



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 its 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 Royal Brackla 12-year-old, which I tasted on the Royal Yacht Britannia in Leith, Scotland.

Most of the distilleries production goes to Dewar's blended whiskies, so if you have not come across this one, that could be the reason.

However it is available and you just need to keep a look out for it, and in my opinion you won't be disappointed with it, I think it is a nice whisky.

Where did the name come from, well initially it was just called Brackla, until King William IV (who liked it a lot), issued a Royal warrant in 1833 to the distillery, and from that point on it was known as Royal Brackla.

I also think it has a classy label, so it will give your bar a nice touch of class.

If you want another "Royal" whisky on your bar, try "Royal Lochnagar" Queen Victoria's favorite.

So, would I buy it? Yes I would, it is a little expensive for a 12-year-old, but, I think it is worth it.

[You can buy Royal Brackla 12-year-old for around \\$55.00 a bottle.](#)

Tasting Notes

Nose - Chocolate & apple.

Palate - Chocolate cream cake, with a hint of ginger.

Finish - Chocolate & apple.

"Slainte Mhath"

Paul Bissett





Whisky Straight Up

by [Charles MacLean](#)

How should you drink Scotch? It's a question I'm asked all the time, and my answer is simple:

"Enjoy it as you like. Appreciating it is another matter."

Truth be told there are no official rules for enjoying Scotch. Don't let anybody bully you into thinking differently. Have it on the rocks, straight, with water or club soda, cola (popular in Spain), ginger ale (à la Française) or green tea (how they like it in China). There are also plenty of fine whisky cocktails, including the [Blood and Sand](#), [Bobby Burns](#) and [Rob Roy](#).

It's a different story on those occasions when you want to properly "appreciate" or "taste" whisky. Sensory chemists commonly describe Scotch as "the most complex spirit on Earth."

In other words, it is worthy of attention and rewards consideration. To start off, leave your tumbler on the shelf. Buy a bulbous "[nosing glass](#)" or simply pour your whisky into a small wine glass, which will let you pick up all the rich aromas. (For tasting whisky your nose is actually far more important than the palate.) The spirit should be served cool but not chilled (around 60°) and forget about adding ice—it reduces the flavor dramatically. But definitely add a splash of still water, since it opens up the whisky and it also makes the spirit much easier to taste. (Adding water isn't a cop-out. This is standard practice for even master distillers.) Take a good slug, hold it in your mouth for a while and as you swallow evaluate its mouth-feel, the overall taste, the length of finish and the aftertaste. Now having completed your appreciation, let pure enjoyment take over!

Charles MacLean, Master of the Quaich, is the author of ten books on Scotch, including the recently published [Whiskypedia](#).

For more whisky related articles go to www.liquor.com

The hard part about being a bartender
is figuring out who is drunk
and who is just stupid.

Richard Braunstein



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; [Royal Brackla 12-year-old](#). For more information on Royal Brackla whiskies go to www.bacardilimited.com/royal-brackla-single-malt-the-first-whisky-fit-for-a-king





Culzean castle

By James Gracie

Of all the Scottish castles, Culzean in Ayrshire must have the most spectacular setting. It is perched 90 feet above the waters of the Firth of Clyde on cliffs that are riddled with caves and small bays. Culzean was built in the late 18th century by David Kennedy, 11th Earl of Cassillis, to the designs of Robert Adam. Before this, a tower house stood on the site. But Culzean wasn't just a place of elegance and leisured living. Although you wouldn't think so nowadays, it was also a place of industry. One of the most unusual, and certainly most unexpected, of these industries was shipbuilding. At the foot of the cliffs below Culzean there still exists a small harbor and a boathouse, and it was here that the shipyard was situated.

On a summer's day, when the sea is calm and the gulls are wheeling overhead, it's a spot much loved by today's picnickers. But in its heyday, it rang to the sound of sawing, hammering and riveting as watercraft took shape.

The Past Weighs Heavy At Hermitage Castle

by Peter Kilby

Under a steely grey Scottish sky, the outline of Hermitage Castle slowly emerges from the damp mist. It makes an abrupt but well-defined silhouette on this quiet, lonely Scottish landscape close to the border of England. The castle's massive walls rise from the marshy ground at the head of Liddesdale valley, overlooking Hermitage water.

The "Strength of Liddesdale" has stood here for centuries. Its history is steeped in blood and charged with cruel and bizarre memories. Great and famous families like the De Soulis, Dacre, The Douglas and Bothwell, have all at some time called Hermitage theirs. In history's boiling cauldron of border conflict between England and Scotland, the castle has withstood deeds dark and foul. It comes down to us today with the reputation as Scotland's most notorious medieval fortress.



Alexander Ogilvy's Inverquharity Castle

by Doris Drahony

Inverquharity Castle stands above the Carity Burn about three miles northeast of Kirriemuir in Angus. Parts of it can be seen from the road, but it is not open to the public. However, the castle does, on occasion, play host to school groups and others who are likely to appreciate a guided tour of this ancient stronghold.

The founder of the Inverquharity branch of the Ogilvys was Sir John, third son of Sir Walter Ogilvy of Auchterhouse (near Dundee) who acquired the lands and barony in 1420. Sometime later the castle was built by Alexander Ogilvy, and in 1444 a license was granted by James II to install an iron yett, or gate. The license, which still exists, is in safekeeping at Register House, Edinburgh, and reads: "Rex - A Licence be the King to Al. Ogilvy of Inercarity (second baron) to fortify his house and put ane iron yet therein." Permission to add this type of defense was not given lightly and only trusted friends of the King received it, for enemies might bar their castles against him.



Inverquharity Castle