

**Ardbeg An Oa NAS. Islay.**  
**46.6% ABV \$49.99 + tax**

6/16/18

Matured in a combination of virgin oak, Pedro Ximénez sherry, and bourbon barrels, and married in a French oak 'gathering vat' prior to bottling, marks a reason to celebrate. An Oa is a more approachable Ardbeg. It lacks some of the typical oiliness, but flavor and complexity abound with hot peat, black tea, and peppery cloves. Die-hard Ardbeg fans should have no complaints, and new converts have a real treat in store.

**Nose:** Sharp citrus. Soot. Licorice. Eucalyptus. Wisp of nice smoke Milk chocolate. Becomes drier as you let it rest. Dry leaves. Lemon rind. Lime.

**Palate:** Off the bat, love the texture. Lately I've been drinking far too many weak whiskies; texture wise. So this is a welcome departure from that annoying trend. Lots of ash. White pepper. Super dry. Woody spices. Like cinnamon. Mid-palate becomes a lot more herbal.

**Finish:** Takes a while but comes back from the depths and stays with you. Extremely drying. Woody. Hints of citrus

**Color:** Pale Yellow Yellow Gold Greeny-Gold Bronze Amber Mahogany

**Nose:** Floral Citrus Grass Honey Coconut Malty Oak Nutty Molasses Sherry Sweet Smoky Pungent Peat

**Palate:** Woody Zesty Vanilla Oily Peppery Raisins Intense Grassy Caramel Berries Balanced

Chocolate Floral Citrus Honey Coconut Nutty Sherry Sweet Smoky Malty Peat Rich/Earthy

Alive Balanced Abrasive Assertive Delicate Bland

**Body:** Light Medium Full Smooth Rich Creamy Textured Big Crisp Mouth-coating Silky Velvet

**Finish:** Short Medium Long Abrupt Bitter Intense Tingling Robust Oaky Crisp Delicate

**Length of finish (minutes):** 1 ~~1.5~~ 2 2.5 3 3.5 4 4.5

**Score:** 89 **Notes:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Name:** Neil Ferguson

**Rating Scheme**  
**95-100**

A classic! All components are balanced appropriately, with the complexity and character expected in a classic.

**90-94**

Outstanding! One of the best for its style. Distinctive.

**80-89**

Good to very good. Plenty of character and no identifiable flaws. Worth seeking out.

**70-79**

Average. No unique qualities. Flaws possible.

WITH A FEW OZ'S OF H2O.

**Bunnahabhain Toiteach. NAS. Islay.**  
**46% ABV. \$62.99 + tax**

6/16/18

Texture: Oily despite being down from cask strength, excellent legs. Suggests excellent quality casks and spirit, and possibly good ageing, despite there being no age statement.

Nose: Slight smoke, some pale straw / dry grass, sweet lemon rind, white wine & green apple once opened up. No heat on the nose, good quality stuff.

Palate: The star of the show in this whisky. Lots of beautiful, delicious, deep smoke. Some subtle dry sherry notes, but not sweet and well-balanced by the smoke and dry-ish peat. Also some over-cooked caramel (not overly sweet, but not bitter either), and the straw and crisp green apple from the nose. Amazingly smooth at an assumed young age, there is no burn whatsoever, even neat and at room temperature. The delicious deep smoke brings the taste buds to life, plenty of it too, and it's utterly delicious!

Finish: Long, smoky but clean, a hint of ash, and a slight rubbery/soapy note on the end, but not in a bad way. Some more straw and crisp green apple right at the end, plus a final puff of that gorgeous smoke.

**Color:** Pale Yellow Yellow Gold Greeny Gold Bronze Amber Mahogany

**Nose:** Floral Peat Citrus Grass Honey Coconut Malty Oak Nutty Molasses Sherry Sweet Smoky Pungent Sea Air

**Palate:** Woody Zesty Vanilla Oily Peppery Raisins Intense Grassy Caramel Berries Balanced

Chocolate Floral Citrus Honey Coconut Nutty Sherry Sweet Smoky Malty Peat Rich/Earthy

Alive Balanced Abrasive Assertive Delicate Bland

**Body:** Light Medium Full Smooth Rich Creamy Textured Big Crisp Mouth-coating Silky Velvet

**Finish:** Short Medium Long Abrupt Bitter Intense Tingling Robust Oaky Crisp Delicate

**Length of finish (minutes):** 1 1.5 2 2.5 3 3.5 4 4.5 5

**Score:** 85

**Notes:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Name:** Ed Bradley

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**Notes:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Name:** Curtis Cameron

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**Nose:** Floral Peat Citrus Grass Honey Coconut Malty Oak Nutty Molasses Sherry Sweet Smoky Pungent Sea Air

**Palate:** Woody Zesty Vanilla Oily Peppery Raisins Intense Grassy Caramel Berries Balanced  
Chocolate Floral Citrus Honey Coconut Nutty Sherry Sweet Smoky Malty Peat Rich/Earthy  
Alive Balanced Abrasive Assertive Delicate Bland

**Body:** Light Medium Full Smooth Rich Creamy Textured Big Crisp Mouth-coating Silky Velvet

**Finish:** Short Medium Long Abrupt Bitter Intense Lingling Robust Oaky Crisp Delicate

**Length of finish (minutes):** 1 1.5 2 2.5 3 3.5 4 4.5 5

**Score:** 85

**Notes:** A little too light

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**Finish:** Short Medium Long Abrupt Bitter Intense Tingling Robust Oaky Crisp Delicate

**Length of finish (minutes):** 1 1.5 2 2.5 3 3.5 4 4.5

**Score:** 77

**Notes:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Name:** FITZGERALD

**Rating Scheme**

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**Color:** Pale Yellow   Yellow   Gold   Greeny Gold   Bronze   Amber   Mahogany

**Nose:**   Floral   Citrus   Grass   Honey   Coconut   Malty   Oak   Nutty   Molasses   Sherry   Sweet   Smoky   Pungent   Sea Air

**Palate:**   Woody   Zesty   Vanilla   Oily   Peppery   Raisins Intense   Grassy   Caramel   Berries   Balanced

Chocolate   Floral   Citrus   Honey   Coconut   Nutty   Sherry   Sweet   Smoky   Malty   Peat   Rich/Earthy

Alive   Balanced   Abrasive   Assertive   Delicate   Bland

**Body:**   Light   Medium   Full   Smooth   Rich Creamy   Textured   Big   Crisp   Mouth-coating   Silky   Velvet

**Finish:**   Short   Medium   Long   Abrupt   Bitter   Intense   Tingling   Robust   Oaky   Crisp   Delicate

**Length of finish (minutes):**   1   1.5   2   2.5   3   3.5   4   4.5   5

**Score:** 87

**Notes:** \_\_\_\_\_

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Chocolate Floral Citrus Honey Coconut Nutty Sherry Sweet Smoky Malty Peat Rich/Earthy

Alive Balanced Abrasive Assertive Delicate Bland

**Body:** Light Medium Full Smooth Rich Creamy Textured Big Crisp Mouth-coating Silky Velvet

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**Notes:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Name:** Jim S.

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**Color:** Pale Yellow Yellow Gold Greeny Gold Bronze Amber Mahogany

**Nose:** Floral Citrus Grass Honey Coconut Malty Oak Nutty Molasses Sherry Sweet Smoky Pungent Sea Air Peat

**Palate:** Woody Zesty Vanilla Oily Peppery Raisins Intense Grassy Caramel Berries Balanced  
Chocolate Floral Citrus Honey Coconut Nutty Sherry Sweet Smoky Malty Peat Rich/Earthy  
Alive Balanced Abrasive Assertive Delicate Bland

**Body:** Light Medium Full Smooth Rich Creamy Textured Big Crisp Mouth-coating Silky Velvet

**Finish:** Short Medium Long Abrupt Bitter Intense Tingling Robust Oaky Crisp Delicate

**Length of finish (minutes):** 1 1.5 2 2.5 3 3.5 4 4.5 5

**Score:** 3

**Notes:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Name:** Jim G

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**Score:** 88

**Notes:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Name:** Don H

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**Score:** 90

**Notes:** ADD WATER

**Name:** NORKA

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**Notes:** ADD WATER

**Name:** NORM

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**Score:** 75 **Notes:** VERY GOOD

**Name:** Eddie Schurr

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Texture: Oily despite being down from cask strength, excellent legs. Suggests excellent quality casks and spirit, and possibly good ageing, despite there being no age statement.

Nose: Slight smoke, some pale straw / dry grass, sweet lemon rind, white wine & green apple once opened up. No heat on the nose, good quality stuff.

Palate: The star of the show in this whisky. Lots of beautiful, delicious, deep smoke. Some subtle dry sherry notes, but not sweet and well-balanced by the smoke and dry-ish peat. Also some over-cooked caramel (not overly sweet, but not bitter either), and the straw and crisp green apple from the nose. Amazingly smooth at an assumed young age, there is no burn whatsoever, even neat and at room temperature. The delicious deep smoke brings the taste buds to life, plenty of it too, and it's utterly delicious!

Finish: Long, smoky but clean, a hint of ash, and a slight rubbery/soapy note on the end, but not in a bad way. Some more straw and crisp green apple right at the end, plus a final puff of that gorgeous smoke.

**Color:** Pale Yellow Yellow Gold Greeny Gold Bronze Amber Mahogany

**Nose:** Floral Peat Citrus Grass Honey Coconut Malty Oak Nutty Molasses Sherry Sweet Smoky Pungent Sea Air

**Palate:** Woody Zesty Vanilla Oily Peppery Raisins Intense Grassy Caramel Berries Balanced  
Chocolate Floral Citrus Honey Coconut Nutty Sherry Sweet Smoky Malty Peat Rich/Earthy  
Alive Balanced Abrasive Assertive Delicate Bland

**Body:** Light Medium Full Smooth Rich Creamy Textured Big Crisp Mouth-coating Silky Velvet

**Finish:** Short Medium Long Abrupt Bitter Intense Tingling Robust Oaky Crisp Delicate

**Length of finish (minutes):** 1 1.5 2 2.5 3 3.5 4 4.5 5

**Score:** 90

**Notes:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Name:** Eddie SCHNURA

**Rating Scheme**

- 95-100 A classic! All components are balanced appropriately, with the complexity and character expected in a classic.
- 90-94 Outstanding! One of the best for its style. Distinctive.
- 80-89 Good to very good. Plenty of character and no identifiable flaws. Worth seeking out.
- 70-79 Average. No unique qualities. Flaws possible.

**Ardbeg An Oa NAS. Islay.**  
**46.6% ABV \$49.99 + tax**

6/16/18

Matured in a combination of virgin oak, Pedro Ximénez sherry, and bourbon barrels, and married in a French oak 'gathering vat' prior to bottling, marks a reason to celebrate. An Oa is a more approachable Ardbeg. It lacks some of the typical oiliness, but flavor and complexity abound with hot peat, black tea, and peppery cloves. Die-hard Ardbeg fans should have no complaints, and new converts have a real treat in store.

**Nose:** Sharp citrus. Soot. Licorice. Eucalyptus. Wisp of nice smoke. Milk chocolate. Becomes drier as you let it rest. Dry leaves. Lemon rind. Lime.

**Palate:** Off the bat, love the texture. Lately I've been drinking far too many weak whiskies; texture wise. So this is a welcome departure from that annoying trend. Lots of ash. White pepper. Super dry. Woody spices. Like cinnamon. Mid-palate becomes a lot more herbal.

**Finish:** Takes a while but comes back from the depths and stays with you. Extremely drying. Woody. Hints of citrus

**Color:** Pale Yellow Yellow Gold Greeny-Gold Bronze Amber Mahogany

**Nose:** Floral Citrus Grass Honey Coconut Malty Oak Nutty Molasses Sherry Sweet Smoky Pungent Peat

**Palate:** Woody Zesty Vanilla Oily Peppery Raisins Intense Grassy Caramel Berries Balanced  
Chocolate Floral Citrus Honey Coconut Nutty Sherry Sweet Smoky Malty Peat Rich/Earthy

*Slight Sulfur note, but not unpleasant.*

Alive Balanced Abrasive Assertive Delicate Bland

**Body:** Light Medium Full Smooth Rich Creamy Textured Big Crisp Mouth-coating Silky Velvet

**Finish:** Short Medium Long Abrupt Bitter Intense Tingling Robust Oaky Crisp Delicate

**Length of finish (minutes):** 1 1.5 2 2.5 3 3.5 4 4.5

**Score:** 92 **Notes:** I plan to buy this one — **Name:** Mike

**Rating Scheme**  
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**Nose:** Floral Citrus Grass Honey Coconut Malty Oak Nutty Molasses Sherry Sweet Smoky Pungent Sea Air  
Peat Chocolate

**Palate:** Woody Zesty Vanilla Oily Peppery Raisins Intense Grassy Caramel Berries Balanced  
Chocolate Floral Citrus Honey Coconut Nutty Sherry Sweet Smoky Malty Peat Rich/Earthy  
Alive Balanced Abrasive Assertive Delicate Bland

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**Length of finish (minutes):** 1 1.5 2 2.5 3 3.5 4 4.5 5

**Score:** 91

**Notes:** Similar to Ardbeg, but seemed watered down

**Name:** Mike

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**Score:** 91 **Notes:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Name:** Trevor

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Chocolate Floral Citrus Honey Coconut Nutty Sherry Sweet Smoky Malty Peat Rich/Earthy

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**Body:** Light Medium Full Smooth Rich Creamy Textured Big Crisp Mouth-coating Silky Velvet

**Finish:** Short Medium Long Abrupt Bitter Intense Tingling Robust Oaky Crisp Delicate

**Length of finish (minutes):** 1 1.5 2 2.5 3 3.5 4 4.5 →

**Score:** 99

**Notes:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Name:** DONWARD

**Rating Scheme**

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**Score:** ~~83~~ 83

**Notes:** \_\_\_\_\_

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*(Handwritten mark)*