



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 Glenkinchie 10-year-old, which I tasted in the Sofitel Hotel, Redwood shores in the Bay area of California. They have actually stopped making this whisky, replacing it with a 12-year-old , but if you look for it you should still be able to find it. I just saw a bottle on the shelf of my local "Liquor bank" here in Paradise, California. This whisky, like me, is born in Edinburgh, the capital of Scotland (or as close as makes no difference), and is known as the Edinburgh malt. Glenkinchie is one of only three distilleries in the lowland region of Scotland, the others being Bladnoch and Auchentoshan. As I have mentioned earlier, in general I prefer Speyside or Islay whiskies, as lowland whiskies tend towards lighter, greener (grassy) flavors, however, I did like this one. If I had done a blind taste on it I would have said it was a Speyside Single Malt whisky.

You can buy Glenkinchie 10-year-old for around \$55.00 a bottle.

Tasting Notes;

Nose - Malt and biscuit (cookie)

Palate - Fruit pudding and caramel sauce

Finish - Fudge

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





Scottish Place Names

Place names in Scotland often have common prefixes, many derived from Gaelic. Ordinary words like 'ben' (mountain) and 'glen' (valley) also appear frequently in names.

Prefix – **Meaning** – example

Ard - **point** – Ardnamurchan

Auchen - **field** – Auchentoshan

Cambus - **where a twisting river passes** – Cambuslang

Auchter - **top of** – Auchterarder

Drum - **ridge** – Drumchapel

Dun - **hill or fort** – Dunkeld

Inch - **island** – Inchcolm

Inver - **at the mouth of a river** – Inverness

Kil - **cell of a saint** – Kilmarnock

Kinloch - **at the head of a lake** – Kinlochleven

Kirk - **church, fort** – Kirkintilloch

Knock, Nock - **hillock** – Knochdu

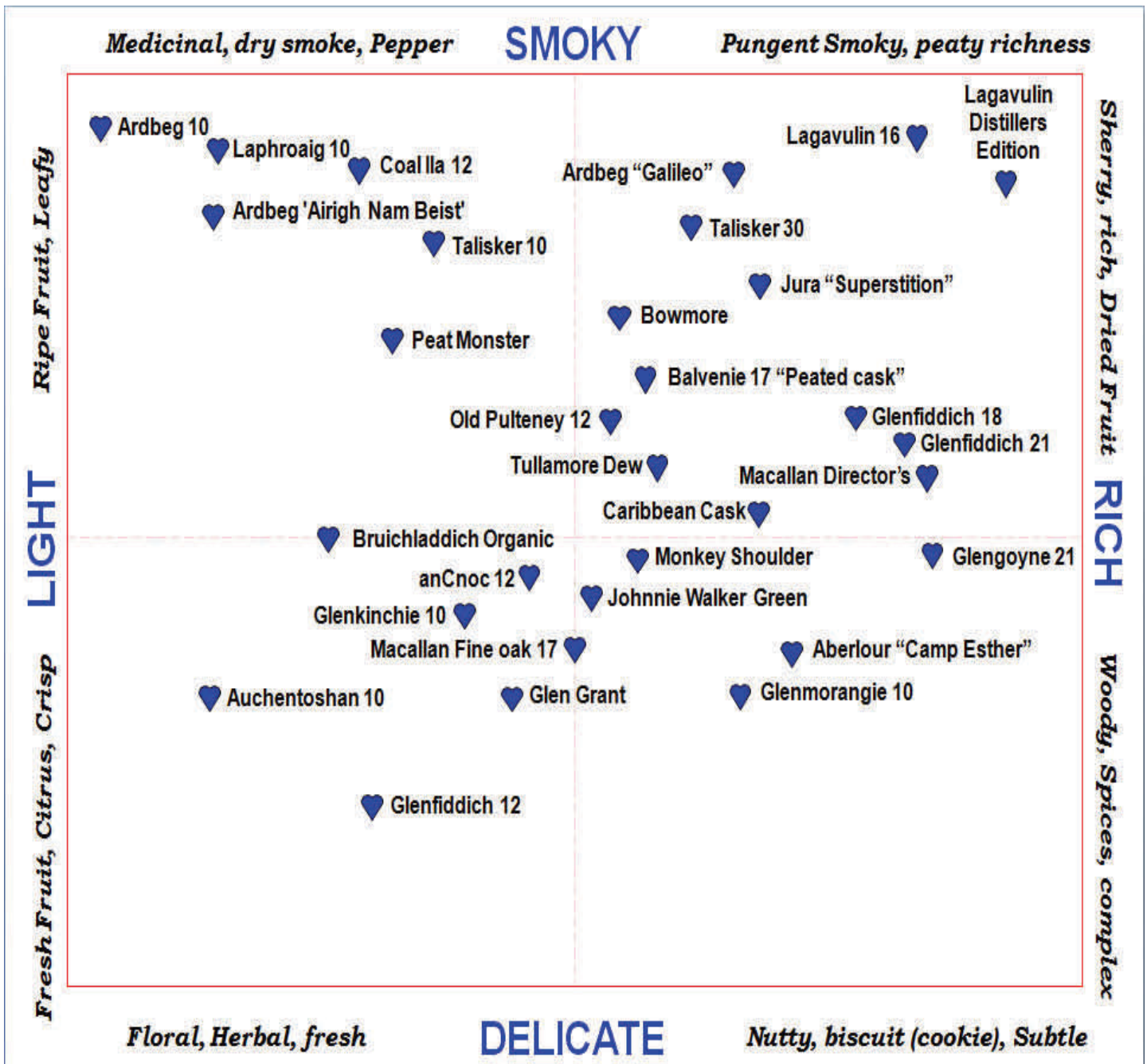
Strath - **river valley** – Strathspey

Do's and Don'ts when visiting Scotland

- **Do** try the malt whiskies (in moderation!).
- **Do** visit museums and theatres in the major cities.
- **Do** get out into the countryside and appreciate Scotland's unspoiled beauty.
- **Don't** confuse Scotland with England; the whole country is properly referred to as Great Britain or the United Kingdom. Scottish people usually dislike being referred to as English.
- **Don't** refer to the people of Scotland as Scotch. They are Scottish or Scots; Scotch is normally used only of food (e.g. Scotch egg) or drink (e.g. whisky).
- **Don't** think of Scottish people as being mean, wearing kilts, eating haggis, and playing the bagpipes. This is a stereotyped image that is far from the truth.



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; **Glenkinchie 10-year-old** For more information go to www.discovering-distilleries.com/glenkinchie





A wee bit of History

Glenkinchie is also known as '*The Edinburgh Malt*' - which makes sense, given its location near the city in the East Lothian foothills. The distillery is located in the glen of the Kinchie Burn, not far from the village of Pencaitland. The name 'Kinchie' is probably derived from '*de Quincey*', the name of the original owners of these lands.

The current owners (Diageo) link Glenkinchie to the **Milton** distillery that was founded on the same location around 1825 by brothers John & George Rate. For a period the distillery was operated by James Gray of Leechman & Gray, but John Rate had control again in 1852 - one year before the distillery fell silent. Glenkinchie was sold to a farmer named Christie, who turned it into a sawmill.

Glenkinchie remained silent for a few decades; it wasn't until 1880 or 1881 that a consortium of brewers, blenders and wine merchant named **Glen Kinchie Distillery Co.** bought the buildings and started to reconstruct the distillery. In a way this revival was another fresh start for Glenkinchie, putting the actual foundation date of the current distillery even further away from the 1825 claim.

In 1914 five Lowland distilleries, including Glenkinchie, founded Scottish Malt Distillers (SMD). A little more than a decade later, SMD was bought by Distillers Company Limited (DCL). During the second world war (1939-1945) Glenkinchie was one of the few distilleries in Scotland that remained in production. The traditional floor maltings at Glenkinchie were closed in 1968. The old floor maltings were turned into a distillation museum in 1969 by Alistair Munro, a former manager at Glenkinchie. Meanwhile, the distillery itself kept churning out malt whisky in relative obscurity for two more decades. This changed in 1988 when the six 'Classic Malts' were launched by United Distillers (UD, the predecessors of Diageo). The 10 years old expression of Glenkinchie represented the Lowlands while the other five regions were linked to five other UD releases; Cragganmore (12 years old, Speyside), Dalwhinnie (15 years old, Highlands), Lagavulin (16 years old, Islay), Oban (14 years old, Highlands) & Talisker (10 years old, Skye).





Cont.

These six 'classic malts' have now been integrated in a larger portfolio called 'Classic Malts Selection' which also includes distilleries like Caol Ila and Clynesh. Five of the original six distilleries still use so-called 'worm tubs'; a fairly old fashioned technique for cooling the vapors and fresh spirit that has just condensed at the top of the still. All stills need to be replaced at some point (with each 'run' some of the copper dissolves in the whisky), and given the other rationalizations in the industry, these worm tubs might be replaced too.

Glenkinchie has always operated with just two stills. However, what they lack in numbers at the distillery they more than make up for in size; Glenkinchie has one of the largest wash stills in Scotland (its contents are over 30,000 liters).

This wash still was replaced with a brand new one in the spring of 2008. Given its massive size of both the old and the new still, the roof of the still house had to be removed in order to replace the old still with the new one. Most of the distilleries in Scotland have their stills built at the famous Forsyth's coppersmiths and fabricators from Rothes, but Glenkinchie's new wash still was constructed at Diageo's own coppersmith facilities.



"I think a man ought to get drunk at least twice a year just on principle, so he won't let himself get snotty about it."

Raymond Chandler