

WHISKY:EDITION

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Strathisla 24 Years (1992/2016) - Malts of Scotland

There are whiskies that you greet politely. And then there are those that walk through the door and immediately dominate the room – not through volume, but through pure, undeniable presence. The Strathisla 24 Years Old 1992/2016, bottled by Malts of Scotland at a powerful 56.2% ABV, definitely belongs to the second category. The Strathisla distillery in Keith, Speyside, may be known to many primarily as the heart of Chivas Regal, but independent bottlings like this reveal what the distillery is really capable of when given time – a lot of time. This malt was allowed to mature, philosophise, meditate and build complexity in its cask for 24 years. The result? A whisky that can be described as a "sturdy dog" – and that is definitely a compliment.

TYPE	COUNTRY	REGION	DISTILLERY
Single Malt	Scotland	Speyside	Strathisla
BOTTLER	AGE	ABV	PRICE/LITER
Malts of Scotland	24 Years	56.2% Vol.	284.28 €/l

TASTING NOTES

NOSE

The composition begins waxy, almost like the interior of an old library, where leather and beeswax seal the shelves. Then a floral bouquet opens up, which seems surprisingly feminine for a self-proclaimed "sturdy male" – as if he were wearing a heart of wildflowers under his lumberjack shirt. The fragrance is not intrusive, not like an overzealous perfumery department, but subtle and sophisticated, like the discreet scent of a well-groomed gentleman of the old school. Forest honey covers it like a golden veil – not the industrially clarified supermarket honey, but that dark, resinous forest honey with personality and history. Vanilla joins in, but not as a soloist, rather as a member of an ensemble that knows when to step back. And then, the wood. Lots of wood. But not that young, aggressive oak that screams "I'm here!", but the dignified wood of old furniture, polished by decades. Apricot and pear dance on the edge, dried fruits that have exchanged their sweetness for velvety depth. And – oh yes – green tobacco. Not the smoky cigarette, but the fresh leaves in the drying barn, earthy and aromatic.

PALATE

We noted it as "sparkling" – that electrifying tingle on the tongue that signifies life. Spicy, yes, but not one-dimensionally spicy. It's as if someone had knocked over a Michelin-starred chef's spice cabinet and then decided that the chaos was perfect. Full-bodied and oily, this whisky envelops the mouth like a well-fitting winter coat – protection and luxury at the same time. "Has power" is an understatement. It doesn't just have power, it IS power. But this power is never crude. The oak, oh that wonderful oak, presents itself in its most mature form – not bitter, not tannic, but wise and balanced. The complexity is what elevates this palate from good to extraordinary. While you are still trying to decipher the spice, the next wave of flavours has already built up. Fruit mingles with wood, sweetness with tartness, creaminess with precision. It's like reading a good novel – each page reveals new nuances without losing the thread.

FINISH

He stays, takes a book from your shelf, sits down in your best armchair and makes himself comfortable. The soft oak – and here its true age shows – dominates, but with the gentleness of an old sage who imparts his lessons without raising his voice. A hint of iodine creeps in, unexpected for a Speysider, but welcome – a maritime whisper amidst the landlocked elegance. Garden herbs, perhaps thyme, perhaps sage, round off the finish, as if someone had wandered through a herb garden on the way out. The finish is not spectacular in the sense of fireworks and fanfare, but spectacular in its consistency and depth.

THOUGHTS

MARCEL

This Strathisla 24 Years 1992/2016 is a true character – powerful, charming, and with a depth you don't come across every day. It takes you on a journey full of spice, honey, and woody warmth, without ever feeling overpowering. A whisky for connoisseurs who want to fall in love from the very first sip.

SASCHA

The complexity and harmonious interplay of mature oak, spicy notes, and subtle herbs make this Strathisla a technically impressive Speyside malt. Despite its robust 56.2% ABV, the whisky remains consistently balanced and structured, making it a demanding benchmark bottling for seasoned enthusiasts.

RATINGS

MARCEL
96/100
World class

SASCHA
93/100
World class

VALUE FOR MONEY
0/5
No rating