

HUNGER GAMES: From the cask

An exclusive whiskey club promises a different taste for members

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Paul Miles, the managing director of the Scotch Malt Whiskey Society (SMWS), says his favourite whisky is the last one he had.

For lovers of single malt whiskey in India, there is now something that could be more exciting than a duty-free shop. Whether it's worth the effort, is more a matter of personal choice.

The Scotch Malt Whiskey Society (SMWS) has started operations in India with the Mumbai-based company Trinity Vinters Pvt. Ltd. The SMWS buys from established, little-known, sometimes defunct distilleries in Scotland, casks them and then bottles them under a number. They bottle single malt whiskey from a single cask, which means it will taste different from what comes branded from the same distillery. The name of the distillery is not mentioned on the bottle; what is mentioned is a number—the figure before the decimal is unique to the distillery and the figure after is the number of casks obtained from there.

Paul Miles, the managing director of SMWS, who was in Mumbai recently to participate in the launch process, says that the number 4.169 on the bottle indicates it's the 169th cask they have bottled from the brand Highland Park (No. 4). The numbers are sequential—the first distillery they acquired from is No. 1 and so on.