



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 the Bruichladdich Black Art which I tasted at last year's "WhiskyFest" in San Francisco, which I attend with my friend David McDonald, his son Brett and my brother-in-law Ivor. This is a spectacularly good whisky, which is annoying, as I heard recently that it is no longer going to be made, so if you see it, and can afford it, buy it. If you don't like it after you buy it, invite me round to your house and I'll drink it for you.

Why is it called "Black art" my friend David McDonald found out when he tried to discuss the maturation process used on it with the hosts at the Bruichladdich table. They confessed they didn't know as the distiller (Jim McEwan) had done it in secret and refused to tell anyone, hence the name "Black art"

Not only is the bottle stunning, so is the whisky, I highly recommend it.

If you wish to know more about the Bruichladdich distillery, see issue 39.

[You can buy the Bruichladdich Black Art for around \\$370.00 a bottle.](#)

Tasting Notes;

Nose - Dried fruits, cherries, oak

Palate - Dried fruits, cherries, smoke, baked apple

Finish - Cherries, smoke, some brine

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

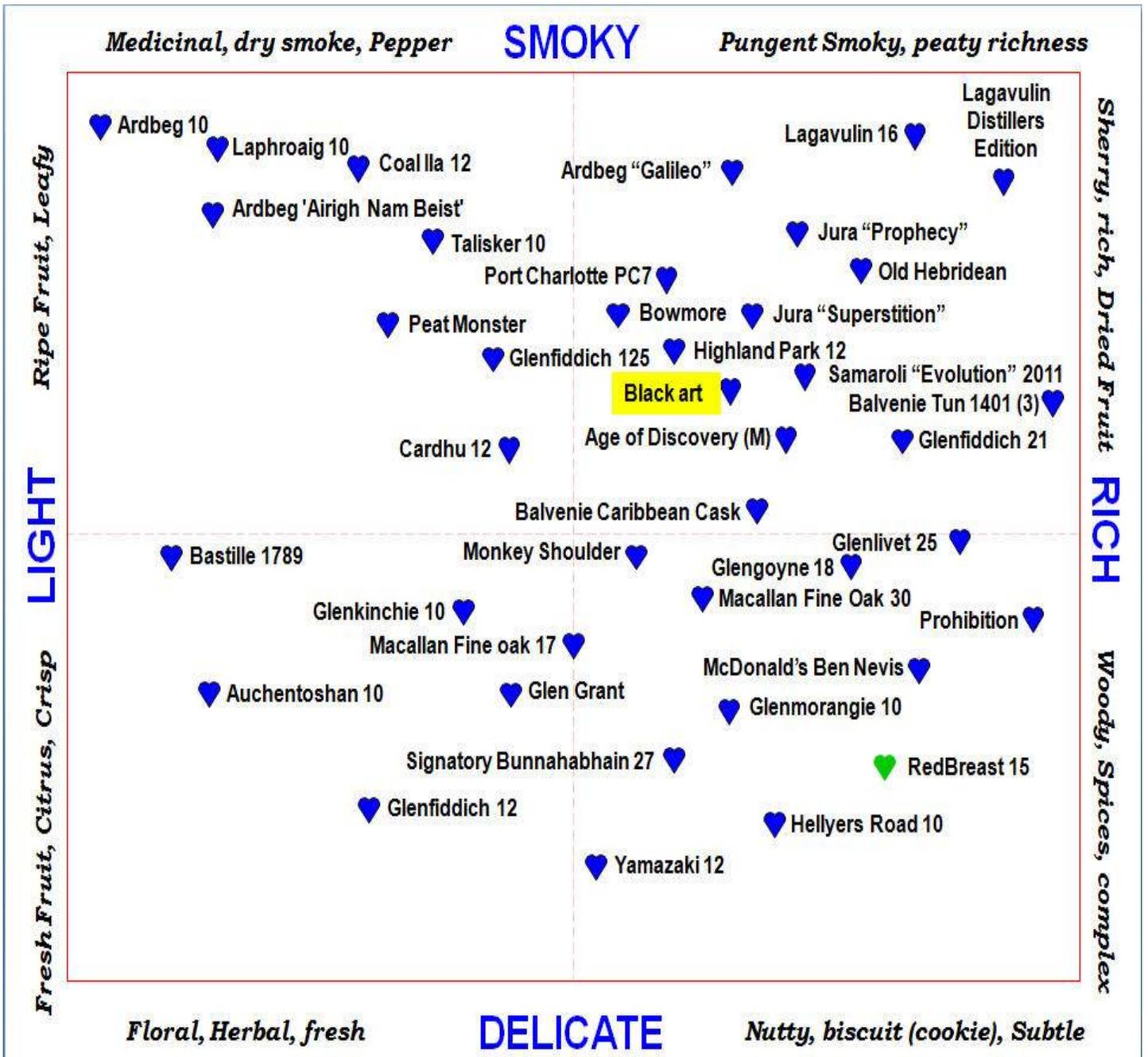




Distillery	Pronunciation	Meaning	Years active	Notes
Ardbeg	ard-bég	small headland	1815–1981, 1990–1996, 1997–	owned by Glenmorangie, some blended as <i>Wardhead</i>
Bowmore	bo-moore	great sea reef or sea rock	1779–	owned by Suntory, sells 7-year-old malt as McClelland's
Bruichladdich	broo-kladd-ee	bank on the shore	1881–1995, † 2001–	reopened as an independent distillery
Bunnahabhain	bū-na-ha-venn	mouth of the river	1880/1883–	owned by Burn Stewart, a notable part of the <i>Black Bottle</i> blend
Caol Ila	cull-eela	The Sound of Islay (between Islay & Jura)	1846–1972, † 1974–	owned by Diageo
Kilchoman	keel-choman	St. Comman's church	2005–	first all new distillery since 1881
Lagavulin	lahk-a-voolin	the hollow where the mill is	1742/1816–	owned by Diageo
Laphroaig	la-froyg	beautiful hollow by the broad bay	1815–	owned by Beam Inc.
Port Charlotte	—	named after Frederick Campbell's wife	1829–1929, 2011–	owned by Bruichladdich, Although Bruichladdich is currently bottling a peated scotch whisky under this name, the new Port Charlotte distillery is not yet built.



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; Bruichladdich Black Art. For more information go to <http://www.bruichladdich.com/>





Whisky experiences and tastings

www.visitscotland.com

Enjoyed in the company of good friends (or new ones) or sat in front of a blazing fire on a cold winter night, Scotch whisky is one of life's little pleasures. Single malts are as much for appreciation as they are for drinking. Whether you're a novice who has never tried a dram or a connoisseur of Scotland's finest single malts, being able to unlock the secrets of whisky is a skill we all have. If you can't get to an organized tasting, simply follow our 'how to' guide to become an expert.

Before you begin

The key to Scotch whisky tasting is to relate everything to your own personal experience, whether it is the color, the aromas on the nose or the taste on your palate. Each characteristic will probably prompt a memory or recollection in your head; the color of a door knob, the smell of fruit or flowers or the taste of Christmas cake.

Before you start, make sure you have a clean, tulip-shaped nosing glass and a jug of still water at room temperature to hand. Although it is more practical to drink from tumblers normally, a tulip glass traps the aromas in the bulbous bottom of the glass and is ideal for nosing.

Look

Hold your glass up against a neutral background and first appreciate the color. Scotch whisky takes on a light gold, amber or dark ochre color depending on the wood finish of the cask it is stored in and the length of time it has been aged in it.

Darker colored whisky usually indicates that it may have matured in an old Spanish sherry cask or that it is an old whisky. Lighter colors tend to tell you that your whisky was stored in old bourbon casks or that it is young single malt. When you start nosing, it will become clearer which is more likely for that particular whisky.

Swirl

Next, take your glass and give it a good swirl so that the sides are well coated. Watch and admire the legs streak down the glass. If the legs run quickly, there are lots of them, and they are quite thin then it is probably a light-bodied whisky and/or a younger whisky.

If the legs take a long time to form and then run slowly down the side of the glass, or if there are very few of them and they appear to be quite thick, then the single malt may be a heavy bodied whisky and/or an older whisky.



Cont.

Aroma

Now, the main event - sniffing. The first nose will be a sharp burst of alcohol vapors so be careful to note the strength of the whisky beforehand. Raise the glass to your nose and take short, sharp breaths. Don't just do it the one time; do it multiple times, taking the glass away and bringing it back up to your nose. Open your mouth slightly as you breathe so as to circulate and accentuate the bouquet.

This is when you should start to try and identify what you smell. There are no right or wrong answers. Again, your senses play on the familiar or life experiences, so relate to what you know. Depending on the whisky, many people say they can smell things like Marmite, gravy granules, digestive biscuits, lit matches, porridge oats, sweets, seaweed and much more.

Taste

Now, take a drink. Make sure to breath in and out through your nose while rolling the whisky over your tongue and around your mouth. As do you so, try to pick out any flavors you can remember from sniffing. Even though your tongue is doing the tasting, your nose picks up flavors. Also, before you swallow, try to think about how the whisky feels in your mouth; is it silky smooth, dry, a little syrupy or does it feel tingly on the tongue?

Particularly if it's a whisky you've never tried before, have a sip of it neat before trying it with water. The water is said to help release hidden flavors by giving the molecules and natural oils more room to move around the glass.



Borrow money from pessimists -- they don't expect it back.