

# WHISKY 101

*by*  
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*The Whiskey  
Professor*





# *What is Scotch Whisky?*

- Scotch is a type of whisky that can only be produced in Scotland
- By law Scotch whisky must be produced and matured in Scotland in oak casks for a minimum of three years
- Single malt scotch can only contain barley, malt, and water and is the product of a single distillery



*The Whisky  
Professor*



# Single Malt VS Blended Whisky



- A single malt Scotch whisky is a scotch that has been produced at an individual distillery in Scotland using malted barley
- A blend is a combination of single malt and single grain Scotch whiskies from different distilleries blended together by a master blender to create a new complex blended Scotch whisky

SINGLE MALT SCOTCH WHISKY

Handcrafted at  
**THE BALVENIE®**

*Distillery, Banffshire*  
SCOTLAND



XO  
**DOUGLAS**  
PREMIUM BLENDED SCOTCH WHISKY





# *Production Process*

## 1. Malting

Malting is the controlled germination of barley which will yield a high content of starch, which in turn, will be converted into a fermentable sugar.

## 2. Mashing

Mashing is the process in which the ground down malt called "grist" is infused with hot water turning the starch into a sugary liquid (wort).

## 3. Fermentation

In large wooden drums or "wash-backs" yeast is added to the wort and allowed to ferment for at least 48 hours.





# Production Process (cont.)

## 4. Distillation

Distillation takes place in large copper vessels called stills. Heat is applied, which causes the alcohol to vaporize and rise to the top of the still where it is collected and condensed.

## 5. Maturation

The new make spirit is transferred into Spanish or American oak casks that have previously been filled with sherry or bourbon respectively. Over the years the scotch will inherit characteristics from the oak (vanilla, fragrance and delicacy), and also any sherry or bourbon notes (fruity, sweet or dry).







# Regional Characteristics

**Highlands:** The scotch produced in the highlands tends to be a sweeter and lighter bodied scotch compared to its neighbors.

**Speyside:** The area of Speyside is the most prolific whisky producing region in the world. The low countryside which lies between the mountains and the sea is fertile, mild and is perfect for the growing of barley.

**Islay:** Islay malts are probably the most distinctive malts in Scotland. They have seaweed and iodine characteristics and are peaty. Not surprising as 2/3 of the Islay region is covered by peat bog.

**Western Highlands:** In terms of scotch whisky style this is where "the highlands meet the islands". The scotch whisky produced in this area holds a balance between the smooth highland whiskies and the peaty island whiskies.

**Lowlands:** The scotch produced in the lowlands tends to be lighter and dryer with a slight sweetness.





# Scotch Whisky Regions

