acidity and a distinct yet not overly long finish, makes it a fine example of harmoniously complex Highland whisky with excellent cask management.

### RATINGS

MARCEL <b>78/100</b> Very good	SASCHA <b>81/100</b> Excellent	VALUE FOR MONEY <b>3/5</b> Fair
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