**Bushmills Black Bush Facts**

* Bushmills Irish Whiskey is made at Ireland’s oldest working distillery, The Old Bushmills Distillery located in the country of Antrim, Northern Ireland.
* Bushmills has a history of 400 years of whiskey making in the area, it is one of few distilleries in Ireland to use 100% malt barley to handcraft triple-distilled whiskey in small batches and uses water drawn from Saint Columb's Rill, which is a tributary of the River Bush.
* The distillery is a popular tourist attraction, with around 120,000 visitors per year.
* The practice of making whisky at the Old Bushmills Distillery can be traced back to 1608 when King James I granted Sir Thomas Phillips (landowner and Governor of County of Antrim, Ireland) a royal license to distill ‘uisce beatha’, the gaelic for ‘water of life’.
* Although this grant serves as the first documented evidence of whisky being distilled at the site, which would become Old Bushmills, it was not as yet called Bushmills. By 1743 however, a distillery by this name was (according to Victorian whiskey journalist Alfred Barnard) was *“in the hands of smugglers”*‘.  (However, it was not until 1784 that Hugh Anderson officially registered the Old Bushmills Distillery with the Pot Still as its trademark.
* Black Bush is made from blending malt whiskey with a lighter type of whiskey, called grain whiskey. Grain whiskey is made from a small proportion of malted barley and other grains.
* The most commonly used grains for this whiskey in Ireland are wheat and maize/corn as rye is not a grain commonly used in Ireland (or Scotland) for whiskey production.
* The type of grain used in whiskey production bears a significant influence on the taste and character of the resulting product. Using 100% malted barley; this creates a very distinct recipe, which gives all Bushmills whiskeys a unique smoothness and rich honeyed sweetness.
* The Master Distiller of Bushmills is Colum Egan.
* Black Bush is a special blend and is often referred as the ‘jewel’ of the Bushmills whiskey portfolio.
* It is distilled in copper still the Black Bush is a blend of Bushmills’ single malt, triple-distilled, and externally-sourced grain whiskey, in a proportion of 80% malt and 20% grain and matured in Oloroso sherry and American oak bourbon casks. All of this whiskey is aged between 7 - 11 years.