



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. "Slainte."

In this issue I look at the Balvenie 14-Year-Old "Caribbean Cask." This whisky follows on from the acclaimed 2008 limited edition Balvenie 17-Year-Old Rum Cask and is so new it hasn't even appeared on their website as of writing this at the end of October.

I tasted the "Caribbean Cask" for the first time at WhiskyFest in San Francisco a few weeks ago, when I was working the Balvenie booth. The first taste is good and the second even better. This is one tasty whisky and grows on you drink by drink. I can see it having a permanent place in my drinks cabinet. For me this is the best Balvenie available for under \$70.00.

For those of you that have tried the 17-Year-Old and wonder what the difference is (apart from age). The 17-Year-Old release was matured exclusively in rum casks, whereas the 14 year is just finished in rum casks.

Tasting Notes;

Nose - Honey, vanilla, malt & raisins

Palate - Malt, raisins, toffee & spice

Finish - Malty & spicy

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





WHISKY SCHOOLS IN SCOTLAND

Note: All prices include accommodations and meals.

The Jura Fellowship

Four-day course on one of Scotland's most remote islands (Jura is a two-hour ferry ride from the mainland town of Kennacraig). Students are housed at the distillery's Jura Lodge, which opened last year and features eclectic interiors—vintage fridges, gazelle antlers, Bakelite phones—by Parisian interior designer Bambi Sloan. The course includes three dinners with tastings and the option of having the distillery age a cask of single malt you help bring to the barrel stage.

44-149/682-0385; www.isleofjura.com; \$2,000 per person.

Springbank Whisky School

Weeklong program at a still-operating 1828 distillery in Campbelltown, a historic whisky town (it was home to more than 30 distilleries in its 19th-century heyday) on the Mull of Kintyre. Unlike most producers, Springbank malts all of its own barley, and it also does all of its bottling on-site. Students are put up at nearby Feorlin Guest House, a six-room bungalow owned by a local couple.

44-158/655-2009; www.springbankdistillers.com; \$1,750 per person.

Bruichladdich Academy

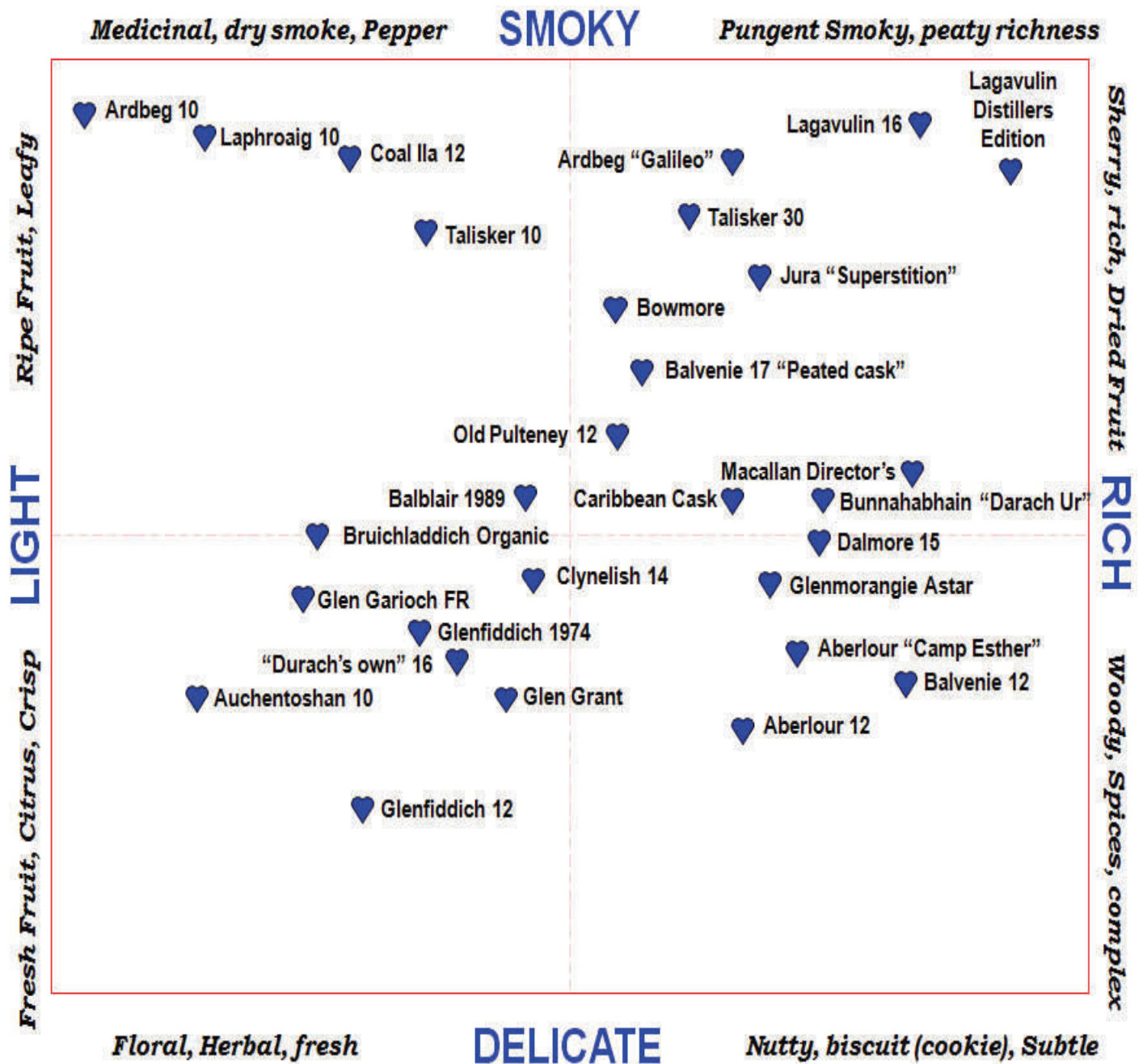
Three-day course at a seaside distillery on the Isle of Islay that also includes evening trips to the pub, live folk-music performances, and informal talks on local history. Face time with the operators in charge of each step of the whisky-making process is a main thrust of the program. Basic accommodations are provided (for four nights) at the recently refurbished Distillery House.

44-149/685-0221; www.bruichladdich.com; \$1,600 per person.

The above information was correct at time of writing.



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; Balvenie 14 year old Caribbean cask For more information go to <http://www.thebalvenie.com>





I THOUGHT I WAS IRISH!

Now that the presidential election is behind us, I thought I'd put this article into my newsletter that I found some time ago. Not for any political reason, just because it's funny.

Former U.S. President Ronald Reagan flew out of Scotland today – leaving a trail of wisecracks in his wake.

On a whistle-stop tour, he rediscovered his Scottish roots and left guests at a high society banquet rolling in the aisles.

On ancestry, he said: “Someone once said it cost very little to trace your ancestors to Scotland, but it costs a fortune to keep it quiet. Why pay money to have your family tree traced when you can go into politics and your opponents will do it for you?”

On history – Reagan's forebears emigrated to America from Nova Scotia – he said “Like other immigrants at that time, they were given a horse, a plough, and land. And two tickets to Frank Sinatra's first farewell concert.”

On literature and whisky: “Robert Burns, freedom and whisky go together.” Mark Twain said “too much of anything is bad – but too much whisky is barely enough.”

The former president fired the gags at a banquet of aristocrats and whisky industry chiefs at Blair Castle, Perthshire, where he was that night installed as a Keeper of the Quaich, a whisky promotional body.

The ceremony was the finale to a one-day visit where he and his wife, Nancy, attended a Sunday church service minutes after landing at Glasgow Airport.

His unannounced visit to Paisley's Castlehead Church was arranged at the last minute after church officials realized he was landing near the town where his great-great-grandparents married.

A Cowboy's Guide to Life

“Never miss a good chance to shut up.”