



## Object of the Newsletter

*To promote the appreciation of fine Scotch Whisky (and the drinking of it) amongst my friends and to spread the word on the joys of single malt. By the way, I do not profess to be an expert, I am merely expressing an opinion on the whiskies I am tasting. "Slange"*

This issue I look at Glen Grant 10 years old, which I sampled in the whisky tent (as a guest) at the Las Vegas Celtic Games last April. I again sampled the Glen Grant at the San Diego Highland Games in June, this time as an assistant to the Whiskey Meister Ray Pearson (<http://www.facebook.com/thewhiskymeister>). What did I think of it? Three words come to mind Fruity, Fruity & Fruity, this is a good Speyside single malt and I can't argue with the fact that it is one of the best selling single malts in the world.

I'd be happy to open my drinks cabinet and find a bottle of this in there, waiting for me to pour it, share it and enjoy it.

### Tasting Notes;

**Color** - Gold

**Nose** - Fruity

**Palate** - Fruity, creamy with a hint of Hazelnut

**Finish** - Fruity

### Gaelic Toast

**Slàinte mhòr agus a h-uile beannachd duibh.**

**"Great health and every good blessing to you."**

*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](http://www.scot-talks.com).*

*"Slainte Mhath"*

*Paul Bissett*





## A wee bit of History

Glen Grant Distillery was founded in 1823 by two former illegal distillers and smugglers at a time when illicit whisky distilling was rife throughout Scotland. Around half of the whisky sold at that time came from unlicensed distilleries.

In 1840, brothers John and James Grant decided to take out a license and make the distillery legal! With the sea and port of Garmouth nearby, the River Spey at its feet and barley-growing fields nearby, all the basic ingredients of malt whisky were close at hand.

By 1872, the founders of Glen Grant Distillery had passed away. Young James 'The Major' Grant, born in 1847, had always taken a keen interest in the distillery and having inherited the business and the title 'Glen Grant' from his uncle John Grant, he was to prove himself a worthy successor.

There are many stories regarding "The Major." A legendary innovator, socialiser and traveller, he lived by his own rules and set his own standards. New ideas fascinated him and he wasn't afraid to explore them. He is said to be the first man in the Highlands to own a car. Glen Grant was the first distillery to have electric light. And he introduced the tall slender stills and purifiers which created the fresh malty flavor and clear color that defines Glen Grant whisky to this day.

The distillery prides itself in the fact that it has had only nine distillery managers in its entire history and even less master blenders – four, excluding the founding brothers.

Albert Stephen is the current Master Blender, continuing a direct line from Glen Grant's founding fathers to the present and ensuring that the distinctive characteristics and quality of Glen Grant whisky are maintained.

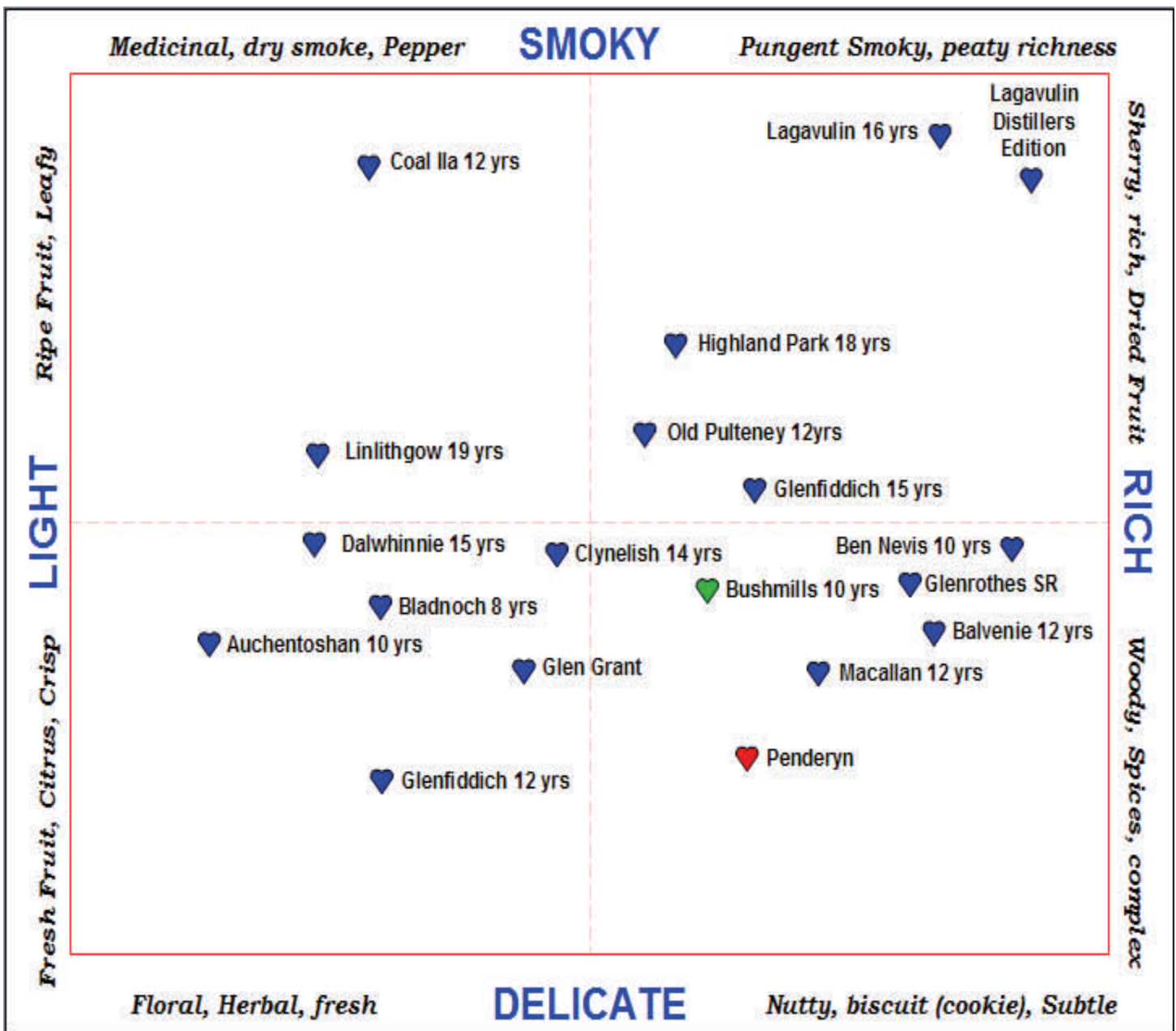
If you are fortunate enough to visit the Glen Grant distillery, then a walk around the Glen Grant Garden is a must. After extensive restoration commencing in 1993, the Glen Grant Garden was officially reopened in 1996. It remains an extraordinary living museum of late 19th century gardening style and a fine example of a Victorian woodland garden.

For more information on the Glen Grant distillery go to;  
[http://www.scotchwhisky.net/distilleries/glen\\_grant.htm](http://www.scotchwhisky.net/distilleries/glen_grant.htm)

*Oh Whisky! Soul o' plays and pranks!  
Accept a bardie's grateful thanks!  
– Robert Burns*



Below is a simple guide to help you choose your single malt Whisky, and the flavor notes I get from it, hopefully you will get something similar. 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; **Glen Grant 10 years old**. For more information go to <http://www.glengrant.com>





## *A Brief History of Clan Grant*

### **Origins**

DNA evidence established in 2007 has now conclusively vindicated the Grant Seannachies of the past who were unanimous that the original Grant Chiefs were of Viking stock. The Chiefs' ancestral lines go back to Håkon the Mighty, protector of Norway (970-995), Grig, ("Gregory the Great") Regent of Scotland (878-889), Heming the Great, King of Denmark (fl. 810) and Alfred the Great of Wessex!

Our patriarch, Olav Hemingsson came North with Malcolm III around 1057. The Clan's plant badge, the "Seedling Scots Pine, fruited proper", echoes the Norse origins of the first Chiefly line. The Crowns on the Chief's Arms represent the Spirit of Victory. In the tinctures (the colors), the vassalage to Malcolm is acknowledged.

These ancestors of the Grants were in Strathspey during the reign of Malcolm III, their main tasks being to ensure that the beacon atop Craigelachie (by Aviemore) was lit to warn the king – and the rest of Lowland Scotland – if danger threatened from the North. Our crest, the "Burning Hill proper" reflects this as does the War Cry "Craigelachie"; our Motto, "Stand Fast" reflects our attitude towards any attack coming from that direction.

These lands, together with others round Loch Freuchie near Dunkeld, were lost after 1098 when the usurping king Edgar seized the throne with Norman support and Olav was executed; but 50 years later our pre-Grant ancestors were re-established on the banks of Loch Ness at Boleskine, becoming Lords of Stratherrick for some 180 years. Several heads of the family at this time served as Sheriff of Inverness in that post's various guises.

The name Grant was adopted as surname about 1175, although it was almost certainly a by-name from 1060. Its basic meaning is "Gritty" – and the Grants have always shown "true Grit".

Being a card carrying member of the Clan Grant Society, I know that there is much, much more to know about this clan, and a good place to start is <http://www.clangrant.org/history.php> where I found this information.



*Grant Crest*



*Grant Tartan*