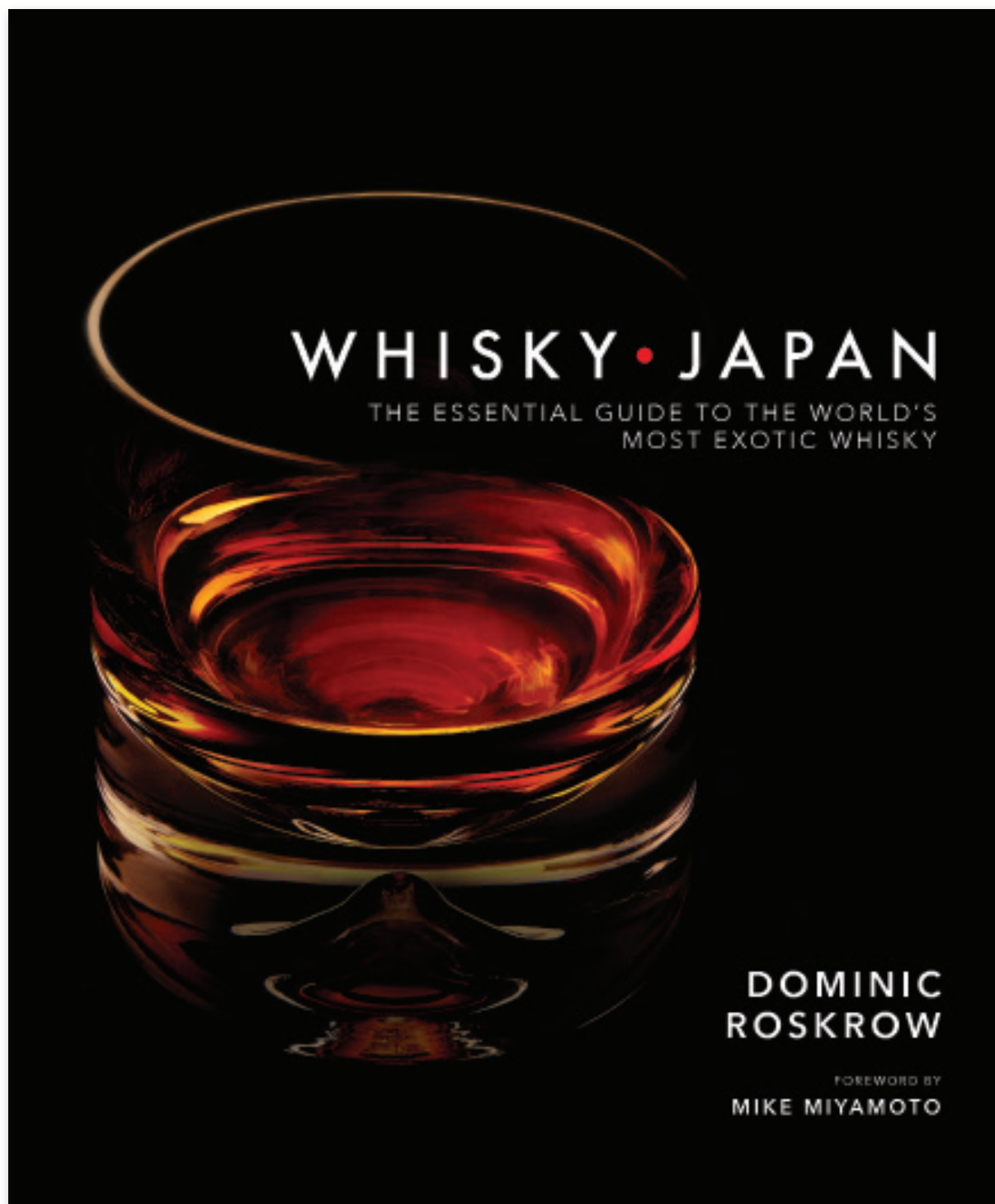


The first comprehensive guide to a drink whose quality is widely admired and recognised.

KODANSHA • OCTOBER 2016 • £30 HB



A richly illustrated introduction to the phenomenon that is Japanese Whisky... at a time when it is starting to sweep all before it as awards build and international demand grows.



Consistently outscoring established distilleries in blind tastings and awards, this well-timed book brings to life a whisky that is rapidly capturing the hearts of even diehard traditionalists and becoming sought after in bars across the world.

KEY: PEAT ● FRUIT ● WOOD ● SPICE ● SHERRY ●



YAMAZAKI 1984

Released in 2009 to mark the twenty-fifth anniversary of Yamazaki making single malts, this is a fine creation, a lovingly assembled new malt that is daringly different, and it is strikingly unlike anything else in the range. There are subtle spices and wood notes, an incense feel, and a rich, dark chocolate and cherry finish. It is a sweet, stylish whisky with a big taste indeed.

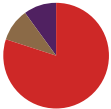


48% ABV



YAMAZAKI BOURBON BARREL

Suntory has been showing off in recent years. Whisky making in Japan is complex, and often involves several malt styles produced under the same roof. Different yeasts and stills are used to make new spirit, as well as a number of different casks, creating intricate malts. So Suntory has been releasing styles of whisky representing just one aspect of its flag bearer, the twelve year old. This one majors in the sweet—toffee, and banana split, with a lot of vanilla ice cream.



48.2% ABV



YAMAZAKI 1993

A couple of 1993 Yamazaki casks have made it overseas in recent years. French retailer and importer La Maison du Whisky had a big, sherried one that was reputedly excellent. But this is something else again. If you happen to find it, you'll no doubt check the bottle at least twice, because it really is an oddball—a big, oily, peaty, and fishy malt on one side, and a flip-flop floral, buttery, hickory, and citrus palate on the other. Amazing.

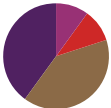


62% ABV



YAMAZAKI MIZUNARA OAK 1979

Mizunara oak is indigenous to Japan and is thought to be responsible for the delicate, spicy, incense-like flavor that normally characterizes the nation's single malts. However, there is nothing subtle here. This has a big, peppery, earthy, and woody flavor, and the balance is all over the place. Heavy smokers might like it, or people who burn their steak, and then eat it with hot chili sauce. It's not a fair reflection of Japanese style, and there are better examples of mizunara oak.



55% ABV

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Japanese whisky has now clearly earned its reputation and is hailed as among the very best in the world. Winning scores of international accolades, in 2014 a Japanese whisky finally won the title of World's Best Whisky in Jim Murray's Whisky Bible. Originally created to emulate the malts of Scotland, Japanese whiskies now occupy a distinct and unique place in the world of whisky. Nonetheless, in spite of their successes they have remained enigmatic and exotic. Many whisky drinkers are only now discovering them for the first time and yet Japanese whisky has a history stretching back nearly a century.

In *Whisky Japan*, internationally recognised authority Dominic Roskrow reveals what makes Japanese whisky so special and sought-after by whisky connoisseurs around the world. In the most comprehensive book on Japanese whisky ever written in English, Roskrow details the companies that make Japanese whisky and gets up close and personal with Japan's distilleries, delving in to their complex production processes, traditions and new innovations that allow this spirit to push boundaries and take the competition head on. The reader is taken on a journey to the very heart of Japanese whisky making, with extensive tasting notes for all the leading expressions, a special selection of rare Japanese treasures, profile interviews with key personalities and over 500 beautiful photographs and illustrations, introducing the reader to the whisky makers, blenders, independent bottlers, retailers, collectors, bloggers and bartenders behind this mystical drink. There is a complete guide to the best bars across the world in which to taste Japanese whisky, and useful travel tips on how to get to the distilleries and what other tourist attractions are available at the distilleries.



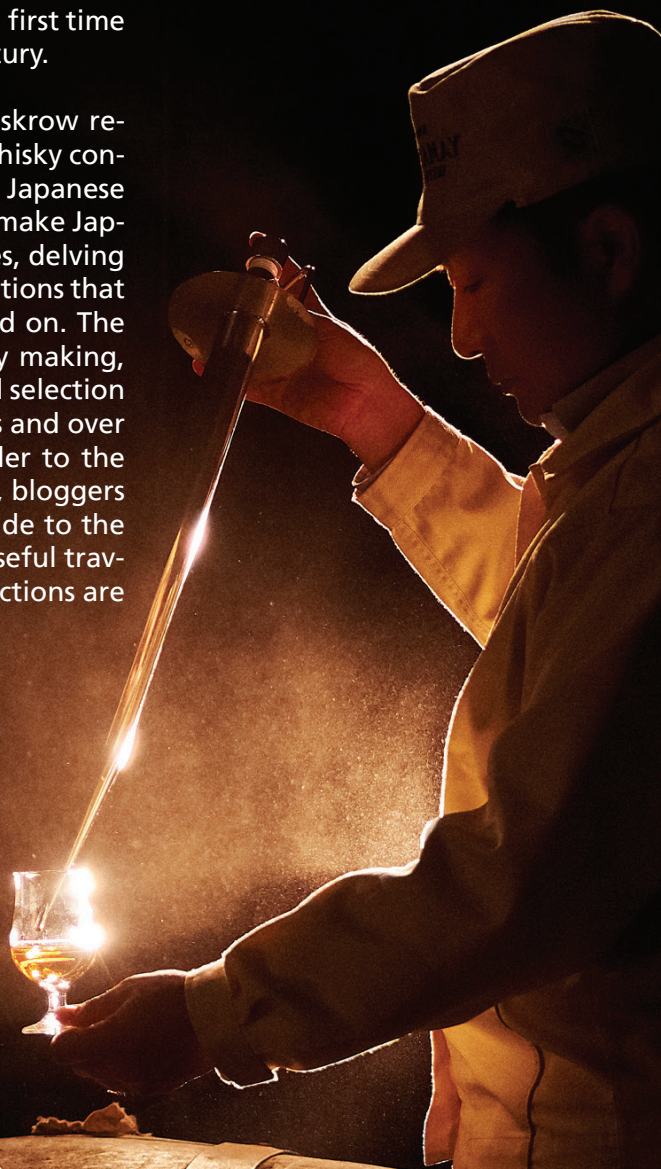
KEY : PEAT ● FRUIT ● WOOD ● SPICE ● SHERRY ●

The *at-a-glance* pie chart accompanying every whisky gives the reader and almost instantaneous insight into the characteristic of each - essential in deciding which to try first!



British journalist and acknowledged expert on world whisky Dominic Roskrow is the author of many books on the subject from leading publishers, including *Need To Know Whiskies: From Confused to Connoisseur* (2008), *1001 Whiskies to Try Before you Die* and *The World's Best Whiskies: 750 Unmissable Drams from Tennessee to Tokyo* (2010). He has recently completely revised and

updated the world's best-selling whisky book, *Michael Jackson's Malt Whisky Companion* (2015). Dominic won the Fortnum & Mason Award for Best Drinks Writer for 2015.



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