



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.

In this issue I look at the RedBreast 15-year-old Irish whiskey. This Redbreast 15 is richer, earthier and stronger than its 12-year-old sibling with a heavier, oilier mouthfeel, which I like and this is a classic pure pot still Irish whiskey. The problem I have with it, and it's a minor problem, although I like it, I prefer the Redbreast 12-year-old. The 15-year-old expression is stronger having been bottled at 46% and is non- chill filtered, so adding some water will help cool it down.

You can buy Red Breast 15-year-old Irish whiskey for around \$80.00 a bottle.

Tasting Notes;

Nose - Honey, caramel, fudge, mango

Palate - Toffee, liquorice, ginger, cinnamon and sherry

Finish - Spicy and oakly

World Whiskies Awards 2012 - Best Irish 13 to 20 years Pot Still Whiskey

IWSC 2012 - Gold Medal - Whiskey - Irish

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





When Pot Distilled Whiskey Is Not Pot Still Whiskey

What is pot still whiskey?

The obvious answer is "whiskey that's made in a pot still," but apparently that's not true if you're in Ireland. I was on a trip recently with whiskey writer/expert/class clown/author Dominic Roskow and was showing off my sexy Irish whiskey distillery diagram, when he called me out on it. He said that the Cooley distillery makes no pot still whiskey. "But they have pot stills in which they make whiskey, so obviously they make pot still whiskey," I said. It went back and forth for a few days, but the argument comes down to this:

In Ireland, "pure pot still" whiskey has long meant whiskey distilled from a combination of malted and unmalted barley. Thus "pot still Irish whiskey" doesn't tell us the type of still used to make it; it tells us the barley blend used. They claim if you distill another type of whiskey in a pot still (such as all-malted barley) in Ireland it is not pot still Irish whiskey. That's like a basketball player arguing that an soccer ball is not a ball because it's not a basketball.

But apparently there is no use arguing logic in Ireland... so let's look at the law.

In his efforts to prove me wrong, Roskow turned to someone with even more expertise in Irish whiskey, Peter Mulryan. Mulryan filled us in on how they've changed the legal definition to fit their local definition of pot still Irish whiskey. Mulryan wrote in an email:

Until very recently there was no legal definition of what constituted a Pot Still Irish whiskey, this allowed John Teeling [of Cooley distillery] to say that his single malt was a pot still whiskey, as it was distilled in a pot still. This was of course nonsense, as the traditional industry definition of a pot still whiskey has nothing to do with the distillation process itself; it was and is, all about the mash. A pot still whiskey is made from a COMBINATION of both malted and unmalted barley. Simple.

The industry and the Irish Government have recently clarified this new definition and it is now certified by the EU, John Teeling has backed down and he too now endorses this new legal status. At the same time the word 'Pure' was dropped from packaging, as the word had no standing in law, it was replaced by the word 'Single', this now appears on all Irish Distillers bottlings and literature.

So from the start of 2012 a single pot still Irish whiskey is one made on the island of Ireland, from a mash of malted and unmalted barely, which has been matured for at least three years in oak.

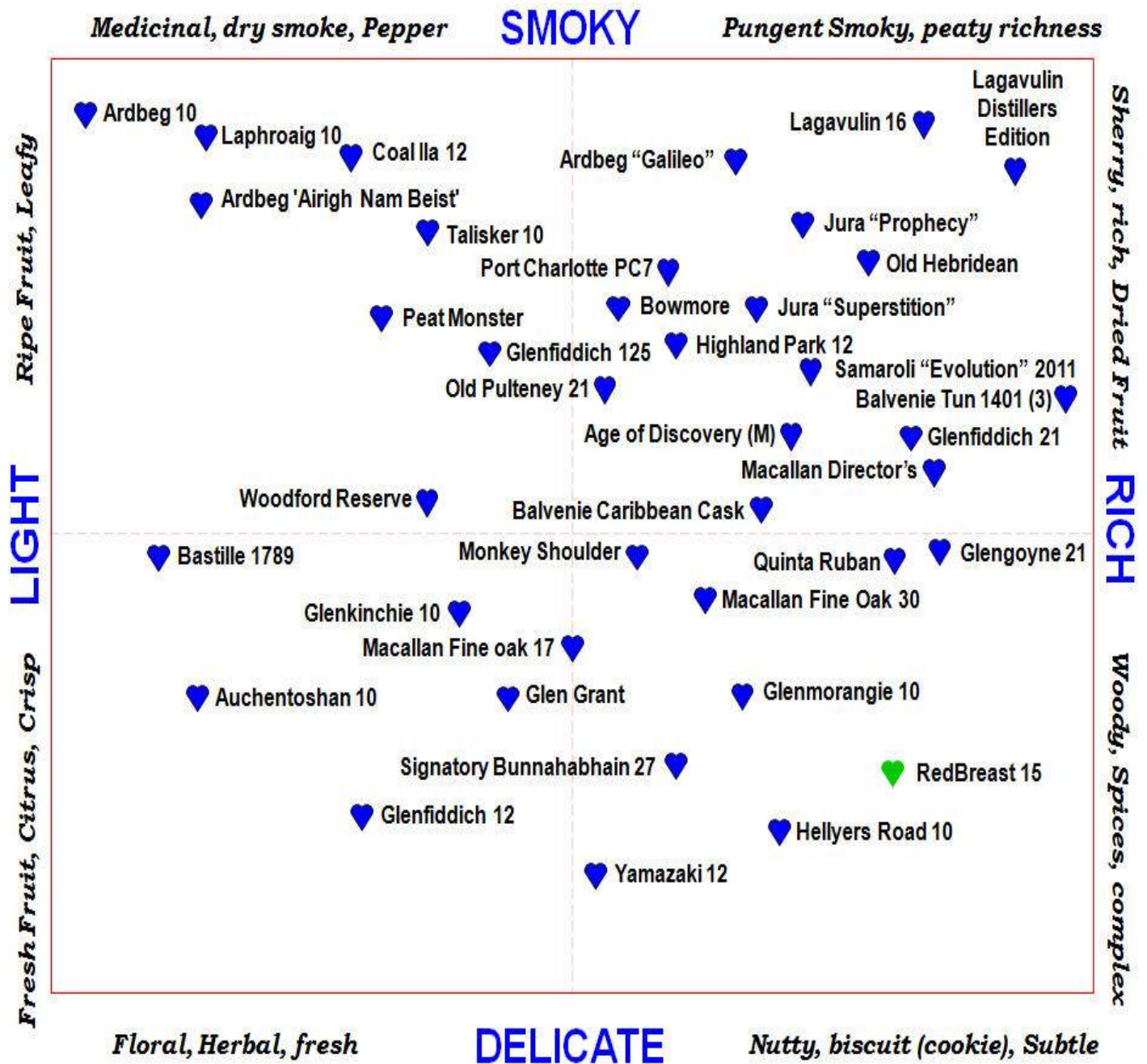
However that was always accepted as the norm, the law simply enforces best practice.

But here's the thing: in order to conform to international standards, they had to drop the word "pure" from "pure pot still Irish whiskey." So apparently you can't just completely make things up in Ireland after all!

It's just too bad their also-historically-accurate-but-logically-nonsensical definition of "pot still" made it through legislation. www.alcademics.com/2012/05/when-pot-distilled-whiskey-is-not-pot-still-whiskey.html



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; [Red Breast 15-year-old Irish whiskey](#). For more information go to www.irishdistillers.ie





The Midleton Distillery Co.

The buildings of the Midleton distillery began life rather abstemiously; used as a wool mill in the very late eighteenth century. Leased by Marcus Lynch, the buildings were sold to the government, who subsequently sold them to the Arch Bishop of Cashel in 1823 for the sum of £1,750.

The Arch Bishop died later that year and the buildings were inherited by Lord Midleton.

It was the three brothers Murphy who converted the mill into a distillery in 1825. They had acquired the buildings for £4,000.

Stills were installed, including the world's largest still with a capacity of 31,618 gallons. The distillery produced a range of brands and in 1966 the company joined John Powers and John Jameson to form the Irish Distillers Group and a new distillery was built at Midleton to produce all of their brands.

This new distillery now has a capacity of 60m liters, following a large expansion project in 2013.



Feints Still, wash still and spirit safe (left side brass and glass box)

A word to the wise ain't necessary - it's the stupid ones that need
the advice.
Bill Cosby



Top 5 U.S. St. Patrick's Day Destinations

by Cambria VandeMerwe

How are you going to celebrate this St. Patrick's Day? Here's a list of the top 5 St. Patrick's Day Destinations in the United States.



Chicago, Illinois

Watch the St. Patrick's Day parade in downtown Chicago after watching the Chicago River transform into an emerald channel of Irish luck.





Cont.



Savannah, Georgia

Starting their festivities a month before, this city knows what it means to be green. Enjoy a celebration on the Savannah River with nonstop entertainment and a St. Patrick's Day Parade in the morning.



San Francisco, California

A St. Patrick's Day parade and the following festival consisting of arts and crafts, games and inflatable's.



Dublin, Ohio

Staying true to its name, the city celebrates all year long, but most especially on St. Patrick's day with a parade and merriment throughout the Historic District. Take part in Celtic entertainment, trying Irish delicacies, and buying your own Irish imports. It's like you're actually there!