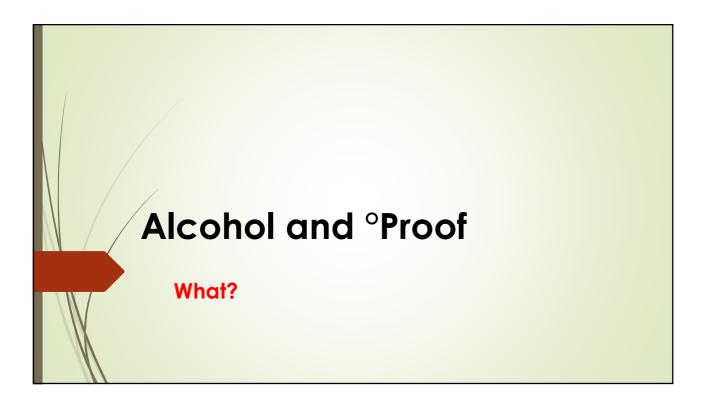


What is Whisky? Whisky is a distilled alcoholic beverage made from fermented grain mash. It is typically aged in wooden casks, which gives it distinct flavours and characteristics. Whisky is produced in various countries, including Scotland, Ireland, the United States, Canada, and Japan.



Alcohol

- ► Alcohol, scientifically known as ethanol,
 - **►**(or historical ethyl alcohol)
 - is the main <u>psychoactive component</u> in alcoholic beverages.
- It is produced through the <u>fermentation of sugars</u> by yeast or other microorganisms.
- Ethanol has a distinctive taste,
 - its <u>concentration</u> determines the <u>strength of the beverage</u>.

Alcohol by Volume (ABV)

- Alcohol content is typically expressed as Alcohol by Volume (ABV),
 - represents the volume of **pure alcohol** in a given volume of the beverage.
- ABV is expressed as a percentage.
 - For example, if a beverage has an ABV of 40%, it means that 40% of the total volume is pure alcohol.

Degrees Proof

- Degrees proof is an alternative way to express the <u>alcohol</u> <u>content</u> of a beverage.
- Historically, it originated from a test that involved soaking gunpowder with the spirit to determine its strength.
 - ■If the gunpowder ignited, the spirit was deemed "proof."
- In the United States, <u>proof</u> is defined as <u>twice the ABV</u>.
 - ► For example, a spirit with an ABV of 50% would be 100 ° proof.

Conversion between ABV and Degrees Proof

- To convert ABV to °proof, multiply the ABV by two.
 - ► For example, an ABV of 45% is equivalent to 90 ° proof.
- To convert ° proof to ABV, divide the ° proof by two.
 - ► For example, 120 ° proof is equivalent to an ABV of 60%.

Why is Degrees Proof Relevant?

- proof provides a <u>quick reference for the alcohol</u> <u>strength</u> of a beverage.
- It helps consumers understand the potency of a spirit
 - ■and make informed choices.
- Higher ° proof generally indicates a <u>higher alcohol</u> content
 - and a stronger flavor profile (?)

Whisky Production Process

- Malting: Germination of barley to <u>activate enzymes</u> that convert starches into fermentable sugars.
- Mashing: malted barley is ground and mixed with hot water to extract sugars.
- Fermentation: Yeast is added to the sugary liquid to convert it into alcohol, producing a liquid known as "wash."
- Distillation: wash is distilled in <u>copper stills</u> to separate alcohol from impurities.
- Maturation: distilled spirit is <u>aged in wooden casks</u>, allowing it to develop complex flavours and aromas.

Types of Whisky

- Scotch Whisky: Produced in Scotland,
 - typically made from malted barley and aged for at least three years.
 - It can be single malf (from one distillery) or blended (a combination of whiskies from multiple distilleries).
- Irish Whiskey: Produced in Ireland, usually made from a mix of malted and unmalted barley.
 - It is triple-distilled for a smoother taste.
- American Whiskey: Produced in the United States,
 - it includes Bourbon and Rye Whiskey

Bourbon Whiskey

Bourbon is a type of American whiskey that has specific legal requirements:

- Must be made in the United States.
- Must be produced from a grain mixture that is at least 51% corn.
- Must be aged in <u>new</u> charred oak barrels.
- Must be distilled to no more than 160° proof and entered into the barrel for aging at no more than 125° proof.
- Must be bottled at a minimum of 80° proof.
- Bourbon tends to have a sweeter and fuller-bodied flavour profile compared to other whiskies.

Rye Whiskey

Rye whiskey is another type of American whiskey with its own distinctive features:

- Must be made from a grain mixture that is at <u>least 51%</u> rve.
- Must be aged in <u>new</u> charred oak barrels.
- Must be distilled to no more than 160° proof and entered into the barrel for aging at no more than 125° proof.
- Must be bottled at a minimum of 80° proof.
- Rye whiskey is known for its spicier and drier taste profile, making it a favorite among whiskey enthusiasts.

Comparing Bourbon and Rye Whiskey

- ► Mash Bill: Bourbon has a higher <u>corn</u> content, resulting in a <u>sweeter</u> flavour,
 - while rye whiskey has a higher rye content, offering a spicier taste.
- Aging: Both bourbon and rye whiskey must be aged in <u>new charred oak barrels</u>, contributing to their flavours and colours.
- ► Flavour Profile: Bourbon is known for its rich caramel and vanilla notes,
 - while rye whiskey offers a **bolder**, **peppery flavour** with hints of fruit and spice.

So what do I like?

- "Cooking" Whisky:
 - ► Famous Grouse, Bells, Ballantine's, (Johnny Wanker Red)
- Deluxe Whisky:
 - Chivas Regal 12 yr, 18yr, Ballentines 12yr (Johnny Wanker Black) JW Double Black
- Single Malt
 - Laphroaig, Bushmills, Glenmorangie, Glennfiddich
- **■** Whiskey:
 - Jamesons, Jack Daniels, Jim Bean

