



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 a whisky from the Speyside region of Scotland, the Aultmore 12-year-old single malt whisky, one of Dewar's "The Last Great Malts range" which was launched in 2014.

Dewar's is a subsidiary of Bacardi and more usually produces whisky for blends).

This 12-year-old from Aultmore is their first release of a single malt from the distillery in a number of years and is elegant, light and fruity and in my opinion does not need any water added.

This whisky is non-chill-filtered and is bottled at 46% abv.

I just found out an unusual factoid, the distillery is located in splendid isolation on the route which runs from the fishing port of Buckie to the town of Keith and when drinking locally, you would never ask for an Aultmore, but for 'a dram of the Buckie road'.

So what do I think of it and would I buy it? I like it a lot, it is a nice light summer whisky, I think the price point is a little high when compared to some other 12-year-olds, but I would buy one for my bar.

You can buy Aultmore 12-year-old for around \$50.00 a bottle.

Tasting Notes

Nose - Green apple & pear

Palate - Citrus & pear

Finish - Cream & lemon

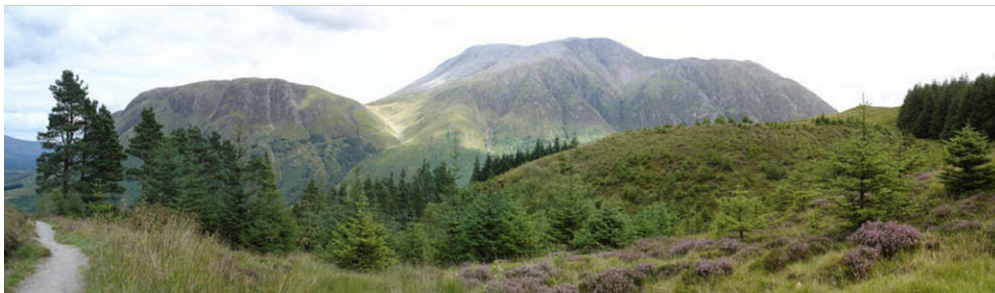


"Slainte Mhath"

Paul Bissett



Ben Nevis



Ben Nevis (Scottish Gaelic: *Beinn Nibheis*) is the highest mountain in the British Isles. It is located at the western end of the Grampian Mountains in the Lochaber area of Scotland, close to the town of Fort William and is affectionately known as 'The Ben.'

Ben Nevis attracts an estimated 125,000 complete and a further 100,000 partial ascents per year, most of which are made by walkers using the well-constructed Mountain track (pony track) from Glen Nevis on the south side of the mountain. For climbers and mountaineers the main attraction lies in the 700-metre (2,300 ft) high cliffs of the north face. Among the highest cliffs in the United Kingdom, they harbor some of the best scrambles and rock climbs at all levels of difficulty, and are one of the principal locations in the UK for ice climbing.

The summit, at 1,344 meters (4,408 ft) above sea level, unusually for a mountain in Scotland, features the ruins of a building, an observatory, which was permanently staffed from 1883 until its closure in 1904.

The Origins of the Name

The name, 'Ben Nevis,' is from the Gaelic, '*Beinn Nibheis*.' While '*beinn*' is a common Gaelic word for 'mountain' the word '*nibheis*' is understood to have several meanings and is commonly translated as 'malicious' or 'venomous' therefore giving the meaning of 'Venomous (or malicious) mountain.'

Another interpretation of the name Ben Nevis, is that it derives from *beinn nàmh-bhathais*, from the word *nàmh* meaning 'heavens (or clouds)' and *bathais* meaning 'top of a man's head.' This would therefore translate literally as, 'the mountain with its head in the clouds' although this is sometimes also given as the more poetic, 'mountain of heaven.'

<http://ben-nevis.com/index.php>



Earn A Whisky Degree at These Schools



Ciarán o'Donovan leads the class at Middleton Irish Whiskey Academy.

As more whisky lovers move from recreational drinking to educational drinking, distilleries have become ivory towers of whisky erudition. There is simply no better way to learn about whisky than observing a shimmering copper pot still, inhaling the heavenly smell of a barrel warehouse, and interacting with the individuals who craft our favorite spirit. Most distilleries are happy to show you around and pour you a dram or two, but a select few go above and beyond, offering immersive educational experiences that help to truly elevate your knowledge, and may even land you a dream job—making whisky, of course.

UNDERGRADUATE

Mississippi River Distilling Whiskey School

Length of study: 1.5 days

Tuition: \$2,000 (for two)

Mississippi River Distilling hosts a whiskey school weekend each spring, with the next session scheduled for March 2018. Learn about the history of whiskey, along with its production and even consumption as you learn to mix classic cocktails. Tickets are sold in pairs and include overnight accommodations, as well as all food and drink—not to mention six bottles of Cody Road whiskey to help encourage your continued hands-on educational efforts at home.



Earn A Whisky Degree at These Schools

MASTER'S

Middleton Irish Whiskey Academy

Length of study: 2 days

Tuition: €1199 (\$1,350)

The Irish Whiskey Academy at the Middleton Distillery in County Cork, Ireland, offers a two-day Enthusiast Academy, replete with five-star accommodations and a bespoke bottle to take home with your completion certificate. Follow the whiskey step-by-step from raw materials to maturation, and get hands-on with blending and bottling, all while enjoying several premium tasting sessions. The Enthusiast Academy is offered twice per year, while a single day Discoverer package is offered monthly for €350 (\$400), and a three-hour Academy Experience is offered on an ongoing basis for €95 (\$110).

Spirit of Speyside Whisky School

Length of study: 3 days

Tuition: £600 (\$775)

Held in conjunction with the popular annual Spirit of Speyside festival, this whisky school takes place at the Knockando Distillery and features a diverse lineup of lecturers from across the whisky industry as well as from the Institute of Brewing and Distilling. Come ready to earn your diploma; with only sixteen slots available for the robust three-day curriculum, this is for serious whisky students. School is in session from April 30 to May 2, 2018, just prior to the start of the festival, allowing you to enjoy plenty of celebratory drams in the days following graduation.

DOCTORATE

Springbank Whisky School

Length of study: 5 days

Tuition: £1,200 (\$1,550)

The production team at Springbank Distillery are your professors for a full five-day school week. Springbank's comprehensive approach includes floor malting and bottling, so you get hands-on with every part of the process. Pay attention: there will be a test. Following a final session with 50-year industry veteran Frank McHardy, you'll need to pass it to earn your degree—there's no coasting by at Springbank. Pricing includes nearby accommodations and daily lunch. The school is held weekly from mid-May to the start of July.



Earn A Whisky Degree at These Schools



Me, working at the Springbank whisky school

Strathearn Distillery Five-Day Whisky School

Length of study: 5 days

Tuition: £840 (\$1,085)

[Enroll here](#)

Learning each step of their production process at Strathearn Distillery means being an active part of the team. Show some ambition and who knows how far you'll go: current distiller and master of wood David Hogg attended the school before landing his gig. Having helped with everything from mashing to cask filling, you'll have earned your own 2-liter cask of whisky in addition to your certificate. Shorter three-day (£390/\$500) and single-day (£145/\$190) programs are also available.

Prices are approximate. Visit the distillery school website for current pricing and details.

I wrote about the Springbank whisky school in September 2016 (issue 141), if you are into whisky and want to visit Scotland, this is ideal. I can't explain how highly I rate the Springbank school, it's off the charts. If I thought that my wife Tracey wouldn't shoot me, I'd go back and do another class.....Just do it!