

Evan Williams Single Barrel 2002 Vintage

43.3%

Very straightforward and unassuming. Its greatest assets are its balance and drinkability, rather than its flavors. Lovely sweet notes (caramel, vanilla), orchard fruit, golden raisin, and spice (cinnamon, nutmeg, dusting of cocoa), leading to a smooth finish. Not the most distinctive or complex of the single barrel releases, but just a joy to drink. In fact, this is almost too drinkable. It's a whiskey I feel would show better at a higher strength (say, 45% or even 50%).

—Vol. 21, #1