



Object of the Newsletter

To promote the appreciation of fine 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. "Slainte."

In this issue (for St. Patrick's day) I look at Tullamore Dew 10 year old. For the first time in its 180-year history, Tullamore Dew has released a single malt whisky that is distilled just twice. (The rest of its whiskies are triple-distilled and are blends.) The rich 10-year-old is also unique in that it has been aged in casks that have previously held bourbon, sherry, Madeira, and port.

This is an easy going whisky, no overpowering flavors, the flavors are there, but not too pronounced, just rich and mellow. If you only drink Irish whisky at this time of year, you can't go wrong with this one.

Approximate cost is around \$40.00

Tasting Notes;

Nose - Malt & fruit

Palate - Rich Christmas cake

Finish - Malt & Sherry

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





A wee bit of History

The story of Tullamore Dew began in 1829 with Michael Molloy and after his death in 1887 it was left to Captain Bernard Daly. However, it was not Daly who transformed the whiskey into a competitive place in the widening Irish whiskey market, instead it was one Daniel E. Williams. Williams' initials are the source for the "Dew" in the name and this led to one of the best whiskey slogans of all time: "Give every man his Dew."

The US Prohibition and trade issues with England in the first part of the 20th Century broke many Irish whiskies and in 1963, the brand was sold to Powers and the Tullamore distillery was closed, with production moved to the New Midleton Distillery in Cork, along with Jameson, Powers, Paddy and the rest of the Irish Distillers products. The brand was purchased in 1994 by the C&C Group plc. In 2010, C&C sold Tullamore Dew to William Grant & Sons (owners of Glenfiddich, the Balvenie etc).

William Grant & Sons Ltd. announced that it planned to invest in a new, state of the art pot still whiskey and malt whiskey distillery in Tullamore town, which would bring whiskey production back to the town for the first time since the original distillery closed in 1954.

Tullamore Dew is a nice easy going whiskey that can be drank straight or with a splash of water to open it up and is also ideal for cocktails. For this try it in some of Tullamore Dew's original cocktails like the Merry Irishman and Irish Gold or in the delightful Shamrocked shooter. It also makes a wonderful Irish coffee.

Merry Irishman

Ingredients:

2 parts Tullamore Dew
1 part Kahlua coffee Liqueur
1/2 part Mint Schnapps
Candy cane for garnish



Preparation:

Mix in a rocks glass filled with ice

Irish Gold

Ingredients:

2 parts Tullamore Dew
2 parts Ginger ale
1/2 part Peach snaps
splash of Orange Juice
lime wheel for garnish

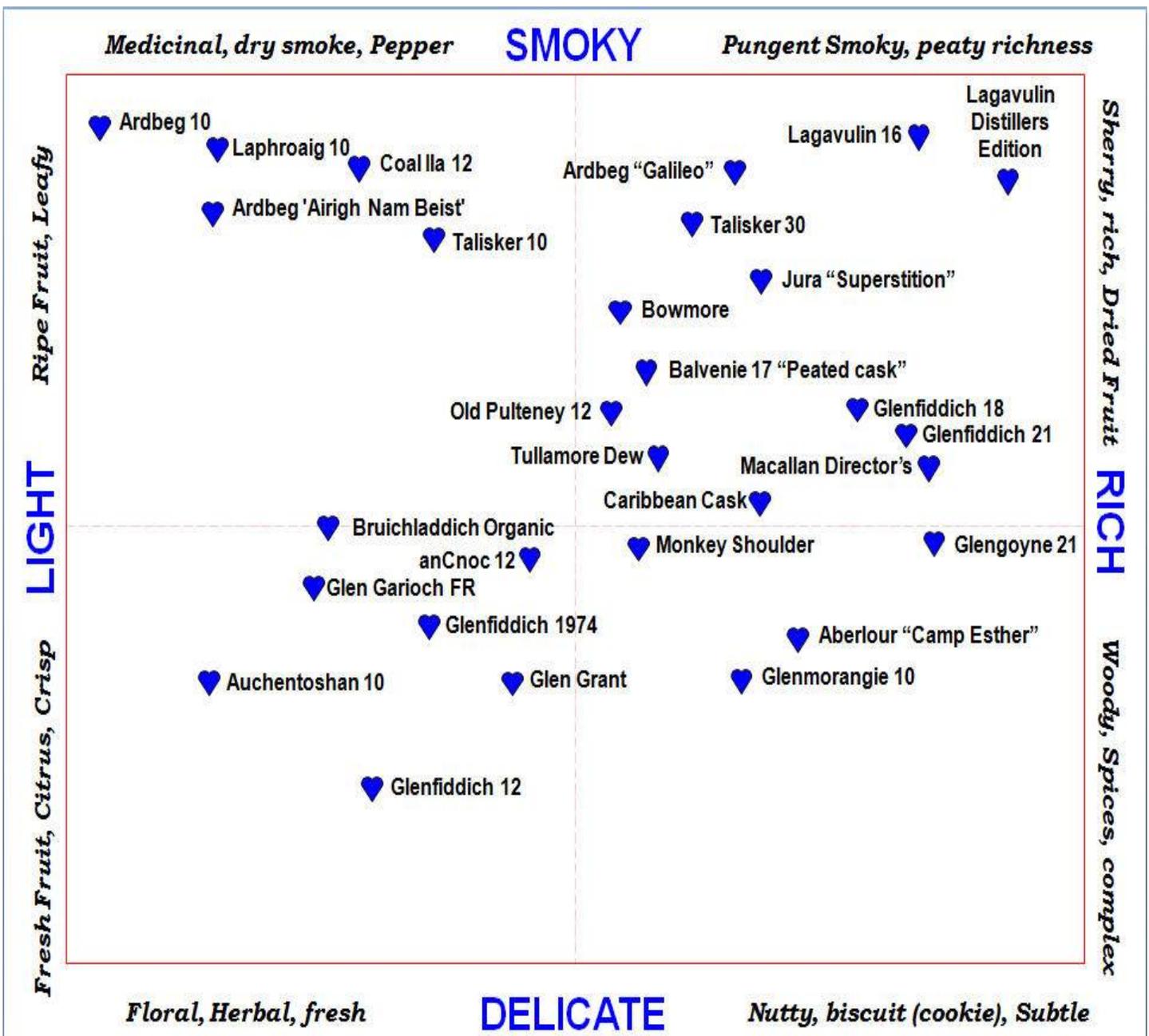


Preparation:

Mix in a Collins glass filled with ice and top off with Ginger ale. Garnish with a Lime wheel.



Below is a simple guide to help you choose your 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; Tullamore Dew 10-year-old For more information go to www.tullamoredew-usa.com





The Blarney stone

For over 200 years, world statesmen, literary giants, and legends of the silver screen have joined the millions of pilgrims climbing the steps to kiss the Blarney Stone and gain the gift of eloquence. Its powers are unquestioned but its story still creates debate.

Once upon a time, visitors had to be held by the ankles and lowered head first over the battlements. Today, we are rather more cautious of the safety of our visitors. The Stone itself is still set in the wall below the battlements. To kiss it, one has to lean backwards (holding on to an iron railing) from the parapet walk. The prize is a real one as once kissed the stone bestows the gift of eloquence.

Some say it was Jacob's Pillow, brought to Ireland by the prophet Jeremiah. Here it became the Lia Fail or 'Fatal Stone', used as an oracular throne of Irish kings – a kind of Harry Potter-like 'sorting hat' for kings. It was also said to be the deathbed pillow of St Columba on the island of Iona. Legend says it was then removed to mainland Scotland, where it served as the prophetic power of royal succession, the Stone of Destiny.

When Cormac MacCarthy, King of Munster, sent five thousand men to support Robert the Bruce in his defeat of the English at Bannockburn in 1314, a portion of the historic Stone was given by the Scots in gratitude – and returned to Ireland.

Others say it may be a stone brought back to Ireland from the Crusades – the 'Stone of Ezel' behind which David hid on Jonathan's advice when he fled from his enemy, Saul. A few claim it was the stone that gushed water when struck by Moses.

Whatever the truth of its origin, we believe a witch saved from drowning revealed its power to the MacCarthys.



Kissing the Blarney stone