



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. "Slainte."

In this issue I look at Ardbeg 1999 "Galileo", a limited edition 12 year old Cask Strength whisky (49% ABV), which has been finished in Marsala wine casks. WOW!!! I can't remember when the first sip of a whisky has so impressed me. How much am I impressed? My personal favorite for over twenty years has been the Lagavulin 16 year old; if Ardbeg were to make this a permanent part of their portfolio, then the "Galileo" would take over as my favorite scotch.

Yes, it's that good, and I can't recommend it highly enough for those of you that like some smoke in your scotch.

In my opinion, Ardbeg's master distiller, Bill Lumsden, has set a new benchmark for the other Islay distilleries to reach for, with this elegant Smoky masterpiece.

BRAVO.

Tasting Notes;

Nose - Fruity, toffee, smoky

Palate - Chocolate, toffee, smoke, peat, rich fruit

Finish - Long, warm, smoke, peat and chocolate malt

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





Ardbeg Galileo launched to celebrate Scottish distillery's "world first" experiment in space

Limited Edition of legendary Islay Distillery pays tribute to Galileo, the father of modern astronomy

NEW YORK, Sept. 1, 2012 /PRNewswire/ -- Ardbeg Distillery on the island of Islay today announces the release of Ardbeg Galileo, a limited edition 12 Years Old Single Malt Whisky - a special celebration of its "world first" space maturation experiment, previously announced at the Edinburgh International Science Festival in April 2012.

Ardbeg Galileo is a special vatting of different styles of Ardbeg laid down in 1999, all married together to give a sweet, smoky texture. The heart of this limited edition Ardbeg is spirit matured in ex-Marsala wine casks from Sicily that is combined with hallmark Ardbeg matured in first and second fill ex-Bourbon casks. The ex-Marsala casks add fruity aromas and textures to Ardbeg's famed peaty, smoky house style. Bottled at 49% and non chill-filtered it is being made available on allocation to Ardbeg's focus markets.

The whisky, named after Galileo, the father of modern astronomy, celebrates the first ever experiment undertaken by Ardbeg Distillery (or any other distillery for that matter) when Ardbeg was invited in late 2011 by US based space research company NanoRacks LLC, based in Houston Texas, to take part in a two year experiment to test micro-organic compounds drawn from the distillery's production on Islay. This maturation experiment (the inter-action of these compounds with charred oak) between normal gravity on Earth and micro-gravity in space, is currently taking place far up in space on the International Space Station.

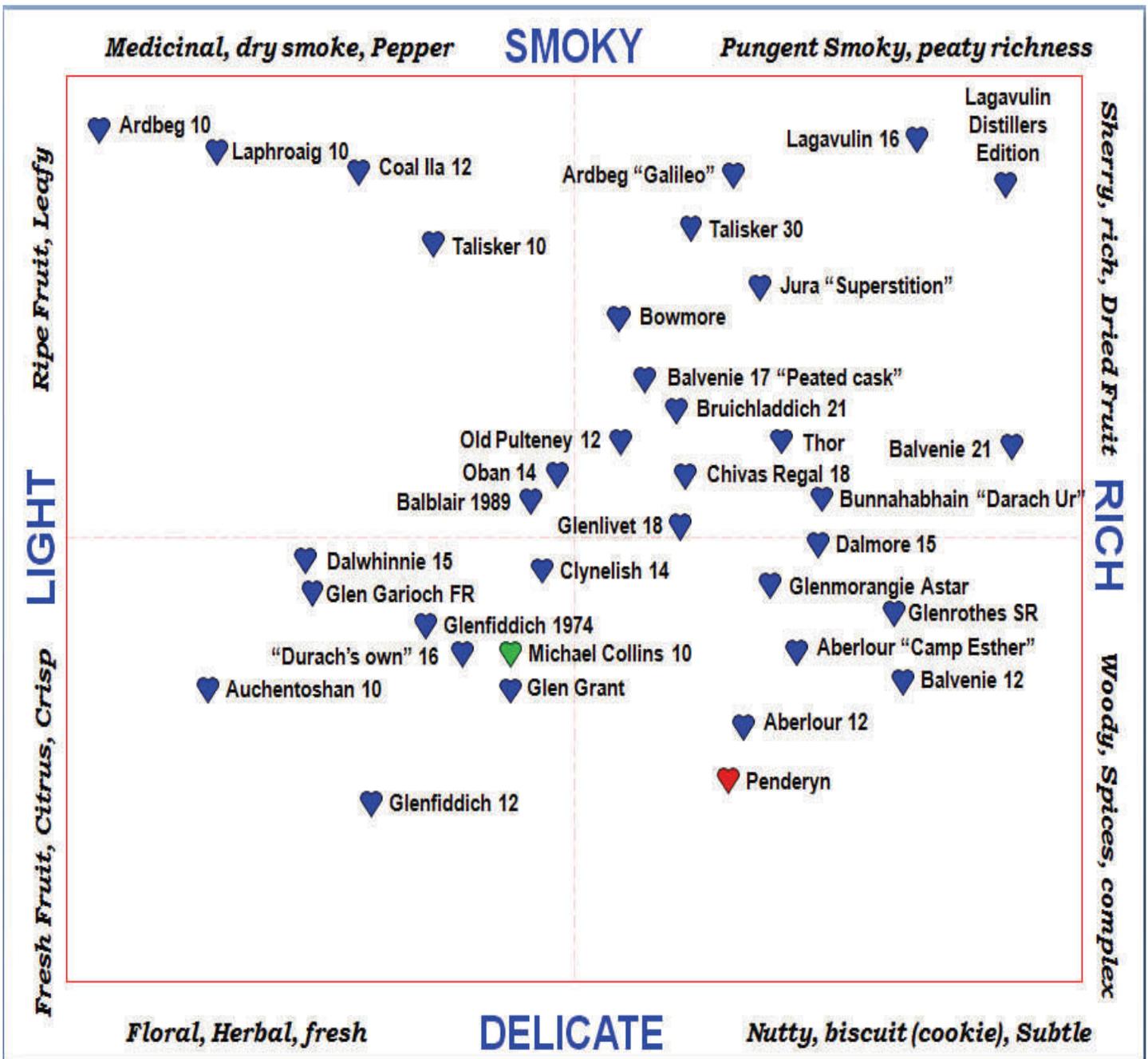
The vials that were launched by Soyuz rocket from Baikanor in Kazakhstan in late 2011 contain a class of compounds known as "terpenes," a set of chemicals which are very widespread in nature and often very aromatic and flavor active. The experiment could explain the workings of these large, complex molecules as they will remain on the International Space Station for at least two years and help uncover new truths about the change that these molecules undergo in this near 'zero gravity' environment. It also should help Ardbeg find new chemical building blocks in their own flavor spectrum.

The experiment will have applications for a variety of commercial and research products, including, one day maybe, future generations of Ardbeg.

To read the full article go to; <http://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/ardbeg-galileo-launched-to-celebrate-scottish-distillerys-world-first-experiment-in-space-168253556.html>



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. With each issue of the newsletter I will add in another Whisky to the flavor map. This Issue; Ardbeg "Galileo" For more information go to <http://www.ardbeg.com>





Ardbeg Distillery (Port Ellen, Islay. Tel: +44 (0) 1496 302244)

Opening Hours

Sep - May: Mon - Fri 10am-4pm.

Jun - Aug: 7 days a week, 10am-5pm.

Pre-booking for tours is advisable.

Admission

Express Tour - lasts 30 minutes.

Mon - Sat at 10am and 4:15pm. £ 4.00 per person

Ardbeg Standard Tour

Lasts 1 hour. Daily at noon and 3pm. £ 5.00 per person

Full range and tasting Tour

Lasts 1.5 hours. Mon - Sat at 10:30am. £ 10.00 per person

Old and New Tour - lasts 2 hrs. Mon, Tue, Thu, Fri, Sat at 2pm. £ 20.00 per person

A nice feature of the tour is that you get to taste the product at the different stages of it's "development". You can sample the beer like "Wash" at the first stage of fermentation, then there is the pure unmaturred spirit as it comes out of the stills into the barrels, and finally you may taste some of the finished Ardbeg malt.

Even if you don't go on the distillery tour I would still recommend that you visit Ardbeg for its excellent restaurant the Old Kiln Café, which is open from noon to 3:45pm. The visitor shop is also well stocked with lots of clothing in the attractive olive green Ardbeg colors and Tartan.

“Never follow good whisky with water, unless you're out of good whisky.”



God Speed

Former NASA astronaut Neil Armstrong died at the age of 82 on August 25 after suffering complications from heart surgery he underwent earlier in the month.

As he stepped off the lunar module and set foot on the moon's surface, he said "That's one small step for a man, one giant leap for mankind." An estimated 600 million TV viewers were watching him do it. What none of them could have known, was that inside his spacesuit he carried a small square of Armstrong tartan. Neil Armstrong was a very proud American, and he was also, very proud of his Scottish heritage.



"For those who may ask what they can do to honor Neil, we have a simple request," his family said in a Saturday statement. "Honor his example of service, accomplishment and modesty, and the next time you walk outside on a clear night and see the moon smiling down at you, think of Neil Armstrong and give him a wink."