

**Bunnahabhain 12YO**  
**Islay. Gaelic for "mouth of the river"**  
**43.3% ABV \$56.99+tax**

When you pick up a bottle of 12-year-old Scotch from famous isle of Islay, the flavor that comes to mind is typically an exceptionally smoky, peaty dram that's as rugged as the island itself looks. Bunnahabhain, however, has taken a different approach from its many counterparts on Islay, championing itself as "the gentle taste of Islay," boasting what they say is a "dram that embodies the island's more approachable side."

**Nose:** Hits the nose with a tropical scent that I've found a lot of in Islay and nearby whiskies. This 12-year-old's nose is more forward with orange, citrusy notes but then quickly taking on an earthier, smokier oak scent with a touch of sea air. That more gradually transitions to a sweeter, earthy vanilla aroma with touches of sandalwood, pepper, and allspice.

**Palate:** Eases onto the tongue with a creamy, malty, yet earthy vanilla flavor with just a touch of slightly bitter spices, almost like drinking rich, high-fat-milk latte with a shot of whisky in it and expertly seasoned with cloves. Meanwhile, it has a very gentle, but earthy undercurrent of peat that is easy to miss for its subtlety. That gentle, creamy flavor then swings in a much spicier direction and starts to tickle the tongue with notes of clove, allspice, pepper, and just a hint of cinnamon.

**Finish:** a very slow wave of spice tingles from almost the back of the throat all the way back up the mouth. That ends with what feels like a fireworks finale of highly concentrated tingling in the upper corners of the mouth and the very center of the roof of the mouth. Meanwhile, the tongue stays coated in that syrupy, creamy vanilla flavor and texture that kicked things off.

**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

Score: 89

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

Name: TED Plungdorf

Meeting Date: 12/17/2021

# Auchentoshan 3-Wood Lowland Single Malt Scotch Whiskey NAS. ABV 43%. \$69.99 + tax

The ever-popular Auchentoshan 3 Wood is matured initially in bourbon casks before being finished in Oloroso then Pedro Ximénez casks for an extra layer of rich, sweet fruitiness. "This is one of the best of the Auchentoshan range. It may be an NAS, but it's so much more intense than the 12yo. Do not be mistaken that this is a light whisky, it's an intensely sherried whisky. If this bottle were to be bottled at a higher abv at 46%, and left in its natural colour, this would almost be a flawless dram. I've no idea how some people got peat smoke in this. Auchentoshan does not use peated malt in their whisky making process. The "peat" notes picked up is probably from the intense and active casks used for the finishing period."

- NOSE  
Blackcurrants, brown sugar, oranges, plums and raisins.
- PALATE  
Fruit syrup, plums and raisins – intense, sweet and complex.
- FINISH  
Fresh and fruity with long-lasting oaky sweetness.

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

Score: 87

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

Name: Jeff Burdore

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- Body:** Light Medium Full Smooth Rich Creamy Textured Big Crisp Mouth-coating Silky Velvet
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Score: 68

Notes: FITZG - KALP

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Notes: FITZGERALD

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**Body:** Alive Balanced Abrasive Assertive Delicate Bland  
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Score: 89

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

Name: Don H.

Meeting Date: 12/17/2021

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

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Score: 84

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

Name: Jim

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- FINISH  
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 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

Score: 83

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

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Score: 85      Notes: Slight Pungent on Nose, Palate more Balanced      Name: Richard Nail

Meeting Date: 12/17/2021

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Score: 87

Notes: More Bourbon-like, hint of Peat

Name: Richard Hill

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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

Score: 75

Notes: Nose + palate are not distinctive

Name: Dan

Meeting Date: 12/17/2021

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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: 84

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

Name: Dan

**Bunnahabhain 12YO**  
**Islay. Gaelic for "mouth of the river"**  
**43.3% ABV \$56.99+tax**

When you pick up a bottle of 12-year-old Scotch from famous isle of Islay, the flavor that comes to mind is typically an exceptionally smoky, peaty dram that's as rugged as the island itself looks. Bunnahabhain, however, has taken a different approach from its many counterparts on Islay, championing itself as "the gentle taste of Islay," boasting what they say is a "dram that embodies the island's more approachable side."

**Nose:** Hits the nose with a tropical scent that I've found a lot of in Islay and nearby whiskies. This 12-year-old's nose is more forward with orange, citrusy notes but then quickly taking on an earthier, smokier oak scent with a touch of sea air. That more gradually transitions to a sweeter, earthy vanilla aroma with touches of sandalwood, pepper, and allspice.

**Palate:** Eases onto the tongue with a creamy, malty, yet earthy vanilla flavor with just a touch of slightly bitter spices, almost like drinking rich, high-fat-milk latte with a shot of whisky in it and expertly seasoned with cloves. Meanwhile, it has a very gentle, but earthy undercurrent of peat that is easy to miss for its subtlety. That gentle, creamy flavor then swings in a much spicier direction and starts to tickle the tongue with notes of clove, allspice, pepper, and just a hint of cinnamon.

**Finish:** a very slow wave of spice tingles from almost the back of the throat all the way back up the mouth. That ends with what feels like a fireworks finale of highly concentrated tingling in the upper corners of the mouth and the very center of the roof of the mouth. Meanwhile, the tongue stays coated in that syrupy, creamy vanilla flavor and texture that kicked things off.

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 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

Score: 82

Notes: Distinct Nose & Palate  
Not sure I like it.

Name: Mike

Meeting Date: 12/17/2021

**Auchentoshan 3-Wood**  
**Lowland Single Malt Scotch Whiskey**  
**NAS. ABV 43%. \$69.99 + tax**

The ever-popular Auchentoshan 3 Wood is matured initially in bourbon casks before being finished in Oloroso then Pedro Ximénez casks for an extra layer of rich, sweet fruitiness. "This is one of the best of the Auchentoshan range. It may be an NAS, but it's so much more intense than the 12yo. Do not be mistaken that this is a light whisky, it's an intensely sherried whisky. If this bottle were to be bottled at a higher abv at 46%, and left in its natural colour, this would almost be a flawless dram. I've no idea how some people got peat smoke in this. Auchentoshan does not use peated malt in their whisky making process. The "peat" notes picked up is probably from the intense and active casks used for the finishing period."

- NOSE  
Blackcurrants, brown sugar, oranges, plums and raisins.
- PALATE  
Fruit syrup, plums and raisins – intense, sweet and complex.
- FINISH  
Fresh and fruity with long-lasting oaky sweetness.

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

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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: 86 Notes: \_\_\_\_\_ Name: Mike



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 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

Score: 98

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

Name: Dan Ward

Meeting Date: 12/17/2021

**Auchentoshan 3-Wood**  
**Lowland Single Malt Scotch Whiskey**  
**NAS. ABV 43%. \$69.99 + tax**

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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: 90

Notes: Perfect - everything I like

Name: Dan Wald