

WHISKY:EDITION

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Bunnahabhain 31 Years (1987/2019) - Wemyss Malts

Raisin D'etre: the name says it all. Thirty-one years in a sherry butt have turned this 1987-vintage Bunnahabhain into a raisin dream, bottled by Wemyss Malts in 2019 in a limited run of 568 bottles. Natural drinking strength of 44.7%, no bitterness, no tannin escapades. Just perfectly balanced maturation where subtractive and additive processes work in harmony.

TYPE	COUNTRY	REGION	DISTILLERY
Single Malt	Scotland	Islay	Bunnahabhain
BOTTLER	AGE	ABV	PRICE/LITER
Wemyss Malts	31 Years	44.7% Vol.	570.00 €/l

TASTING NOTES

NOSE

The name delivers on its promise: raisins, raisins and more raisins. Dark, ripe specimens, accompanied by heavy dark caramel and walnuts. Chocolate and dark honey lay a velvety layer on top, while sweet tobacco lurks gently in the background. Dried fruits, balanced spices and a hint of marzipan. Cognac-style rancio notes and a dusty old wine cellar betray the venerable age, along with well-worn leather and freshly split vanilla pods. Orange and ginger marmalade and warm chestnuts round out the picture. A minimal whiff of sulphur is present but nothing dramatic.

PALATE

Soft and pleasant on the lips. The natural drinking strength of 44.7% is simply perfect. The mouthfeel is creamy, waxy yet full and firm. The dark raisins return, now almost black, joined by espresso and old-school sherry at its finest. Dried dates and figs, leather and a creamy sweetness from the cask. Chocolate orange biscuits, almond mousse, cardamom and cloves add spicy accents. A touch of oak balances the sweetness. Subtractive maturation has smoothed the edges, additive maturation has contributed the sherry sweetness. Perfectly balanced. Pulled from the cask at exactly the right moment.

FINISH

Long, warm and wonderfully harmonious. The flavours already tasted take turns as they slowly fade. Fermented grapes lead, followed by forest berry jam, walnuts and robust oak spice. Black raisins and chocolate return, sweet tobacco and dried fruits hold on tenaciously. Nothing bitter, nothing jarring, simply round. Thanks to the residual sweetness, it remains only slightly dry right through to the end.

THOUGHTS

MARCEL

Would I have guessed Bunnahabhain in a blind tasting? Hard to say. This 31-year-old is so deep in sherry territory that the distillery DNA almost disappears. But that's exactly what makes it so fascinating. The balance between cask and distillate is dreamy, the natural drinking strength a blessing, and the complete absence of bitterness after 31 years in a butt borders on a small miracle. Raisin D'etre. They couldn't have named it better.

SASCHA

Classic old-school sherry, textbook style. Dark caramel, raisins, walnuts, it's all there, all clean, all harmonious. The finish is the cherry on top: long, complex and without a single off-note. Sure, there are more spectacular Wemyss Bunnahabhains out there, but this one simply does everything right and is a wonderful example of what 31 years of patient maturation in the right cask can achieve.

RATINGS

MARCEL
89/100
Excellent

SASCHA
89/100
Excellent

VALUE FOR MONEY
0/5
No rating

