



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 try the Ardmore 20-year-old single malt highland whisky. I seem to be on a roll with my last few whisky newsletters, by picking whiskies that are not that common, at least on this side of the Atlantic. Until fairly recently the bulk of the 5 million liters produced by the distillery went to the "Teacher's Highland Cream" blended whisky.

Which I had not tasted in years, until friends recently gave me a half bottle, it is a superb and inexpensive blend with a hint of smoke.

Anyway I digress, Ardmore are now producing more single malts and you should be able to find some in the larger liquor stores.

I like this one a lot and plan on tasting the rest of their range as soon as the chance permits.

Give them a try, I'm sure you'll like them and the same goes for the Teacher's blend.

Would I buy it? Hell yes, I would, at that price, it's a great deal,

[You can buy Ardmore 20-year-old for around \\$70.00 a bottle.](#)

Tasting Notes

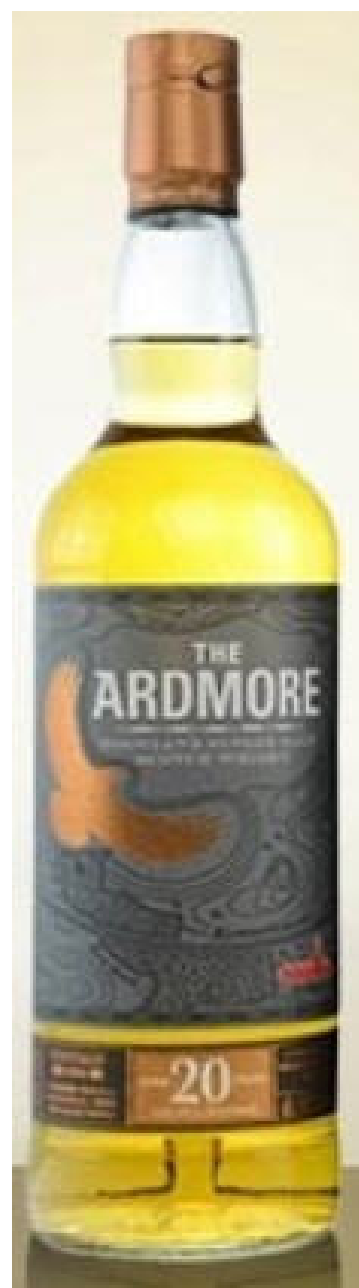
Nose - Citrus, chocolate & peat

Palate - Millionaire's shortbread, blackberry & peat

Finish - Honey & peat

"Slainte Mhath"

Paul Bissett





Ardmore's Distillery

The Ardmore distillery was founded by Adam Teacher in 1898 in the Highland region of rural Aberdeenshire near the village of Kennethmont. The site, was selected for its good rail and road links. It was also close to the fertile barley growing areas of the Highlands and good supplies of water and peat.

His family were well established in the whisky blending industry and decided to open their own distillery to help with meeting demand. This was to be William Teacher & Sons first distillery.

It is currently owned by Jim Beam Global and is a large distillery, with 95% of the 5 million litres of whisky produced there each year going to their flagship blend, Teacher's Highland Cream. Teacher's is one of the biggest selling blended whiskies in the UK.

The distillery was renovated and expanded in the 1950s and then again in the 1970s and now has eight large stills and is one of the largest distilleries in Scotland.

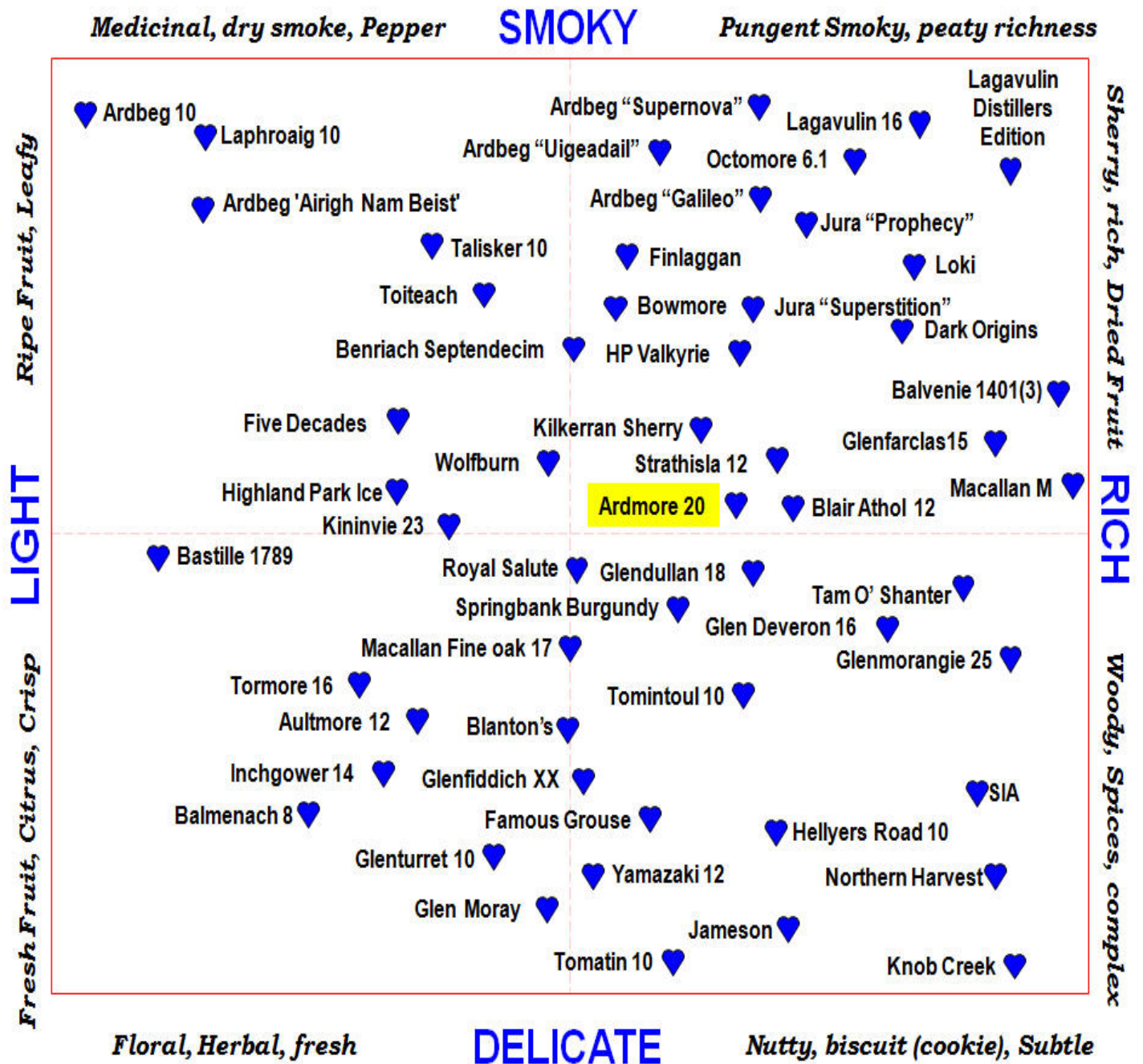
In 1976, the Teacher family sold Ardmore to Allied Breweries, who were later to become part of the multi-national company Allied Domecq. Jim Beam Global, the huge drinks giant, became the new owners in 2005, when they took over 20 wine and spirits brands from Allied Domecq. They continue to produce whisky for the Teacher's Highland Cream blend, but decided to release a single malt from Ardmore for the first time in its history.

This was branded as 'Traditional Cask' and has led to a new website and visitor centre, as they look to grow the name in the worldwide whisky market. Recently they have had further releases, such as "Legacy,' "Tradition," "Port wood finish,' and Triplewood."





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; Ardmore 20-year-old . <http://www.ardmorewhisky.com>





MEET THE SCOTCH WHISKY HYBRIDS

by Matt Evans

Scotch purists may balk at the thought of adding ice or mixers to their single malt, but what about another whisky altogether? Matt Evans charts the Scotch whisky hybrids exploring flavour through Bourbon, Irish or even Japanese blends.



Hybrid whiskies: Blenders have explored the impact of world whiskies on Scotch

Recently, Cumbrian distillery The Lakes announced the imminent launch of what it called the 'world's first' blend of Scotch and English whiskies.

While they could be seen by some as a drastic abandonment of Scotch whisky's sacrosanct nature, hybrid whiskies – blends of two or more different whiskies from different countries of origin – are not altogether new, nor is Scotch whisky's role in them.

Hybrid whiskies are perfectly legal – although they cannot be labeled as Scotch – prompting several producers both home and away to play about with various flavour combinations that are arguably unattainable using whisky from a single country.

The results have been fascinating and have generated debate over *whether they threaten Scotch's integrity*. Below is the story of The Lake's innovative creation Steel Bonnets, along with eight other Scotch whisky hybrids from recent years. For this trip around the whisky world, you won't even need a passport.



STEEL BONNETS

Whiskies used: Scotch and English

Produced by: Lakes distillery

Ahead of the launch of its first single malt next month, the Lakes distillery is set to release *an Anglo-Scotch hybrid whisky* on 9 July.

Named after the moniker used for the Border Reivers that harried the Scottish-English border in the 13th century, Steel

Bonnets is made from the distillery's own single malt, alongside 'some of the most respected malts from Scotland', and is billed as the 'world's first' blend of Scotch and English whisky. Appropriate, considering that the distillery itself is about 35 miles from the border.



THE ONE

Whiskies used: Scotch, English, Irish and Welsh

Produced by: The Lakes distillery

The One, produced in 2013 under the watchful eye of former *Macallan* whisky maker Dhavall Ghandi, combines Scotch, Irish, English and Welsh whiskies, and is labeled by the Lakes as the 'one and only British Isles blended whisky'. Said to have a 'slightly smoky, sweet and fruity' palate, the recipe has been kept under wraps – although due to the limited pool of English and Welsh whiskies, savvy whisky fans could make an educated guess as to which distilleries contribute to the blend.





HIGH WEST CAMPFIRE

Whiskies used: Scotch, Bourbon and rye

Produced by: High West distillery

‘One morning at the *Bruichladdich* distillery B&B, High West Founders David and Jane Perkins smelled peat in the air...’ That’s how the High West marketing team introduce Campfire, the distillery’s blend of Bourbon and rye, combined with peated Scotch.

Despite the reference to Bruichladdich, the source of the peated malt remains strictly confidential, although the American whiskies hail from the vast Midwest Grain Products (MGP) plant of Indiana. With all the whiskies involved ranging from five to eight years old, High West Campfire is a young blend said to be ‘long, sweet, spicy and smoky’ on the palate.



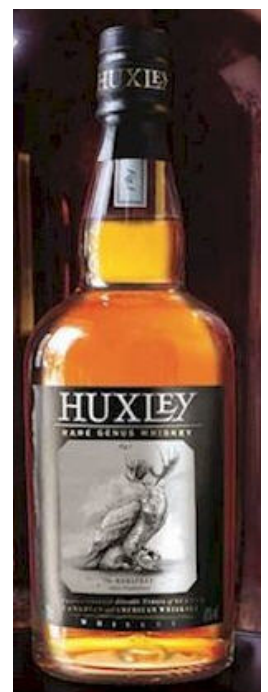
HUXLEY

Whiskies used: Scotch, Canadian and American

Produced by: Whiskey Union/Diageo

Whiskey Union was established in 2015 as the innovation arm of Scotch heavyweight Diageo, responsible for products such as the hop-infused Boxing Hares, and *Huxley Rare Genus*, a blend of Scotch, Canadian and American whiskies.

Launched in 2016, Huxley’s label depicts a ‘mobsprey’, a mythical animal comprised of parts of Scottish, Canadian and American wildlife. The recipe itself is kept confidential, apart from confirmation that the blend contains both malt and grain. Initially rolled out across the German bar scene, Huxley is still available at specialist retailers, priced at about £30.





ADELPHI FUSION RANGE

Whiskies used: Scotch and Japanese (The Glover), Scotch and Indian (The Kincardine; The E&K), Scotch and Dutch (The Winter Queen).

Produced by: Adelphi and Fusion Whisky Ltd.

Distiller and bottler *Adelphi* partnered with Fusion Whisky Ltd, a small Edinburgh enterprise, to create a series of limited edition blended malt whiskies honouring lesser-known historical figures with Scottish roots.

The first hybrid created by the partnership in 2015 was *The Glover*, named after Thomas Blake Glover, a merchant known as 'the Scottish Samurai'. Initially released as a 22-year-old – there have since been a further three iterations – the whisky is a blend of roughly 65% malt from Hanyu in Saitama, Japan, 35% malt from *Longmorn* in Moray and 1% malt from *Glen Garioch* in Aberdeenshire. Only 390 bottles were released at £1,050 each.

Adelphi and Fusion Whisky followed up with *The Kincardine* in 2016 and *The Winter Queen* earlier this year. *The Kincardine* was a blend of *Glen Elgin*, Macallan and India's Amrut, created to honour Victor Bruce, the 13th Earl of Kincardine and Viceroy of India from 1894 to 1899. This was followed by the release of *The E&K*, another Scotch/Indian blended malt featuring liquid from Ardmore, Glenrothes and Amrut, matured for five years and with an 800-bottle run. whisky from Longmorn and *Glenrothes* distilleries in Scotland, as well as malt whisky from Zuidam in the Netherlands. It was created to celebrate Elizabeth Stuart, the daughter of King James VI of Scotland and Queen Anne of Denmark.





CELTIC NATIONS

Whiskies used: Scotch and Irish

Produced by: Murray McDavid, Cooley

Created by previous Bruichladdich owner Murray McDavid in partnership with Ireland's Cooley distillery, Celtic Nations was a blend of single malts from both. Bottled in 2006 and marketed as a 'Celtic blended malt whisky', it quickly drew the attention – and ire – of the Scotch Whisky Association, which promptly ruled the term 'Celtic malt' illegal.

With a few bottles in circulation, the now discontinued blend occasionally pops up online on whisky auction sites. In 2012, the fledgling Teeling Whisky Co, created by the former owner of Cooley, released Hybrid Malt Whisky No 1 Edition, a blend of 10-year-old Bruichladdich and Cooley created from the left-over stock of Celtic Nations married in casks for a further eight years. Waste not, want not.



JIM BEAM KENTUCKY DRAM

Whiskies used: Scotch and Bourbon

Produced by: Beam Suntory

Bourbon powerhouse Jim Beam entered the hybrid whisky fray in June 2015 with Kentucky Dram. The limited edition product was a blend of Bourbon from its Kentucky distillery with 'a touch' of lightly-peated Scotch single malt from *Ardmore* distillery in Aberdeenshire.

The expression was released as a no-age-statement blend under the Jim Beam brand as a travel retail exclusive, simply labeled as a 'Kentucky Dram whiskey'.

