



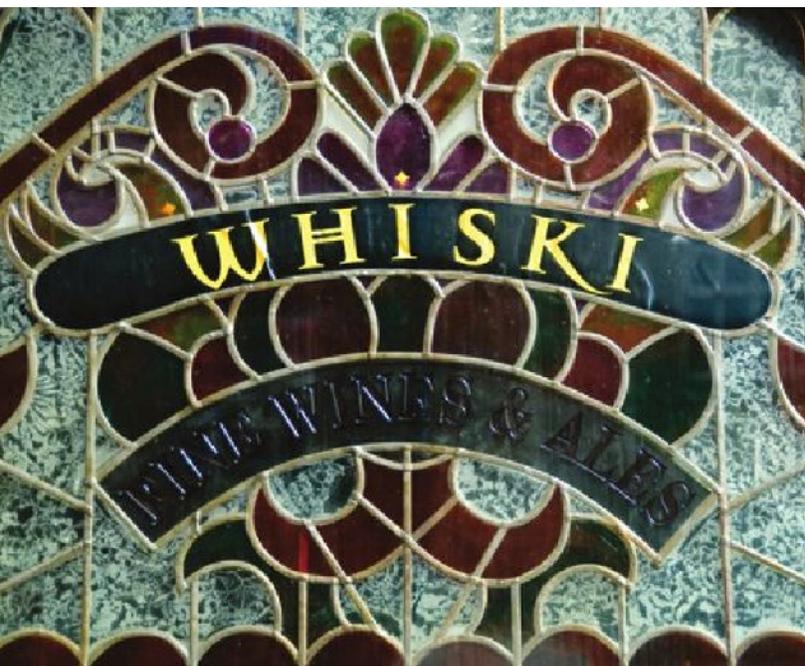
Drinks @ Whiski

words Nicky Howden

Hundreds of bottles line the wall, jostling for space and attention. From the vintage to the rare and cult, every imaginable name is there. Edinburgh may well be rammed with bars offering every vodka or gin permutation conceivable, but when it comes to the nation's drink true aficionados have long baffled just why there's been no real homage to the tipple. Now there is.

Aptly situated down the Royal Mile in the former Clever Dick's premises lies Whiski, a quirky yet traditional pub brimming with whiskies from all over the world. Blended, blended malt, Irish,

Japanese, Canadian, Lowland, Speyside... it's all there, and more. One of three finalists for Scottish Licensed Trade News Malt Whisky Bar of the Year 2008, it's easy to see why as a staggering 250 whiskies are available to savour starting from a modest £2.90 a nip to an eye watering, or fairly reasonable - depending on your love affair with the water of life - £30 a nip. If you're overwhelmed by choice, whisky novices should try the Balblair; at 43% it's a lot milder than you might imagine and may even be the one that turns you from loather to lover. Whisky aficionados will enjoy the Old Pulteney limited edition at £6 a pop; it's strong, peaty and is guaranteed to leave you with that warm, fuzzy feeling.



But it's not just malts served straight up on offer. There are also a fair number of whisky cocktails to rival cosmos and mojitos, a small but respectable wine list and draughts including Tennent's, Stella and Guinness. In keeping with the theme of the bar we went whisky-tastic with a very drinkable hot toddy (famous grouse, hot water with honey, lemon and cloves) £3.20 to banish those sniffs and colds and their bestselling Whisky Jack cocktail, £5.95, with isle of Jura malt whisky 10-year-old, peach schnapps and cranberry juice - a lot more potent than the cocktails I tend to drink but after a few sips I think I may have been converted.

Whiski is the antithesis to style bars with its antique furnishings, dark woods and laid back vibe. Run by a husband and wife duo, Gary and Anne, they've managed to successfully create a venue that appeals to both locals and tourists be it for their single malts, competitive prices or Scottish food prepared daily – the manly sized haggis tower, £8.95, with MacSween's haggis, neeps and mash tatties and a delicious whisky sauce and the Steak and Guinness pie, £9.45, with Scottish beef marinated in their special Guinness gravy and served with fries, are recommended.

A great atmosphere and super friendly staff that clearly love their job, Whiski is a great establishment and we wish it the best of success for years to come. ☺

Whiski, 119 High St, EH1 1SG, Tel: 0131 556 3095,
www.whiskibar.co.uk

Whisky tasting packages are now available.



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