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The typical trait of this Speyside distillery is a two-faced character: a biscuity and malty background, and a clean and sharp side that somehow masks the maltiness behind a very tight and austere veneer. This bottling makes no exception, and we chose to enhance it with a 3-years finish in first fill Oloroso to put an accent to that peculiar dry and tight fruitiness. At the nose it's not explicitly winey, but it's fragrant: marzipan biscuits, aromatic wood, a raisiny hint, a bit of orange peel. Slightly restrained, perhaps. The fight between the sweet maltiness, the crystal-clear sharpness of the spirit and the tannins from the oak is displayed fully at the palate, then: initially quite biscuity and chewy, it then becomes more and more spicy and astringent. It's not as dry or nutty as other expressions of the same distillery, because the fruity side is evident (especially if you add a drop of water), but it's hugely peppery and tannic... while at the same time balanced by ripe apricots, red cherries, ginger-ale. Extremely lively and playful in the finale.

COD **W&M436**

Distilled

Bottl **2022**

Strength 55.1826db

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