



Object of the Newsletter

To promote the appreciation of fine Scotch Whisky (and the drinking of it) amongst my friends and to spread the word on the joys of single malt. By the way, I do not profess to be an expert, I am merely expressing an opinion on the whiskies I am tasting. "Slange"

This issue I look at the Highland Park 18 years old. This whisky was recommended by my good friend and old shipmate (HMS Yarmouth) from my Navy days, Jim Smart from Dundee, Scotland.

After our first visit to the Grand Canyon, my wife and I with our friends from Spain Mike and Pat stopped the night in Flagstaff, Arizona and had the good fortune to go into the "Uptown Billiards" bar where they boast a fine selection of over 60 Single Malt whiskies.

I have to say I was very impressed with this whisky and will have to make room in my liquor cabinet for a bottle, for future tasting. Thank you Jim, great recommendation.

Tasting Notes;

Color - Dark Amber

Nose - Fragrant, Floral, hint of Heather

Palate - Lightly salty, nuts, honey, Lightly Peaty, slight pepper

Finish - Very dry, Spicy, Oaky, Smoky, Warm

In January we celebrate Burns night, so this is a recommendation for dinner;

Honeyed, rich and peppery, works well with the 'Neeps and Tatties' and the rich gravy.

If you have a personal favorite and you would like it to feature in future "Slange" newsletters, please let me know.

I can be contacted at my website www.scot-talks.com.

"Slainte Mhath"

Paul Bissett

With thanks to Google images.





A wee bit of History

The Distillery

The story of Highland Park dates back to 1798 when a local Church Officer (known as the “whisky priest”), Magnus Eunson, began to operate an illegal still on this hillside location overlooking Kirkwall. He is said to have hidden his whisky from the Customs and Excise men under his pulpit.

Highland Park Single Malt is distilled by Highland Park Distillery, Kirkwall in Orkney, the most northerly whisky distillery in Scotland (it is actually closer to Oslo, Norway than to London). The distillery was founded in 1798. Highland Park is one of the few distilleries to malt its own barley, using locally cut peat from Hobbister Moor. The peat is then mixed with heather before being used as fuel.

In 1984, Highland Park was the only whisky ever to have scored a rating of 100% by the regular tasting team of *The Scotsman*, a national newspaper of Scotland. Whisky reviewer and expert Michael Jackson has called it "The greatest all-rounder in the world of malt whisky." (Jackson, Michael (1989). *Michael Jackson's Malt Whisky Companion*.)

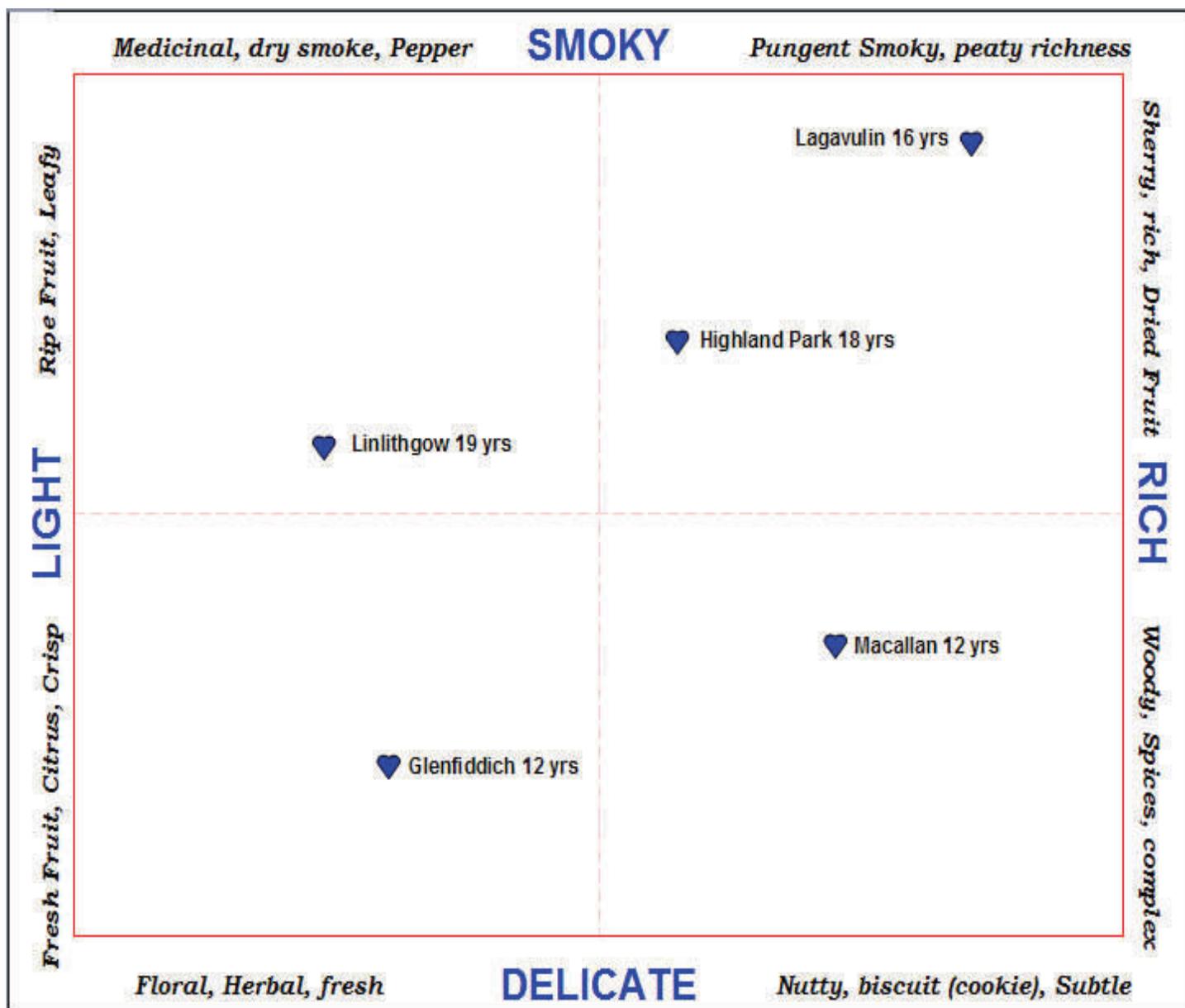


Lachlan's Laws

"The most common cause of hearing loss amongst men is a wife saying she wants to talk to him."



Below is a simple guide to help you choose your single malt Whisky, and the flavor notes I get from it, hopefully you will get something similar. Being Scottish I recommend you find a likely candidate and try it in a bar before buying the whole bottle. With each issue of the newsletter I will add in another Whisky to the flavor map. This issue; **Highland Park 18 years old**. For more information on Highland Park go to <http://www.highlandpark.co.uk/lda/>





Hogmanay

There are many customs, both national and local, associated with Hogmanay. The most widespread national custom is the practice of 'first-footing' which starts immediately after midnight. This involves being the first person to cross the threshold of a friend or neighbor and often involves the giving of symbolic gifts such as salt (less common today), coal, shortbread, whisky, and black bun (a rich fruit cake) intended to bring different kinds of luck to the householder.

Food and drink (as the gifts) are then given to the guests. This may go on throughout the early hours of the morning and well into the next day (although modern days see people visiting houses well into January). The first-foot is supposed to set the luck for the rest of the year. Traditionally, tall dark men are preferred as the first-foot.

Local customs

Some areas of Scotland have developed their own particular Hogmanay ritual. An example of a local Hogmanay custom is the fireball swinging that takes place in Stonehaven, Aberdeenshire in north-east Scotland. This involves local people making up 'balls' of chicken wire filled with old news paper, dried sticks, old cotton rags, and other dry flammable material up to a diameter of 60 cm. Each ball has approximately 1 yard of wire, chain or nonflammable rope attached. As the Old Town House bell sounds to mark the new year, the balls are set alight and the swingers set off up the High Street from the Mercat Cross to the Cannon and back, swinging their burning ball around their head as they go for as many times as they and their fireball last. At the end of the ceremony any fireballs that are still burning are cast into the harbor.



"Auld Lang Syne"

The Hogmanay custom of singing "Auld Lang Syne" has become common in many countries. "Auld Lang Syne" is a traditional poem reinterpreted by Robert Burns, which was later set to music. It is now common for this to be sung in a circle of linked arms that are crossed over one another as the clock strikes midnight for New Year's Day, although it is only intended that participants link arms at the beginning of the final verse, coordinating with the lines of the song which contain the lyrics to do so. Typically it is only in Scotland this practice is carried out correctly.