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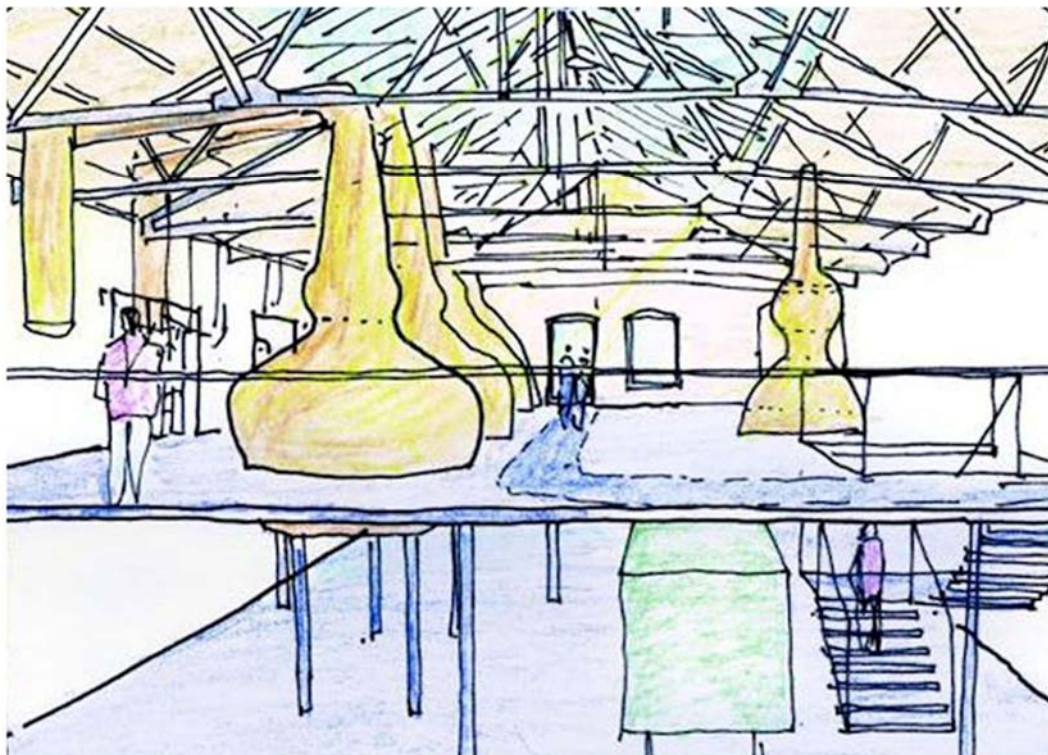
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SCOTCH WHISKY DISTILLERIES TO OPEN IN 2017

05 January 2017 by *Becky Paskin*



Increasing worldwide interest in single malt whisky is fuelling a boom in new distillery builds across Scotland, with several set to open in the year ahead. Becky Paskin explores the outlook for a new wave of malt whisky distilleries.



Visualising the future: An artist's impression of the first Borders distillery in 180 years



If there's one beacon of hope guiding us into the New Year, it's that our choice of single malt Scotch whisky is about to get a whole lot more diverse.

Since 2013 Scotland has welcomed 14 new whisky distilleries, from *Harris* in the Outer Hebrides down to *Glasgow* in the Lowlands.

Two distilleries fired up their stills for the first time in the last 12 months alone: *InchDairnie* in Fife began production in May, making two different single malts, while *Torabhaig* on the Isle of Skye became operational in December.

As we move into 2017, investment in Scotch whisky is only expected to continue, with 20 new distilleries projected to open within the next 24-36 months, including *Edinburgh's first malt distillery* in 92 years, *Islay's ninth distillery* and *Arran's second*.

This year alone will see the launch of at least seven new distilleries, as well as the regeneration of a silent Lowland favourite.

It will also be a year of firsts – the first distillery in the Borders for 180 years, the first legal distillery on the Isle of Raasay, and the first distillery to be launched solely by a woman.

While their whisky won't be available for several years yet, the anticipation of the next wave of Scotch distilleries opening in 2017 should whet more than a few appetites.



BLADNOCH DISTILLERY

It's been silent since 2009, but this year will see the return of Scotland's most southerly distillery under its 11th owner. Bladnoch has a chequered history of takeovers, renovations and long silent periods – the distillery was first erected in 1817 on the McClelland farm in the hamlet of Bladnoch in the south-east of Scotland, and since that time has seen 10 owners come and go. In 2015 it was purchased by Australian yoghurt entrepreneur David Prior, who has completely renovated the site with the intention of producing malt spirit by May 2017 – just in time to celebrate Bladnoch's 200th anniversary.

[Find out more about Bladnoch distillery.](#)