

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
OUTRAGEOUSLY BAD	BARELY DRINKABLE	FLAWED	REASONABLE	GOOD	GREAT	SUPERB	EXCEPTIONAL	MIND BLOWING	LIFE CHANGING
Probably not deserving of whisky, perhaps not whisky at all, an affront to the style and something that should be legislated against. As memorable as a 10/10 for all the wrong reasons.	Some will put this down the sink; others will persevere, but this is poor whisky from the stills. The cask has not helped, and whoever bottled it should be ashamed.	Not enjoyable. This will remain in the whisky cabinet for months if not years, as it simply does not work. Occasionally poured in a "it's not as bad as I remember" kind of way.	OK, bearable; nobody will rush out to buy again but it's not actually bad whisky. Perhaps it's been released a little young, or a cask finish is not working well, maybe a tired cask or bottling strength is wrong?	A whisky you would be happy to own, enjoy a whole bottle from start to finish, share with guests, but not exciting. Maybe a little hard to get the most out of.	A level above, a bottle worth extra effort tracking down, a bottle you are sad to finish, particularly strong in a singular area such as cask maturation or a finish, but maybe not completely balanced.	In an ideal world all whisky would reach this level: great balance, some real interest beyond the cask, where the spirit shines out, too.	This whisky is quality from the first nose, through the midpalate and onto the finish. It would be either reckless or decadent to neck this at 11pm after a whisky tasting. A bottle you will grieve when it's finished.	This is likely to be the kind of whisky that makes anyone's dram of the year. It must not only be exceptionally balanced, but must offer more: some funk, rancio, dunnage, tropical fruits, perhaps all at the same time.	You will forever talk about how this whisky changed your whisky journey. It must have everything required for a score of 9, but with an additional layer that you may not even be able to fully describe – close your eyes you are in heaven.
<p>Score deductions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. greatly overpriced for the quality b. cynical presentation or marketing, c. anything else to be clearly stated d. typically maximum of 1 unless stated and justified 									
<p>Score increases:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. superb value for money b. creative approach to presentation that rewards the drinker c. anything else to be clearly stated d. typically maximum of 1 unless stated and justified 									