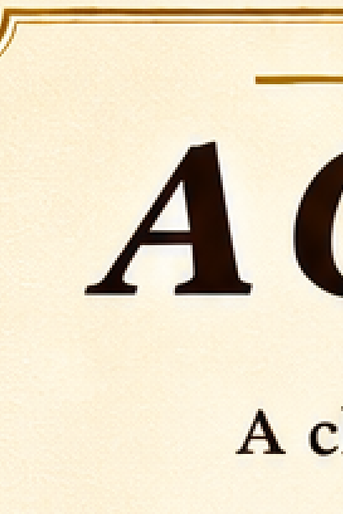
THE THELEN RESERVE

A Guide to Whiskey Glasses

How the glass shapes aroma, sipping, and serving.
A change in glass can change what you notice in the same pour.

SEVEN CLASSIC WHISKEY GLASSES

GLENCAIRN



Neat tasting

A tapered mouth focuses aromas, and the broad bowl shows the whiskey's color.

COPITA



Focused nosing

A narrow bowl guides aromas to the rim. The long stem keeps your hand off the bowl.

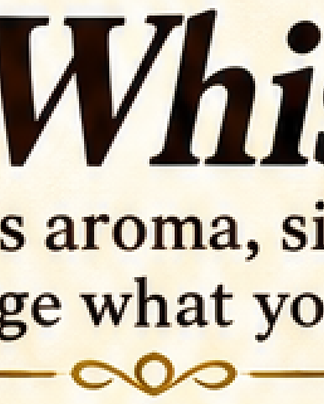
TULIP TASTER



Slow neat pours

A rounded bowl gives a small pour room to swirl before you nose it.

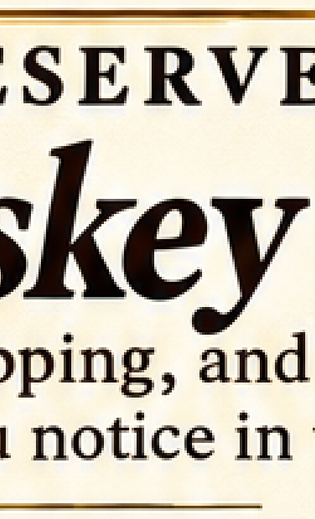
ROCKS



Whiskey over ice

A low, wide tumbler leaves room for a large cube and suits an Old Fashioned.

HIGHBALL



Long mixed drinks

A tall glass holds plenty of ice and mixer for whiskey and soda.

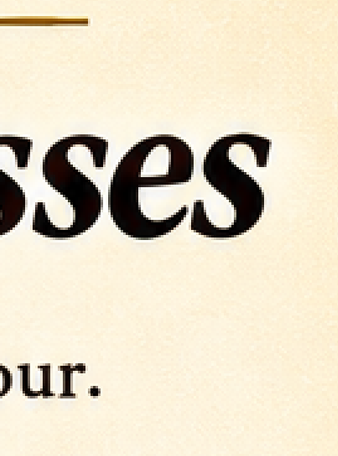
COUPE



Cocktails served up

A shallow bowl presents a chilled, strained Manhattan without ice.

SNIFTER



Rich, full-bodied pours

A generous bowl narrows toward the rim for slow nosing and sipping.

MATCH THE GLASS TO THE POUR

Light & delicate.
Try a tulip taster for a soft, fruity single malt.

Rich & layered.
Try a copita for an oak-forward or sherry-cask whiskey.

Bold & peaty.
Try a Glencairn and nose gently to pick out notes beneath the smoke.

Bourbon.
Try a Glencairn neat or a rocks glass over ice.

Whiskey on ice.
Use a rocks glass with room for a large cube.

Whiskey cocktails.
Use a coupe for a Manhattan and a highball for whiskey and soda.

WHY SHAPE MATTERS

NARROW RIM
Focuses aromas near the nose.

WIDE RIM
Gives aromas more room to disperse.



TAPERED BOWL
Guides aromas toward the rim.

BROAD BOWL
Gives a small pour room to swirl.



WITH A STEM
Keeps your hand away from the bowl.

WITHOUT A STEM
Cupping the bowl can warm the whiskey.



TASTING TIPS

Take your time.
Nose gently before you sip, then see what changes after the first taste.

Try a few drops.
Add still water and nose again to see what changes.

Choose your ice.
One large cube generally melts more slowly than several small ones.

Hold the stem or base.
Keep your palm off the bowl if you want to limit warming.

Keep it clean.
Soap residue or lingering odors can distract from the whiskey.

Trust your palate.
Choose the glass that helps you enjoy the pour.

THE RESERVE'S FINAL TAKE

MAKE IT YOURS
Use the glass you enjoy.

SHARE A POUR
Good company is part of the experience.

COMPARE TWO GLASSES
Nose the same bourbon in a Glencairn and a rocks glass.

FROM GRAIN TO GLASS
Take a moment to appreciate the craft.

SIP MINDFULLY
Take your time and enjoy responsibly.