

HAKATA

Year Founded: 1912

Region: Fukuoka, Japan

Owner: Tomoko Nagasue

Master Distiller: Naomi Mitsuya

Known for: Home to the sleeping casks. By allowing the casks to slumber in perfect harmony, undisturbed by the outside world, while nature worked its magic within, the future of their contents were unknown to all until their recent discovery. We encourage you to experience these expressions, as they represent a moment in time and an experiment backed by passion and craft.

'If you enjoy whiskies that exude umami, that moreish savory flavor, then these expressions from Hakata might be to your liking.' - Jonny McCormick, Whisky Advocate

Hakata Whisky is distilled and matured in Fukuoka, Japan by the Hikari Distillery (which was founded in 1912). The mash of the whisky is 100% barley. A fraction of this barley has been fermented with Koji providing healthy enzymes for fermentation and creating the highly sought after and delicious, savory taste known as Umami. The Sherry casks this whisky is aged in are kept in traditional style warehouses as well as a few open-air warehouses where they are exposed to humid summertime temperatures of 95 °F and winter temperatures of around 38 °F. As a result, the whisky is bold and almost classical in flavor; retaining a freshness that is truly unique. Hakata appeals to the most discerning whisky drinker as well as the casual enthusiast. The Sherry casks play a dominant role in this spirit, where oak and umami glosses over the palate and hugs the sides of the tongue. Its striking textural element and complex flavor take you on a timeless, elegant and classic journey from beginning to end. We invite you to join us on this journey and enjoy a flavor that is both new and timeless.



12-Year Sherry Cask Whisky

'It leans harder into the profile of "savory dessert" which comes from combining the spicy wood notes with the umami quality of shochu.' -The Whiskey Wash

In the 12 year expression, Hakata's flavor profile deepens significantly. It gives great clarity to the flavors, as the savory body is engaging while never overwhelming the texture of the spices.

'Best New Whiskeys to Drink' - Inside Hook, July 2023

This is sort of like the funky rum or mezcal of Japanese whisky. Ideal for unique food pairings or cocktails that lean into the savory character.

95 Points - Whisky Advocate

Fleeting vegetal aromas of bok choy with ground ginger, coffee bean and marron glacé. The umami is strong on this one, but there's balance on the nose from black forest gateau notes and a hint of oak astringency. Raisin and black cherry flavors draw on a deep pool of umami notes, with soy sauce, shredded ginger, balsamic vinegar, plain chocolate and a growing presence of oak tannins.

93 Points - Ultimate Beverage Challenge

Bold Sherry aromas pour from the glass, showing roasted chestnut, marzipan, bruised pear, and aniseed-spiced cider. On the palate, this is full-flavored, very nutty, with bitter walnut, date, and dried fig finishing with a slightly tannic bite.



18-Year Sherry Cask Whisky



94 Points - Whisky Advocate

An intensity of aromas with chocolate brownie, black currant cassis, wood spices, dark soy sauce, and worn leather; some lemongrass and spring onion freshness, the umami and oak notes reach equilibrium. Dark sticky sherry notes on the palate, with raisin, leather, dried fig, prune, and dark chocolate, spinning away with an umami phase before the sherry notes become dry and mouth- drawing. The finish is long, with leather and walnut oil.

94 Points - Wine Enthusiast

Look for a deep amber hue and aromas of oak, dried cherry and maple. The rich palate includes dried fig, raisin and prune drizzled with molasses, and finishing with hints of almond and clove.

93 Points - Ultimate Spirits Challenge

5/5 - The Whisk(e)y Wash