ARTIST #15

SOMETHING IN THE WATER

LA MAISON DU WHISKY

Created in 2011, La Maison du Whisky's Artist range brings together exceptional whiskies – single casks bottled at cask strength, most of them from Scotland. Each year, visual artists – painters, illustrators, photographers, and mixed-media artists – are invited to reinvent the series' labels. For its fifteenth edition, the Artist range sets sail for Islay, in collaboration with Elixir Distillers. Founded in London in 1999 by the Singh brothers, this independent bottler has a deep connection with the Scottish island, which it celebrates through its Elements of Islay range and Port Askaig single malt. It is also on Islay's southern coast that Sukhinder Singh began building a new distillery, Portintruan, whose foundation stone was laid in 2020. Artist #15 pays tribute to the island's historic distilleries. Its title, Something in the Water - borrowed from one of Sukhinder Singh's favorite songs - hints at the island's unique magic that sets it apart in the world of Scotch whisky. Exploring a full palette of peated tones, the collection showcases the work of Radhika Surana, an artist from northern India. Her indigo-dyed textile works particularly moved us: like dreamlike maps, her meticulous embroidery traces imaginary journeys across the rugged landscape of Islay.

ARDBEG 2000 - AGED 25 YEARS



Meandering through lichens III - Radhika Surana

PRODUCTION

Distillation	2000
Bottling	2025
Cask Number	1100000016
Age	25 years old
Cask Type	Oloroso Sherry Butt
ABV	55,4 %
Number of bottles	245

Originally founded in 1815 by John MacDougall, this distillery closed in 1981 before opening again in 1989, but only to produce during two months of the year. In 1997, it was bought by The Glenmorangie Company, who began major renovation work that included construction of a completely new still house. Having been bought by the LVMH group in late 2004, the distillery doubled its production capacity in 2021, increasing the number of stills from two to four. This bottling shows us Ardbeg in a particularly complex light, as demonstrated, for example, by the intense fragrances of peat, soot, mango and toffee revealed by the dried extracts on the empty glass.

TASTING NOTES

Profile: rich, full. Peat, smoked bacon, rancio.

Nose: rich, generous. At first, intense smoke, soot, ash and blocks of salt-rich, vegetal peat play the leading roles. Beautiful notes of rancio (apricot, mango, toasted walnut, candied orange) follow soon after. Allowed to breathe, salted butter caramel and heady florals (iris, wild geranium) flood the air.

Palate: full, intense. Maintaining a close connection with the nose, the palate is deliciously rich (marmalade, tarte tatin) and reveals notes of heather and lime blossom honey. Peat then floods the palate, allowing a mature expression of agave, tarmac, smoked bacon, iodine tincture, porridge and toast that adds incredible length.

Finish: soft, silky. The finish brings ginseng and gentian root, almost tar-like smoke and animal notes of smoked fish. On the retro-nasal olfaction, orange zest, dried fruits (grape, date), cardamom seed and candied apricot highlight the noble influence of the perfectly integrated sherry cask maturation.

Peat: yes