

LUXURY WITHOUT COMPROMISE

# Robb Report

## Knappogue Castle 1951

IRISH SINGLE MALT

Ireland's whiskeys haven't courted age the way Scotland's have, so when one comes along with some serious years behind it, you can't help but add a little jig to your step. This spirit spent 36 years soaking in oloroso sherry casks before being bottled in 1987, making it one of the oldest single-malt Irish whiskeys in the world. Brimming with notes of honey, ripe plum, barley and oats, it's as complex and unusual an Irish whiskey as you're likely to encounter, a rare surviving cask amid the near collapse of the industry in the late 20th century. It's sweet at the outset, with a sharp coppery texture and a bit of mustiness in the middle. The finish is lengthy and chewy, with notes of caramelized apples, nectarine and chicory. (\$1,600) [knappoguewhiskey.com](http://knappoguewhiskey.com) D.D.

## Highland Park The Light

SCOTCH SINGLE MALT

On the eve of winter 2017, Highland Park wowed the whisky world with The Dark, a special-edition 17-year-old single malt drawn from European oak sherry-seasoned casks. Only 28,000 bottles were released, which isn't nearly as many as it sounds, and sold out swiftly. Its sister spirit was released on the eve of summer 2018—The Light also is a 17-year-old single malt, only this one was aged entirely in refill American oak casks. A refined whisky, it offers floral aromas and a smoky sweetness on the palate. Notes of lavender, honeysuckle and caramelized pear mingle with peat and cedar wood. The pale green bottle, embossed with a serpent dragon inspired by Viking lore, nods to the distillery's Nordic ancestry. Tasted side by side, these two bottles offer up two extremes of whisky making (and sipping). Owning one is a score; collecting both, well, that's a feat for a connoisseur with the heart of a Viking. (\$335) [highlandparkwhisky.com](http://highlandparkwhisky.com) D.D.

## Bowmore 27 Year Old Port Cask

PEATED SCOTCH

Released in September 2018, Bowmore 27 Year Old Port Cask spent 13 years soaking in ex-bourbon barrels, followed by 14 more in European oak casks that had previously been used to age Portuguese fortified wine. The casks were housed in the 240-year-old distillery's famed No.1 vaults, one of the world's oldest Scotch maturation houses. It's a deep mahogany-colored whisky that offers sugarplum, lemon and salted caramel notes up front, followed by Bowmore's signature smokiness and a vitalizing tang of raspberry coulis and red berries, finishing with dried herbs, tobacco, cranberries and a hint of pepper. (\$520) [bowmore.com](http://bowmore.com) D.D.

