

WHISKY:EDITION

Whisky reviews. Since 2022.



Smokehead 15 Years (2025) - Ian Macleod

The Smokehead 15 Years is a mysterious single malt from Islay, whose origin lies in the fog of uncertainty. Ian Macleod has created a character with this rebellious whisky that combines both the rugged coasts and the gentle aromas of the island. A delight for all those seeking something special – or simply a good reason to stick their nose in a glass.

TYPE	COUNTRY	REGION	DISTILLERY
Single Malt	Scotland	Islay	Unbekannt
BOTTLER	AGE	ABV	PRICE/LITER
Ian Macleod	15 Years	43% Vol.	105.71 €/l

TASTING NOTES

NOSE

The first impression is a powerful, phenolic smoke that mingles with a stormy sea breeze. Beneath the smoky surface, a slightly earthy note glimmers, while fresh lemon peel and malt lighten the aroma. It's as if you were standing on the beach while simultaneously sniffing in a chemical laboratory – a bit crazy, but quite exciting.

PALATE

The palate is greeted by a salty ashtray that immediately evokes memories of past nights. A hint of iodine and herbs from Provence brings an unexpected freshness into play, while the slightly seaweedy and earthy notes increase the complexity. One wonders whether they are enjoying whisky or a sea breeze with a splash of herbal tea – the answer remains unclear, but that makes it interesting.

FINISH

The finish is long and smoky, almost like a gentle farewell from an old friend. Citrus notes of lemon peel and a certain malt sweetness intertwine, while the oak only shines through minimally. It's as if, at the end of a long walk on the beach, one takes another look at the waves – soothing, but also a little melancholic.

THOUGHTS

MARCEL

For my taste, this whisky is not the bee's knees, but I can objectively see that it delivers what it promises. Those who enjoy the smoky aromas of Islay will certainly get their money's worth here – even if I prefer to stay on the dry side.

SASCHA

The Smokehead 15 years impressively showcases what Islay has to offer – a compact package of island and sea aromas. However, the restraint in excitement might disappoint some whisky lovers who are looking for more complexity.

RATINGS

MARCEL 75/100 Very good	SASCHA 81/100 Excellent	VALUE FOR MONEY 3/5 Fair
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SOURCE REVIEW

<https://thewhiskyedition.com/whisky-reviews/smokehead-15-years-2025-ian-macleod>

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