

Scotch Whisky Cask Investment summary

Trading since 2011, Vintage Acquisitions are a team of passionate whisky experts with over 50 years' collective experience valuing, trading and managing Single Malt Scotch Whisky.

With access to award-winning distilleries, Vintage Acquisitions (trading name of Brooks & Whitaker Limited) works with investors to help them purchase relatively "young" casks and manage those casks as they gracefully mature.

Whether you're a market newcomer, whisky enthusiast or a seasoned investor, we can add value to your end goal and make the journey there smooth and successful. We take the time to understand your reasons and requirements for purchasing a cask and only then do we make calculated recommendations from a position of knowledge.

As educated stockists we own a large inventory of casks held under HMRC license, but we can also broker casks, allowing us to offer the widest range of quality casks to our clients, at competitive prices. After the most scrupulous assessment by HMRC, we were awarded all the correct licences and certifications (WOWGR/DNA) to trade and store cask whisky, giving all our clients complete peace of mind.

Vintage Acquisitions has an open-door policy - clients and interested investors can drop by without an appointment and the team will be happy to discuss the market and their criteria in the comfort of our whisky bar.

Throughout the investment, clients can see their casks download their documentation and get a wealth of information via an interactive online portal. By purchasing a cask(s) with Vintage Acquisitions, investors will also get automatic membership to the firm's revered whisky events company, Vintage Whisky Club.

Members can book a range of experiences, from immersive distillery visits to exclusive whisky tastings.

Vintage Acquisitions' founding director Sam Brooks: "We do all sorts of events, all with like-minded whisky investors and enthusiasts. We get together drink some great whisky and we have a bit of fun."

Purchasing casks of single malt Scotch whisky is rapidly becoming a popular choice for both new and seasoned investors looking to secure long-term personal gain or alternatively for a child or grandchild's future.

Vintage Acquisitions currently have 6 tried and tested, flexible exit strategies when the time is right.

This provides a quick glimpse of some the topics covered, ensuring you have an idea of what to anticipate as you delve deeper into the brochure. Whether you're looking for specific information or just browsing, this overview will help guide your reading experience.

Investment types

Many seasoned investors are looking to secure long-term personal gain or alternatively for a child or grandchild's future.

Cask Ownership

Stored Under WOWGR - The cask(s) are stored under our WOWGR licence at one of our twenty four HMRC approved excise warehouse accounts throughout Scotland and we become the custodian of the cask(s).

Delivery Order - We transfer the cask(s) to a customer's private account by way of a Delivery Order (DO) as long as there is not a stipulated minimum maturation clause (MMC) attached to the cask.

Capital Gains Tax (CGT) & Estate Planning Strategies

Whisky casks are classed by HMRC as a 'wasting asset' and are not subject to Capital Gains Tax. Wooden whisky casks are naturally porous, meaning a very small amount of whisky evaporates each year and some is absorbed by the wood, normally no more than 2% (the angel's share). A wasting asset is an asset with a predictable life expectancy of 50 years or less and due to the evaporation, it is unlikely the life expectancy of the majority of casks will exceed 50 years.

Whisky casks are an asset that would ordinarily form part of your estate upon death. Whisky casks can however, be purchased as a gift (under trust) and therefore come out of your estate and are no longer liable for Inheritance Tax (IHT).

Fees

'Vintage Acquisitions' provide 5 years free storage and insurance from the Date of purchase of your cask(s). Costs

thereafter are currently £65.00 per cask, per year. These prices are subject to change. We recommend that 'health checks' are undertaken on cask(s) every 3 years. All 'health check' services including regauging and samples are chargeable to the individual cask owner.

Cask sizes

Puncheon = 550 litres

Butt = 500 litres

Hogshead = 250 litres

Barrel = 200 litres

Quarter = 125 litres

Cask types

Up to 80% of a whisky's characteristics come from the cask. The longer the whisky is held in a cask, the greater the extraction of components from the oak, which all add to the taste, aroma and colour.

Casks are naturally porous, which allows the whisky to breathe and take on characteristics of its maturation environment (sea air, etc) and oxidise slowly (angel's share).

Whiskies by region

There are 141 distilleries operating across Scotland and we have direct or indirect relationships to the majority, allowing us to offer casks from all the significant distilleries including Macallan, Springbank, Dalmore, Bowmore, Caol Ila, Bruichladdich, Highland Park just to name a few.

Holding terms

Whisky cask purchase is a medium to long term hold. This means that purchasing should be made for a minimum initial term of 5-10 years. Vintage Acquisitions currently have 6 tried and tested, flexible exit strategies when the time is right.