

Whisky Barrel Pen



On a visit to Cumbria's only distillery the staff kindly gave me some pieces of broken barrel that might otherwise have gone into the skip. Barrels brought in to store the whiskey have previously been used to mature whisky in America. Although they are arguably better suited to be used again, Americans have a policy to use their whisky barrels only once. The primary material here is American White Oak.

The barrels are burnt on the inside because so that the oak charcoal can absorb impurities during the years of storage. A cross section cut through the stave reveals the beauty of the wood grain beneath and briefly a pleasant odour from the years of contact with the whisky spirit. So it's a lovely wood to work with.



Another barrel type employed in the distillery has been previously used to store sherry. These are made from European Oak. Using these barrels imparts a distinctive flavour to the whisky that some prefer. This Oak has a warmer colour to it and is equally appealing as a material for a pen body.



A pen makes a great gift and my gift is that all my pens are made by hand with loving care using only the best quality materials and mechanisms that I can find.

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