



THE BEST WORLD WHISK(E)Y UNDER \$75

Contributed by Liquor.com

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(illustration: Elizabeth Reyes)

You know who knows best which bottles to buy? The people who pour and sell drinks—that's who. We asked dozens of top bartending and spirits industry professionals to tell us which bottles they love and why.

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Heads up: The numerical order below is not organized by importance or quality; it's an alphabetical list, not a ranking. Prices are averages and can vary from state to state.



1: HIBIKI JAPANESE HARMONY WHISKY **(\$64)**

"Hibiki Japanese Harmony is a blended [whiskey](#) from the [Suntory](#) family that contains distillates from the [Yamazaki](#), [Hakushu](#) and [Chita](#) distilleries in Japan. It's a lovely sipping whiskey with a slightly floral nose, and on the palate, it reads rich honey with spices and slight smoke finishing with chocolate notes."—Cari Hah, bar manager at Los Angeles' [Big Bar](#)



2: LOT NO. 40 CANADIAN RYE WHISKY **(\$42)**

"It's great bang for your buck, with buttered popcorn, cinnamon, caramel and apple pie on the mouthfeel. It'll make people rethink Canadian whisky."—Brian Means, bartender at San Francisco's [Mina Group](#)



3: MITCHELL & SON GREEN SPOT IRISH WHISKEY (\$55)

“It is a cult single-pot-still [Irish whiskey](#) that has changed a bit over the years but is still undeniably delicious.”—Neal Bodenheimer, owner and bartender at New Orleans’ [Cane & Table](#) and [Cure](#)



4: NIKKA COFFEY GRAIN JAPANESE WHISKY (\$59)

“This is one of my go-to sippers. It's unique but oh-so approachable.”—Kellie Thorn, bar manager at Atlanta's [Empire State South](#)



5: NIKKA COFFEY MALT JAPANESE WHISKY (\$65)

“It has a robust, dense texture, with cinnamon, clove and dried fruit.”—Karen Fu, former bar director at New York City’s [Donna](#)



6: NIKKA FROM THE BARREL JAPANESE WHISKY (\$61)

“At around 100 proof, it has body, sweetness and a rich mouthfeel. With flavor notes of baking spices, fruits and nuts, it has a complexity truly enjoyed on its own.”—Juyoung Kang, lead bartender at Las Vegas’ [Dorsey](#)



7: NIKKA TAKETSURU PURE MALT JAPANESE WHISKY (\$63)

“It’s a very nice blend of all the good things about whisky. Its well-balanced and very luxurious but at a reasonable price point.”—Kenta Goto, owner and bartender at New York City’s [Bar Goto](#)



8: POWERS JOHN'S LANE IRISH WHISKEY (\$74)

“It’s exactly what you want from an Irish whiskey: pot-stilled juice aged in ex-bourbon casks and oloroso sherry butts, with great notes of coffee, toffee, stone fruit and spice.”—Bodenheimer



9: RAMPUR INDIAN SINGLE MALT WHISKEY (\$60)

“Aging this Indian whiskey in a hot climate imparts flavors found more in Caribbean pot-still rums, and it’s hard to keep hidden in a mixed drink. The rough corners of this malt won’t appeal to all, but it sure is worth trying, because if you love it, you may never look back.”—Peder Schweigert, general manager at Minneapolis’ [Marvel Bar](#)



10: REDBREAST LUSTAU EDITION (\$66)

“This newer expression from Redbreast spends its final year in [Lustau](#) oloroso sherry casks, which lends an added richness with notes of prune and nuts.”—Paul McGee, owner and bartender at Chicago’s [Lost Lake](#)



11: **REDBREAST 12 YEAR IRISH WHISKEY** **(\$58)**

“It’s an absolute classic and still my favorite of the fancier Irish whiskeys.”—Bodenheimer



12: **WHITE OAK AKASHI** **(\$45)**

“It’s a lightly peated corn and malt mash that tastes oddly like bacon.”—David Y. Dong, bartender at New York City’s [North End Grill](#)

Locations: Atlanta California Canada Chicago Georgia Illinois India Ireland Japan Las Vegas Los Angeles Louisiana Minneapolis Minnesota Nevada New Orleans New York San Francisco

Brands: Akashi Green Spot hibiki Lot 40 Lustau Mitchell & Son Nikka Powers John’s Lane Rampur Redbreast Suntory Yamazaki

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