



## 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.*

As this will be my Thanksgiving issue, I will look at Stranahan's "Snowflake", which I tried at WhiskyFest in San Francisco, while discussing it with Master Distiller Rob Dietrich. I asked him, "why the unusual name", and he explained that just like snowflakes that are each unique, no two batches taste quite the same. Once a year, Rob gathers samples from each cask-finish barrel and creates a uniquely individual Snowflake batch strictly by taste. Nosing and tasting each cask sample to find the perfect marriage of casks, Rob combines the various finishes to create a one-of-a-kind whiskey, released once a year only at the distillery in Denver, Colorado. Last year's release was December 3rd, this year's has still to be announced, but should be announced shortly, you can go to their website to keep watch at [www.stranahans.com](http://www.stranahans.com) where you can sign up for emails that will tell you when you can get it. Although you will have to line up at the distillery to buy it. I liked this whiskey a lot, and would buy it if I could get to the distillery, for the release. If you need further proof that it's worth having look at the picture on page 2. Also details of why the taste is a mystery.

You can buy Stranahan's "Snowflake" for around \$100.00 a bottle.

### Tasting Notes

**Nose** - ??????????????????

**Palate** - ??????????????????

**Finish** - ??????????????????

*"Slainte Mhath"*

*Paul Bissett*





## STRANAHAN'S COLORADO WHISKEY

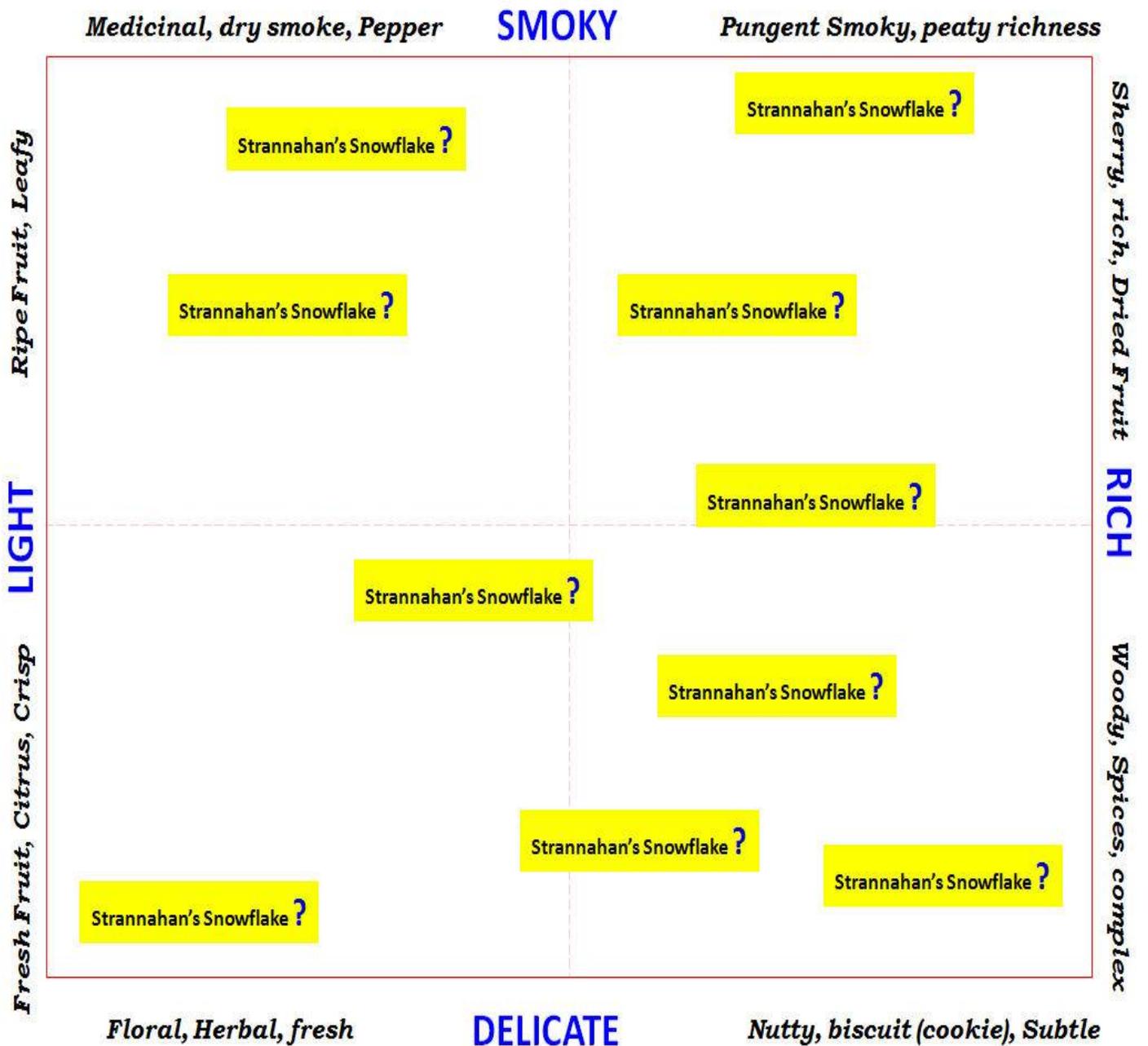
Stranahan's was the first (of a number) of new Colorado distilleries. As mentioned on page 1, the distiller gathers samples from each cask-finish barrel and creates a uniquely individual "Snowflake" batch strictly by taste. The whisky can be aged/finished in any type/style of used wine, sherry, cognac, rum barrels etc. So no one, no matter how ardent a fan of Stranahan's "Snowflake", knows what flavors the new whiskey will have until they taste it.



**From previous year's releases;** The distillery will allow fans to line up — as in camp out — up to 25 hours in advance to preserve their place in line. In the past, the distillery doors have opened at 8 am on a Saturday, so dress appropriately for the cold, I believe the distillery is situated at an elevation of around 11,000ft. Each bottle will retail for around \$100 and there is strict two-bottle limit. Only 1400 bottles were released last time.



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. This Issue; [Strannahan's "Snowflake"](#). For more information on Glenturret go to [www.strannahans.com](http://www.strannahans.com).





## The best whisky tours for history lovers by Sean Murphy

From ghost hunting to the spiritual home of whisky, we take a look at some of the most intriguing trips around the country for whisky fans who have a passion for history.

### *(Kennet Pans, Kilbagie, Clackmannanshire)*

Kennetpans (near to the town of Alloa in Clackmannanshire) was founded in the 1720s by the charismatic and controversial Stein family, and became the largest distillery in Scotland.

Situated by the upper stream of Firth of Forth and around two miles south of Kennetpans village near Kincardine, the ruins of what was once considered to be the "home of commercial whisky distilling" and the birthplace of two of the world's most famous brands – Jamesons and Haigs - have become something of a whisky pilgrimage for many whisky fans over the years.

There's even been a push over the past few years for it to be restored and protected.



*Drew Mackenzie Smith in the ruins of Lindores Abbey in Newburgh, Fife.*

On the Southern banks of the River Tay, lies the ruins of the historic Abbey of Lindores, the site of the first ever recorded instance of whisky distillation in Scotland.

In 1494, King James IV sent a commission to a friar living at the Abbey, John Corr, to make for him aquavita.

The famed whisky writer, the late Michael Jackson, once wrote that for whisky fans a visit to the abbey was essential, declaring that 'for the whisky lovers, it is a pilgrimage'.

Thankfully, the derelict Abbey is currently undergoing a £5 million makeover in a bid to attract visitors worldwide and distill whisky once more.



## The best whisky tours for history lovers Cont.

### Walk the Speyside smuggler's trails with Glenlivet

The story of Glenlivet, the first ever legal distillery in Scotland and the history of illicit distilling in the Spey valley are so intertwined that it would be remiss for the distillery's current owners not to embrace it.

Thankfully they do with homage paid to those original croft distillers not only in the written history of this most famous distillery but also in several of its tours. Indeed they've even recreated a smuggler's bothy still on their land for people to visit to see how whisky would have been produced in the good old days before taxation and exciseman took control.

The battle between the opposing forces of the law and the illicit stillers is made vivid by some fun free walking tours, which take in the countryside around the distillery and introduce to those larger-than-life characters who made whisky what it is today. Visit the house of George Smith, the founder of the distillery and the haunts of Rabbie MacPherson, a roguish smuggler with a penchant for camouflage.



Glenlivet Distillery (*Ballindalloch, Banffshire*)



## The best whisky tours for history lovers Cont.

### Go ghost hunting at Bowmore distillery

It seems there is more than one type of spirit involved in Bowmore's illustrious past. The distillery which was officially opened on the island of Islay in 1779 but there have been other incarnations of the distillery in the area for a lot longer.

Over the years there have been more than a few tales of ghosts and the likes surrounding the distillery but one of the most famous is that of the headless horseman who is said to have paid one islander an unwelcome visit.

Islay crofter Lachlan Bàn is said to have witnessed the unwelcome guest speeding away from his home after having left him a present, a nearly full bottle of Bowmore. The Illeach was said to have been so terrified that he threw the spirit's spirit away in fear.

Distillery staff still tell the tale with much glee, but are quick to point out that the apparition may have in fact been none other than Lachlan's brother, hiding his face from the storm that night as he rode away from the croft.



*Bowmore Distillery,, Bowmore, Islay*