



Object of the Newsletter

To promote the appreciation of fine 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 Jack Daniels old No.7. Tennessee "sour mash" Whisky. Jack Daniels is classed as a Tennessee straight Whisky, and although made predominantly with Corn (80%, Rye 8% and Barley 12%), it is not classed as a Bourbon, because of the Lincoln County Process. This is an extra step that producers of Tennessee straight whiskey must do and involves filtering the spirit through charcoal made from Maple prior to aging in new oak barrels.

I don't know if the Maple charcoal adds any sweetness, but to my taste buds anything made with mainly corn is very sweet. I do believe that The charcoal filtration makes this whisky very smooth and it is currently the best selling whisky in the world, so they are doing something right.

Would I buy it? Nope, I did in the past, but it is just too sweet for me, I know millions of people like it and they are welcome to it.

[You can buy Jack Daniels old No.7 for around \\$28.00 a bottle.](#)

Tasting Notes

Nose - Sweet spice & nuts

Palate - Caramel, nuts & vanilla custard

Finish - Sweet cookies & oak

"Slainte Mhath"

Paul Bissett





What is Sour Mash?

In the sour mash process, the mash – a mixture of Grain, Malt and Water is conditioned with some spent mash (previously fermented and distilled mash). The acid introduced by the sour mash controls the growth of bacteria that could taint the *Whiskey and helps to create a proper pH balance for the yeast. Then an active strain of live yeast is introduced into the mash to be fermented. By using an established and known fermented "sour", this fermentation process controls the introduction and growth of foreign bacteria and yeasts that could damage the Whiskey and improves the consistency and quality, ensuring every bottle tastes as similar as possible.

Who invented the "Sour Mash" process? That would be Dr. James Crow, a born and bred Scotsman, while working at a distillery in Kentucky around 1823.

Crow was a man of medicine and a man of science, and it was he who experimented scientifically with using setback (sour mash) to control certain aspects of his whiskey-making methods.

His whiskeys, Old Crow and Old Pepper, were very popular during the Civil War, and he has always been hailed as the man who not only made good Whiskey, but also knew exactly why his Whiskey was good.

He had the scientific knowledge to be able to tinker intelligently with various aspects of his processes in order to make a better whiskey.

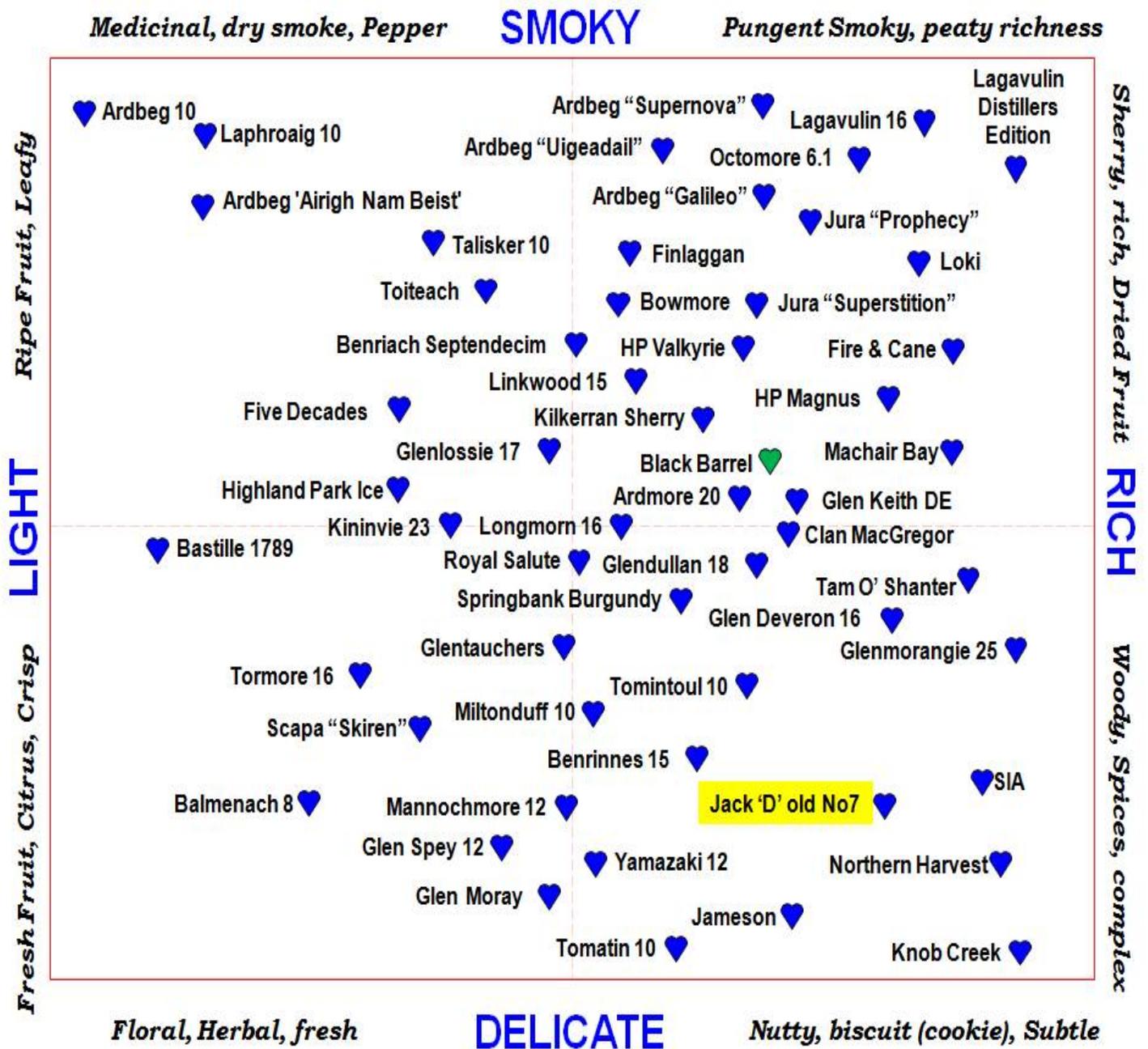
He made whiskey using corn as the predominant grain, he insisted on aging it in charred oak casks, and he used a sour-mash starter.

*Normally when over 51% of Corn is used in a recipe (Mash Bill) in America, what you get is classed as **Bourbon. But as mentioned on page one, due to the Lincoln County Process, you get Tennessee straight whiskey. Also all Bourbons are Whiskey.

**Contrary to commonly held belief, Bourbon can be made anywhere in America (but only in America), not just in Kentucky. In fact Bourbon is currently being made in all 50 states.



Below is a simple guide to help you choose your 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; Jack Daniels old No7. For more information go to <https://www.jackdaniels.com/en-us>





STOP DRINKING WHISKY LIKE A COWBOY

by *Richard Paterson*

After all that time spent gently maturing in cask, whisky deserves more consideration and respect than being swiftly shot back, says Richard Paterson, blender for Whyte & Mackay, Dalmore and Jura. Slow down and take your time.



Time well spent: Paterson scorns the way television characters shoot their whisky

Probably my biggest pet hate is seeing people drinking whisky like a bunch of cowboys in a saloon. They are completely missing the quality by just swallowing it back and not taking the time to hold the whisky on their tongue and reverse what it is they are actually drinking.

It happens all the time at whisky festivals. There was one that I remember in New York, where this guy came up to me and asked: 'What's your most expensive whisky?' He went straight for a *Dalmore* 25-year-old and knocked it back.

'What d'you think you're doing?' I asked.

'What d'you mean?' he replied, so I slapped him on the face. It wasn't hard and it was almost comic, but I had a serious point to make about showing some respect for the product.



STOP DRINKING WHISKY LIKE A COWBOY CONT.

My basic rule of thumb is to give a whisky at least the same amount of time on the tongue in seconds as its age in years on the label. There was another festival in South Africa I went to, where I eventually persuaded this guy to hold a 22-year-old whisky in his mouth for 22 seconds.

'Now I understand what you mean,' he said, and then burst into tears.

'Why are you crying?' I asked.

'Because I'm thinking of all those whiskies that I've been knocking back that I never gave the time to.' I have seen it at private dinners on many occasions. Instead of savouring whiskies, especially if they are old and rare, people are swallowing them straight down as though they were drinking a shot of Tequila.



Take it slowly: Gulp down a Dalmore 25 in Paterson's presence and see what happens

It may be ok for an unaged white spirit like gin, but when it comes to a whisky that is 15, 20 or more years old, you would think that the packaging and price would say to people: 'Come on guys, you're paying all this money, really savour every moment of it.'



STOP DRINKING WHISKY LIKE A COWBOY CONT.

While in bars, how many people have you ever seen take their first drink and actually hold it in their mouth? Practically no-one. It is the same with good food and wine or a fine cigar. We need to slow down, relax and appreciate what we're eating, drinking or smoking.

After a day's work, however hard it has been, I want to come home and pour myself a dram to savour and relax over. But on TV shows like *Coronation Street*, you will invariably see people in pubs knocking back Scotch whisky as if they were in those cowboy films where 'real men' toss down their drinks in a shot.

You could also blame the tradition of having a whisky chaser in the pub. Quite often, especially in Glasgow, you would hear people saying: 'Let's have a pint of beer and a chaser to put the icing on the cake.' Clearly, they're going to be downing the Scotch in one.

Today there are bars like the Bon Accord or The Pot Still in Glasgow, whose customers do like to linger over their whiskies. Of course, there are rougher pubs where I probably wouldn't sit swirling a glass and nosing a dram, but once it is in your mouth no-one can see what you're doing, so it's not about showing off to anyone.

If I saw a stranger in a bar who was knocking back a whisky that deserved time, I would introduce myself and then ask them about it: 'Did you get this? Or did you get that?' Obviously, you have to judge their body language, and I would do it discreetly and respectfully.



Considered approach: Take time to think about the whisky's flavours and aromas



STOP DRINKING WHISKY LIKE A COWBOY CONT.

If you knock it back, you just get the effect of the alcohol. What you are missing is an appreciation of the age of the whisky, and all those different notes of vanilla, honey, spice and so on, that have been meticulously blended together.

Then there are all those other flavours in the background. It is not just about that initial hit, it is the second taste that is the most important thing. There is also the texture and body of the whisky to assess, and the aftertaste as you finally swallow it down the throat.

The trick is to hold the whisky in the middle of the tongue and then let it slip to the sides and underneath before bringing it back up. By now the whisky will have warmed up and settled down and the tongue will be really saturated with the taste of the whisky.

I always urge people to be inquisitive and ask questions of a single malt while it is still in their mouth, such as: 'Can you Really taste whether it's a Highland or an Islay?', 'can you taste all those Sherry notes that it claims to have?' and 'would a little water help to open it up?'

But an expensive whisky will also ask questions of you. Have you really bought it to appreciate its flavours? Or is it more about showing off to people, and saying: 'Look what I've got? If you do want to get the most out of a dram, remember to give it

a second for every year – and then a moment longer – before swallowing it. It takes time to produce good whisky, so take the time to enjoy it.

One of Richard Patterson's fine creations and one which I currently have on my bar.

If you wish to further your whisky education and be amused at the same time, go to Youtube and watch some Richard Patterson videos.

