

craft distillers®

Exceptional Grain ranked
number 2 in
the SPIRIT JOURNAL's
list of the 75 best products
reviewed in 2014

"The finest grain whisky I've had?
Damn close"
★★★★★/highest recommendation
– Paul Pacult

THE EXCEPTIONAL

By Sutcliffe & Son



small batch scotch whisky

DON SUTCLIFFE, managing director of Craft Distillers and 35-year veteran of distilled spirits marketing, and WILLIE PHILLIPS, for 23 years managing director of The Macallan, have collaborated to create a significant small batch Scotch Whisky. These are the Inaugural Releases in what will become a memorable Series:



Next release from
Sutcliffe & Son

THE EXCEPTIONAL BLEND · late 2015

THE EXCEPTIONAL GRAIN

A blend of very special aged Scotch grain whiskies, selected from several different distilleries, each barrel chosen for its distinctive & memorable characteristics. While others blend to produce year-in, year-out consistency, each edition of **THE EXCEPTIONAL GRAIN** will offer a Whisky that is authentically individual, possessed of its own qualitative and stylistic distinction. The blend includes whiskies from Loch Lomond Distillery, North British Distillery, and a barrel of 30-year-old from Carsebridge Distillery, long since closed. Married in first-fill Sherry casks. Subtle and rich. 43% abv.

THE EXCEPTIONAL MALT

Carefully selected assemblage of fully mature and very interesting Scotch malt whiskies: a 16-year-old Ben Nevis, a first-fill sherry butt of Glenburgie, a vatted barrel of Balvenie, Kininvie, & Glenfiddich, a 13-year-old Speyside, a 25-year-old Speyburn, and a 30-year-old Macallan. Blended for further aging into first-fill Oloroso sherry casks, this Inaugural release of **THE EXCEPTIONAL MALT** is beautifully fruited and complex, with an extraordinary finish. Great whisky. 43% abv.

Since the autumn of 1987, Willie Phillips (23 years Managing Director of The Macallan) and I have envisioned working together to craft a qualitatively and stylistically distinctive Whisky. Willie was the force behind The Macallan becoming the iconic brand it is, a brand based on uncompromising quality of ingredients and process, combined with stylistic authenticity and a great team of people. Working with Willie, the team, and that Whisky was a privilege that shaped my career.

Recently I came across a note that Willie sent me in 1996, just after the takeover of The Macallan by Highland Distillers (subsequently by Edrington). Regarding our past work at The Macallan and our future possibilities together, Willie said, “In anticipation I shall look forward to that... I shall always regard the first time as a truly exceptional experience and be forever grateful that it happened to me.”

In the spring of 2010, some twenty-five years after our first endeavor together, Willie and I set about creating the platform to craft small batch whiskies. We have sourced and selected barrels with unique and distinctive characteristics, which we blend to our own uncompromising and stylistic sensibilities, thus crafting what we intend and believe to be authentically wonderful Whisky.

So it is that, when it came to branding our Whisky, we chose to name it after our twenty-five year journey and friendship, as well the experience we hope you enjoy upon opening the bottle...
THE EXCEPTIONAL By Sutcliffe & Son.



Don Sutcliffe / Founder



Above right, Don Sutcliffe working on the package.
Right, Willie Phillips with Master Blender Bill Arthur.
Directly above, Don loving whisky.