



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 Balvenie 12 year old doublewood, which I sampled in “Comme Ca” Restaurant in the Cosmopolitan hotel, Las Vegas. I enjoyed it so much I went out and bought a bottle of it. In fact I am currently organizing a (trial) dinner at Nash’s restaurant in Chico that pairs together whiskies and food, my first attempt has this Balvenie as the starter whisky, followed by the 15 year old with the entrée and the 21 year old with the desert.

If this works, I will open up future dinners to readers that live close enough to join in. For those not close enough, I can make the menus available if they wish to do their own whisky food pairing dinner.

Tasting Notes;

Color - Amber

Nose - Sherry, Orange and Apricot

Palate - Sherry, Orange, sweet honey

Finish - Warm, some vanilla and a little spice

Balvenie 12 years old “Doublewood” with food;

Warmed camembert, Cranberry Cumberland Sauce, Spicy Glazed Walnuts.

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

With thanks to Google images.





A wee bit of History

Balvenie Distillery lies in Dufftown right on the banks of the river Fiddich. Balvenie was founded in 1892 by William Grant, the owner of Glenfiddich Distillery which was founded only 5 years earlier. The increasing demand from the Blended Industry prompted the expansion and Balvenie was built in only 15 months. The short construction time can be explained by the conversion of an existing building (the Mansion Balvenie New House) rather than erect a new one. They also managed to find two second-hand stills from the distilleries Lagavulin (Islay) and Glen Albyn (a dismantled distillery at Inverness).

Between 1957 and 1971 the number of stills was increased from two to seven. In the early 1970s Balvenie finally abandoned their almost complete focus on blended whisky and entered the market for single malts. They met with immediate success and today several official bottlings are available – all equally appreciated for their full-bodied sweet character.

Members of the ‘Balvenie Club’ received an unusual offer at the end of 2004 when the distillery released one hundred 10cl Cask Sample Bottles personally selected by their Malt Master David Stewart. Balvenie intend to continue the practice and will release another 100 sample bottles when the first batch is sold out.

In 2005 Balvenie opened the distillery to visitors.

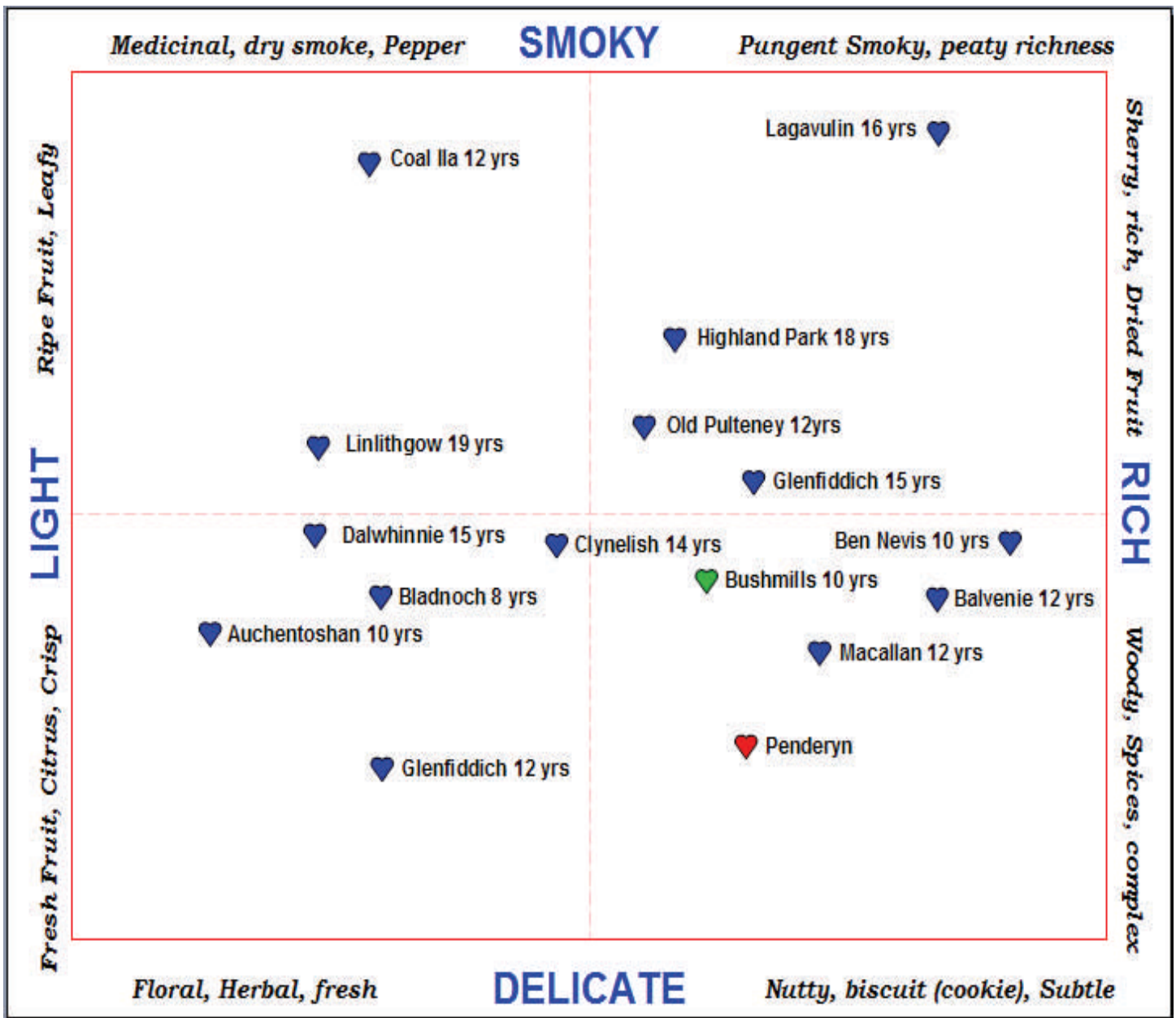


Lachlan's Laws;

“If you lend someone \$20 and never see that person again, it was probably worth it.”



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; **Balvenie 12 year old**. For more information go to <http://www.thebalvenie.com>





The Art of Manliness Guide to Scotch Whisky

“The proper drinking of Scotch whisky is more than indulgence: it is a toast to civilization, a tribute to the continuity of culture, a manifesto of man’s determination to use the resources of nature to refresh mind and body and enjoy to the full the senses with which he has been endowed.” – David Daiches

No other spirit has been associated with manhood like scotch whisky. Whether it’s the hooking punch in the mouth or just the raw and earthy process by which it is brought forth from barley and water, scotch has held a prominent place in the lives of men from kings to authors to titans of industry. What separates scotch from its alcoholic counterparts is not just its unique background (to be labeled scotch, a whisky must be distilled and initially matured in Scotland), but the commonalities shared by the men who partake in its liquid mysteries.

The man who drinks scotch is one who lives life to the hilt, savoring new challenges and discoveries on a daily basis. He doesn’t settle and he doesn’t drink something just because it’s there. Few men drink scotch to get drunk. First off, it’s too expensive, the cheapest bottles of single malt costing around \$40. But secondly, and much more importantly, each bottle of scotch contains so much history, tradition and attention to detail that the men who drink it are not just downing a beverage, but participating in a celebration of artisanship and the deep pleasures of life.

Becoming a scotch drinker takes a little work and a bit of tongue maturity. The young man that saddles up for his first bout with the historic elixir is often taken back by its overt potency. But upon returning a second and third time, he slowly begins to get a sense of what makes scotch so alluring and enjoyable. In developing a taste for scotch, a man is embarking on a lifelong journey that will take him along the clear waters of the River Spey, the rugged Highlands, the [Isle of Jura](#) which George Orwell described as “an extremely unget-at-able place,” and various other parts of Scotland where distillers like to say “it’s as good as life used to be.”

To read the full article, go to <http://artofmanliness.com/2009/04/05/the-art-of-manliness-guide-to-scotch-whisky>

I recommend this website for its old fashioned virtues and guidelines for the making of a gentleman.