



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 am merely expressing my opinion on the whiskies I am tasting, as you know, everybody has one.

I now look at the Highland Park "Magnus," a No Age Statement (NAS) whisky. Named for Highland Park Distillery's founder, Magnus Eunson. It has been matured in first fill and refill American oak sherry casks.

This is an amazing whisky for the price, I was expecting something that was a little immature, but no, it ticks all the boxes if you are a Highland Park fan. Well done to all concerned in making this one.

I have to confess to being a little upset when they took away the 15-year-old, and was wary of them bringing out NAS whiskies, but they have done a nice job with them. My fears were groundless.

Would I buy it, yes I would, in fact it's on my bar right now, I went to look at my bar yet again for inspiration for this newsletter and here we are.

[You can buy Highland Park "Magnus" for around \\$35.00 a bottle.](#)

Tasting Notes

Nose - Smoke & vanilla

Palate - Smoky baked apple pie, with sultans

Finish - Good finish with fruit and spices

"Slainte Mhath"

Paul Bissett





Must-Have Whiskies For Every Budget: Dramlady Founder Amanda Victoria Picks 10 Unforgettable Bottles

by Karla Alindahao

A brief background: Amanda's passion for Scotch whisky stems from her time developing a well-regarded Scottish whisky club, The Scotch Malt Whisky Society, across the United States. But these days, Victoria is the founder of dramlady—a modern lifestyle community and whisk(e)y resource that's launching this year. She's a professional spirits educator and judge regarded for her discerning palate—as well as her lifestyle approach to alcohol education.

For over 12 years, Victoria has been best known for cultivating unique cultures in wine and spirits around the world through cocktails—specifically aperitifs, as well as Scotch whisky. And this all stems from her passion to embrace an elevated and informative way to enjoy drinking. Last year, she celebrated a second year top four nomination as the sole female nominee from the International Wine & Spirit Competition for Spirit Communicator of the Year: 2018.

The IWSC credits her “ability to influence and engage with trade, press, and consumers,” saying that Victoria “has mastered the art of social media presence” and is “no doubt bringing new fans to the whisky category” as she injects “freshness and fun on to the often all-too serious world of malt whisky.”

A true pro, she very graciously shared nine of her top Scotch picks—plus a one American single malt. So do yourself a favor and consider her recommendations. I know for a fact that I do.

DEWARS 12 YEAR (\$35)

“Dewars 12 Year Old is a classic expression of Scotch whisky that brings quality that won't break the bank. Honey, light vanilla, and overall very mellow, it's the perfect accompaniment to a dinner party if you're thinking of bringing something other than a bottle of wine.

Make a simple but dynamic cocktail over ice by bringing a handful of limes for fresh garnishing and some quality ginger beer.”

COMPASS BOX SPICE TREE (\$65)

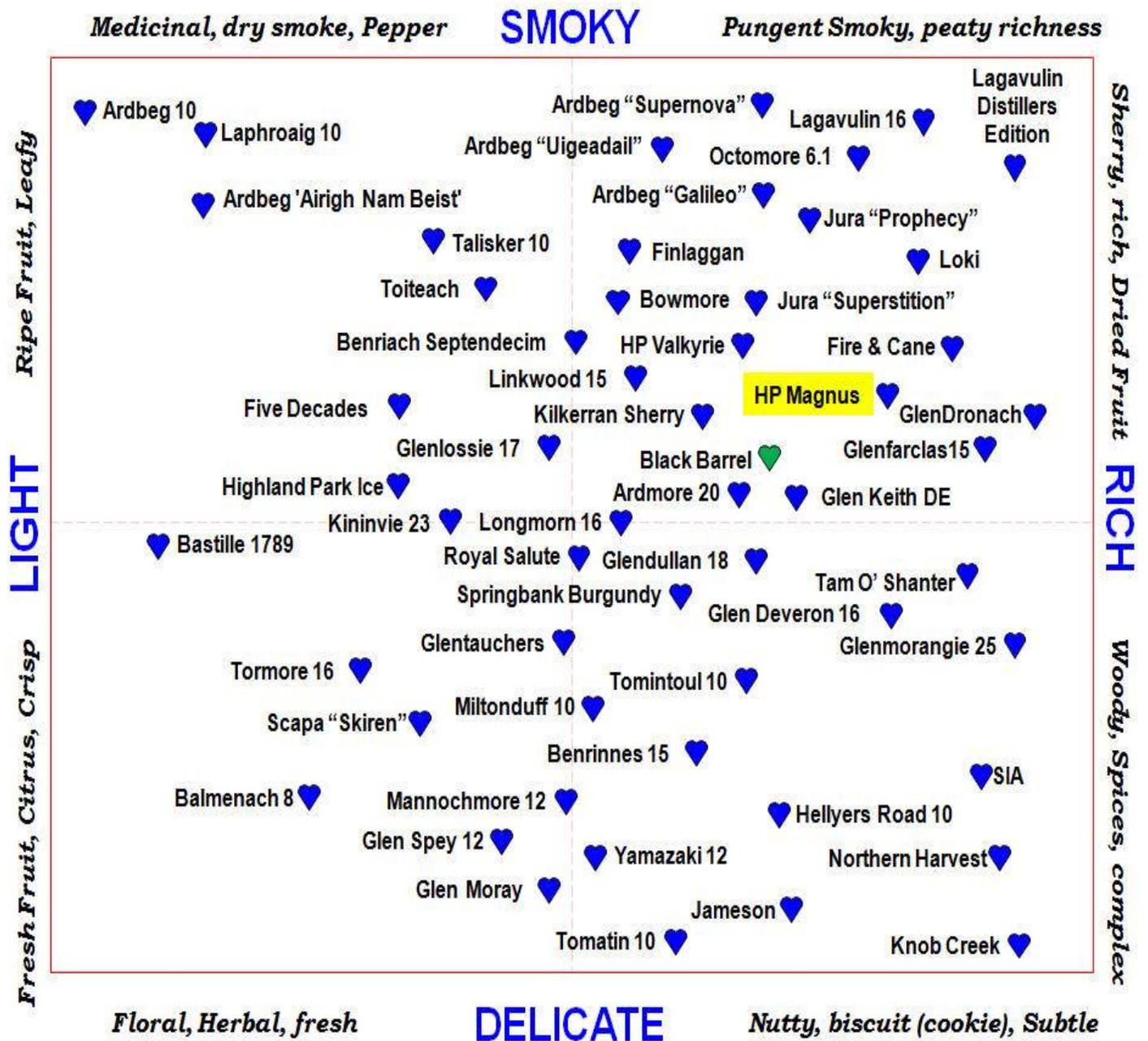
“Any of the releases from Compass Box will take cocktails that call for whisky (or otherwise) to the next level, although their blended whiskies are equally delicious on their own over ice—and Spice Tree is no exception,” Victoria says.

“The art of whisky blending is innovatively mastered across the Compass Box range, as it's the company's specialty. Spice Tree marries what I love about a spicy rye whiskey with a fruity, sherried whisky.

With notes of toasty oak, mocha, and baking spices like clove and ginger, Spice Tree makes for the perfect Rob Roy cocktail (a Scottish variation on a classic Manhattan cocktail) or simply paired with a quality ginger ale.”



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; Highland Park "Magnus." For more information go to <https://www.highlandparkwhisky.com>





Must-Have Whiskies For Every Budget: Cont.

CLYNELISH 14 YEAR (\$70)

"Clynelish 14 Year Old has many of the same characteristics I love about Brora—but at a much more affordable price point. This is a benchmark Highland whisky that's both spicy and smoky with a distinct coastal influence.

This is my go-to highball whisky accompanied with Fever-Tree club soda: a perfect pairing and both considered a staple for any whisky lover's home bar."

GLENDRONACH 12 YEAR (\$72)

"The entire GlenDronach line can poetically be compared to jazz music in the way their drastic tasting notes play against each other," Victoria says. "GlenDronach 12 Year Old has symphonic notes of blackberry, milk chocolate, and orange peel—a combination distinct to the distillery's beautiful valley location in Scotland that master blender Rachel Barrie says possesses a microflora like no other place in the world.

Reminiscent of the valley's landscape, earthiness marries citrus spice, creating a dram I would gladly begin every evening with."

LAGAVULIN 12 YEAR (\$118)

"Rubber gloves, Band-Aids, ocean water, jazz bar smoke, fresh coffee grounds, marzipan, and almond cream puff were my original notes on Lagavulin 12 Year Old," Victoria says.

"If these obscure tasting notes piqued your interest rather than deterred it, I highly suggest this whisky to take you straight through what's sure to be a memorable night...plus it goes great with a cheese plate!"

LAPHROAIG LORE SINGLE MALT SCOTCH (\$122)

"Laphroaig Lore took home the award of Best Whisky of the Year at the 2018 New York World Wine & Spirits Competition.

Laphroaig is a cult-loved distillery in Islay, Scotland known for its full-flavor peated whisky," Victoria explains.

"That is to say it's the peatiest of the peats. If you're on the fence about whether you like smoky whiskies or not, I suggest first trying them alongside some dark chocolate...or my favorite, chocolate-covered coffee beans—to quell the sting.

Before you know it, you may find yourself hooked on odd tasting notes like savory ash and sea salt. My standard go-to peated whisky has been Laphroaig 10 Year Old.

The Lore is a showcasing of everything I love about the 10 year and more, as their considerably richest whisky yet."



Must-Have Whiskies For Every Budget: Cont.

WESTLAND GARRYANA 3.1 SINGLE MALT (\$150)

"Westland's Garryana 3.1 is the only non-Scotch whisky on this list. But as a leader in the innovative American 'single malt' category, it's more than worthy of inclusion," Victoria notes. "Westland Distillery is based within the city limits of Seattle and is currently producing some of the most interesting high-quality malts Stateside using local cask finishes. Garryana uses barrels made from its namesake wood, Garry oak, a wood local to the Pacific Northwest from Oregon and has seen three releases to date. The 2018 Garryana 3.1 is as incredible as its two predecessors. It's easily categorized as 'desert island whisky.' That is to say that if ever stranded on an island, this is the one whisky you'll need—somehow possessing modulating tasting notes that change in the glass over time, ranging from fresh green pepper to milk chocolate."

OBAN 21 YEAR OLD (\$485)

"Oban 21 Year Old is a classically crave-worthy Scotch whisky that's coastal in nature—with hints of blood oranges, coconut, and green peas. It's waxy mouthfeel screams luxury. Of the list, this is the must-have decadent fireplace dram of every whisky season."

CAOL ILA 35 YEAR (\$720)

"This distillery packs understated complexity in their peaty whisky releases as far as Islay distilleries go," Victoria says. "I consider it to be a truly unique hybrid of elegance and innovation when it comes to the Scottish island's famed whisky production. Tasting notes of chocolate malt balls, wafer cookies, vanilla bean, heather honey, star anise, and dewy grass make the 2018 release of Caol Ila 35 Year Old well worth the price tag in terms of complexity."

BRORA 37 YEAR (\$2,500)

"It's no secret this is one of my all-time favorite distilleries. Known as the original Clynelish distillery, whisky production here has a storied history beginning in the early 1800s, stemming until more recently when the distillery was mothballed in 1983," Victoria says. "This makes anything left from Brora especially rare and rather costly—so make sure to note how special it is if you're ever presented with the opportunity to try any of the Brora currently available. Brora 37 is rich with notes of crisp apple, baking spices, and a touch of menthol. Savory sea salt and spearmint open up to an almost oily, waxy mouthfeel with a whisper of smoke indicative of its age. Overall this whisky is extremely complex. It was announced in late 2017 that the distillery would reopen in 2020; I look forward to sharing the newer batches one day with my grandchildren."

Karla Alindahao writes about travel and food—so she loves forks in the road. Follow Karla on [Instagram](#) (@kalindahao) and [Twitter](#) (@karlaalindahao)