

**Ar4 Elements of Islay
(distilled at Ardbeg)**

58.1%

A touch of damp dunnage, some Ardbegian soot, and plenty of jalapeño-style heat. Shows maturity and depth of character, with just-dead bonfire, ointment, and a sweetness, which here is like honeycomb. Water makes it bolder, with deeper smoke, while the palate has sweet wood, balanced (cigar-accented) smoke, and layers of salt, angelica, and plum. £90/500 ml

—Vol. 23, #3