



## Object of the Newsletter

*To promote the appreciation of fine Scotch Whisky, the area from which it comes, the people that inhabit the land and it's history. By the way, I do not profess to be an expert, I am merely expressing an opinion on the whiskies I am tasting.*

I now look at the Johnnie Walker “Blue”, which I have tasted in various places/countries, but more recently was given a bottle by my younger brother Beau.

I have to say that, I’m enjoying this more than I ever have before, possibly because it was bought for me (a definite possibility, I am Scottish after all). In the past I have had a bit of a problem with the “Blue”, it seemed over marketed and over priced, and I developed a chip on my shoulder about it. I have to say that, last night I had a dram and gave it deep consideration, it is in fact a superb whisky, and the first thing that struck me, on tasting it was the smoke on the front end. I really don’t remember that much smoke on previous tastings.

The smoke did not last and the finish was all about fruit, you could get a similar (though more robust) taste profile from the Highland Park “Dark origins” for less money, but the “Blue’ is more nuanced in it’s flavors, and I have to admit the Shoulder chip has gone, I like this whisky a lot.....I didn’t see that coming!!!

However, here is word to the wise (actually the wise don’t need advice, it’s the less wise, or less experienced that need it), buy it at Costco and save yourself \$40.00 a Bottle. I certainly intend to, now that I’m a little wiser.

You can buy Johnnie Walker “Blue” for around \$180.00 a bottle.

### Tasting Notes;

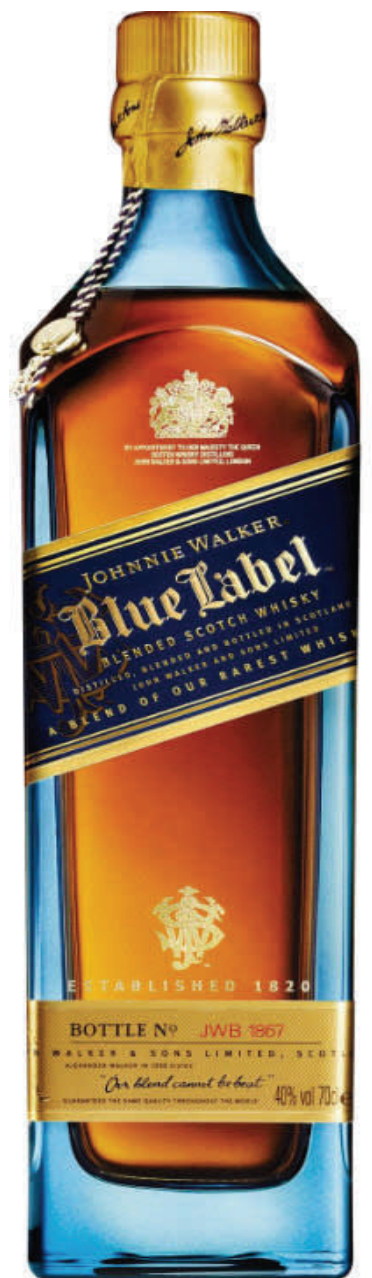
**Nose** - Berries, citrus & spices

**Palate** - Smoke, toffee & hints of chocolate

**Finish** - Floral, fruity, with honey

*“Slainte Mhath”*

*Paul Bissett*





## The Way to the Isles

A Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) report suggests today that a new long distance walking trail running from Tyndrum to Oban could attract 32,000 visitors per annum and bring £1m a year in to the local economy. The proposal is in an SNH report published today (28th June). The trail would run through impressive mountain scenery, woodlands and alongside lochs before reaching the coast. It would pass through and chain the villages of Dalmally, Lochawe, Taynuilt and Connel. Covering approximately 45 miles, it would link the West Highland Way to the Oban – Fort William cycle route and, in the future, it could be extended to Mull and Iona.

The route would support the lifestyles of local people for dog walking and recreational activities; and visitors for either shorter trips or the challenge of going the whole distance.

Of the 32,000 potential visitors, analysis suggests that 26,000 (81%) would be day visitors, 6,000 (19%) would stay overnight and 3,000 (9%) would undertake the whole route.

According to the report, the strengths of the route include the scenery and landscape, local tourist attractions, the wide range of facilities in each village and good transport links, allowing easy access to the path at various points along the way.

Unsurprisingly, branding and market positioning are seen as crucial to the trail's success. To be recognized as a key national route, it would have to be extended in the future, possibly to Mull and Iona, and given a compelling name,. SNH are suggesting 'The Way to the Isles'.

The report highlights Development opportunities along the route – with potential for existing businesses to adapt or expand what they offer in terms of accommodation, shopping, food and drink. There may also be opportunities for farmers and land managers to provide food, accommodation and produce; offer volunteering opportunities and carry out minor maintenance on the route. Circular paths and links to the main villages and local visitor attractions are important to encourage people to use the path and spend money locally.

The study was funded by SNH in response to interest from the communities local to the proposed route.

Stephen Austin, SNH operations officer based in Oban says: 'The great thing about this proposal is that it has come from the local communities.

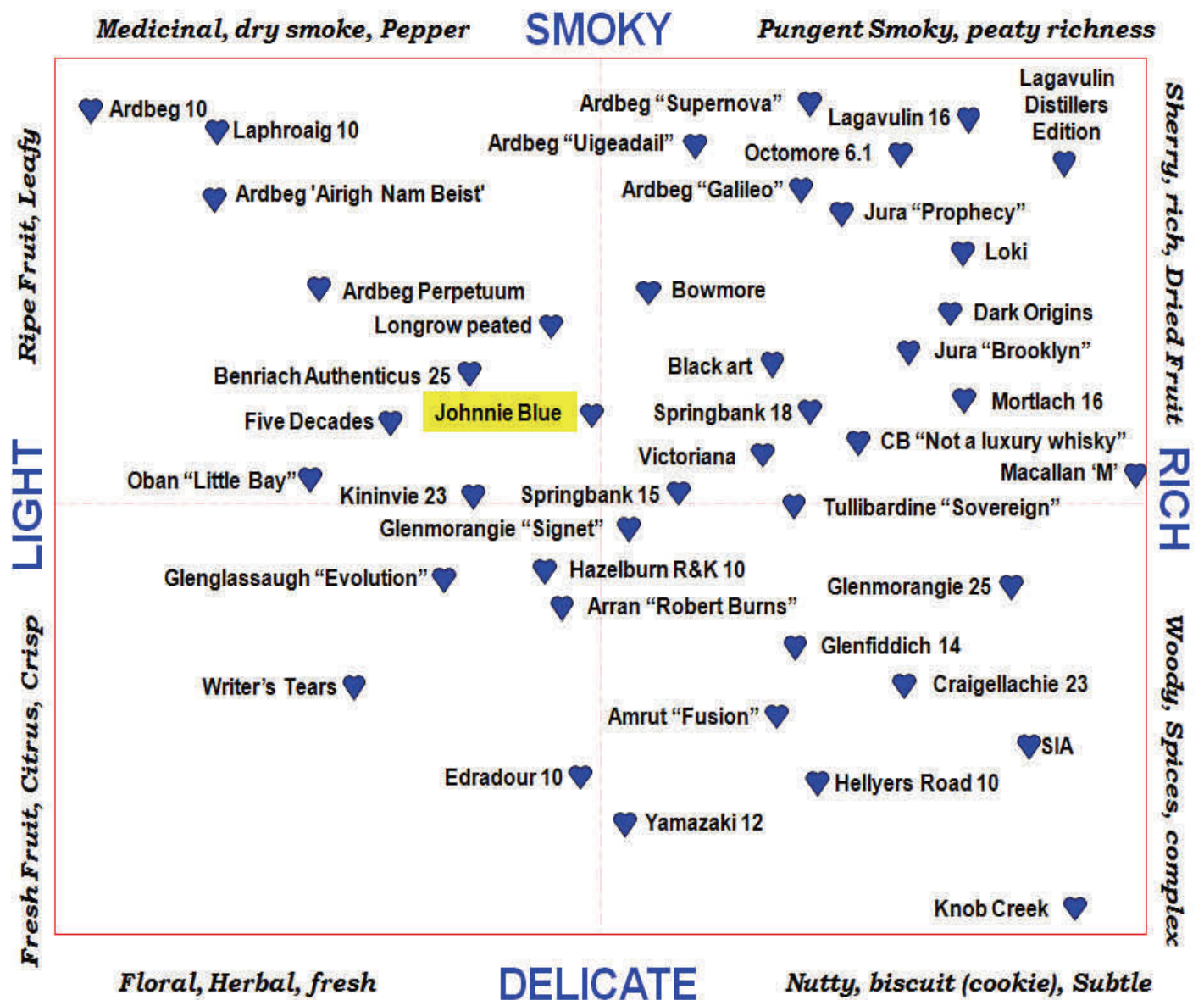
'We're very keen to see the development of more trails across the country to help people get out and enjoy the outdoors and also help generate income to underpin the rural economy.

However this proposal is still at a very early stage. A route has yet to be identified and this will only be done with the agreement and support of farmers and landowners – but this report helps highlight the potential benefits of the path, as well as the need to get the promotion and marketing right.





Below is a simple guide to help you choose your single malt Whisky, and the flavor notes you should expect from it. Being Scottish I recommend you find a likely candidate and try it in a bar before buying the whole bottle. This Issue; [Johnnie Walker "Blue"](#). For more information go to <http://www.johnniewalker.com>





## 30 classic signs you are an unrepentant whisky geek BY Sean Murphy

Do you agonise over which whisky to drink or bore your friends with your whisky chat? You may just be a whisky geek, here are the classic signs.

1. You feel a desperate urge to save any poor malt whisky that's about to be drowned by coke, to the point of offering to buy a double of a cheap blend to replace it.
2. You politely correct people's pronunciation of Scottish whisky distilleries by repeating it to them in the correct manner before tutting when they inevitably ignore your correction.
3. You think the Islands should be their own region and it annoys you that they get lumped in with the Highlands.
4. You enthusiastically preach that people should drink whisky however they like, but you still wince whenever you see people put ice in whisky.
5. You know an obscene number of small towns and villages in Scotland just due to their close proximity to distilleries.
6. Similarly, any trip up north involves copious amounts of planning to fit in as many distillery trips as possible.
7. You get annoyed when you are served 25ml measures of whisky because you know you might as well just be wetting your tongue (everyone knows it should be *at least* 35ml for a dram).
8. You aren't put off by trying whisky from other countries because you know that there are some amazing whiskies being produced out there.
9. Lost distilleries invoke a pang of sadness normally associated with a lost love or that childhood friend you haven't spoken to in years.
10. You think nothing of spending over £100 for a bottle of whisky and secretly you always want to buy two (one to look good in your collection and the other to drink).
11. You have a very strong stance on non-age statement whiskies.
12. You prefer to drink cask strength whisky but you still haven't learned that that means you have to drink less or run the risk of ending up leg drunk in your local.
13. You know what PPM stands for.



## Cont.

14. You have more than one hip flask and use them quite often.
15. a) You have to hide your best bottles when you host a party, just in case they 'accidentally get drunk'.
15. b) You also employ 'decoy' bottles to distract your friends at said party.
16. You know the Latin names and places of origin of several types of oak tree.
17. You're still searching for that elusive sample of Peatreek.
18. You've dreamt of owning your own distillery.
19. You know the difference between various whisky glasses and will only accept a tumbler as a very last resort.
20. You know that rarity, not age, dictates price.
21. Getting rid of the finished bottles of your favourite whiskies becomes a dilemma, meaning you have a space filled with empties that you'll 'deal with eventually'.
22. It's become your life mission to visit every Scottish distillery
23. You aren't fooled by fancy bottles or clever marketing.
24. You have at least one distillery you are secretly (or openly) angry at for replacing their core range with non-age statement expressions.
25. Guys like Dave Broom, Charlie MacLean, Ian Buxton and Richard Patterson are your rock stars now.
26. You don't own a single copy of the Whisky Bible.
27. You won't stop until you've converted family, friends and strangers on the street to the wonders of whisky.
28. Birthdays become expensive as everyone expects you to buy them a good bottle of whisky.
29. You have more Glencairns and other whisky glasses than you know what to do with.
30. You have at least one bottle of whisky you only drink on 'special occasions' and you are getting increasingly worried you are going to run out.