



A 10-day tour of 10 Scotch whisky distilleries, with whisky authority Charles Maclean as host and guide.

A cask of whisky from Ardnamurchan Distillery.

Travel by private jet, helicopter and seaplane, and one night onboard an exclusively reserved Royal Scotsman train.

Guests will enjoy the services of a private butler, masseuse, beauty therapist, personal shopper, piper, and photographer.

A tour of Hamilton & Inches' silver and jewellery workshops. Each guest will receive a monogrammed silver quaich from the Royal Warrant holder.

A number of exclusive, Michelin-starred dining experiences.

A handcrafted, leather-bound photo album of the trip for each guest by Aspinal of London.

\$1 million



Dream Drams

When Charles Maclean talks about whisky, people listen. Maclean is the undisputed doyen of the Scotch whisky world, having written several award-winning books over a career spanning more than three decades. In 2009, the Scotsman was elected Master of the Quaich—a rare industry honour reserved for a select few.

For this special gift, the malt maverick himself will accompany six guests on a 10-day tour of up to 10 of Scotland's finest distilleries. Guests will be immersed in a heady sensory journey through guided tours, tasting sessions, and privileged tête-à-têtes with Maclean. Along the way, they will reside in private castles and journey by private jet, helicopters, and even a luxury train. A coterie of staff—including a butler, a masseuse, a beauty therapist, a personal shopper, and a piper—will accompany the guests, and a photographer will be at hand to discreetly capture special vignettes of the trip.

“The best feature of the package is Maclean’s personal presence for the whole trip, his access to the best-of-the-best luminaries in the whisky world, distilleries and stories. This is truly unique,” says Keshav Prakash, founder of The Vault, a recently launched Mumbai-based purveyor of fine spirit experiences that will curate this gift in association with Scottish luxury travel consultants Maclean & Bruce (M&B).

The journey begins in London, where M&B managing director Vikki Bruce will escort guests by private jet to the historic Balfour Castle in Scotland’s remote Orkney Islands, where they will be met by Maclean and M&B chairman David Moore. After they have settled in, Maclean will open a prized bottle of whisky aged 40 years or longer—an experience guests will be treated to on each subsequent day of the trip.

The malt journey begins the next day with a guided tour of Highland Park and Scapa distilleries, where Maclean will conduct tastings of each house’s whiskies, explaining nuances of nosing and tasting. Here, as at subsequent stops on the trip, the distillery owner or manager will present each guest with a special, signed bottle from the house’s reserves.

A helicopter will next transfer guests to GlenDronach and Macallan distilleries, where Maclean will unravel the secrets of Speyside spirits. Dinner that night will be served by a Michelin-starred chef at Aldourie Castle on the shores of Loch Ness. After spending a night at the castle, guests will be taken by seaplane to Glenborrodale Castle on the rugged Ardnamurchan coastline. On the cards is a tour of Ardnamurchan Distillery, where the group will be presented with their very own cask of the early-production whisky. This will mature under bond at the distillery’s warehouse till guests consider it ready to be bottled. (Storage will be free of charge for the first three years.)

Day 5 will be spent exploring the uniquely smoky and peaty characteristics of Islay’s distinguished Kilchoman, Ardbeg and Bunnahabhain distilleries. In the midst of the day’s appreciation sessions, guests will be whisked away for a special lunch—a fusion of Scottish and Indian cuisines.

For the next 24 hours, the luxurious Royal Scotsman train will be exclusively reserved for a journey from Fort William to Pitlochry. Lunch will be served at Edradour, Scotland’s smallest distillery, accompanied by an exclusive whisky-and-chocolate tasting session conducted by Maclean and an expert from the Perthshire-based purveyor of chocolate, Highland Chocolatier.

Upon alighting at Perth, the grand Kinross House will serve as the base for the next three days. Lunch on the



first day will be served in the company of the Earl and Countess of Elgin & Kincardine, descendants of erstwhile kings of Scotland, followed by a tour of Deanston Distillery.

Day 8 veers guests away from drams and distilleries toward the silver and jewellery workshops of Royal Warrant holders Hamilton & Inches—one of Scotland’s finest silversmiths and jewellers. The setting for that night’s dinner is exceptionally unique—the majestic *Britannia*, the Queen of England’s former private yacht.

The day before their return to London, Edinburgh Castle will be exclusively reserved for a celebratory evening of music, fireworks, and

exquisite cuisine by a Michelin-starred chef—a fitting finale to an unmatched experience with the world’s undisputed master of malts. —GIRIJA DUGGAL

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THE GIFT CAN BE AVAILED DURING 2014 FOR A GROUP OF UP TO SIX PERSONS. THE COST OF THE TRIP DOES NOT INCLUDE AIRFARE TO AND FROM LONDON. THE DATES OF THE TRIP WILL BE SUBJECT TO THE SCHEDULES OF CHARLES MACLEAN AND THE ROYAL SCOTSMAN TRAIN. IN CASE OF UNAVAILABILITY OF ANY OF THE ACCOMMODATIONS MENTIONED IN THE PACKAGE, ALTERNATIVES OF AN EQUAL OR HIGHER STANDARD WILL BE PROVIDED.

Charles Maclean (above right) will take guests on an experiential journey that will include travel aboard the Royal Scotsman train (opposite page), dinner on the *Britannia* (top), and a visit to whisky distilleries such as the GlenDronach (above left).

ABOVE RIGHT: REUBEN SINGH