

MACALLAN 50 YEARS OLD | 2020

Red Collection | Single Malt Speyside

Macallan 50 Years Old Red Collection 2020 is the mid-tier of the inaugural Red Collection trio launched in October 2020 — drawn from stock distilled in the late 1960s and matured exclusively in Spanish and American oak casks seasoned with sherry. Bottled at 45.1% volume. THE CASK PROGRAMME: half a century in the original oak — no finishing, no recasking. The 45.1% bottling is at the natural cask-strength register after five decades of evaporation; the angel's share has done its work, what remains is concentrated, integrated, more red-fruit-and-cocoa than the heavier dark-fruit profile of mid-aged Sherry Oak. The architectural quality of the nose — the oak and leather opening into florals and cocoa — is what fifty years of cask interaction delivers when the spirit is left alone. SERVING: a tulip glass at room temperature, neat. A meditation bottle — water adds nothing. At the table it pairs with bittersweet dark chocolate, candied date, aged Stilton, or a long-aged Dominican corojo cigar where the spice and the cocoa find common ground.

Tasting notes

Color

Deep mahogany, garnet reflections.

Aroma

Patinated, floral — antique oak, soft leather, light florals, rich cocoa, black cherry, ginger.

Taste

Warm, integrated — dried fruit, wood spice into dates and dark chocolate, lifted by orange oil, hints of sultana.

Finish

Rich, complex — long-lasting persistence of raisin, dates, crème brûlée. Five decades without a fracture.

THE MACALLAN DISTILLERY Founded in 1824 at Easter Elchies on the banks of the Spey, The Macallan is the Speyside distillery that built its reputation on the cask rather than just the spirit. The house famously runs its own oak-selection programme: wood is harvested from carefully chosen Spanish and American oak forests, coopered to Macallan's specification, then shipped to bodegas in Jerez to season with oloroso (or Pedro Ximénez, or Palo Cortado) for two to three years before being sent to Speyside for whisky maturation. The 'curiously small' stills produce a richer, more textured spirit than larger Speyside stills typically deliver — and the cask programme, sustained at this scale, is what defines the modern Macallan profile.