



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.

I now look at Springbank 18-year-old, which I first tried in Scarpetta restaurant in the Cosmopolitan hotel in Las Vegas. Those of you that know me, know I hold the Springbank 15-year-old in very high regard and use it as a benchmark for judging other whiskies against. Well, here we have it's big brother and we don't need ancestry.com to help us realize they are related, this is yet another superb whisky from the folks at Springbank.

It's not a cheap whisky, but in this case you definitely get what you pay for, unlike some of my previous forays into the whisky store. My only wish is that Springbank made their whiskies a lot easier to buy (and taste), I wish I could walk into a good restaurant or hotel bar and look up at their whiskies and see a few Springbanks up there. Unfortunately that is not often the case.

If you should purchase this fine scotch, and are inclined to the occasional cigar, try it with a Partagas Corona they match up very Well.

You can buy Springbank 18-year-old for around \$160.00 a bottle.

Tasting Notes;

Nose - Strawberry, rhubarb, Marzipan

Palate - Honey, fruit, oats, liquorice

Finish - Long with coconut, chocolate and a hint of smoke

"Slainte Mhath"

Paul Bissett





Our distillery is located in Campbeltown, a picturesque Scottish town situated at the southern end of the Kintyre Peninsula on the glorious west coast.

Dividing the Firth of Clyde and the Atlantic Ocean, a sea breeze swirls around the air and a soft Scottish misty glow travels through the town that is rich in heritage, and of course, rich in whisky history.

Once a bustling fishing village and proclaimed ‘whisky capital of the world’, in times past the sails of vessels could be seen billowing in Campbeltown Loch, while rippling smoke from the chimneys of distilleries filled the sky.

Looking back in time, Campbeltown is unarguably as big a part of the history of whisky as the famous drink itself. Used as a smuggling centre for the most part of the 17th and 18th century, many a bottle of Scotland’s famous liquid was distilled illegally.

Once home to over 30 distilleries, Campbeltown gained a reputation for delivering high quality whisky in the 19th century, something that saw an increased demand from blenders. Much of Campbeltown’s whisky heritage can be linked to its location – easy to access by boat and so close to Ireland that the back gardens of homes can be seen with binoculars on a clear summer's day.

Today only three distilleries stand, two of which, Springbank and Glengyle, are owned by J&A Mitchell and Co and run by the fifth generation of the Mitchell family to be involved in the distilling trade.

The wish made in the famous Scottish folk song Campbeltown Loch, ‘I wish you were whisky’, never was granted – but luckily visitors to Campbeltown today can enjoy a tour of our distillery and toast with a dram that has been produced here at our Scottish home. They can also have the opportunity to take in beautiful scenery and enjoy the many attractions that the town has to offer.

For more on Campbeltown go to; <http://www.campbeltown.org.uk>

A day without sunshine is like, well Scotland



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; [Springbank 18-year-old](http://www.springbankwhisky.com). For more information go to <http://www.springbankwhisky.com>





Cont.

Yet, the history of Scottish surnames, is by comparison, a much more recent affair.

Until the 12th century most Scots did not have surnames. It was not until King David I's decision to give large amounts of Scottish land to Norman nobles in return for their support of the Crown that the Norman tradition of surnames came into fashion.

Choosing a surname was a haphazard affair. You could be the son of somebody (Robertson, Davidson, Johnston) or adopt the Gaelic variation of 'Mac' rather than 'son' (MacDonald, MacLeod, MacKenzie).

You could take the surname from the nobles who owned the land you worked on, or from the dominant chieftain in your area.

Some chose to be named after their occupation (Shearer, Smith, Taylor) or perhaps after a colour (Brown, Black, Gray). For example Reid, the Scots word for 'red' is a common Scottish surname which is indicative of Scotland having a higher-than-normal percentage of redheads.

In the Highlands and Borders of Scotland, the clan system established dominant families with tartans, mottoes, gatherings and weddings, giving centuries of business to grateful kilt makers. Finally, Scotland has a long tradition of place names becoming first names or surnames (Murray, Angus Hamilton).

By investigating the origins of some of Scotland's better known names using historical literature we are able to map where many of Scottish surnames originate.

The map includes a Highland boundary line which shows us how the Gaelic names of the north differentiated from the rest of the country.

However the list of names compiled here are by no means an exhaustive list of all names of Scottish origin but rather some of the more common ones.

Secondly it is worth noting that the traditional Scottish clan system was disintegrating - even in its Highland heartland - by the mid to late 1700s. If you have ancestors who had a recognisable clan name by the 1800s this does not necessarily mean that they themselves lived in 'clan territories'.

Read more: <http://www.scotsman.com/heritage/people-places/map-where-in-scotland-does-your-surname-come-from-1-4078418#ixzz44JRELWsm>