

WHISKY:EDITION

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WillowBurn The Distillery Exclusive Cask (1445)

WillowBurn is part of the prestigious Hercynian Distilling Co. in the heart of the Harz Mountains, Germany. Since its establishment in 1985, Hammerschmiede (also known as the Elsburn Distillery) has been producing unique spirits. The WillowBurn The Distillery Exclusive Cask 1445 is a special bottling, hand-filled on-site, showcasing the craftsmanship of this distillery. A standout feature of this release is that 50% of the malt is smoked not with peat but with wood, giving the whisky a distinctive character.

TYPE	COUNTRY	DISTILLERY	AGE
Single Malt	Germany	Hercynian Distilling Co. / Hammerschmiede	NAS
ABV	PRICE/LITER		
60.6% Vol.	141.42 €/l		

TASTING NOTES

NOSE

The aroma opens with a subtle hint of smoldering woodfire, gently rising from the glass. Sweet notes of crème brûlée and caramel add richness, while intense sherry notes dominate. Marsala, raisins, and candied dates bring a fruity, complex dimension to the bouquet.

PALATE

On the palate, the WillowBurn feels creamy yet dry, almost astringent. The aging in the Octave Sherry cask is evident with strong oak flavors and a rich, red fruit profile. Dried fruits dominate, and the underlying wood smoke adds a delicate smokiness that never overwhelms.

FINISH

The finish is medium-long with a hint of peppery spice. The intense oak notes persist, complemented by raisins and a light leather aroma. The lingering smoke is reminiscent of a smoldering incense stick, enhancing the whisky's smoky character.

THOUGHTS

MARCEL

A whisky that immediately delights with its smoky wood fire and sweet sherry notes – here, character meets artisanal passion. The robust alcohol strength isn't for the faint-hearted, but it delivers plenty of punch and an unforgettable tasting experience. For anyone seeking an exciting German whisky with edges and personality, this dram is just right.

SASCHA

Technically, the WillowBurn demonstrates an impressive balance between intense sherry cask maturation and subtle smoke, with the high alcohol content of 60.6% ABV clearly defining its structure, though making the entry a bit challenging. The complex combination of dried fruits, oak, and spicy pepper is well balanced, although the youthfulness and dry astringency add a certain sharpness to the mouthfeel. Overall, a structured, powerful whisky with a clear profile and a distinctive character.

RATINGS

MARCEL 84/100 Excellent	SASCHA 83/100 Excellent	VALUE FOR MONEY 3/5 Fair
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