Legal Definition of Scotch

- Distilled and aged in Scotland for a minimum of three years, in oak barrels and bottled at a minimum of 40% alcohol
- Single Malt must also be bottled in Scotland, Blended Scotch not necessarily.
- Enforced by Scotch Whisky Association (SWA).
Raw material

- Spring water
- Barley/Grain
- Yeast
Blended Scotch and Malt Scotch

- **Blended Scotch**
  - Dewar’s White Label, Ballantine’s, Lord Elcho
  - Blended from grain & malt whisky
    - Grain = un-malted barley, other cereals e.g. wheat
  - Between 15-50% content is malt whisky
  - Malt component gives complexity
  - Higher malt % better the quality

- **Single & Blended Malt**
  - Made from barley only
  - Single Malt (Glenmorangie)
    - one distillery
    - Blended Malt (Johnnie Walker Green Label)
      - more than one
  - Batch distillation
  - Aged
What’s the difference?

**Single Malt**
- Barley ONLY
- One Distillery
- Batch distillation
- Generally aged (must be more than 3 years)

**Blended malt**
- Barley ONLY
- More than one Distillery
- Batch distillation
- Generally un-aged

**Blended Scotch**
- Grain whisky & Malt whisky (40/60)
- Generally un-aged
Scotch Whisky Regions

- **Lowlands** (Glenkinchie)
- **Highlands** (Dalmore)
- **Speyside** (Macallan)
- **Islay** (Bowmore)
- **Campbeltown** (Springbank)
Production of single malt

1. Malting
2. Mashing
3. Fermentation
4. Distillation
5. Maturation
6. Bottling
Malting

- Barley is soaked in water to begin the germination process which will convert the starch within the grain to sugars
- Spread out over malt floorings and raked to rotate the grains
- Dried in kilns to stop the germination continuing
  - Peat can be added to the kiln giving smoky flavours
- The barley is now called “Malted Barley”
Mashing

- The Malted Barley is then ground down to a specific consistency in a mill and is now known as Grist
- Hot water added to the Grist, the sugars are dissolved in a large vessel known as a Mashtun
- This sugar-rich liquid is now called Wort
Fermentation

- The Wort is mixed with yeast for fermentation in a vessel called a Washback.
- The yeast converts the sugars in the Wort to alcohol (about 8% alcohol) and the liquid is now called Wash.
- This process takes 48-100 hours.
- Types of Washback
  - Wooden (Oregon Pine)
  - Stainless Steel
Distillation

- Single Malt – Batch distillation in copper potstills
  - Grain whisky is distilled in continuous stills called Column or Coffey stills
- The Wash goes into the “Wash Still” and is boiled, with the steam rising up and over the lyne arm into a condenser. The resulting liquid is now known as Low Wines (about 24% abv)
- The Low Wines are distilled a second time in the Spirit Still.
- The liquid now runs through a Spirit Safe and is separated, with the “middle cut” moving onto maturation. Now called “New Make Spirit”.
- The shape and size of the stills influence flavour
Maturation

• The New Make Spirit is filled into oak casks, about 68% alcohol
• Final quality, colour and flavour of whisky are influenced by:
  Type of wood – usually European or American oak
  How many times the cask has been used and previous contents (e.g. Sherry)
  Warehouse and climate

• Minimum maturation is 3 years in order to be called Scotch whisky
Bottling

- Bottled at a minimum of 40% alcohol
- Filtration systems – Chill filtration & Paper filtration
- Bottling can take place on a production line, or in smaller quantities, by hand
  - For example, single cask bottlings
Wemyss History

• Wemyss is pronounced “Weems”
• It’s the Scots word for caves
• Named after the caves on the rocky shore of Fife beside Wemyss Castle which is the historic family home of the Wemyss family
• This picture is on all the Wemyss whisky labels
Wemyss History

• The Wemyss family has a long association with whisky
• John Haig (founder of Haig’s) built his first distillery on Wemyss land at the turn of the 19th century
• Barley from the Wemyss Estate is still used by many leading distillers
• Cameron Bridge distillery is only a few miles away from the Estate
Wemyss History

• The chairman and founder of the Wemyss group is William Wemyss
• William is directly descended from the 3\textsuperscript{rd} Earl of Wemyss (1678-1720)
• The Earl’s signature is used on the Wemyss range packaging
Wemyss Philosophy

• Wemyss understands that much of the malt whisky terminology can be confusing – even for the knowledgeable consumer
• The Wemyss malts range aims to be more accessible and understandable
• Wemyss uses the taste and aromas of individual whiskies to identify each bottling
Charlie Maclean

• Today, Wemyss uses the unsurpassed knowledge and expertise of Charlie Maclean
• Charlie is an authority on malt whisky having written many books on the subject
• He has developed the whisky recipes for the blended malts and oversees the cask selection for the single cask bottling range
• He may look familiar from the film Angel’s Share!
Blended Malts – A Definition

• A Blended Scotch Malt Whisky is a blend of different single malt Scotch whiskies
  – Single malts are distilled only from malted barley in a single distillery
• There are no grain whiskies in a Blended Malt, unlike a Blended Scotch which contains malt and grain whiskies
• Wemyss blended malts contain up to 10 different single malts Scotch whiskies
• There are 3 different Blended Malts in the Wemyss range
Our range of blended malts take you on a journey through the whisky making regions of Scotland.

Rather than place the emphasis on the distillery, the whiskies are named after their natural tastes and aromas, acting as a tasting note for what you might expect inside.

These are non age statement whiskies, bottled at 46% abv and non chill filtered. The range is also available as a 12 year old expression.
A blend of single malt whiskies with a signature Speyside malt

**Nose:** Heavy with the scent of floral orange blossom and ripening apples.

**Palate:** A tingling spice dances over the tongue with zesty orange peel and the warmth of a honey toddy.

**Finish:** The citrus juiciness lingers with a whisper of applewood smoke.
Spice King

A blend of single malt whiskies with a signature Highlands & Islands malt

**Nose:** Reveals succulent stewed plums and raisins and well polished wood.

**Palate:** Hot pepper prickles with spicy orange zest and cinnamon. Leather mingle with damp heather buffeted by a coastal sea spray.

**Finish:** As the peppery heat fades, a subtle smokiness is left smouldering.
A blend of single malt whiskies with a signature Islay malt. Islay malts are known for their smoky and peaty characteristics which comes from the peat used in the malting process.

**Nose:** Heavy with the scent of floral orange blossom and ripening apples.

**Palate:** A tingling spice dances over the tongue with zesty orange peel and the warmth of a honey toddy.

**Finish:** The citrus juiciness lingers with a whisper of applewood smoke.
Blended Malts Awards

San Francisco World Spirits Competition 2014
The Hive 12 years old – Double Gold

Ultimate Spirits Challenge 2014
Peat Chimney 12yo – Excellent/Highly Recommended

World Whiskies Awards 2014
Peat Chimney 12 yo – Best Blended Malt Whisky - Bronze

Wizards of Whisky 2014
The Hive 8yo – Gold Medal

International Wine and Spirits Competition 2013
Peat Chimney 12yo – Gold

San Francisco World Spirits Competition 2013
Spice King 12yo - Gold
World Whiskies Awards 2013
Spice King 12yo – Best Scotch Blended Malt

International Spirits Challenge 2013
Peat Chimney 12yo - Silver

Spirits Business Scotch Whisky Masters 2013
Peat Chimney 12yo - Gold

International Wine and Spirits Competition 2012
The Hive 8yo - Silver

San Francisco World Spirits Competition 2012
Peat Chimney 8 years old – Double Gold Medal

World Whiskies Awards 2012
Peat Chimney 8yo – Best Scotch Blended Malt

Ultimate Spirits Challenge 2012 – Excellent/Highly Recommended
Peat Chimney 8 years old
Wemyss Single Casks

• Single Malt whisky is matured in oak casks and a single cask bottling is malt whisky from a single cask
• Wemyss truly exceptional single casks are chosen by Charlie Maclean
• Typically, between 300 and 600 bottles come from a cask
• Usually bottled at 46% abv, the whisky is neither coloured nor chill filtered
• The range celebrates the different regions – Islay, Speyside, Campbeltown, Lowlands and Highland
“We loved this. A great example of the distillery with bags of waxy character and fruity depth.” Review of Apple Basket by The Spirits Bureau Blog

“Cool peaty seawater, with lemon sherbets, black pepper and cinnamon bark.” Review of ‘Peaty Punch’ by Miss Whisky blog

“My god, this is one lovely dram and was unanimously crowned highlight of the twitter tasting. It’s now entrenched high in my wish list.” Review of ‘Merchant’s Mahogany Chest’ by Whisky Gospel blog

“A great dram all in all, delivers the peat punch, but with those lovely fruit, a salty edge and the smoky apples. Can’t ask for more. Peat with class.” Review of ‘A Bosun’s Dram’ by Whisky Isreal
Single Cask Reviews and Awards

Single Cask Lemon Grove, Cragganmore, 1989
94.5/100, Jim Murray Whisky Bible 2013

Single Cask Reviews and Awards

Independent Bottlers Challenge 2013
Strawberry Ganache - Bronze

Independent Bottlers Challenge 2013
Autumn Berries - Bronze

Single Cask, Winter Larder, 20yr old (Glen Elgin) No 16, Paul Pacult's The 2013 Spirit Journal's World Top 120 Spirits

Single cask ‘Whispering Smoke’ 94/100 Jim Murray Whisky Bible 2014

Single Cask ‘Heather Smoke’ 95.5/100, Jim Murray Whisky Bible 2014
Lord Elcho Blended Scotch

- Launched September 2012, Lord Elcho is named after a Wemyss family ancestor.
- Lord Elcho was one of the army commanders in the Battle of Culloden with Bonnie Prince Charlie.
- Lord Elcho is also a 15 years old blended Scotch.
- “A first rate blend.” Charlie Maclean.
- We launched Lord Elcho without an age statement in February 2014.
Lord Elcho Blended Scotch

San Francisco World Spirits Competition 2014
Silver Medal – Lord Elcho NAS

Wizards of Whisky Awards 2014
Gold Medal – Lord Elcho NAS

International Wine & Spirit Competition 2014
Bronze Medal – Lord Elcho NAS

International Spirits Challenge 2014
Silver Medal – Lord Elcho NAS

International Wine & Spirit Competition 2013
Silver Medal – Lord Elcho 15 years old
The Distillery & Visitors’ Centre (the only VC in the region of Fife) includes a cafe, shop & tasting rooms.

The Still House contains 2 Stills and 4 Washbacks (room for 6) with initial production of 140,000 L (full capacity of 600,000L)

www.kingsbarnsdistillery.com