



november 2012

Flaming Heart '4th Release' (48,9%, Compass Box, 2012) € 92.00

★★★★★ To be honest, I had already adored some previous versions, such as the '2nd release' from 2007 (WF 90). Colour: dark straw. Nose: impeccable start, on a rather more refined peat than elsewhere (I mean in youngish single malts) and touches of agave and cane juice on top of an elegant Laphroaighness. Beeswax and seawater, antiseptic and overripe apples, bandages and damp clay, Japanese green tea and linseed oil. Then fresh mint, lime, oysters and just touches of diesel oil. Lovely lovely lovely. Mouth: the first thing I like here is the strength. Sounds odd, I know, but these 48.9% work extremely well, it's nervous and big but approachable and, well, drinkable. Other than that, it's a superb combination of pink grapefruits, shellfish, olive brine, marzipan, lemon, touches of fresh coriander, lemon balm, some kind of waxy citrons and plain green olives. Passion fruits, cough syrup, liquorice... It's very smoky too. Finish: great as well because it remains elegant, zesty, even kind of ethereal despite all the oomph. Leaves your mouth as fresh as a baby's! Comments: no, really, this is truly excellent. The bottle's lovely too, it'll be hard to throw it away once it's empty (which will happen fast). Potential lamp stands? Nah, too narrow... **SGP:446 - 91 points.** Schott-Zwiesel

