Distillery In Focus:





REGION

There are five Scottish whisky distilling regions; Highlands (including Islands), Speyside, Islay, Campbeltown and Lowlands, each with their own distinctive characteristics. Key to understanding the flavour distinctions between various Single Malts is knowing these regions and the kind of whiskies that they produce.



Region
Speyside

Production Type
Single Malt

Distillery Status

Active

Brands

Dalmunach

HISTORY OF DALMUNACH

Out with the Old and use it to build the new!

Dalmunach Distillery is one of the youngest and by all accounts most modern distilleries in Scotland. Built in 2014 on the site in Speyside where the Imperial distillery once stood, Dalmunach is the latest addition to the Chivas stable. The distillery is not only technologically superior to many of its counterparts, but also sustainably superior. It was designed and built to be environmentally conscious whilst allowing the preservation of the amazing surrounding scenery. Yet before this modern marvel was born there lies an interesting history on the ground where it sits, in the form of its aforementioned predecessor, Imperial.

The Imperial was founded in 1897 by Thomas Mackenzie, co-owner of Talisker and Dailuaine distilleries. Located on the banks of the River Spey, the distilleries' primary function was to supply blends for the likes of Teacher's, Ballantine's, and Old Smuggler. For over 100 years, the distillery had a chequered existence with ownership changing hands on numerous occasions, until 2005 when the current owners of Dalmunach, Pernod Ricard (Chivas Brothers) acquired the distillery as part of their takeover of Allied Domecq. However, the distillery at this point was not operational and had been silent for several years.

In 2013 the whisky industry experienced a period of high demand for both blends and single malts, which led many companies to look at ways to increase production, be it via expanding capacity at their existing distilleries or by building new ones. Pernod Ricard saw the addition of a new distillery as the best option, the opportunity to create a new distillery to provide for its leading blends, namely Ballantine's, Royal Salute and Chivas Regal was seen as perfect solution.

The first question to answer was location. Attention turned to the dormant Imperial Distillery, seen as the perfect candidate, however Imperial was in no way ready to begin production, needing refurbishment and hefty investment. It was decided that rather than reopen Imperial, it would be demolished to make way for a new super distillery.

With the site identified the work began on building Dalmunach. The construction of the site was overseen by Douglas Cruickshank, a Director at Chivas who had begun his career with Imperial at the tender age of 15. Having spent many years at The Imperial, Cruickshank had the vision to blend old with new and looked to preserve some of the architectural features of his first workplace. He achieved this in several ways, firstly ensuring that the Aberdeen red brick from Imperial's warehouse was reused in the new entranceway to Dalmunach. Secondly Cruickshank incorporated the wood from Imperials washbacks into the cladding of the new Tun Room walls. The final step was to make Dalmunach blend in with the beauty of its surroundings and keep to the architectural traditions of the surrounding region.

Pernod were keen not only to create a new distillery, but also to bring it into the 21st Century. They did just that, kitting the distillery out with the latest tech. It now boasts heat recovery technology, 16 stainless steel washbacks as well as eight stills which have been arranged in a somewhat uncommon circular formation, with the aim to provide a truly unique aesthetic heading into the future.

These stills now produce spirit for some of the World's favourite blends, in addition to Dalmunach's own Single Malt. Their highly anticipated first release was a 4-year-old Single Malt and sold extremely well, leading to many private bottlings at a relatively younger age than you would generally expect. We look forward to seeing (and tasting) the future releases from Dalmunach over the years to come!







DALMUNACH FACTS

Everything you ever wanted to know about the inner workings of Dalmunach Distillery

CAPACITY (MLPA) 10

HEAT SOURCE High pressure steam

STRENGTH

MALT SUPPLIER

YEAST TYPE Lallemand

GRIST WEIGHT (T) 12

WASHBACK TYPE

Filling Strength

WATER SOURCE

Stainless Steel

FERMENTATION TIME:

Balintomb water supply

NEW-MAKE

CONDENSER TYPE

Heat recovery of hot water fitted with thermo vapour compressors **MALT SPECIFICATION**

Unpeated

SPIRIT STILL SHAPE

STILLS

4 wash; 4 spirit

SPIRIT STILL SIZE

(L) 30,000

SPIRIT STILL CHARGE

(L) 20,000

Wort Clarity

WASH STILL SHAPE

MASH TUN TYPE Briggs full lauter

WASHBACK SIZE

(L) 59,000

<10 EBCs

WASH STILL SIZE

(L) 30,000

WASHBACKS

WASH STILL CHARGE

(L) 30,000



ACCOLADES AND RANGE OF WHISKY

The current plan for Dalmunach is that the distillery will be used to supply single malt whisky for Pernod's famous blends. These will include Chivas Regal, Royal Salute and Ballantine's. With that being said Dalmunach Single Malt releases have sold very well and there are now over 30 private bottling releases, highlighting the demand for their Single Malt.

The inaugural release "The Dalmunach Single Malt 4-year-old" comes from an exclusive maturation in a first-fill American oak barrel. The spirit was distilled in October 2014, just one month after the first spirit flowed from the Dalmunach stills, which has made it a very attractive proposition for not only whisky enthusiasts but collectors alike.

The distillery was the recipient of a RIAS award back in 2015 which is a testament to the architectural brilliance and beauty which Dalmunach beholds.









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