

# ST. GEORGE

40th Anniversary Edition

SINGLE MALT WHISKEY

THIS 40<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY EDITION OF OUR LAUDED SINGLE MALT IS THE MOST REMARKABLE WHISKEY WE HAVE EVER USHERED INTO THE WORLD.

*Limited to just 1982 bottles, this is a one-time release, never to be duplicated.*



## CELEBRATING A MILESTONE

In celebration of 40 years at the vanguard of the American artisan distillation movement, we are honored to share St. George 40th Anniversary Single Malt Whiskey. This highly limited bottling is the culmination of decades of craftsmanship and our ever-growing collection of unique and varied finishing casks. We have summoned these to create a singular spirit that is a true collector's item for connoisseurs of American single malt.

## BEGINNING A NEW CHAPTER

Master distiller Lance Winters joined St. George in 1996 to create a truly original American Single Malt, and while we have received many accolades, we continue to push the boundaries of where the category can go. In preparation for this momentous release, head distiller Dave Smith spent months meticulously working through our casks. Of the 600+ we sampled, only 30 made the initial cut, with a mere 14 being used to create the whiskey you now hold. Sourced from barrels that range from four years old to one of the earliest casks we laid down, it speaks to our past, present, and future.

## TASTING NOTES

**Nose:** Opens with vibrant cola over dark chocolate and lager. Over time, creamy notes of brown butter and salted caramel emerge laced with fennel and sandalwood. Patience reveals candied berry and sweet coconut.

**Palate:** The initial hit is classic St. George made deeper: dark chocolate goes to walnut fudge and latte. Amber malt mingles with buttered waffle. Then, the coconut arrives and the spice notes begin to reveal themselves. Cinnamon and clove are amplified by candied ginger. Stonefruit appears, then takes on more tropical undertones. Sherry notes turn to tawny port, then fig preserves, before finishing with soft smoke and barbecue char.

California's St. George Spirits was founded in 1982 by master distiller Jörg Rupf. Over 40 years at the vanguard of the American craft spirits movement, the distillery has earned a reputation as one of the most prolific and innovative

distilleries in the nation. Now owned and operated by master distiller Lance Winters and head distiller Dave Smith, St. George has been inducted into the *Spirit Journal* Hall of Fame and been named "best craft distiller in America" by *Thrillist*.

*We don't distill to meet your expectations. We distill to exceed your imagination.*

Jörg Rupf

JÖRG RUPF, MASTER DISTILLER

Lance Winters

LANCE WINTERS, MASTER DISTILLER

Dave Smith

DAVE SMITH, HEAD DISTILLER

## SPECS

**Batch size:** Limited edition of 1982 bottles

**Age range:** 4–13 years

**ABV:** 48% ABV / 96 proof

**Filtration:** Lightly filtered

**Label:** Hand-drawn illustration that reimagines St. George's dragon guarding our stocks of whiskey

**Bottle:** 750ml Apotheker bottle

**Box:** Custom designed to reveal the bottle

**Cases:** Packed three to a master case

## GRAIN AND ROAST LEVELS

The classic St. George profile—100% two-row barley at five precise roast levels: pale malt, crystal malt, chocolate malt, black patent malt, and alder/beechnod-smoked malt that we get from Bamberg, Germany.

## COOPERAGE

The hallmark of our single malt cooperage has always been ex-bourbon barrels, which we prize for their ability to showcase the delicate flavors we coax off the still. While we use some French oak as well, the signature of our aging is the way it stays out of the way—befitting a distillery that began as an eau de vie house.

That being said, we love what finishing can do to a whiskey, and for this 40th anniversary release, we've amplified the fruit notes that have always been part of our whiskey with Cognac, apple brandy and umeshu barrels. Port and sherry casks add even more fruit, along with depth and richness, while the California-style sauternes casks that we began using with our 35th Anniversary release pull the diverse flavors together with a weighty, unctuous quality that delivers a long finish.



The barrels used held whiskeys of delightfully varying color.

## THE INDIVIDUAL CASKS

In total, we drew from 14 casks in composing this whiskey. While all contributed, we'd like to give you a closer look into how a few select finishing casks influenced the whiskey as a whole.

### FO20-93 (PORT CASK)

This barrel is the heartstring of the 40th Anniversary bottling. When Lance started the single malt program at St. George, he made his own port in order to make port casks he could use for the whiskey. This one holds whiskey from Lot 19, and it sings with deep notes of dark chocolate and cola.

### AO06-217 (UMESHU CASK)

"Special releases are about sharing our heritage and making a statement about where we are today, as well as where we are going," says Dave. "Baller Single Malt Whiskey, which we age in umeshu casks, has become an important part of St. George. Finishing some of our anniversary single malt in umeshu casks speaks to that." A stonefruit liqueur that originated in Japan, the umeshu pushes flavors familiar to St. George Single Malt in a tropical direction. Unsalted butter goes to coconut, while marmalade takes on notes of lychee and mango. Overall the cask adds exotic aromatics that dance over the older, richer whiskeys we used.

### AO06-74 (APPLE BRANDY CASK)

The St. George Single Malt profile has always been fruit forward. This cask, which previously held apple brandy we distilled, compliments the stonefruit influence of the umeshu cask with pome flavors and a menthol note that enlivens the whiskey.

### FO20-95 (COGNAC CASK)

This cognac cask lent a surprising, *véraison* quality to the whiskey. The fresh, green notes were too much on their own, but when added to the other casks we had selected, they completed the puzzle, bringing everything together.

### FO17-01 (SHERRY CASK)

This sherry cask had a grippy, chewy quality that smoothed the transitions between the many flavors in the release. This is a connecting, unifying barrel.

### FO18-02 (CA-STYLE SAUTERNES CASK)

A small addition from this cask made a significant impact. The California-style Sauternes cask brings in notes of sandalwood and Earl Grey tea that accentuate the way the chocolate notes in the heartstring hit, drawing them deeper and letting them linger.

### SM-04 (EX BOURBON CASK)

While only a small portion of this cask was used, it made an outsized impact. This was the fourth cask laid down when Lance and Jörg began distilling single malt in 1999. The dark chocolate so characteristic of our whiskey takes on a Tootsie Roll quality that underpins pops of cinnamon and Chinese five spice. Strikingly, you can still smell mash day in this liquid despite its age. This is whiskey that is difficult to part with, but it needs to be shared.