



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 do not profess to be an expert, I am merely expressing an opinion on the whiskies I am tasting.

In this issue I look at Bastille 1789 French whisky, yes you read that correctly "French Whisky." This is actually a blended whisky, not a single malt and I first tasted it at "WhiskyFest in San Francisco last year.

Note that it is spelled whisky, with no 'e' a nod to scotch perhaps, as this is made in the blended scotch style with malted Barley and wheat. After distillation it is matured for 5 to 7 years in Limousin oak, cherry, and acacia Casks.

The sweetness on first tasting the Bastille reminded of the Welsh whisky Penderyn, with this one being a little lighter.

Would I recommend this? Yes I would, not as my regular tippie, more of an occasional whisky. Ideally sat outside on a warm evening, and unusually for me, I'd have it poured over ice. This "sippin" whisky with it's strong fruit flavors is like dessert in a glass.

You can buy Bastille 1789 for around \$30.00 a bottle.

Tasting Notes;

Nose - Apricot, floral

Palate - Sweet, apricot, cherry, vanilla & spice

Finish - Cherry, spice & oak

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





A wee bit of History

Twice a month, Jean-Marc Daucourt's grandfather would organize Sunday lunches for about twenty people at their home in France. "We would sit for five hours eating, talking and enjoying Champagne, spirits and wine," Daucourt recalls. "This was my first and most important education. I learned the pleasure of entertaining."

When Daucourt was old enough, he left his native France to study the art of distillation in Scotland and Germany. After apprenticing at a number of distilleries, Daucourt returned to France, and together with his brother Edward, purchased a distillery just outside the Cognac region in southwest France. Bastille 1789 Hand-Crafted Whisky is the realization of his dream of creating an outstanding whisky with a distinct French identity.

Bastille Whisky is made from a mash of malted barley and wheat sourced entirely from northwest France (a number of Scottish distilleries source their grains from the same farms). After the barley and wheat are harvested, they are fermented and distilled through Daucourt's ancient, copper alembic stills. The stills, which were traditionally used to distill cognac, have an odd shape — a tulip-shaped pre-heater feeds the wash into a vase-shaped copper pot, where distillation occurs.

Following distillation, the whisky is aged for five to seven years in a combination of French Limousin Oak, cherry wood and acacia casks. "After the initial maturation," says Daucourt, "Bastille is finished in different styles of wooden casks, which provide my whisky its delicate, harmonious and unique flavors." French Limousin Oak — one of the most expensive types of wood used for barreling — is prized because it is loosely grained and porous, allowing it to impart more flavor and tannins to the whisky that comes in contact with it. The cherry oak barrels, however, impart mild yet complex notes of dark chocolate, cherries and soft citrus, which are complemented by the floral and aromatic undertones from the acacia wood. Following maturation, the whisky is brought to proof with water sourced from the Gensac spring (the water has been naturally filtered for centuries through Grande Champagne limestone) before each batch is bottled.

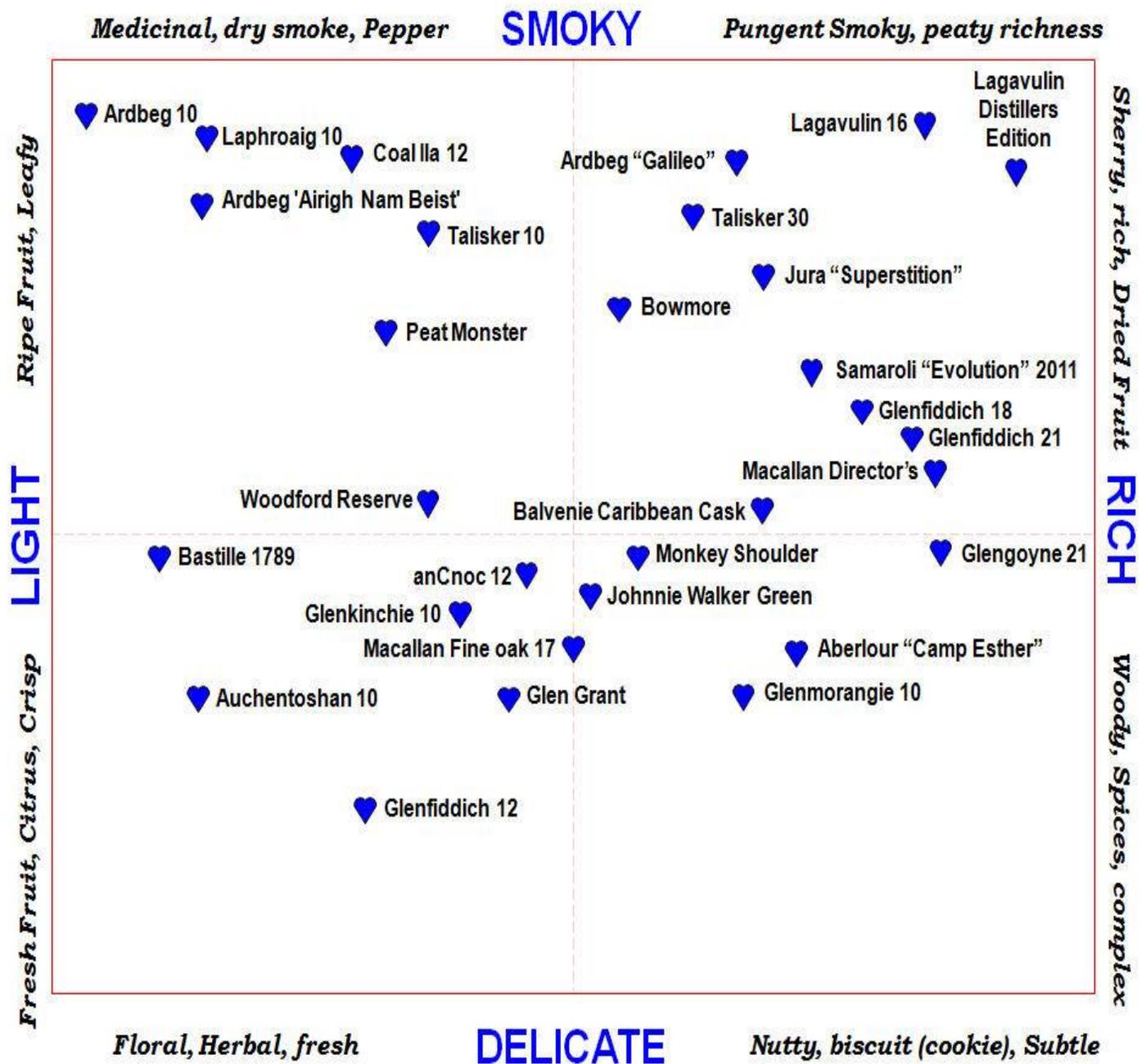
Bastille earned a score of 94 points and a rating of "Exceptional" from the Beverage Testing Institute in 2011.

"You only live once, but if you do it right, once is enough."

Mae West



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. With each issue of the newsletter I will add in another Whisky to the flavor map. This Issue; [Bastille Whisky](http://www.bastillewhisky.com) For more information go to www.bastillewhisky.com





Storming the Bastille

On 14 July 1789 Parisian revolutionaries and mutinous troops stormed the Bastille, a royal fortress that had come to symbolize the tyranny of the Bourbon monarchs. This dramatic action signaled the beginning of the French Revolution, a decade of political turmoil and terror in which King Louis XVI was overthrown and tens of thousands of people, including the king and his wife Marie Antoinette, who were sent to the guillotine for treason in 1793 and executed.

The Bastille was originally constructed in 1370 as a *bastide*, or "fortification," to protect the walled city of Paris from English attack. It was later made into an independent stronghold, and its name--bastide--was corrupted to Bastille.

The Bastille was first used as a state prison in the 17th century, and its cells were reserved for upper class and political prisoners. Most prisoners were imprisoned without trial at the direction of the king.



Storming the Bastille

Standing 100 feet tall and surrounded by a moat more than 80 feet wide, the Bastille was an imposing structure in the Parisian landscape.

By the summer of 1789, France was moving quickly toward revolution. There were severe food shortages in France that year, and popular resentment against the rule of King Louis XVI was turning to fury. In June, the Third Estate, which represented commoners and the lower clergy, declared itself the National Assembly and called for the drafting of a constitution. Initially seeming to yield, Louis legalized the National Assembly but then surrounded Paris with troops and dismissed Jacques Necker, a popular minister of state who had supported reforms. In response, mobs began rioting in Paris at the instigation of revolutionary leaders.

Bernard-Jordan de Launay, the military governor of the Bastille, feared that his fortress would be a target for the revolutionaries and so requested reinforcements. A company of Swiss mercenary soldiers arrived on July 7 to bolster his garrison of 82 soldiers.



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The Marquis de Sade, one of the few prisoners in the Bastille at the time, was transferred to an insane asylum after he attempted to incite a crowd outside his window by yelling: "They are massacring the prisoners; you must come and free them."

On July 13, revolutionaries with muskets began firing at soldiers standing guard on the Bastille's towers and then took cover in the Bastille's courtyard when Launay's men fired back. That evening, mobs stormed the Paris Arsenal and another armory and acquired thousands of muskets.

At dawn on July 14, a great crowd armed with muskets, swords, and various makeshift weapons began to gather around the Bastille.

Launay received a delegation of revolutionary leaders but refused to surrender the fortress and its munitions as they requested. He later received a second delegation and promised he would not open fire on the crowd. To convince the revolutionaries, he showed them that his cannons were not loaded. Instead of calming the agitated crowd, news of the unloaded cannons emboldened a group of men to climb over the outer wall of the courtyard and lower a drawbridge.

Three hundred revolutionaries rushed in, and Launay's men took up a defensive position. When the mob outside began trying to lower the second drawbridge, Launay ordered his men to open fire. One hundred rioters were killed or wounded.

Launay's men were able to hold the mob back, but more and more Parisians were converging on the Bastille. Around 3 p.m., a company of deserters from the French army arrived. The soldiers, hidden by smoke from fires set by the mob, dragged five cannons into the courtyard and aimed them at the Bastille. Launay raised a white flag of surrender over the fortress.

Launay and his men were taken into custody, the gunpowder and cannons were seized, and the seven prisoners of the Bastille were freed.

Upon arriving at the Hotel de Ville, where Launay was to be arrested by a revolutionary council, the governor was pulled away from his escort by a mob and murdered.

The capture of the Bastille symbolized the end of the old regime and provided the French revolutionary cause with an irresistible momentum. Joined by four-fifths of the French army, the revolutionaries seized control of Paris and then the French countryside, forcing King Louis XVI to accept a constitutional government.

In 1792, by order of the new revolutionary government, the Bastille was torn down. On February 6, 1790, the last stone of the hated prison-fortress was presented to the National Assembly. Today, July 14 "Bastille Day" is celebrated as a national holiday in France.

