

Yamazakura Whisky



Sasanokawa's old distillery called as "Asaka" rebooted for single malt whiskey. The distillery is the site where many casks of Hanyu were matured by Ichiro Akuto-san to eventually end up in bottles as his legendary Ichiro's Malt Card Series.

Being in existence since 1765, now a well-established distillery, Sasanokawa Shuzo's journey as spirits producers began producing fine sake but it wasn't until 1946 they started making blended whisky. Word spread quickly until they became a must-have in the region, able to compete against Japanese whisky majors such as Suntory and Nikka.

Asaka plain, Fukushima Prefecture, through which flows the Asaka canal, is home to the Asaka distillery, maker of the only local whisky in the Tohoku region. It was founded in 1946 when the Yamazakura Shuzo obtained a whisky license. Its history as a sake brewery stretches back more than 300 years to its establishment on the southern shore of Lake Inawashiro in 1710.

In 1765 it moved to Koriyama and continued to produce its famous sake, bathed in the wind blowing down Mt. Bandai. But the shortage of rice following the war forced the brewery on hard times. That is when it turned to making whisky, which gained popularity with the influx of western culture.

Origin:	Japan
Type:	Blended
Alcohol:	40% by volume
Grain:	80% corn, 20% malt
Bottle Size:	750 ml
Distilled:	Twice

Tasting notes:

Nose: An impressive blend of Honeysuckle, vanilla-coated malt and fruit (pineapple upside down cake, lemon tart, plum, bramble) are the primary flavors. Ripe barley, marzipan, beeswax, and clove round out the palate.

Color: Aurulent (Gold-Colored) or Melichrous (Honey-like). Maybe Luteous (Golden-yellow).

Finish: Lingering and elegant woody notes with orange marmalade and sweet spices, apple peel and the last remnants of the finely-tuned grain. Nothing dominates, everything in place – the integration and balance are quite remarkable. The spices seem to build in intensity at the finale.



92 Points Wine Enthusiast