



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.

In this issue I look at Ardbeg Uigeadail. Named after the distillery's unique water source, Ardbeg Uigeadail was recently named "World Whisky of the Year" by Jim Murray's *Whisky Bible*.

"From the utter silky brilliance of the delivery to the multi-layered middle, this simply oozes complexity, and on a level only a handful of Distilleries in the world can even dream of reaching."
— *The Whisky Bible*

I have to say that I have found myself at odds with Mr. Murray over the years as to his choice of "World Whisky of the Year." I don't wish to argue with this choice as I like this whisky a great deal. Are there better whiskies out there, very possibly, and taste is subjective. I don't mind some guidance when looking to buy whisky, but I don't believe that anyone has the authority or depth of experience to say which whisky is the best in the world. One of the best, sure why not, I can live with that.

You can buy Ardbeg Uigeadail for around \$85.00 a bottle.

Tasting Notes;

Nose - Peat, smoke & coffee

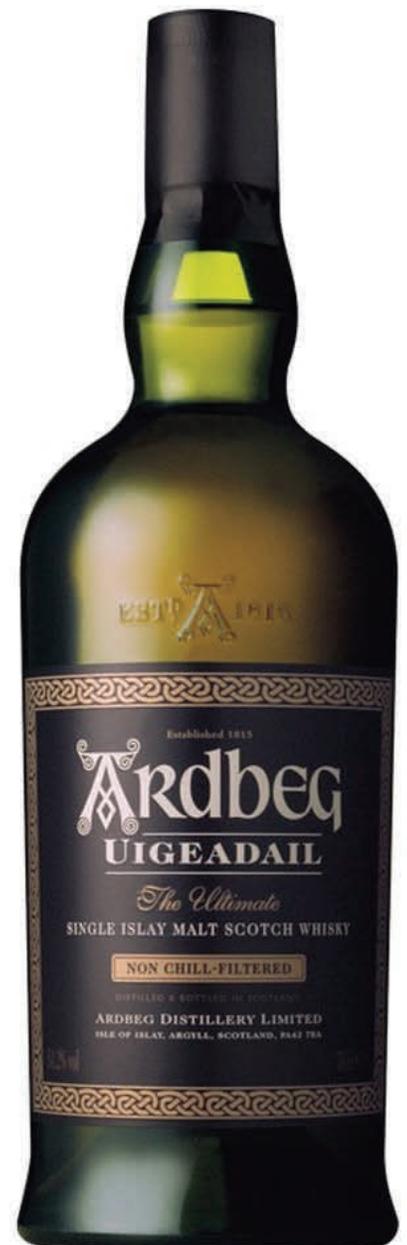
Palate - Ripe fruit, Peat & smoke

Finish - Caramel, coffee, Peat & smoke

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





Clans

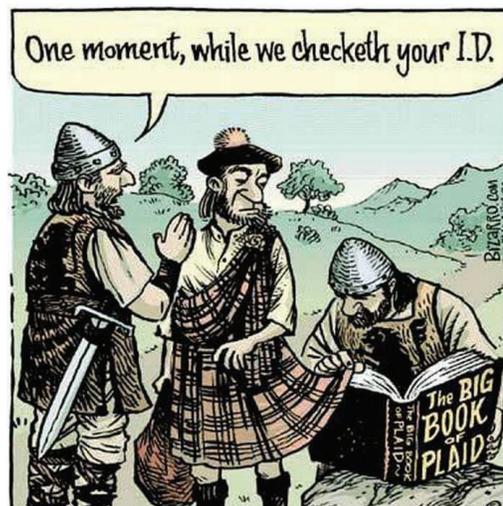
www.visitscotland.com/en-us/about/ancestry/clans

Few aspects of Scotland's fascinating history were as colorful, or as bloody, as the clan system. From ancient origins in the Celtic, Norse or Norman-French traditions, by the 13th century, the clans had grown firm roots in the Highlands of Scotland. While the term 'clan' means family or children in Gaelic, not everyone in the same clan was actually related to each other. The clans lived off the land, with cattle being their main source of wealth and, along with border disputes, the prime cause of inter-clan unrest. The most important clan chiefs at this time were part-kings, part-protectorates and part-judges and they held real power over their controlled lands.

The system remained largely intact until the time of the bloody Battle of Culloden in 1746, where the Jacobite rebellion was mercilessly crushed by the royal troops of King George II.

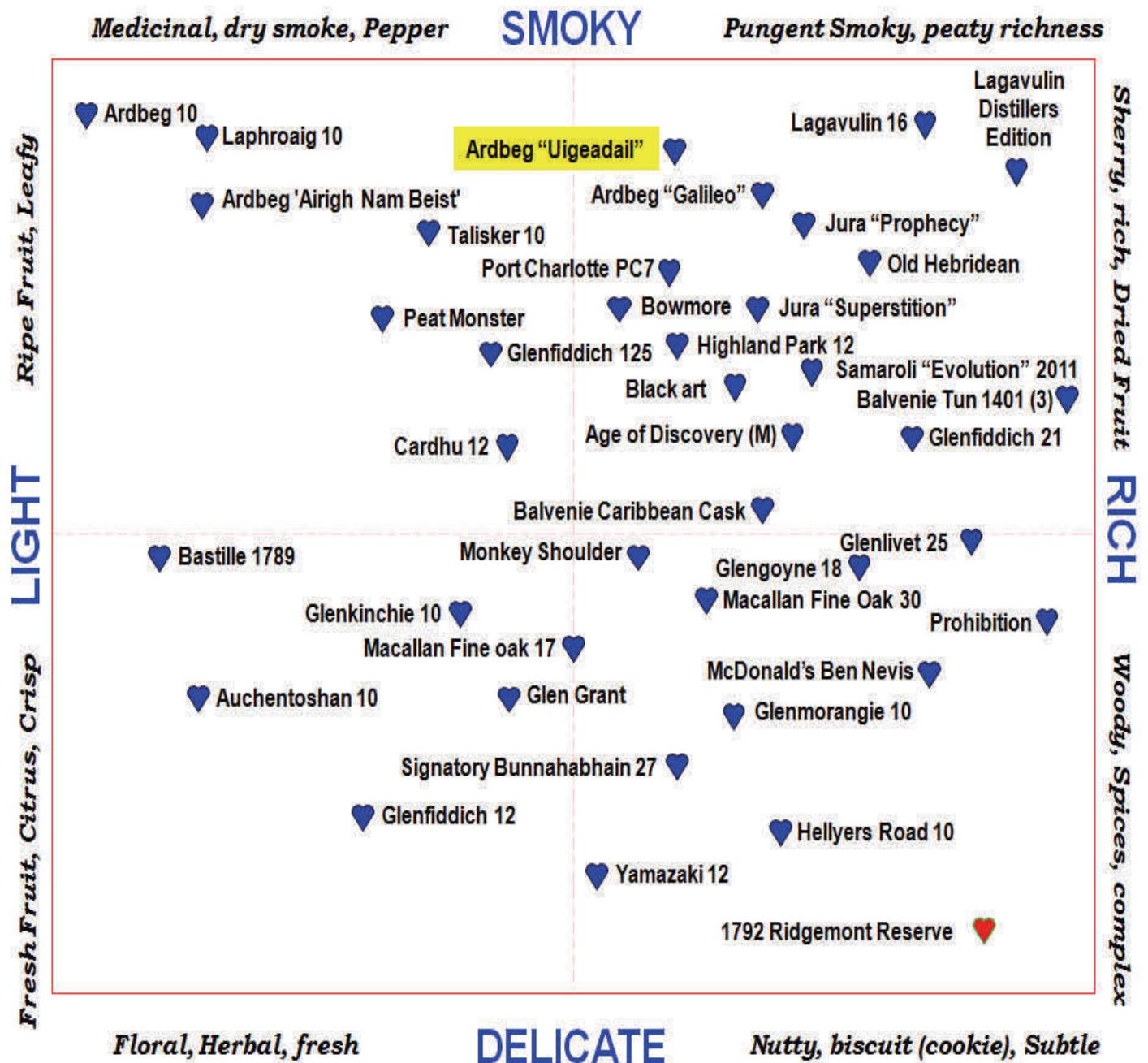
By this point, improved trade and communication links between northern and southern clans were already leading to the dilution of the clan system and the infamous Highland Clearances effectively signaled the end as thousands of Scottish land workers sought the promise of a better life on distant shores.

Today, many clans can be traced back to a specific part of Scotland, for example the MacLeods of Skye, the MacNeils of Barra or the MacNabs of St Fillan on Loch Earn. If you have ancestral ties and a clan history in Scotland, a trip to your clan's homeland is an incomparable and moving experience like no other.





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; Ardbeg Uigeadail For more information go to <http://www.ardbeg.com/ardbeg>





The 10 Best Scotch whiskies (Independent newspaper UK)

<http://www.independent.co.uk/life-style/food-and-drink/features/the-10-best-scotch-whiskies-8466014.html>

As I said on page one, taste is subjective and here we have a list of top whiskies from the internet, one of many I might add. Most whisky magazines/newspapers/industry people/book writers/bloggers will give you their thoughts on what the best whisky is. I do something similar, but in my January newsletter I give you the best whiskies I have tasted in the last year, I don't say that they are the best in the world. By all means take some guidance from so called experts (like me), but just because someone else likes it, doesn't mean to say you will. I can agree with 3 of this lists recommendations, as they have appeared in my top 10 in the last few years, that would be numbers 2, 7 and 9.

1. Talisker aged 18 years

£58.16, masterofmalt.com

Talisker is fiery stuff that tastes like it's been made by the sea, and with good reason. It's the only distillery on the Isle of Skye and sits right on the beach of Loch Harport.

2. Lagavulin aged 16 years

£48, waitrose.com

After a glass or two of this you'll feel as though you've been drinking a whisky-fuelled bonfire on a beach. Its rich and peaty notes blend perfectly with a peppery smokiness.

3. Bruichladdich The Laddie Ten

£35, bruichladdich.com

Rémy Cointreau bought this Hebridean distillery last year and its unpeated Laddie Ten is a perfect antidote to the usual Islay spirits.

4. Laphroaig 10 years old

£33.50, tesco.com

Laphroaig has a full body and a fearsome reputation but it's surprisingly sweet with hints of salt and layers of peatiness in this 10-year-old vintage.

5. Ledaig aged 10 years

£28.99, shop4whisky.com

From Tobermory on the Isle of Mull, this whisky is a truly medicinal tippie. Sweet and peaty on the nose, it has a rounded and smoky flavor with a long, peppery finish.



The 10 Best Scotch whiskies *cont.*

6. Macallan Gold

£34.97, asda.com

James Bond drinks this stuff so it must be good. Right? Regardless of the product placement, this gets a hearty recommendation for its sweet molasses taste.

7. Old Pulteney aged 12 years

£23.95, thewhiskyexchange.com

This distillery in Wick turns out excellent whiskies. Perfect with seafood, it has a complex nose of green apples and spices.

8. Glenlivet 12 years of age

£25, sainsburys.co.uk

You could drink this smooth Speyside all night long. It's light with a straw-like color and a hint of cherry on the tongue. And it's not too malty, either.

9. Dalwhinnie 15 years old

£45.99, thewhiskyshop.com

Dalwhinnie's distillery is the highest in Scotland. It turns out a balanced malt with a sherry character and just a hint of silky honey and Highland heather.

10. Caol Ila aged 12 years

£36.15, waitrose.com

Fresh and sweet Caol Ila is a straw-colored Islay whisky for the drinker who likes complex flavors. It has a fruity nose of clean, crisp flavors before a salty and a peaty kick.

Just so you know, my favorite whisky is the one that someone else pays for, and finally.....

**If you believe everything you read, better not read.
*Japanese Proverb***