



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.

I now look at Auchentoshan (*Aw-ken-tosh-an, a bit of a tongue twister*) "American Oak" which my friend Justin introduced me to recently, this is a new (2014 first released), Non Age Statement (NAS) whisky. Released to replace the Auchentoshan Classic.

Usually I don't tend to like changes/updates to existing core whisky ranges but I have to hand it to the distiller, this is a nice improvement on the "classic".

The "American oak" gets its name by being matured exclusively in first fill American Bourbon casks. I have to say I like it, I have always been partial to Auchentoshan whiskies and this one hits the spot. A nice easy Drinking Scotch, that is also nice and easy on the wallet.

Like it's predecessor, this whisky is triple-distilled, which is distinct quirk that Auchentoshan has, as the other Scottish distilleries do a double-distillation.

Auchentoshan is one of the few remaining Lowlander distilleries left in Scotland, however there are moves afoot to build more.

You can buy Auchentoshan American Oak for around \$40.00 a bottle.

Tasting Notes;

Nose - Citrus & toffee

Palate - Peaches, citrus, coconut & toffee

Finish - Orange and toffee

"Slainte Mhath"

Paul Bissett





10 great single malt whiskies that aren't from Scotland

Sometimes it pays to look further afield, says Ashley Coates

Think of a single malt and the first names that come to mind are likely to be those of the old Scottish brands: Glenfiddich, Ardbeg, Talisker and the like. But lately Scottish single malts have been losing out to some newcomers from overseas.

There has been a surge of interest in whisky in recent years and a corresponding increase in the number of distilleries offering world-class single malts. Japan and the US have been producing whiskies for many decades, but some of the award-winning single malts of the last few years have been coming from new distilleries unlikely places such as Tasmania, Taiwan and Sweden.

This year Japan's Yamazaki Single Malt Sherry Cask 2013 secured the top spot in Jim Murray's coveted Whisky Bible, while second, third and fourth place were taken by three bourbons.

Reflecting on the dramatic fall in the ratings of Scottish whiskies, Jim Murray warned the Scottish distilleries that "it is time for a little dose of humility".

Here are some of the best drinks that are giving the Scots a run for their money:

Amrut Kadhambam, India

After several decades as a supplier of spirits to the Indian military, Amrut has established itself as a distillery of international renown and remains the only single malt producer in India.

The firm started up in Bangalore in 1948, the year of India's independence from the British Empire. The Mayfair wine and spirit suppliers Berry Bros describe the Kadhambam's taste as "intense notes of candied fruits, subtle oak with a light dusting of peat and integrated spice".

Penderyn Madiera Single Malt, Wales

The only whisky maker in Wales, Penderyn was launched in 2000, a hundred years after the last Welsh distillery was closed. They're based in the small village of Penderyn, which sits in the Brecon Beacons in South Wales. The award-winning company also produces a gin, vodka and liquor.



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; "Auchentoshan American Oak." For more information go to <http://www.auchentoshan.com/>





10 great single malt whiskies that aren't from Scotland

South Island Single Malt 23 Year-Old, New Zealand

In 1997, New Zealand's last distillery shut down and its Cask Strength whisky was auctioned off. In 2010, the last batch of 80,000 litres was purchased in 443 barrels by a group of investors and are now being sold on the international market. Made from malted New Zealand barley and aged in American Ex-Bourbon casks, the distributors describe its taste as "sweet fruits...supported by the vanilla and oak from the barrel. Briefly passing peat followed by a cinnamon led spice with a hint of smoke".

Three Ships 10-Year-Old Single Malt – South Africa

Another new addition to the single malt scene, the 10-year-old Three Ships received a 91/100 rating by whisky connoisseur Jim Murray in 2013. This is a rare whisky, matured in American barrels of varying ages and is the first single malt to be produced in South Africa.

Yamazaki 12-Year-Old, Japan

Established in 1923, this is Japan's first commercial distillery, producing whiskies in three principle variations, 12, 18 and 25 years. Yamazaki regularly receives awards for its whiskies and this year its Single Malt Sherry Cask 2013 was recognised as the World Whisky of the Year in Jim Murray's Whisky Bible. The Suntory distillery also produces Hibiki.

English Peated Single Malt, Chapter 14, England

Distilled and bottled at a site in Norfolk, the English Whisky Company is proud of having access to the Breckland aquifer, providing clean water from deep beneath their distillery, as well as their use of local Norfolk barley. The first batches of whisky were produced in 2006 and in 2014 their "Chapter 14" variation was made European Whisky of the Year in Jim Murray's Whisky Bible.

Mackmyra Iskristall, Sweden

The Iskristall is matured in Swedish and American casks that once stored Pedro Ximenes sherry, creating a "spicy whisky with sweet raisin notes, caramel and vanilla". The distillery also credits Sweden's oak with giving the drink a harsher taste than whiskies stored in solely American casks.

Kavalan Single Malt, Taiwan

Founded in 2005, Kavalan has been quick to establish itself as a distillery of global repute. This year the Kavalan Solist Vinho Barrique won Whisky of the Year at the World Whisky Awards with whisky journalist Alwynne Gwilt noting: "The whiskies from Kavalan have shocked many of those in the whisky world since they first began hitting shelves. For such a young producer, Kavalan's whiskies are wonderfully rich, complex and interesting".

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Balcones '1' Texas Single Malt, USA

"Texas made, Texas proud", Balcones credits the unique taste of its whisky to the hundreds of years of distillery development in Texas. This is another relatively new firm, established in 2008, Balcones already has 140 international awards under its belt. The No.1 Texas Single Malt delivers "mellow notes of sautéed pears and ripe fruit mixed with a lingering toasty malt character".

Sullivans Cove French Oak Cask, Australia

Sullivans bottle in a number varieties, including a Double Cask and an American Oak, but its French Oak has arguably attracted the greatest notoriety with its "rich and sweet front palate with flavours of chocolate, pepper, toffee and fruit cake". It's won a string of other industry awards in recent years but its fame means a bottle of French Oak will set you back \$350 AUD (around £162).

<http://www.standard.co.uk>

An Arab Sheik was admitted to Hospital for heart surgery,
but prior to the surgery, the doctors needed to store his blood type in case the need arises.

As he had a rare type of blood, it couldn't be found locally, so, the call went out.

Finally a Scotsman was located who had a similar blood type.

The Scot willingly donated his blood for the Arab.

After the surgery, the Arab sent the Scotsman as appreciation for giving his blood, a new BMW, diamonds & 10,000 dollars.

A couple of days later, the Arab had to go through a corrective surgery.

His doctor telephoned the Scotsman who was more than happy to donate his blood again.

After the second surgery, the Arab sent the Scotsman a thank-you card and a box of chocolates.

The Scotsman was shocked that the Arab did not repeat his kind gesture as before.

He phoned the Arab and asked him: "I thought you would be generous again, that you would give me a BMW, diamonds & money, but you only gave me a thank-you card and a box of chocolates."

To this the Arab replied: "Aye laddie, but I now have guid Scottish blood in ma veins".