



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 Aberfeldy 12-year-old, which is a highland single malt whisky. Aberfeldy is just slightly north west of Perth, about 30 miles. The distillery and it's whisky may not be immediately known to you, as the distillery was built in 1898 to supply the whisky needed for Dewars "White Label" and that is predominantly where it went. In fact the bottling of the 12-year-old Aberfeldy only began in 1999. The whisky is aged in American oak ex-bourbon casks only, so although there is fruit on the nose and palate it is not sherried Fruit like you would get on, say, a Balvenie. I think that this is an easy drinking whisky with nice notes of Vanilla and fruit with a little hint of smoke at the finish, which gets more dominant with each glass, a great whisky for the price.

You can buy Aberfeldy 12-year-old for around \$40.00 a bottle.

Winner of a Gold medal at the 2015 Los Angeles spirits competition.

Tasting Notes;

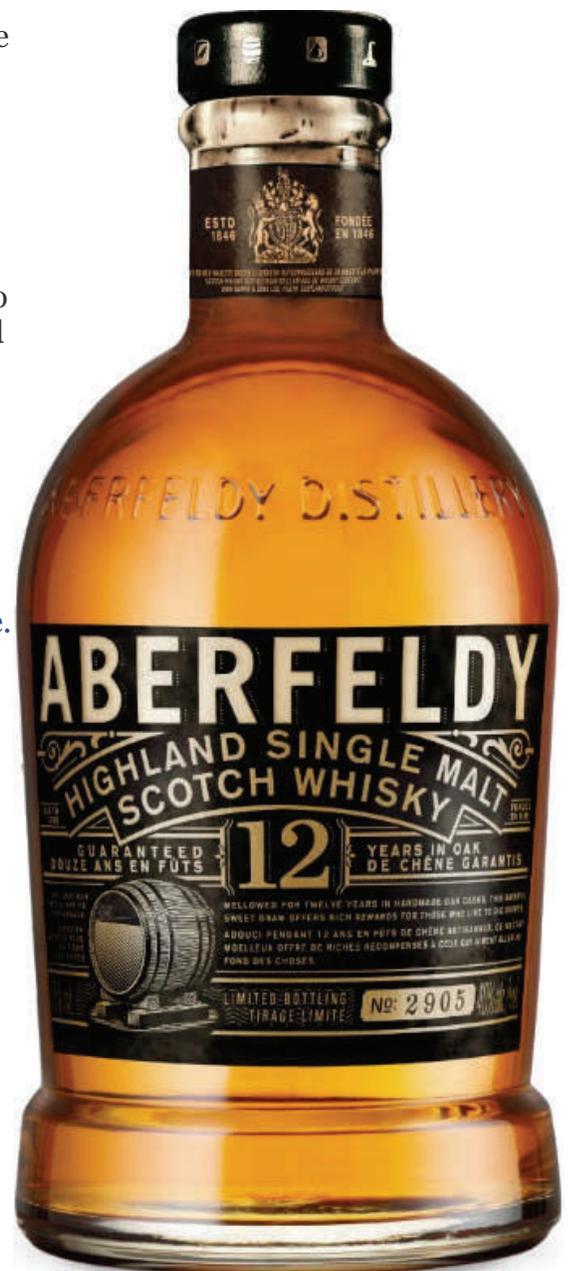
Nose - Ripe fruit, honey & peat

Palate - Sweet, fig, peach, vanilla, honey & peat

Finish - Malt, dried fruit with a hint of citrus & smoke

"Slainte Mhath"

Paul Bissett





Aberfeldy Distillery

Aberfeldy Distillery was founded by John Dewar & Sons in 1896, and opened in 1898. The distillery is located in the centre of Scotland on the outskirts of Aberfeldy, about five miles from the banks of Tay river and about eight miles south of Loch Tummel.

The distillery's water source is the Pitilie burn (stream), which runs alongside the distillery. The Pitilie burn, is also well known as a source of gold, which lends itself to the Aberfeldy whisky being called the "Golden dram."

The distillery has two wash stills with a capacity of about 16,500 liters and two spirit stills with 15,000 liters. With these capacities the Aberfeldy distillery lies in the middle of the range of pot still sizes.

Some History

The shortage of barley during World War one led to the distillery being closed from 1917 to 1919. The same thing happened in the Second World War.

In 1972 the distillery was enlarged, and the old stills were replaced by four new steam heated stills.

In 1999, an Aberfeldy 12-Year-Old Single Malt brand was introduced.

In 2000, the Earl of Elgin opened "Dewar's World of Whisky" visitor center at the Aberfeldy Distillery.

In 2015 I bought my first bottle of Aberfeldy 12-Year-Old.





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; [Aberfeldy 12-year old](http://www.aberfeldy.com). For more information go to <http://www.aberfeldy.com>





A guide to the best Scottish Islands Roughguides.com

If asked to guess, how many islands would you say there are in Scotland? A few dozen perhaps, or a couple of hundred? Would you raise an eyebrow if we told you it's actually more than 700? And that Scotland has more than 10% of Europe's entire coastline? That's a lot of islands to explore – and a whole lot of ferry journeys. So, which ones are worth crossing the seas to see? Here's our guide to the finest Scottish islands.

For history: Mainland, Orkney Islands

To an [Orkney](#) islander “mainland” does not mean Scotland, but the largest island in this archipelago of 70-odd. This where you'll find one of Europe's most important [UNESCO World Heritage sites](#) – the Heart of Neolithic Orkney. This collection of monuments harks back to the prehistoric era, and you can stand among ancient stone circles or even lay a twenty-first century palm on a prehistoric monument at the Stones of Stenness and the Ring of Brodgar. Both of these sites are believed to have been involved in ceremonies celebrating the relationship between living and past communities.

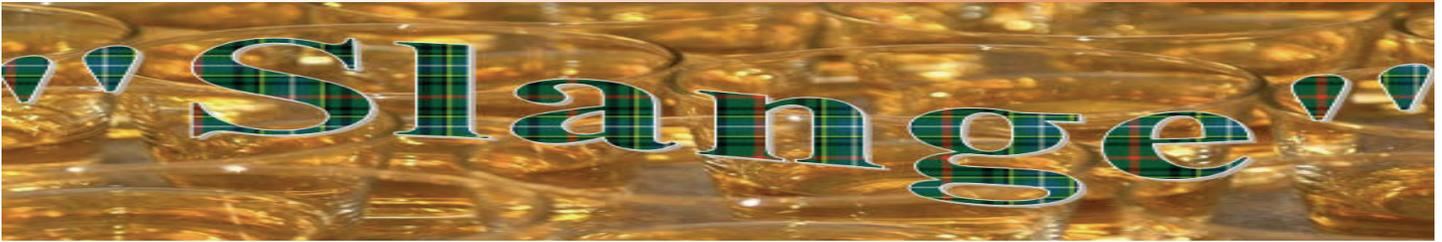
You can delve further into the life of a Neolithic community at the surprisingly modern-looking Skara Brae. Each sunken dwelling here has stone beds, dressers and seats; add a roof and you could live in these homes today – albeit uncomfortably. The settlement dates back some 5000 years and was only uncovered by a storm in 1850, hence its excellent condition.

Nearby, Maeshowe is not to be missed. This is the finest building of its time in northwest Europe, a masterpiece of Neolithic design and stonework – also some 5000 years old. Enter the grassy mound and find yourself inside a perfectly constructed tomb, made in part with whole stone slabs weighing up to three tonnes. The experience is truly magical, especially for three weeks before and after the winter solstice when sunlight floods the tomb each day at sunset, illuminating, in more ways than one, the intelligence of Neolithic man.

For walking: Arran

A well-worn cliché it may be, but [Arran](#)'s moniker “Scotland in miniature” sums it up: Arran is part [Highland](#) drama, part Lowland lushness. The Highland Boundary Fault runs right through this chunky island, a dramatic granite ridge that dominates the landscape and provides plenty of great hiking.

The temptation is always to head straight up [Goatfell](#), the highest peak on the island at 874 metres, and it's well worth doing if you're fit enough and the weather is behaving. It takes about five hours from Brodick Castle, the most popular ascent starting point, and involves steep but fairly straightforward terrain. The view is an apt reward for the physical exertion; you even can see Ireland from here on a clear day.



Cont.

Alternatively, hike the Isle of Arran Coastal Way, which runs around the island for 65 miles, taking in sandy beaches and cliffs, caves and waterfalls, on its rambling circular route around the coastline. This six-day hike is the best way to get to know this beautiful island.

For food: Skye

Scotland's larder groans with exquisite shellfish, quality meats and tasty cheeses – and **Skye** has some of the very finest on its doorstep and around its coastline.

The best restaurant on the island is acknowledged far and wide to be the **Three Chimneys**, which has twice been included in **Restaurant Magazine's** world's top fifty restaurants list and has a loyal following. A small building by the sea, it may not look much from the outside but miss it at your peril, for here you will find chubby scallops the size of a fist, the sweetest lobster and oysters dragged from the water just hours before.

Indulge in the Isle of Skye showcase menu here for a mouthwatering, eight-course introduction to the island's produce before heading out around its dramatic landscape to feast on fresh local lamb, Skye-smoked fish, wild raspberries and the island's whisky, **Talisker**.

For whisky: Islay

Far be it from us to name Scotland's best whisky (frankly, we wouldn't dare), but Islay can lay an assured claim to being the leading island when it comes to a wee dram.

On the southernmost of the Inner Hebrides islands you'll find eight distilleries, most located around the coastline. The three southern distilleries are perhaps the most famous – Ardbeg, Lagavulin and Laphroaig – and make use of the local peat to produce full-flavoured whiskies with glass-filling smokiness.

All three offer distillery tours where you can learn the age-old secrets of traditional whisky production, but savouring their produce is best done fireside at the Ballygrant Inn's whisky bar where the drinks menu runs to some 300, dozens of them from Islay itself.

Read more: <http://www.roughguides.com/article/a-guide-to-the-best-scottish-islands/#ixzz40NSUBp5w>

Whoever said
"Laughter is the best medicine",
had clearly not tasted
whisky

www.scot-talks.com