



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 Aerstone 10-year-old "Sea Cask", which was given to me by my son at Christmas.

I have been after a taste of this one and its brother the "Land cask" ever since they were released a few years ago by William Grant and Sons (Glenfiddich) from their Ailsa Bay distillery down on the South West coast. It wasn't readily available over here in the USA, but is starting to appear in some stores now, so receiving this was a timely reminder to look again.

The name "Sea Cask" comes from the whisky maturing in warehouses by the sea, which is meant to give a touch of salt on the finish. I say meant to, because I can't detect it, but maybe after 23 years in the Navy my nose and taste-buds have been overloaded with salt?

Had I been given a blind taste of this I believe I would have said that it was a young Glenfiddich, and that is a comparison that stands in its favor. So, would I buy it? Yes I would, it's not only cheap, but nice, if a little young.

[You can buy Aerstone 10-year-old for around \\$35.00 a bottle.](#)

Tasting Notes

Nose - Toffee, shortbread & cinnamon.

Palate - Green apples & pears.

Finish - Sweet Citrus & cinnamon.

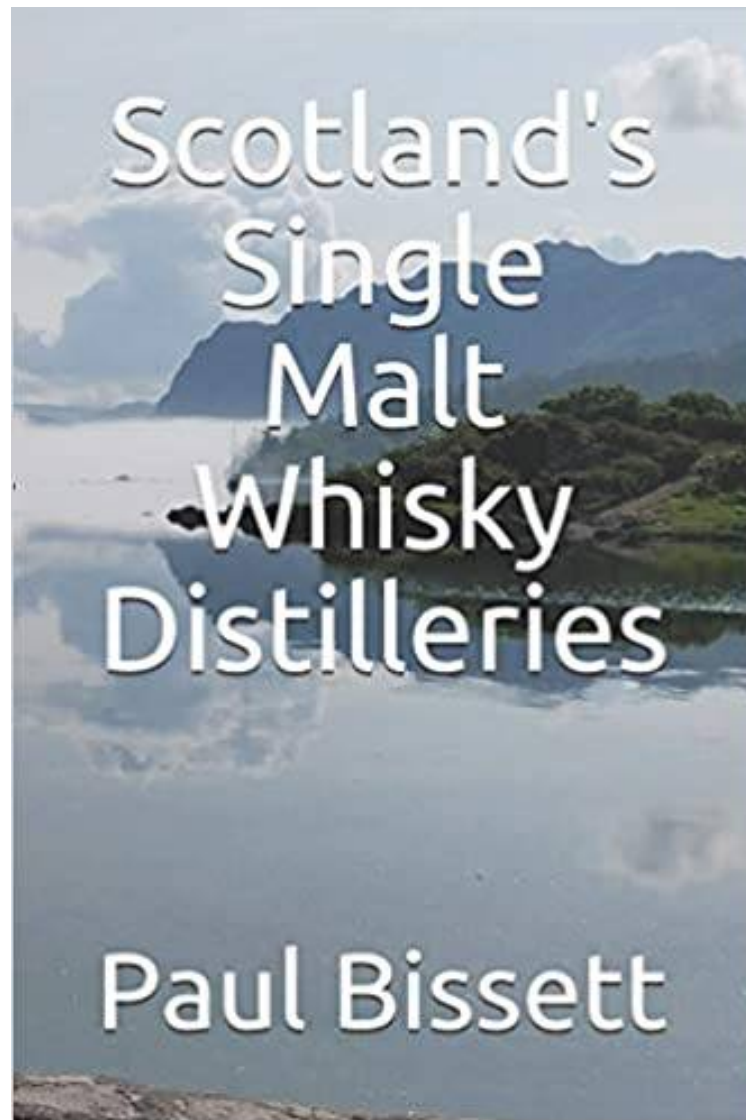
"Slainte Mhath"

Paul Bissett



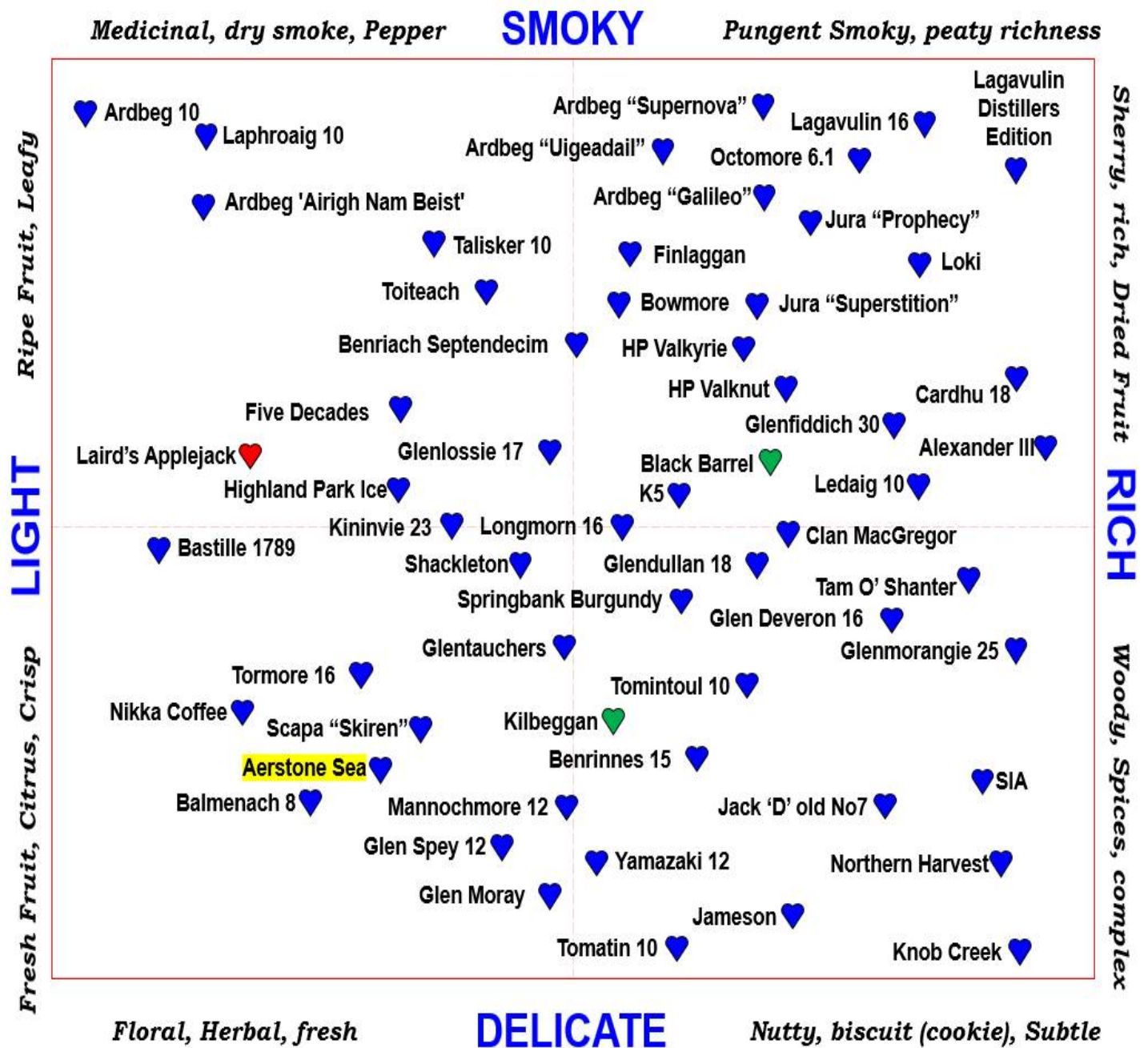


Scotland's Single Malt Whisky Distilleries





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; [Aerstone 10-year-old "Sea Cask."](#) For more information on Glenfiddich whiskies go to www.glenfiddich.com.





Why this book

www.amazon.com

One of the many must do items, on a tourist's list when visiting Scotland is a visit to a Whisky distillery. Which distillery though? Are there any in the area that you want to visit? Do you have a personal favorite whisky?

Is there more than one distillery close by?

Do they have a visitor center, do they do tours, are they even open to the public?

Are they known for smoky or fruity whiskies?

These are the questions I have tried to answer with this book, as well as giving you my opinion on a whisky from each distillery.

Prices quoted are what I see them for, but obviously prices will vary state to state, country to country.

What do I know?

I have been presenting whiskies throughout California, Nevada, and Oregon for the last ten years.

During that time, I have visited several distilleries in Scotland. I have also spent a week at the Springbank Whisky School in Campbeltown, Scotland, working on all aspects of whisky making, from malting the barley to bottling and packaging the whisky.

I have tasted and written about whisky from every malt whisky distillery currently producing whisky in Scotland, that have done a general release of their whiskies.

I have now written 6 books on whisky (all available on Amazon.com.)

Final word

If my opinion on any whisky does not match your opinion, please remember that we all have different tastes and this book is meant as a guide and not the definitive word on Scotch (if such a thing is even possible).

The following pages are some examples from the book.



Aberfeldy

Pronunciation: Ab-er-feldy.

Name Origin: Named after the town of Aberfeldy (Scottish Gaelic - Obar Pheallaidh).

Established: 1898.

Location: Near the town of Aberfeldy.

Region: Highland.

Visitor Center/Tours: Go to website for information.

Website: www.dewars.com

Whisky Review (my thoughts):

A review of their 12-year-old single malt:

The distillery and its whisky may not be immediately known to you, as the distillery was built in 1898 to supply the whisky needed for Dewars "White Label" and that is predominantly where it went. In fact, the bottling of the 12-year-old Aberfeldy only began in 1999.

The whisky is aged in American oak ex-bourbon casks only, so although there is fruit on the nose and palate, it is not sherried fruit like you would get on, say, a Balvenie.

This is an easy drinking whisky with nice notes of vanilla and fruit with a little hint of smoke at the finish, which gets a little more evident with each glass, a great whisky for the price.

You can buy Aberfeldy 12-year-old for around \$40.00 a bottle.

Tasting Notes

Nose - Ripe fruit, honey & peat.

Palate - Fig, peach, vanilla, honey & a hint of smoke.

Finish - Malt, fruit, with a hint of citrus & smoke.



Abhainn Dearg

Pronunciation: Aveen Jarraek.

Name Origin: Gaelic - "Red River."

Established: 2008.

Location: In Uig, on the Outer Hebrides island of Lewis.

Region: Island.

Visitor Center/Tours: Go to website for information.

Website: www.abhainndearg.co.uk

Whisky Review (my thoughts):

A review of their 10-year-old Single Malt:

This one is a little unusual in a number of ways, not least the hint of mint, which I have only ever tasted in one other Whisky (a very rare Glenfiddich) and to my surprise, no peat or smoke.

The distillery started in the 1850s and only ran for two years, then was restarted in 2008. The distillery is also the most remote Scottish distillery, located as it is, on the isle of Lewis.

So, would I buy it? Yes, I would, but at the moment you can only get it in the UK, that includes the internet, they will only mail it to UK addresses. The distillery is small with a small output, hopefully that will change as they become better known.

You can buy Abhainn Dearg Single Malt for around \$65.00 a bottle.

Tasting Notes

Nose - Mint, vanilla & citrus.

Palate - Mint, ginger & oak.

Finish - Mint, herbal & oak.



Ailsa Bay (Girvan Distillery)

Pronunciation: Ailsa-Bay.

Name Origin: Named for the bay, in which the island "Ailsa Craig" sits.

Established: 2007.

Location: Girvan.

Region: Lowland.

Visitor Center/Tours: None.

Website: www.ailsabay.com

Whisky Review (my thoughts):

I now look at Ailsa Bay single malt scotch Whisky. Master Blender Brian Kinsman has the Ailsa Bay whisky go through a 'micro maturation', where the new make spirit is first aged in small bourbon casks for six to nine months, for a rapid, intense maturation, prior to being matured in standard sized casks.

As well as showing the Phenols (smoke) PPM (Parts Per Million) on the bottle Ailsa Bay, also shows the SPPM: Sweet Parts Per Million, this is the first whisky to do so.

I tasted this whisky in the Corbie Inn, in Bo'ness, Scotland at a whisky tasting evening, and I was impressed.

If you get your hands on a bottle, you may be surprised as to how heavy the cork is, the top is made from stone from the island of Ailsa Craig, using the same stone, that is used to make Curling stones.

Would I buy it? If I could, it is not currently available in the USA.

You can buy Ailsa Bay for around \$75.00 a bottle.

Tasting Notes

Nose - Sweet smoke & caramel apple.

Palate - Fruit, peat & vanilla caramel.

Finish - Sweet peat.