



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 look at the Glentauchers 2004, single malt whisky, this is another Speyside whisky that many people will not have heard of. The distillery is located in Speyside near the town of Keith, on the road to Craigallachie. Where do I find these whiskies? I researched all the distilleries in Scotland currently producing whisky and made it my mission to taste a whisky from everyone of them, well I succeeded and I now feel I have to let you know about all of them. I am almost finished, only a few more to go, having said that, there are currently 38 more new distilleries that are either open and producing whisky, but not yet bottling or are in the process of being built, so I expect to keep busy tasting and writing. This whisky is independently bottled by Gordon & MacPhail, and was matured in refill American hogsheads for 14 years, and was bottled at 43% ABV.

Would I buy it, yes I would, it's a good price for a 14-year-old and more importantly it's a nice drop of whisky.

[You can buy Glentauchers 2004 for around \\$57.00 a bottle.](#)

Tasting Notes

Nose - Chocolate & peach

Palate - Chocolate, citrus, peach & strawberry

Finish - Millionaires shortbread

"Slainte Mhath"

Paul Bissett





Ardnahoe Whisky Distillery Opens On Islay

By Becky Paskin

Ardnahoe distillery has officially opened on Islay as the Hebridean island's ninth whisky producer, and the first to feature worm tubs.



Islay newcomer: Ardnahoe distillery has now officially opened to visitors

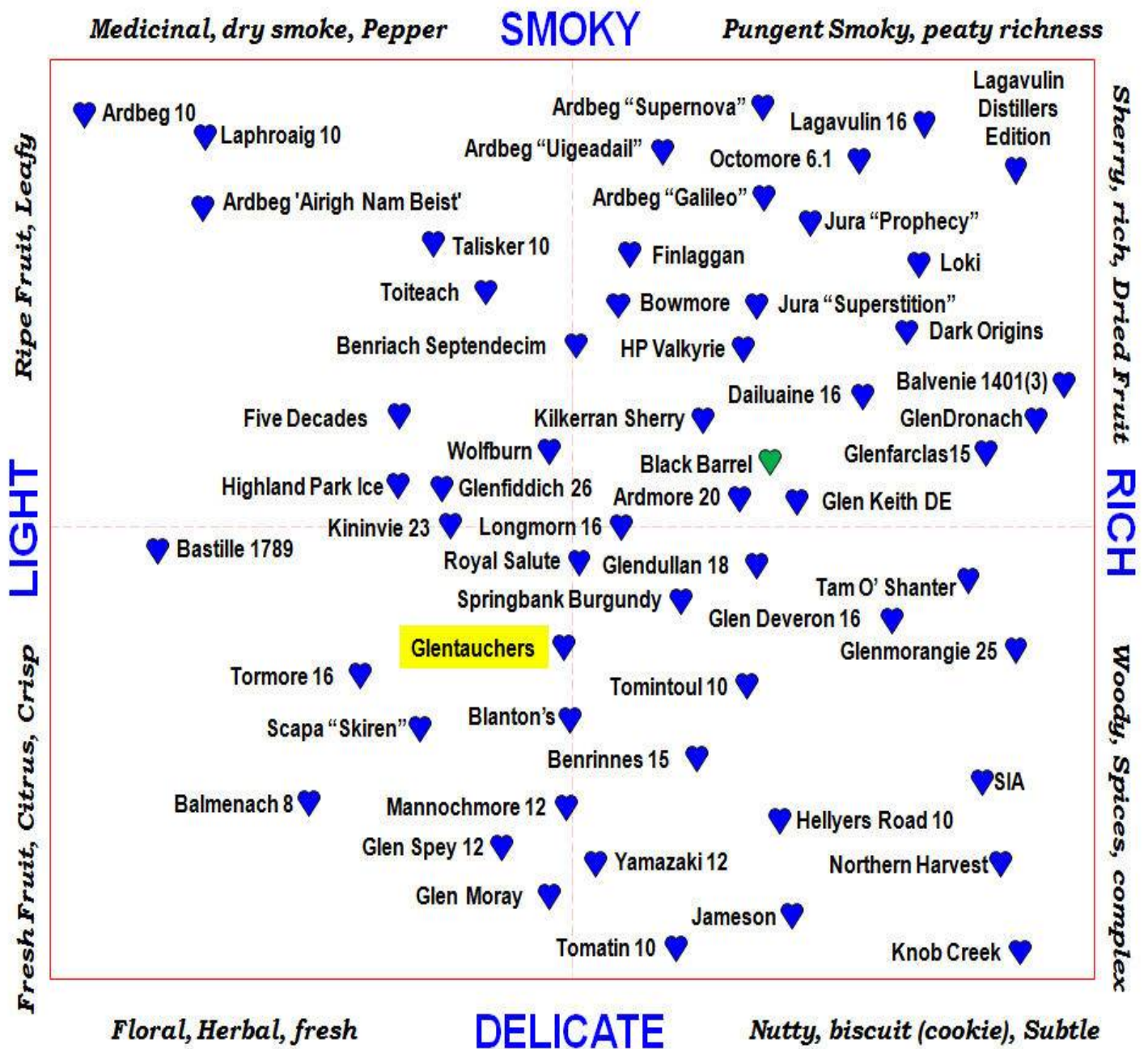
The £14 million distillery and visitor centre, owned by independent bottler *Hunter Laing*, is the first to be built on the Scottish island since 2005.

Situated on Islay's north east coast, close to *Bunnahabhain* and *Caol Ila* distilleries and with panoramic views across the Sound of Islay to Jura, Ardnahoe is expected to attract 20,000 visitors each year.

Although the distillery began producing spirit in October 2018, and filled its first cask on 9 November, it officially opens today (12 April), with special guests from across the island and Hunter Laing business expected to attend a ribbon-cutting ceremony.



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; Glentauchers 2004. For more information go to [No distillery website](#).





Ardnahoe Whisky Distillery Opens On Islay cont.

Ardnahoe was *first granted planning permission in September 2016*, with work starting on the site in the same year.

It has created 25 full and part-time jobs across the distillery and visitor centre. The family-owned company, led by Stewart Laing and his sons Andrew and Scott, selected Islay as the location for its first whisky distillery due to Stewart's family connections to the island, as well as the growing demand for Islay whisky. Stewart said: 'Since working as a teenager at *Bruichladdich* distillery over 50 years ago, I have had a huge affinity with Islay and its malt whiskies.

'When we decided to build our own distillery, there was only one possible location.' With two copper pot stills – which feature the longest lyne arms in Scotland – and four wooden washbacks, Ardnahoe is set up to produce a fruity, creamy and heavily peated spirit, which will mature in a combination of first-fill ex-Bourbon and ex-Sherry casks.

The spirit was created in partnership with ex-Bruichladdich master distiller *Jim McEwan*, who has since transitioned into an ambassadorial role with the distillery.

Hunter Laing export director Andrew Laing described *Ardnahoe's* style as 'a new take on a classical Islay whisky'. He said: 'In a few years, if a lover of Islay whisky wants to try something new, then they can try something that's been distilled very slowly through worm tub condensers.

'As Jim McEwan was our master distiller we'd expect it to have some DNA of whisky he's created in the past, but we expect it to be unique to us.'

While the core spirit will be made using malted barley peated to 40ppm, the distillery will also start production of an unpeated spirit later this year.

The whisky will need to mature for at least three years before it can be bottled, although Andrew Laing said the distillery's first release won't be rushed onto shelves.

'We're quite fortunate in terms of our business plan that we don't need to release a whisky at any particular point,' he said.

'We're going to be completely led by the quality but we believe that because we're producing the spirit very carefully and putting it into good casks, it won't be an inordinate length of time.'

In the meantime, the distillery offers visitors a range of tours, café facilities and bar, as well as a shop featuring a large range of Hunter Laing whiskies and a 'fill-your-own' station.



But is it Malt Whisky?

by Lew Bryson

What is malt whisky? Pretty simple question; almost stupidly simple. It's whisky made from malt. If you put anything else in besides malt, it's *not* malt whisky. That's why single malt and blended malt Scotch whisky doesn't have a "mashbill." It's 100% MALT. Just malt.

Well, then, what's **malt**? We use the term generally to refer to malted *barley*: barley that has been wetted ("steeped"), allowed to germinate while being turned, and then kilned to drive off the moisture and kill the sprout (before it eats anymore of those valuable starches that will become the water of life).

But other grains are malted as well: rye and wheat, mostly, but other grains like oats and triticale can be malted, even corn. The Scotch Whisky Regulations wisely specify that *barley* malt must be used to make single malt and blended malt Scotch whisky, but the U.S. Standards of Identity have a few more loopholes for other malts. They note that "malt whisky" must be 51% malted barley and "rye malt whisky" must be 51% malted rye grain...but they don't specify what the other grains must be. There's also that odd little catchall phrase that they tuck in there: "...and also includes mixtures of such whiskies of the same type."

I'm thinking that a whisky made from a mashbill of 51% barley malt, 35% rye malt, and 14% wheat malt would qualify to be labeled as "malt whisky" in the U.S., and that it could further have a fanciful name like "All Your Malts Are Belong To Us!" or "Malts-a-Million," or simply "Malts Whiskey." If you're wondering what got me thinking about this, it was a sample that came in for review from Wood's High Mountain Distillery in Colorado, their Tenderfoot Whiskey. They're calling it 'our single-malt whiskey,' and it's made with 77% barley malt, 10% wheat malt, and 13% rye malt. I guess it's "single-malt" in that it's all made at their distillery; me, I'd call it a "single-triple malt."

It just makes me think. The Scotch Whisky Regulations were updated in 2009, and made some substantial changes. There have been no changes to the Standards of Identity in almost 20 years, nothing at all since the explosion of whiskey experimentation that has been taking place at distilleries big and small. We still don't have good definitions to cover the unaged "white" whiskey (or the aged and filtered stuff, like White Owl and Jacob's Ghost), the multiplicity of grains, and experimentation with wood.

So should the Standards of Identity tighten up, with sharper definitions designed to let consumers know more exactly what they're getting? Should they stop insisting on new charred oak barrels for everything (everything with prestige, that is)? Should they have an outright "Experimental Whiskey" category? While we're at it, should they recognize that this is America, and start using the "whiskey" spelling in the regs?! There is increasing interest in changing the Standards of Identity: who gets to write those changes?

It's Friday; have at it.