



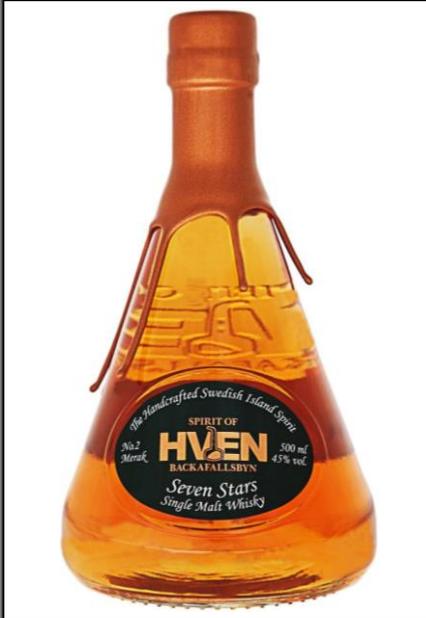
Product Sheet

Seven Stars No.2 Merak



Organic Single Malt Whisky, released March-2014

Produced and bottled by: Spirit of Hven, Sweden



Facts: Limited Edition, in all only 25 casks married together

This Whisky is the second release in the “Seven Stars” series from Spirit of Hven. It is a medium smoky Single Malt Whisky, created from barley to bottle at the small family owned distillery situated on the island of Hven in between Denmark and Sweden.

It is named after the star **Merak** in the asterism Ursa Major (Big Dipper, the Plough).

Merak is a white sub giant with three times the mass and radius of the sun, and 68 times the intensity. It is located 79 light-years from earth. The name **Merak** derives from the Arabic Al-Maraqq (المراق) meaning “the Loins”, referring to the stars location in “the big Bear”.



Seven has always been a sacred number, the Ancient philosophers called the classical celestial bodies (besides earth, the ones visible without a telescope) as the seven stars. These also gave name to the weekdays. In the book of Revelation the stars symbolize the seven churches, the reason we still have seven-branched Candelabras.

There are three constellations in the sky that we generally refer to as the “Seven Stars”. The first is the seven brightest stars in the asterism **Ursa Major**. If you draw an imaginary line from **Merak** through **Dubhe** and about 5 times the space, you will find the **North Star** the last star of the second constellation, the asterism **Ursa Minor**. The third is the **Pleiades** according to mythology this is the seven daughters of Atlas and the nymph Pleione sent to the heavens. Etymologically Pleo in Greek means “to navigate”. The seven stars also plays a part in the symbolism of Odd Fellows, Free Masons etc..



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As the predecessor **Dubhe**, this whisky called **Merak** is soft and round with a youthful freshness. It has distinct but smooth smokiness, which in combination with liquorice and leather notes gives a rich mouth feel. Maturation involves American, French, and Spanish oak, the American contributes toffee and vanilla, the French provides liquorice and peppery notes, Spanish oak keep the others in balance giving herbs and dried fruit. In all only 25 casks was blended together to create this smooth Single Malt.



This whisky is bottled at the distillery on Hven at 45 vol%, without any carbon- or chill filtering, no colorants or additives. It is Organic certified and natural, as it should be.

Each bottle is individually numbered and checked before being waxed by hand.

Scent & taste

Undiluted, without water the whisky shows a nose filled with liquorice and leather, herbal spice and a lingering peat. There is a clear scent of smoke intertwined with fresh orange blossoms and rose petals all combined with a light sea breeze of salty ocean. Behind the light peppery scent a clear note of vanilla and chocolate develops. The taste is fresh stingy with an herbal pepperness. The whisky shows maturity and oak character although with a youthful freshness combined with fudge and vanilla in the end. Thought goes to a light Cohiba with fresh citric notes and aniseed. Medium long aftertaste with oily finish, balanced well on the middle of the tongue.



Diluted, with water about 1:5, the scent goes from salty liquorice over to sweet liquorice. Scent of Cabernet Sauvignon wine comes thru from the cask maturation and the dark chocolate, almond aromas lift the smoke and peat. The orange blossoms combine with the leathery notes to create a cuveé of scents that lifts the smooth enticing character. The taste is soft and gentle with a bite of youthful freshness that reminds of elderflowers and smoke combined with fudge vanilla. The aftertaste is lingering with clear smoke and hints of tar. It is oily, fresh and very smooth.

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