



## 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 Glenfiddich 14-year-old Bourbon Barrel Reserve, which I have tasted quite a lot recently, as I got a bottle as a gift for my friend David at his whisky night (which he let us all taste. We all liked it, so I bought one for the office (strictly for after work, you understand). Well word spreads and our visitors to the office (after work), liked it so much, that it didn't last long, so David bought one for the office. Then I got Ken one for his retirement party, and why not, I got one for my bar. Yes, you probably guessed by now that the latest Glenfiddich, is like it's previous siblings well worth buying.

Thus far on my rather long and winding whisky journey I have yet to come across a Glenfiddich that was not worth buying, and in most cases was not worth the price. To be fair there are some that are beyond my price range, to buy a whole bottle, but not to buy a dram, so no excuses, try them all. This Glenfiddich is exclusive to the United States, and is a celebration of the shared history of American and Scotch whisk(e)y, and the American oak ex-bourbon barrels that are the backbone of the single malt Scotch whisky industry.

The whisky is matured for 14 years in ex-bourbon American Oak casks, and is then finished in deeply charred new American Oak barrels.

You can buy Glenfiddich 14-year-old for around \$50.00 a bottle.

### Tasting Notes;

**Nose** - Vanilla, citrus, caramel

**Palate** - Toffee, pear, baked apple

**Finish** - Long, sweet, oak & fruit

*"Slainte Mhath"*

*Paul Bissett*





## HOW TO TASTE SPIRITS

Spirits are enjoyed in all kinds of ways, but there are some general rules you can't go wrong with. *How to taste like a professional connoisseur.*

### APPEARANCE / COLOUR

#### HOLD THE GLASS

toward the light or against a white background and assess the colour, which doesn't necessarily reveal the age, but it indicates how the spirit was matured:



**1** NEW SPIRIT  
*clear colour*



**2** HERBS MACERATED (in the spirit after its distillation)  
*green/brown colour*



**3** NEW/BOURBON CASKS  
*honey, golden lemony and pale colours*



**4** PORT, SHERRY CASKS  
*dark, black-red, amber, mahogany colours*





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; [Glenfiddich 14-year-old](http://www.glenfiddich.com). For more information go to <http://www.glenfiddich.com>





The intensity of the **color indicates** whether the cask is on its first, second or third filling. Now give your wrist a workout and do **a good swirl around the glass**, look at the legs and tears that form inside. If they run slowly and are thick, it is probably a heavier style of spirit and it is possibly older. If they run quick and thin, it has to be lighter and/or younger. **Long legs** usually indicate that a spirit is high in alcohol. Imagine that.

### SMELL / NOSE / AROMA

Sense of smell is very important; human nose can distinguish between hundreds of different smells, while the tongue can distinguish only among five primary tastes. In fact about **70% of all flavor perception comes through the nose**. You approach and nose the spirit gently, very gently, or you'll get burned. Some people nose spirits one after the other and then with both nostrils. **Take your nose away from the top of the glass after each evaluation**. Try to believe your brain, believe the first thing you smell, then repeat it and other layers will uncover slowly. What you're trying to do is identify any familiar smells.

### BE AWARE

that over time you will become acclimatized to the smell and it can be harder to detect new characteristics. Give your nose a break, get some fresh air and you are good to go again.

### TASTE / FLAVOUR / PALATE

**There are 4 commonly acknowledged primary tastes** in the Western civilization, 5 with the addition of umami. That's **sweet, sour, salty, bitter and savory (umami)**.

### DISTILLATION BRINGS OUT THE WIDEST VARIETY OF FLAVOURS:

METALLIC	~	copper, iron
HERBAL	~	lemon, tea, artichoke, spearmint, mint
FRUITY	~	banana, olives, almonds, cherry, pear, apple, grapefruit, lime
SPICES	~	anise, pepper, cloves, cinnamon
FLORAL	~	roses, orange, blossoms



**AGEING** brings out flavors depending on the wood: Wood, vanilla, chocolate, caramel, coffee, sherry, soy... the flavors what are they?- Strong or weak? Clean or musty? Herbal? Woody? Floral? Chemical? Fruity? Spicy?

### NOW LET'S HAVE A TASTE!

Take a small sip - **immerse your taste buds** - let it roll over your tongue, around the sides of your tongue, all over your mouth. Savor

Take note of the 'mouth-feel'. The **mouth-feel** refers to both the texture and the intensity of the spirit. It describes the 'weight' or 'thickness' and can vary from a very light, thin, dry, fresh sensation, through creamy and warm to very thick, heavy, rich and full.

### FINISH

The finish refers to the length of time the taste of a spirit lingers in your mouth when you've swallowed it. The length of the finish can be described as being short, medium or long.

The best spirits will have a lingering and enjoyable finish. In contrast, the finish of a bad spirit will often present unpleasant surprises.

To fully understand and analyze each spirit, you will want to repeat the whole process a few times. With each sip you'll notice smells and tastes you may have missed the first time around.

<https://flaviar.com>

