



## 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. “Slainte.”*

In this issue I look at the Balvenie 17 year old “Peated Cask.” Okay, some of you may be shocked that Balvenie have made a “peated” whisky, however, this is not their first such dram. There was a previous bottling called “The Islay Cask”, which proved very popular. This Balvenie is finished in casks that had previously held an unreleased experimental heavily-peated Balvenie distilled in 2001. So this Whisky is not peated itself, but gets its peat/smoke from the previous occupant of the casks.

I got to try the 17 year old recently in Sacramento when Lorne Cousin (the Balvenie West Coast, USA ambassador) enlightened us with his knowledge, humor and piping.

This is an excellent whisky, thank you Lorne for some great piping and an insight into the Balvenie range.

I’ll be happy to add this to my growing single malt collection, which by the way, is for drinking with friends. I don’t adhere to collecting as an investment. I don’t have the discipline or desire to have great Whiskies in the house and not drink them.

### Tasting Notes;

**Nose** - Apricots, raisins, honey & light peat smoke

**Palate** - Creamy toffee & smoky pepper

**Finish** - Long, with fruit & spice

*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](http://www.scot-talks.com)*

*“Slainte Mhath”*

*Paul Bissett*





## Confused?

Even regular whisky drinkers would admit that choosing a whisky can be complicated/confusing/frustrating. The selection is huge, running into many thousands, so where to start?

You see a whisky that has a nice label and say I'll have a &^%\*\$#. Yes, even pronouncing the name can be a roadblock!! Well it doesn't have to be. There are a number of websites that can help you master those strange looking names; for instance;

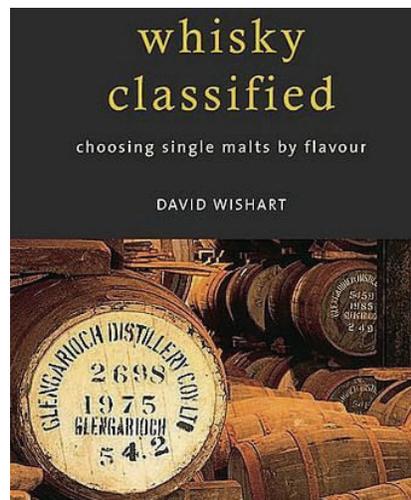
<http://www.dcs.ed.ac.uk/home/jhb/whisky/pronounc.html>

OK, so now you can pronounce the names correctly and the guy next you in the bar is impressed and starts talking in depth about whisky and you are lost with the arcane terminology. What now? Don't worry, help is at hand. As outlined on page 4 of this newsletter. Balvenie has a whisky academy;

[http://www.thebalvenie.com/en-us/whisky\\_academy.php](http://www.thebalvenie.com/en-us/whisky_academy.php), that explains all you need to know to discuss whisky. The 35 videos are free and you can watch them as many times as you like.

Clustering whiskies by regions (Speyside, Islay, Highland, Lowland) doesn't always work. Single Malt whiskies aren't like wine; two distilleries, a stones throw apart can produce entirely different flavors in their whiskies.

If you are new to whisky, have a friend help you. Hopefully they can let you taste some of their favorites. Once you have found one that you like, the flavor map on page 3 may show you whiskies with similar flavors. There are also a number of books available that group together similar whiskies by flavor, such as "*Whisky Classified*" (choosing single malts by flavor) by David Wishart.

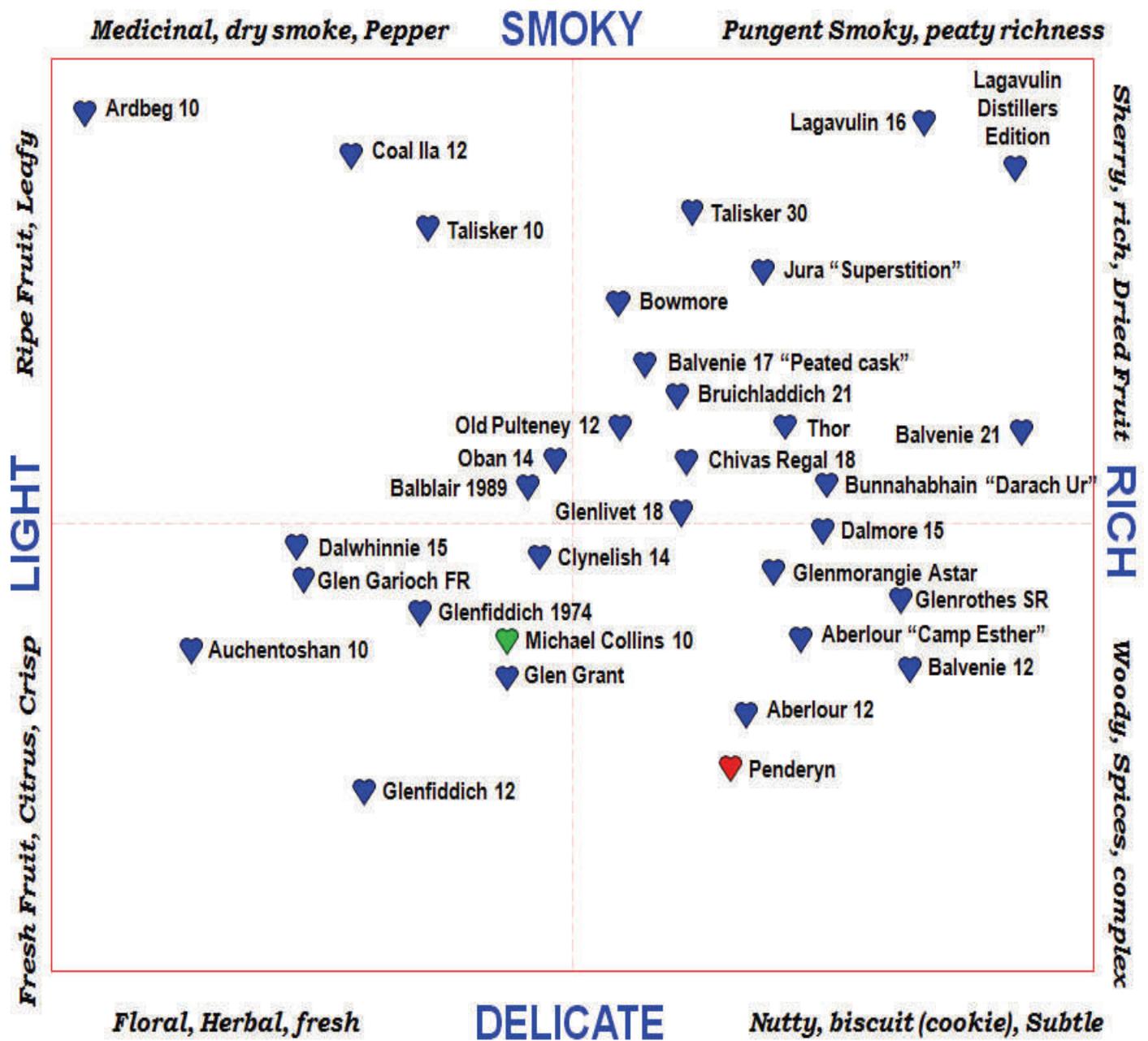


Whisky and friendship gang together."

Robert Burns



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. With each issue of the newsletter I will add in another Whisky to the flavor map. This Issue; **Balvenie 17 year old "Peated Cask."** For more information on Balvenie whiskies go to <http://www.thebalvenie.com>



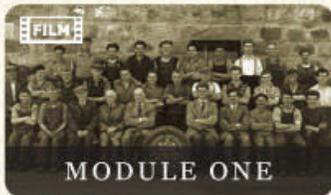


Welcome to The Balvenie Whisky Academy. Learn all about malt whisky in our course of 35 films brought to you by leading industry experts. Join us in Warehouse 24 and watch as many times as you like.



REGISTER NOW

LOGIN TO WAREHOUSE 24



MODULE ONE

THE HISTORY OF SCOTCH MALT WHISKY

Renowned whisky writer, Charles MacLean begins this module with the origins of distillation. We then follow the development of Scotch Malt Whisky through to the modern day.



MODULE TWO

SCOTCH MALT WHISKY PRODUCTION

From barley to bottle, we take an in-depth look at how Single Malt Scotch Whisky is made, with expert producers from the whisky industry and The Balvenie Distillery.



MODULE THREE

WHISKY NITTY-GRITTY

In this module, we answer some of the most commonly asked whisky questions ~ including a fascinating interrogation of whisky bottle labels.



MODULE FOUR

NOSING AND TASTING

A module about aroma and flavour, the science behind our ability to detect subtle variations, and ways to enjoy and evaluate whiskies using our keen senses.



Take our virtual tour of whisky craft



Read the latest news from the distillery



Review our full range and tasting notes



Create your own online Whisky Shelf

The Balvenie  Distillery Co.



## Glasgow gets a whisky club for women

(Recent article in the Herald, Scotland)

Historically it's always been a bit of a man's world, but now Glasgow is about to get its own women-only whisky club – thought to be the first of its kind in the city.

The exclusive organization is being launched by 29-year-old Geraldine Murphy, assistant manager of the city's Pot Still bar, who hopes the club will attract female whisky enthusiasts.

The club has scheduled its first meeting for the start of next month in the Pot Still. Already 11 women have signed up for the society, membership of which costs £50 per year.

Ms Murphy said: "The first meeting is going to be on August 1 and at that we have Rachel Barrie, the master blender from Auchentoshan distillery, coming to speak to us. Then, hopefully, the plan for the next couple of months is to go and visit Auchentoshan distillery, or go to whisky festivals that are on as well. It will depend on what the girls in the club would like. I'm open to what they want to do as well."

The idea of establishing a female-only whisky club was to create a relaxed environment where women could come and find out more about the science behind the dram.

"I felt that the Pot Still in general has a very guy-heavy client base," said Ms Murphy. "For females who are not so sure about whisky but who are interested in it, I think in general it's quite intimidating to come in and ask questions. I thought a female-only environment would be easier and a lot more relaxed for them to not feel like they were asking silly questions."

Kerry Coubrough, a 33-year-old whisky enthusiast who has already signed up to the club, thinks it will provide an opportunity for women to find out about the drink.

She said: "Women can feel a bit shy. If it was a club for men and women I think some women would feel intimidated, because a lot of women don't know that much about whisky, so I think they would be shy about coming forward and asking questions.

"I have an interest in whisky, and when I heard Geraldine was setting up her own women-only whisky society I thought that was a fantastic idea because a lot of women think whisky is for men – that it's a man thing – which it's really not. It's just fascinating. There's a lot more to whisky than just drinking it."

To read the full article, go to <http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/home-news/glasgow-gets-a-whisky-club-for-women.18188000>