

# Rocks, water, and time: The science of whisky

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"Terroir" explores how a region's climate, soils and terrain affect the taste of its wine. In this talk we adapt the terroir concept to consider geological influences on the flavour of whiskies originating in Scotland and Canada. Following a description of whisky making processes developed in the Scottish highlands about 5 centuries ago, we explore the geology and scenery of different regions of Scotland and linkages to the distinctive taste of their whiskies. The science of the distillation method and its affect on flavour is also considered. Finally, with craft distilleries specializing in barley-based offerings now populating many parts of Canada we present a new application of the terroir concept to terrains familiar to many Canadian geoscientists.

