



This week's guest on Spirits of Whisk(e)y is Donal O'Gallachoir, Co-Owner & US National Brand Manager at Ireland's Glendalough Distillery, in County Wicklow, just south of Dublin. Founded by five friends, including Donal, with a mutual love of Irish whiskey and Irish lore, the distillery is located in a narrow glacial valley—"Glendalough" is Irish for "the valley of two lakes"—in the Wicklow Mountains, the historical and spiritual home of the legendary St. Kevin, whose image graces each and every bottle of award-winning whiskey, gin, and poitín it produces. After the interview, let your taste buds run wild as Chef Louise Leonard discusses pairing Glendalough's Seven-Year Single Malt finished in Porter casks with a whiskey- and beer-fortified Venison Hunter's Stew topped with a Sorrel Chimichurri. St. Kevin approved!

*A POT STILL FINISHED IN VIRGIN IRISH OAK, A 17-YEAR-OLD MIZUNARA AGED SINGLE MALT AND THE FIRST EVER SINGLE MALT TO BE FINISHED IN IRISH OAK*

(January 2020) – [Glendalough Distillery](https://www.glendaloughdistillery.com/) has announced the US arrival of three new, unique Irish whiskeys: a Pot Still aged in Bourbon and finished in virgin Irish oak, a 17-year-old Single Malt aged in Bourbon and rare, virgin Mizunara oak and a 25-year-old Single Malt aged in Bourbon and Oloroso barrels.





The **Glendalough Pot Still** is the distillery's first Pot Still whiskey, a quintessential Irish whiskey. "There's no more Irish a whiskey than pot still, so we felt it only fitting that it went into Irish oak," said Kevin Keenan, Glendalough's co-founder and Creative Director. "...Or Wicklow Mountain Oak to be exact," he added.

This liquid was first matured in ex-bourbon casks for three years before being transferred into virgin Irish oak casks for a year. These casks were made from trees that Glendalough sustainably harvested themselves in the mountains surrounding the distillery.

"We say sustainably, but it goes further than that. To nurture the health of Wicklow's native oak forests and ensure their future, the trees are felled under a 'Continuous Cover Forest Management System.' This creates pockets of clearings for planting and nurturing the next generation of oak. The oak trees are old. If they are not felled, they will eventually fall and another species will most likely grow in their place. Glendalough Distillery plants seven oak saplings for every tree they fell," said Keenan. The reason they go to all this trouble is, of course, for the unique flavor profile of Irish oak. "Irish oak grows differently. As a result, it quickly gives a very different set of flavors to the liquid," according to Keenan.

To honor these 130-year-old trees, Glendalough Distillery has numbered each bottle back to the batch, the cask, and right back to the tree it came from. A neck tag on each bottle directs you to [www.glendaloughdistillery.com/irishoak](http://www.glendaloughdistillery.com/irishoak) where you can input the numbers from your bottle and see a short, personalized film of the specific tree being felled and the actual cask being coopered.

Glendalough Pot Still Irish Whiskey is now on general release with a suggested retail price of \$54.99.



The **17-year-old single malt** is something special. Never has an Irish whiskey spent so long in Mizunara.



A numbered, single cask release, this whiskey has doubled down on Mizunara flavor, spending twice as long in Japanese oak as its 13-year-old predecessor (which was named in the top 20 whiskeys in the world by Whiskey Advocate in 2019).

After 15 years in a first-fill bourbon cask, it was already an exceptional single malt. It had vibrant, citrus notes over the long, sweet honey and vanilla you would expect. However, it was the rare, Japanese Mizunara that brought the unexpected. The smoothness from the initial aging carries you through the depth and intensity of the wood spices, incense and earthiness within, while the sweetness of the bourbon cask creates harmony with these drier, woodier notes.

It was a risk to finish this liquid in notoriously leaky and expensive Japanese oak, but the extra two years in these rare, Japanese casks were worth it. Exotic and aromatic, the unique Mizunara flavors are complex, yet ordered and seamless on the tongue.

Glendalough Distillery has released 6,000 bottles. The US will receive 3,000 of them with a suggested retail price of \$299.



Beyond rare and more than unique, the **25-year-old single malt** is a world's first. It is the first ever Irish single malt to be aged in Irish oak casks. These weren't any Irish oak casks. They were the first casks made from the first trees felled by Glendalough in the woods surrounding their distillery. This is a monumental moment for Glendalough and the history of Irish whiskey, bottled.

There is very little whiskey of this age in Ireland. However, looking past the age statement, the liquid itself is sublime, with each of the three casks and two predecessor liquids adding to its taste in both the right measure and order. The luxurious sweetness of the heavily charred American oak Bourbon cask is followed by the bold, round flavors of toasted Spanish oak, Oloroso casks, while the lively last word is left to the virgin Irish oak spices. This is all clearly discernible in chronological order through an exquisite smoothness.



Five casks produced 1,700 bottles. Two casks (752 bottles) have been allocated to the US and have a suggested retail price at \$499.

The Glendalough Distillery was set up by five friends from Wicklow and Dublin who shared a love of craft spirits. They eventually decided to leave the safety of their day jobs in Dublin and went into the mountains to take a chance on something more meaningful (much like the man on their bottle, St Kevin). Together they built a craft distillery near their favorite spot in those mountains where they produce whiskey, gin and poitín. Glendalough (meaning The Valley of Two Lakes) is a glacial valley nestled in the Wicklow Mountains renowned for its early medieval monastic settlement founded in the 6<sup>th</sup> century by St. Kevin, a legendary monk. Monasteries like Glendalough were the birthplace of distilled drinks and St. Kevin is an eternal inspiration for the Glendalough team.

For more information on Glendalough Pot Still and the Continuous Cover Forest Management System see [this video](#).

### **Words From Weezy: Glendalough Distillery**

After tasting the Glendalough 7-year single malt aged in porter casks commemorating Saint Kevin, I knew this was the whiskey I would be pairing today. With the idea of foraging, hunting and fishing near the Wicklow Mountains, it only seemed right to make a Venison Hunters Stew. The deep chocolate and coffee notes of the spirit belong right next to a steaming pot of venison, root vegetables and wild herbs not only fortified with some of the whisky, but also a splash of porter. Topping this stew is a sorrel chimichurri to brighten it up. Very delicious and warming - I think Saint Kevin would approve.

See next page for the Glendalough Tree Plan

you buy a  
bottle  
we



buy: a bottle of glendalough pot  
still

Promotion valid 2/17/21 - 3/31/21. Please Drink Responsibly. Irish Whiskey, 43% alc/vol. ©2020 Copyright and Registered Trademark owned by Glendalough Distillery, Wicklow, Ireland. Imported by Mark Anthony Crafted Spirits, Chicago, IL.

Over the years, we've had a policy of planting at least 7 saplings for every oak we fell for casks. That's not enough for our liking. We want to plant way more. So this year, we'll plant a native tree on your behalf, for free, every time someone registers their unique code from a bottle of Glendalough Pot Still Irish Whiskey sold between Feb 17th and March 31st 2021. Let's make the world greener this St Patrick's Day

Glendalough are proud to partner with Grown. ie, an Irish eco brand with a mission to restore and protect Irish woodlands and bio diversity for this project. Your tree will be planted in Wicklow, the Garden of Ireland, in the mountains surrounding the distillery. Trees planted by Grown are legally protected from being cut down at any stage in their life. This is a gift for many future generations to enjoy and a legacy that you will have helped to create.



Promotion valid 2/17/21 - 3/31/21. Please Drink Responsibly. Irish Whiskey. 43% alc/vol. ©2020 Copyright and Registered Trademark owned by Glendalough Distillery, Wicklow, Ireland. Imported by Mark Anthony Crafted Spirits, Chicago, IL.