

St. George's Chapter 9

46%

The name's a little misleading — this is actually the second whisky to be released from England's only distillery. It's only three years old so don't expect too much depth, but it's a significant step up from the first release, it's made by legendary former Laphroaig distiller Iain Henderson and it's peated, so expect a treat. There's not much happening on the nose, with some fluffy fruit masking a touch of charcoal smoke. But on the palate it goes through the gears, with melon and pear giving way to a wave of licorice before the peat kicks in and stays. It's a bit like seeing a talented teenager try out for a sports team: lots of talent, no obvious weaknesses, but not yet big enough to front up to the first team, and in need of some muscle. Nevertheless, surprisingly balanced and rounded, and a sign of good things to come. (Selected British whisky outlets.)

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