

WHISKEY TASTING GUIDE

WHAT'S IN IT?

Whiskey is made from fermented grain mash, typically barley, rye corn and wheat. Bourbon and Scotch are different types of whiskey.

HOW MUCH?

For tasting, the pour should be about an 1/2 ounce per whiskey.

SHOULD I ADD WATER?

Some tasters prefer to add a few drops of water to release the flavors and aromas, while others prefer it neat.

WHISKEY OR WHISKY?

In the U.S. and Ireland, the spelling "Whiskey" is used. The alternate spelling "Whisky" is often used in Scotland and Canada.

STEP 1: APPEARANCE

Observe the color, holding the glass up to the light or against a piece of white paper. Notice the clarity. Swirl the whiskey gently and observe the viscosity, or thickness, of the whiskey.

STEP 2: NOSE

Inhale the fragrance gently. You may prefer to smell it with eyes closed to focus on the scent profile.

STEP 3: TASTE

Take a small sip of the whiskey and savor it for a moment before swallowing, then take another sip.

STEP 4: FINISH

After swallowing, observe the aftertaste the whiskey leaves on your palate.

STEP 5: COMPLEXITY

Analyze and note the many layers and elements, or lack thereof, you noticed during the previous steps.

APPEARANCE

Gin Clear
White Wine
Pale Straw
Light Gold
Pale Amber
Burnt Amber
Burnished Copper
Auburn
Mahogany
Burnt Umber
Old Oak
Brown Sherry
Treacle

NOSE AND TASTE

Peaty: Smoky, Bonfire, Coal Tar
Woody: Oakey, Piney, Fir Tree
Fruity: Citrus, Lemon, Orange, Green Apple, Peach, Pineapple, Pear, Lime
Floral: Wild Flowers, Orange Blossoms, Grass, Eucalyptus, Leaves, Roses, Moss
Cereal: Malty, Nutty, Hazelnut, Almond, Walnut, Bran, Hops, Barley
Spices: Cinnamon, Nutmeg, Cloves, Basil, Rosemary, Pepper
Sweet: Vanilla, Cream, Marshmallow, Cake, Caramel, Brown Sugar, Custard, Honey, Mint, Cotton Candy, Chocolate

FINISH

Acidic
Citrusy
Creamy
Dry
Fresh
Long
Mellow
Oily
Smoky
Spicy
Strong
Sweet
Velvety

TOTAL POINTS: 100

APPEARANCE: 10

NOSE: 25

TASTE: 25

FINISH: 25

COMPLEXITY: 15



ARTHUR WHEELER
SPIRITS COMPANY

WHISKEY TASTING

A

NOTES: _____

APPEARANCE: _____

NOSE: _____

TASTE: _____

FINISH: _____

COMPLEXITY: _____

SCORE: _____

NAME: _____

B

NOTES: _____

APPEARANCE: _____

NOSE: _____

TASTE: _____

FINISH: _____

COMPLEXITY: _____

SCORE: _____

NAME: _____

C

NOTES: _____

APPEARANCE: _____

NOSE: _____

TASTE: _____

FINISH: _____

COMPLEXITY: _____

SCORE: _____

NAME: _____

D

NOTES: _____

APPEARANCE: _____

NOSE: _____

TASTE: _____

FINISH: _____

COMPLEXITY: _____

SCORE: _____

NAME: _____