MALT WHISKEY

BASIC FACTS

- Single Malt Whisky is made from a single distillery

- It is distilled from fermented mash made exclusively with <u>malted</u>grain, mostly barley

- Single Malt distilleries exist in Scotland, Argentina, Austria, Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Czech Republic, England, Finland, France, Germany, Iceland, India, Japan, Liechtenstein, Netherlands, New Zealand, Pakistan, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan, USA, Wales.

HISTORY

- First written record of whisky was from 1405 in Ireland, first mention of production of whisky from malted barley was in Scotland on the 1494 Exchequer Rolls

- Since 15th century, whisky was heavily taxed in Scotland leading to most of it being produced illegally

- In 1823 Parliament passed an act to make commercial distillation more profitable and imposed punishments on landowners in case unlicensed distilleries were found on their property

HISTORY

- In the 1830s a design, created originally by Robert Stein for continuous stills, was refined by Aeneas Coffey and produced whisky much more efficiently than the traditional pot stills. This lead to merchants blending the malt whisky with the grain whisky distilled in continues stills, resulting the first blended Scotch whisky which was proved quite successful, cheaper than the production of malt and richer in flavor and character than grain. It also was more popular internationally which allowed the single malt producers to expand their operations

PRODUCTION

- All single malt goes through a similar batch process, although it may vary a bit depending on the type of the single malts.
- Malting
- Drying in the kiln
- Mashing
- Fermentation
- Distillation
- Dilution prior to aging
- Maturation

PRODUCTION

- Reused casks
- Vatting, dilution and bottling
- Chill filtration
- Additives (that strongly vary from country to country, for example only caramel coloring may be added to the Scotch whisky prior to bottling while the Canadian whisky can also have the addition of other flavorings and caramel)