



## Object of the Newsletter

*To promote the appreciation of fine Scotch Whisky (and the drinking of it) amongst my friends and to spread the word on the joys of single malt. By the way, I do not profess to be an expert, I am merely expressing an opinion on the whiskies I am tasting. "Slange."*

This issue I look at Chivas Regal 18-year-old; yes, a blend!!! I always have both blended and single malt whiskies in my drinks cabinet. No, I don't pull out the single malts for my friends and give the blends to people I don't like or who I believe don't know a good scotch from a bad one (although I know people who do that).

I drink both blends and single malts, I always have, as do most people from Scotland. It's not a case of one being better than the other, they are just different whiskies.

If you believe that you can only drink single malt because it's Better, do you only drink (for instance) Balvenie, because it's better. Or do you only drink 30-year-old whisky because it's better than 12-year-old? What I'm saying is don't be fooled by marketing. Older isn't always better, more expensive isn't always better either. Keep an open mind and be willing to try different Whiskies. There are thousands out there to be tried and enjoyed. Drink what tastes good to you, and that may differ from day to day.

### Tasting Notes;

**Nose** - Dried fruit, toffee/dark chocolate

**Palate** - Dark chocolate & light smoke

**Finish** - Long & warm

*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 <http://www.scot-talks.com>*

*"Slainte Mhath"*  
Paul Bissett





## It's a Wonderful Wife

After a hard day's work in the yard (garden for those of you over the pond), I decided to take a bath rather than a shower. I had just settled in my nice warm bath with a copy of Highlander magazine, when my wife, Tracey, knocked on the door and said, "Would you like me to get you a glass of whisky, so you can relax properly?" Well, when forced into such a situation, I capitulated.

Having read through the articles in the Highlander, I was relaxing and savoring my glass of Chivas Regal.....I should pause here and explain, for those of you who almost dropped your single malts (I said, almost) why I was drinking a blend!!

First, let me clarify for those who may be a little fuzzy on the difference;

A single malt is made entirely by distillations from a single producer at a single distillery, a blend is created by mixing distillations from multiple distilleries (more about this on page 4).

Having drank both blends and single malts for approaching 40 years, I could argue for single malts over blends, however, I could argue the reverse, both have merit. After this article, I fully expect to have to explain that remark to some of my friends. Let me say that I am more than willing to do so, but suffice to say, I usually have both single malts and blends in my drinks cabinet and I am happy to drink either.

Anyway, back to my bath and glass of Chivas. Looking out of the window at the trees and blue sky, I was relaxed and enjoying life. I thought, "Would this be better with a glass of single malt, instead of a blend?"

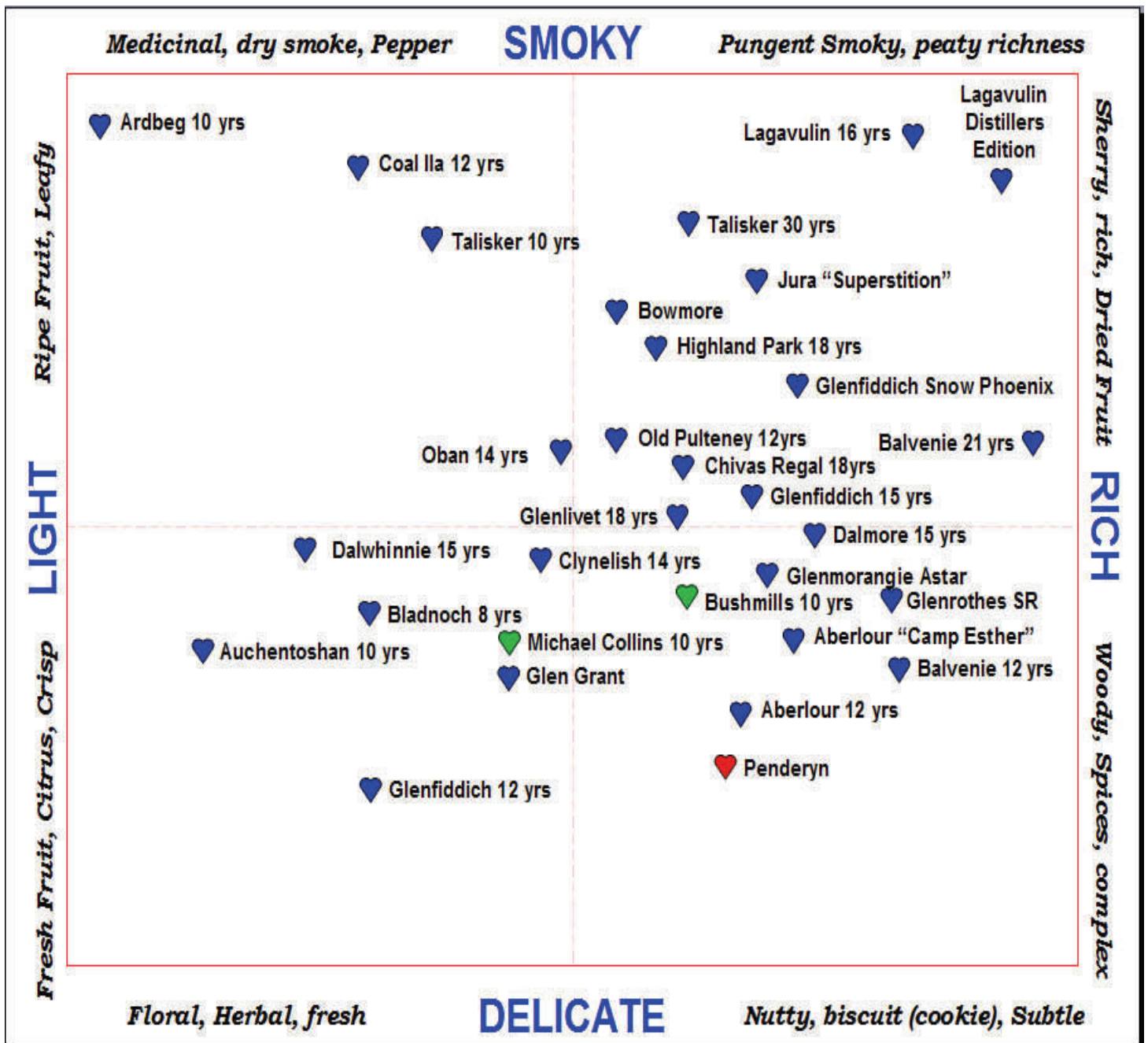
My conclusion was that neither a blend nor a single malt is what you need to make your life complete..... it's a wonderful wife.

I am indeed blessed.

**“Money cannot buy happiness, but it's more comfortable to cry in a Mercedes than on a bicycle.”**



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; **Chivas Regal 18 year old** For more information go to <http://www.chivas.com>





## Blended whisky

First things first; Blended whisky is the principal earner for the whisky industry, with only a small proportion of sales coming from single malts.

A blended whisky is more than just simply a mix of whisky from two different distilleries, blended scotch whisky may contain as many as 40 or 50 different malt and grain whiskies. The normal ratio of malt to grain is 60% grain 40% malt. The percentage of malt used will determine the quality and smoothness of taste and character.

Grain whisky is easy and inexpensive to produce, using continuous distillation in large and highly efficient machinery (column or Coffey still), but the spirit is lighter and has less character. Malt whisky is expensive and slow to produce, but has a more intense flavor. The Master Blender carefully selects spirit from many different distilleries, skillfully reproducing the character of previous bottlings so the customer enjoys the same taste year after year.

The practice of blending Scotch whiskies started in the mid 1800's. The original family-run distilleries did not have bottling facilities. They used to sell whole casks of whisky to bottlers, blenders and merchants who then combined the product of various distilleries, to craft a consistent "brand style."

Blended Scotch whisky, should not be confused with Blended Malt Scotch Whisky which comprises only Single Malt Scotch Whiskies (100% barley), which have been distilled at more than one distillery.

An example of a blended Malt Scotch whisky is "Monkey Shoulder" which uses Glenfiddich, Balvenie and Kininvie (Kininvie is not bottled and sold as a single malt).



The chart above shows the five different types of scotch.