



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. I do not expect this to be "an easy row to hoe" as my friends have very definite ideas as to what constitutes a good Scotch. Hopefully, I will gain more friends than I lose while getting my message out there. By the way, I do not profess to be an expert, I am merely expressing an opinion on whiskies I am tasting. "Slange"

At this point, I wish to thank my American friends of Scottish descent for waking me up to my heritage, I had drunk whisky for a number of years, but took it for granted and really didn't pay that much attention. Thanks to them I no longer take my birthright for granted. This issue I look at a Whisky that was for many years my drink of choice, Lagavulin 16 years old. This one is not for the faint of heart, arguably the most intensely flavored, smoky and rich whisky of all.

The one word that constantly comes to mind when I drink this whisky is "elegant," there are many good smoky whiskies out there, but this one stands above them all (in my opinion).

When I let my wife taste the Lagavulin 16, her less than appreciative comment was "it tastes like horse manure smells" not the best of recommendations. Let that be a warning to you, if you are not inclined to strong smoky/peaty whiskies, then Lagavulin is probably not for you.

Tasting Notes;

Color - Amber

Nose - Smoke, Chocolate, floral

Palate - Dry, Sweet, Smokey, Peaty

Finish - long, elegant peat-filled finish with salt & seaweed

Fancy a bite to eat with your whisky;

Pork or Beef Sausages. - The pepper, herbs and intense meatiness of high-quality sausages are enhanced by this smoky-sweet Lagavulin Single Malt with sea salt flavors and a huge finish <http://www.malts.com>

"Slainte Mhath"
Paul Bissett





A wee bit of History

The Distillery

Situated in a small bay near the south coast of Islay, Lagavulin stands near the ruins of Dunyveg Castle. It was from here that 1,000 Islaymen set sail to fight alongside Robert the Bruce at Bannockburn in 1314, and in this bay the Macdonalds maintained their power base as Lords of the Isles until they were finally driven out by the Campbells three centuries later.

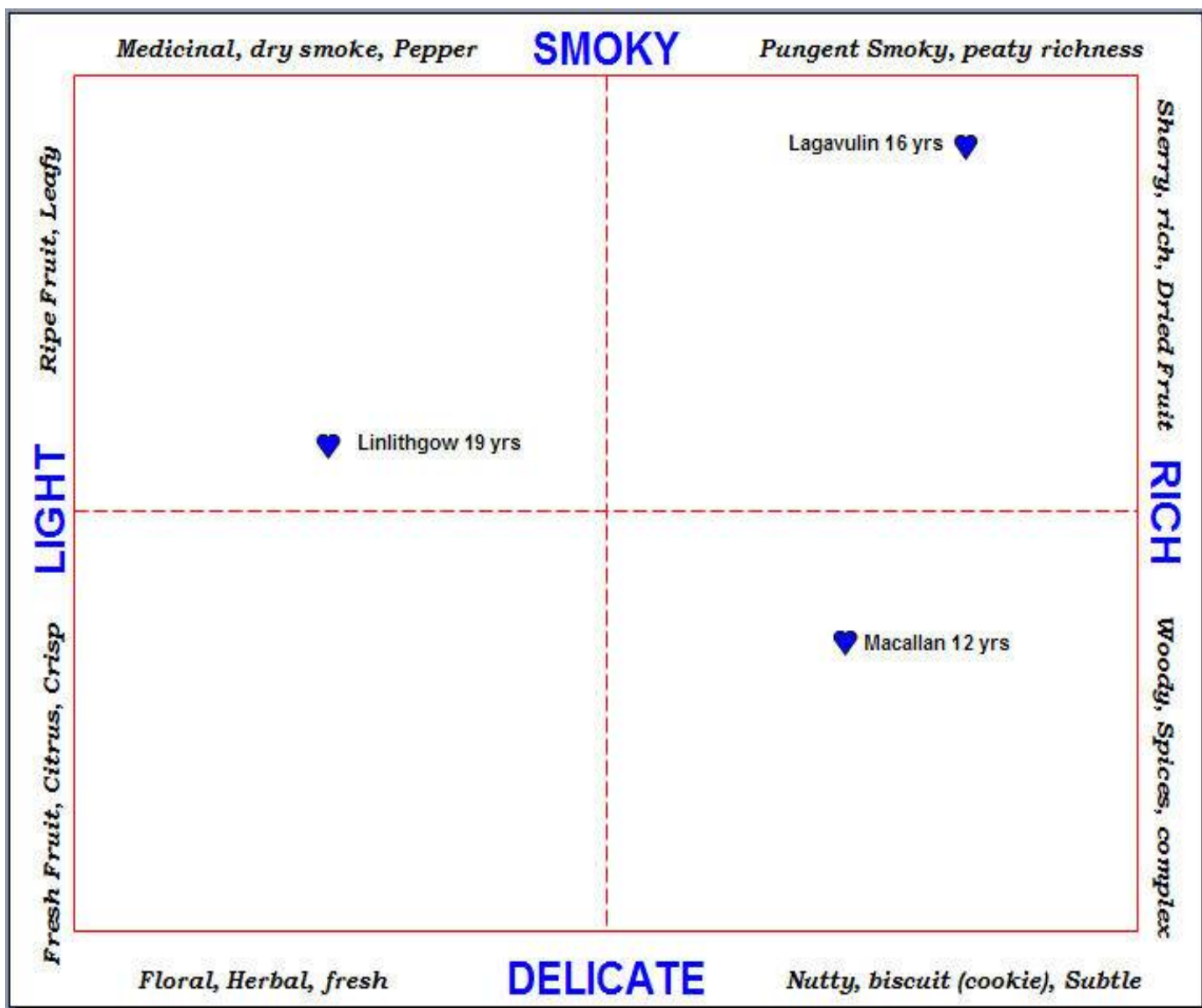
Lagavulin legitimately claims to be one of the oldest distilleries in Scotland. Distilling on the site is thought to date from as early as 1742. In the late 1700s it is believed that there were up to ten illicit stills operating in the district. But by the 1830s only two distilleries remained in the bay. In 1837 these distilleries amalgamated to form Lagavulin.



"Always carry a large flagon of whisky in case of snakebite and furthermore always carry a small snake." (W.C. Fields, 1880-1946)



Below is a simple guide to help you choose your single malt Whisky, and the flavor notes I get from it, and 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; Lagavulin 16 years old.** For more information on Lagavulin go to <http://www.islaywhiskysociety.com/lagavulin/index.html>



“Slange”

Islay (pronounced *EYE-la*; a Scottish island, known as "The Queen of the Hebrides" (*Banrigh nan Eilean*), is the southernmost island of the Inner Hebrides. It lies in Argyll just west of Jura and around 25 miles (40 km) north of the Irish coast and Rathlin Island, which can be seen on a clear day. In Gaelic a native of Islay is called an *Ileach*, pronounced *lax*, and the plural is *Ilich*: Scottish Gaelic is spoken by about a third of the population. The island's capital is Bowmore where the distinctive round Kilarrow Parish Church and a distillery is located. Port Ellen is the next largest settlement and main port.

Islay is the fifth largest Scottish island and the sixth largest island surrounding Britain. It has just over three thousand inhabitants. It has a total area of almost 620 square kilometres (239 sq mi). Its main industries are malt whisky distilling, and tourism largely based on whisky and birdwatching.

With thanks to Google maps (A = Islay).

