### Main characteristics/features

The types of whisky manufactured by distilleries in Scotland are: scotch malt whisky and scotch grain whisky. Products are widely known as ‘Single Malt Scotch Whisky’ or ‘Single Grain Scotch Whisky’. ‘Blended Scotch Whisky’ is the mixture of ‘Single Malt Scotch Whisky’ and ‘Single Grain Scotch Whisky’. Scotch whisky is an amber-coloured liquid with different gradients of colour. The alcohol concentration is at least 40 % by volume.

### Production/processing

Scotch malt whisky is made with three natural ingredients: barley, water and yeast. Malting of the barley can take between 8-12 days. During this period, the barley has to be turned from time to time. Then the barley is dried in a kiln to halt germination, using a natural fuel: peat. This gives a smoky flavour to scotch whisky. Thereafter, the germinated barley is ground and mixed with hot water in a mash tun. This process will make the starch barley liquid sweet. Normally, scotch malt whisky is distilled twice or even three times using copper stills. Scotch grain whisky is made from cereal grains such as wheat or corn that are ripened with steam at high pressure to convert starch into sugar grains to enable fermentation. The resulting liquid is called ‘washing’. The liquid is then distilled using a still. The spirits are aged in large wooden barrels in cold dark rooms. After maturing for at least three years, it becomes Scotch whisky. Most Scotch whiskies are aged for much longer, from 5 years to 15, 20 or 25 years or even more. This process allows the pure air of Scotland to seep into the wooden barrels and give the products their unique character.

### Geographical area

Scotch whisky production is located in Scotland.

### Link between product and territory

The people and the land of this region, with their century old skills, make up the unique manufacturing process, quality and characteristics of Scotch whisky. The origins of the renowned Scotch whisky are the cereal grains which are used to make them (barley, wheat, maize). These cereal grains are brought from all parts of Scotland. The cold and wet climate of Scotland is important in the maturation process. The sea has an influence on the characteristics of different scotch whiskies. One unique smell found in many Scotch whiskies is the smell of the flower heather. The human factor plays a significant role in the manufacturing process, from fermentation, distillation, maturation and mixing, which are all traditional methods developed and inherited over time. The history and manufacturing of Scotch whisky goes back to 1494. The fame of Scotch whisky spread throughout the 20th Century.