FiGee
FINE GOODS



ARDBEG BLAAACK - COMMITTEE 20TH

Committee Release | Single Malt Islay Whisky

Ardbeg BlaaacK Committee Release is an Islay single malt | ex-bourbon cask matured, finished in New Zealand Pinot Noir casks, 46% volume, Committee release only — created in 2020 to mark the 20th anniversary of the Ardbeg Committee. The Committee edition is bottled at 46 % vs the standard 46 %. An unusual and ambitious marriage: the distillery's signature peat smoke alongside the red and black fruit of New Zealand Pinot Noir wood. Non-chill-filtered. MATURATION: matured in ex-bourbon casks, then finished in New Zealand Pinot Noir casks — a move that pulls Ardbeg's traditional peated foundation toward red and black fruit, chocolate and a distinctive wine-influenced weight. Bottled at 46% volume for the Ardbeg Committee's 20th anniversary. The Pinot Noir finish is understated but transformative: it doesn't mask the peat, it frames it differently. SERVING: serve neat in a Glencairn; the first pour is always a revelation — unexpected for Ardbeg. A few drops of water (5–8) are worth adding to separate the smoke and the fruit layers more distinctly. A natural pairing with duck confit, venison or dark-glazed lamb, where the Pinot Noir register of the finish mirrors the fruit-reduction sauces of these dishes. An unusual but considered whisky that rewards the open-minded.

Tasting notes

Color

Deep gold with rosé-tinted highlights.

Aroma

An unusual nose for Ardbeg: intense peat smoke woven with black fruit — wild blackberry, macerated cherry, plum.

Taste

Wide, silky palate: salty smoke, tar, black coffee, black cherry and a chocolate core.

Finish

Long, smoky, enveloping finish: toasted peat, soft ash, liquorice and dried red fruit. A spiced warmth carries through without ever drying out.

ARDBEG DISTILLERY Founded in 1815 at the sea's edge on the southern coast of Islay, Ardbeg is one of the island's most emblematic distilleries. Run by the MacDougall family for much of its history, silenced in the 1980s, it was rescued by Glenmorangie Plc in 1997 and became part of Moët Hennessy (LVMH) in 2004. Its house style — heavily peated (~55 ppm), saline, tarry and fat-smoked — is shaped by stills fitted with a purifier pipe that redirects heavier vapours back and lays a fruity layer over the smoke. In 2000, Ardbeg founded the Committee, an international community of fans who receive the distillery's limited editions ahead of anyone else — including the celebrated annual Committee Releases.