



Time to look at some of my current favorite whiskies, my top 10 from 2018.

(10) Blanton's Bourbon

Although I am not a huge Bourbon drinker, I do tend to drink a Bourbon during the warmer months, as I'm disinclined to add ice to my scotch, but I do like Bourbon over ice. I highly recommend this one.

Featured in issue 185, July 2018.

You can buy Blanton's bourbon for around \$60.00 a bottle.

Tasting Notes

Nose - Citrus & toffee

Palate - Citrus, floral notes & toffee

Finish - Citrus, floral, toffee & nuts

(9) Old Pulteney 12-year-old

From what used to be the most northerly distillery on the Scottish Mainland (before Wolfburn opened), in the town of Wick. I just like this more and more, it has earned a permanent place on my bar.

Featured in issue 14, May 2011.

Approximate Cost per bottle - \$42.00

Tasting Notes;

Nose - Quite intense with a hint of salt (sea air)

Palate - Medium bodied, faintly salty with an orange note

Finish - Long and predominantly orange flavored, hint of malt





(8) Glenfiddich 15-year-old

In my opinion, the best tasting whisky (against price), on the market today a constant in my whisky cabinet. This is also my break through whisky, after years of trying to taste something specific listed in the tasting notes, this is the one that delivered.

Featured in issue 11, April 2011

Approximate Cost per bottle - \$55.00

Tasting Notes;

Nose - Rich, spicy with oak

Palate - Honey, Pears & vanilla.

Finish - Baked pears with some spice



(7) Oban 14 year old

I like this single malt a lot and would recommend it to everyone, even Speyside fans, who live in fear of smoky/peaty Western Isle whiskies. This is west coast, not islands, and it's smoke and peat are restrained. This is a very nice whisky.

Featured in issue 27, December 2011.

Approximate Cost per bottle - \$70.00

Tasting Notes;

Nose - Sweet, fruity, with sea salt, small amounts of peat & smoke

Palate - Rich fruit, honey, malt, spice & light smoke

Finish - Sweet oak with a pinch of salt





(6) Balvenie 12-year-old

One of my early favorites, that kind of dropped of my radar for a while, but I recently rediscovered. It is, in my opinion one of the best 12-year-olds out there.

Featured in issue 17, July 2011

Approximate Cost per bottle - \$50.00

Tasting Notes;

Nose - Sherry, orange & apricot

Palate - Sherry, orange, honey & sultana

Finish - Warm, some vanilla and a little spice



(5) Macallan 12-year-old

This is yet another stellar 12-year-old, that in my quest to keep boldly going where no one has gone before, I kind of left behind. Like the Balvenie above, You just can't go wrong with this.

Featured in issue 1, November 2010

Approximate Cost per bottle - \$60.00

Tasting Notes;

Nose - Strawberry, rhubarb, marzipan

Palate - Honey & sherried fruits

Finish - Long with cooked fruits & a hint of chocolate





(4) Dalwhinnie 15-year-old

This has to be one of my favorite 15-year-old's out there, so much so, that on my recent trip to Scotland, with all of the whiskies available to me to bring Back home to the USA, I bought a bottle of this at the Dalwhinnie Distillery.

Featured in issue 13, May 2011.

Approximate Cost per bottle - \$115.00

Tasting Notes;

Nose - Hints of heather and peat

Palate - Citrus, heather, honey & vanilla

Finish - Long with hints of smoke & peat.



(3) Springbank 15-year-old

From the Campbeltown region (once proclaimed the 'whisky capital of the world') of Scotland.

This is an outstanding whisky, I like this a great deal, in fact it's one of my all time favorites of any age, highly recommended.

Featured in issue 110, May 2015.

Approximate Cost per bottle - \$100.00

Tasting Notes;

Nose - Dark chocolate, Christmas cake, almonds, toffee

Palate - Raisins, dark chocolate, marzipan & vanilla

Finish - Long with vanilla, Oak, sherry & cocoa





(2) Lagavulin 16 year old

From the Island of Islay (Isla) off the west coast of Scotland. Another constant on my bar and a favorite of many decades, if you like smoky whisky it doesn't get any better than this.

Featured in issue 3, December 2010.

Approximate Cost per bottle - \$80.00

Tasting Notes;

Nose - Smoke, chocolate

Palate - Sweet, smoky & peaty

Finish - Long, elegant peat-filled finish with a hint of brine



(1) Glenfiddich 26-year-old "Excellence"

If I had to try and compare the flavor to another whisky that you may have tried, I would say that it has some similarities to the Highland Park "Ice" edition, which was also stellar. In fact it was my number one on last year's list.

Featured in issue 196, December 2018.

So, would I buy it? That would have to be a definite yes!

Approximate Cost per bottle - \$450.00

Tasting Notes

Nose - Floral & fruity

Palate - Pineapple, toffee & Vanilla

Finish - Pineapple crumble





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. In this issue of the newsletter, I only have my **top ten whiskies of 2018** shown.

