



RARE WHISKEYS OF THE WORLD

We Explore the World's Most Iconic Drams

Whiskey is one of the most enigmatic drinks in the world, and often reach heights of rarity matched only by classic cars and significant works of art. *Signature* celebrates five of the world's most exclusive.

Whether taken neat, on the rocks, or with a refreshing splash of water, whiskey has long been the preferred beverage of the nuanced globetrotter, and has recently experienced something of a revival, with many premium brands offering rare vintage collections that can only be enjoyed at the most exclusive of venues.

Significantly more than the sum of its parts, whiskey (or whisky) may, scientifically, be merely the result of a process of distilling grains such as barley, corn, rye, and wheat into a drinkable liquid. Yet, under the right circumstances, whiskey has the power to unite the divided, enchant the stern, empower the meek, and move the seemingly immovable.

While there may be near-limitless factors that contribute to a single barrel's unique character - from the purity of the water and the type and mixture of grain used, to the wood from which the cask is made - some whiskeys achieve a level of rarity, and taste, that cannot be emulated.

These precious whiskeys are not made available for sale in regular stores, and may only be seen at private auctions or in the most

luxurious hotels, yet *Signature* invites you on a journey to discover some of the most exclusive and rare drams ever produced.

MACALLAN 1926 60 YEARS OLD SINGLE MALT (CASK NUMBER 263)

No credible rare whiskey list could begin without the record-breaking Macallan 1926 60 Year Old single malt from cask number 263. In 2019, The Macallan Fine and Rare 60 Year Old 1926 became the most expensive bottle of wine or spirit ever auctioned, when it sold for \$1.9 million (R29 Million). Described by Sotheby's Auctioneers as the "holy grail" of whiskies, only 40

bottles were bottled from cask 263, after the whisky had spent 60 years maturing in ex-sherry casks.

CRAIGELLACHIE 51

Dubbed by the brand as the "world's most uncollectable, collectable whisky", Craigellachie 51 Y.O. (of which there were only 51 bottles produced) has toured the world and been made available at special tastings in London, New York, Sydney, and South Africa - for free. In an unorthodox move, Craigellachie did not want the whiskey to be sold to the highest bidder and stored in a locked cabinet. Instead, they created Bar 51, a unique tasting experience that exposed



the coveted bottle to aficionados (and everyday folk) all over the world. The Craigellachie 51Y.O. was distilled during December 1962, and aged in ex-bourbon hogsheads. After being taken off the wood in 2014, the whiskey was also taken off the market, and the distillery has kept the remaining bottles.

WILLETT THE IRON FIST & THE VELVET GLOVE 23 YEARS OLD RYE

If there is any aspect of whiskey that needs its own memoir written, it would be the early single barrel expressions that were released when Willett returned to the market in 2006, after almost four decades. Willett's "The Iron Fist" and "The Velvet Glove" are a pair of very different rye whiskies that were produced in tandem as independent expressions with similar age and alcohol statements. As some of the earliest expressions the brand released, these legendary straight rye whiskies are incredibly hard to find and highly coveted by those who have been lucky enough to spot them.

JEFFERSON'S 17 YEARS OLD PRESIDENTIAL SELECT

Universally praised as one of the smoothest and silkiest bourbon whiskies on offer today, Jefferson's exclusive small-batch 17 Year Old Presidential Select is the stuff of a whiskey connoisseur's dreams. Released on a limited basis back in 2009, and with demand on the rise as it becomes increasingly more difficult to obtain, this well-aged Kentucky-produced wheated bourbon can be identified by its attractive copper colour — flickering from amber to mahogany depending on the light. Jefferson's has since released an 18 Year Old and a 21 Year Old Kentucky Bourbon, which may be easier for the whiskey fan to acquire



A.H. HIRSCH RESERVE 16 YEARS OLD

The myth. The legend. The history. No list of best whiskies would be complete without A.H. Hirsch Reserve. With the combination of it created for a private client (Hirsch), distilled at what would eventually become Michter's, under the eye of a distiller that learned under Everett Beam, and bottled by Julian Van Winkle III, A.H. Hirsch Reserve has quite a storied past that has led to it consistently being ranked one of the most expensive whiskies in the world. If you can even find it to taste, you'll enjoy its expertly balanced combination of sweetness and spice in the mouth, with almost no burn on the back end. Unfortunately, for a lot of people, it will remain "The Best Bourbon You'll Never Taste".

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