



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 consider the Springbank 12-year-old "Burgundy". As you have probably guessed from the name, it was aged fresh Burgundy wine casks and is a limited edition bottled at a cask strength of 53.5% giving nice bold flavors.

As you will be aware if you read my whisky newsletters David McDonald and myself attended the "Whisky School" at Springbank last year and I wrote about it in issue 141 that featured the Springbank "Longrow". We spent one day working in the bottling hall and this is the whisky that we bottled, so we had to buy a bottle for our bars. The way this tastes, that is not a sacrifice, just a fortunate bonus for us. Our friend Justin says that it is his favorite whisky and he has tried a few, mainly at our urging.

The downside? It was a limited release of only 10,260 bottles and time is passing since it was released last year, so it might be hard to find. I actually found it at Total wine in Roseville, California.

I'm sure with the help of the internet, like most things, if you want it, you will find it.

I recommend you try!

You can buy Springbank 12-year-old "Burgundy" for around \$110.00 a bottle.

Tasting Notes;

Nose - Raisins & red currants

Palate - Think pancakes spread with Nutella & drizzled in cream

Finish - An initial herb/spice note, fading to vanilla & mint ice cream

"Slainte Mhath"

Paul Bissett





Springbank

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.



Filling the Springbank Burgundy bottles



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 12-year-old "Burgundy"](#). For more information on Springbank go to <http://springbankwhisky.com>





HOW YOU CAN SPOT A QUALITY SINGLE MALT

TEACH YOURSELF THE ART OF SPOTTING A GOOD SINGLE MALT

Becoming knowledgeable about whiskey might seem like an extremely difficult task for anyone with only a basic understanding of the spirit – what, with all the talk of flavor, notes, and profiles. For anyone really keen to learn, however, there are some key things to understand about whiskey that can lay the foundations for you to become an expert (or at least a very well-informed amateur!).

It's time to get out your favorite Glencairn glass, have the cigar rest at the ready (if you are so inclined), and learn the basics of whiskey so you can spot the best single malts.

UNDERSTANDING FLAVOR PROFILES

The term “profile” is used to explain the varying flavors and characteristics of a whiskey. There are four popular flavor profiles.

1. SMOKY

A single malt with a smoky profile will give off spicy, warm, and smoky flavors. Think of burned wood or smoked meat, and compare these dark, spicy flavors with a glass of single malt.

2. RICH

A rich profile will be bold and full of flavor. Think of an extremely rich chocolate cake, and compare that flavor and sensation with the taste you get from your single malt.

3. DELICATE

A whiskey with a delicate profile has subtle flavors, making it easy to drink and enjoy. Delicate profiles will typically have a sweeter flavor, with subtle floral and nutty hints.

**For a bad hangover, take
the juice of a bottle of
whisky.**

www.scot-talks.com



HOW YOU CAN SPOT A QUALITY SINGLE MALT CONT.

4. LIGHT

A light whiskey will have fruity, nutty, and even grassy notes, leaving a fresh feeling in the mouth. Over time, these descriptors will come to you more naturally.

These are almost instinctual responses to the single malt whiskeys that you will drink, and the difference between these flavor profiles will become increasingly evident over time.

WHERE WHISKEY GETS ITS WOODY FLAVORS

Wood plays a hugely important role in the creation of quality whiskeys. When the spirit is first made, it's known as "new make." This is a whiskey that has been reduced in strength, and which has yet to be aged in a cask.

The casks used by the distillers will determine the flavors of the whiskey. Not only does the type of wood play a part in developing intriguing flavors, but so does the other booze that was previously held in the cask!

A quality single malt will have flavors taken from the sherry or bourbon that was previously held in the wooden casks.

KNOW THE AGE

The age of your whiskey can determine quality. It's a classic husband gift – an aged whiskey, in a dusty bottle that has just been waiting to be opened on a special occasion. However, the age of a bottle is doesn't always determine how great it tastes.

You should look for anything that has been aged for between 10 and 15 years. This is typically a suitable amount of time for a single malt to develop complexity and a range of flavors.

If you're looking for a truly high quality single malt, be sure to consider all of these factors.

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