

WHISKY:EDITION

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Mortlach Midnight Dusk - Diageo Special Releases (2024)

Let's forget the marketing blah-blah from Diageo for a moment - Mortlach is actually a damn good distillery. The unusual 2.81-fold distillation usually turns boring Speyside fare into complex, meaty whiskies. The "Beast of Dufftown" deserves respect. But with the Midnight Dusk, someone obviously forgot to pass this memo on.

TYPE	COUNTRY	REGION	DISTILLERY
Single Malt	Scotland	Speyside	Mortlach
AGE	ABV	PRICE/LITER	
NAS	57.5% Vol.	333.57 €/l	

TASTING NOTES

NOSE

Okay, hats off - Mortlach has played all the cards right here. A lot of spices hit you straight away, followed by a delicate hint of citrus and apricot, which really makes you want more. The density of flavours is impressive: toffee, milk chocolate and a hint of leather create complexity. Cappuccino joins in, and then - bang - black pepper, which smells suspiciously like Szechuan pepper. This is Speyside with eggs!

PALATE

And then you take the first sip and think: "Wait a minute, that's it?" The oily texture is still okay, nougat tries to save what can be saved and the black pepper fights on bravely. A slight acidity brings some life into play, and if you're really imaginative, you might find a hint of fig.

FINISH

Pleasant oak - nothing more, nothing less. Still spicy, medium length, baking cocoa and baking powder. Sounds solid? It is solid. But "solid" is not what you expect from a premium release.

THOUGHTS

MARCEL

The Mortlach Midnight Dusk shows that even a 'Beast of Dufftown' can falter - the nose promises a lot, but the palate delivers only half-heartedly. For the price, I would have expected significantly more character and drinking pleasure; otherwise, it remains just a solid but interchangeable Speyside representative.

SASCHA

Structurally, the Midnight Dusk is well-built, with clear spice and fruit notes, but the balance and complexity don't reach the level one expects from a Special Release. The value for money simply isn't justified here, as other bottlings offer considerably more depth and finesse.

RATINGS

MARCEL
75/100
Very good

SASCHA
79/100
Very good

VALUE FOR MONEY
0/5
No rating

