The Thelen Reserve

Whiskey

Aging Timeline

How oak, climate and time shape the pour.

AGE	CASK	WHAT HAPPENS	POSSIBLE FLAVOR NOTES	COLOR
0 NEW MAKE		Freshly distilled spirit enters oak clear. Grain and fermentation already shape its aroma.	Grain · Floral · Pepper	
1–3 YEARS		Oak starts lending color and aroma. New charred oak can make its presence felt early.	Vanilla · Coconut · Honey	
4–6 YEARS		The spirit draws more compounds from the wood. Toast and spice can become more apparent.	Caramel · Toasted oak · Baking spice	
7–12 YEARS		Fruit, oak and spice may come together. A refill cask can keep the spirit in the foreground.	Dried fruit · Nut · Cinnamon	
13–18 YEARS		In an active cask, oak can take a bigger role. Tannins can leave a drying finish.	Dark chocolate · Leather · Dry oak	
19+ YEARS		Long aging can add layers. In active oak, dryness may start to dominate.	Fig · Coffee · Walnut	

Age bands, flavors and colors are illustrative. Cask, spirit and climate set the pace.

THE ANGEL'S SHARE

Water and alcohol evaporate through the cask. Climate and storage conditions affect the loss.

WHEN THE CLOCK STOPS

Cask maturation ends when whiskey is bottled.

The Thelen Reserve

Whiskey Aging Timeline

READING COPY & SOURCES

The age bands, tasting notes and pour colors illustrate one possible progression. The cask, the spirit and warehouse conditions shape each release.

0 years · New make

Freshly distilled spirit enters oak clear. Grain and fermentation already shape its aroma. Possible notes include grain, floral and pepper.

1–3 years

Oak starts lending color and aroma. New charred oak can make its presence felt early. Possible notes include vanilla, coconut and honey.

4–6 years

The spirit draws more compounds from the wood. Toast and spice can become more apparent. Possible notes include caramel, toasted oak and baking spice.

7–12 years

Fruit, oak and spice may come together. A refill cask can keep the spirit in the foreground. Possible notes include dried fruit, nut and cinnamon.

13–18 years

In an active cask, oak can take a bigger role. Tannins can leave a drying finish. Possible notes include dark chocolate, leather and dry oak.

19+ years

Long aging can add layers. In active oak, dryness may start to dominate. Possible notes include fig, coffee and walnut.

The angel's share

Water and alcohol evaporate through the cask. Climate and storage conditions affect the loss.

Why casks differ

Oak type, toast or char, and previous fills all influence what the cask contributes.

When the clock stops

Cask maturation ends when whiskey is bottled.

SOURCES

Royal Society of Chemistry · Wood Chemistry and the Maturation of Whisky

Bruichladdich · Casks Casks Casks

The Glenlivet · Whisky Evaporation and the Angel's Share

Scotch Whisky Association · Scotch Whisky FAQs