



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 am merely expressing my opinion on the whiskies I am tasting, as you know, everybody has one.

I now look at the Miltonduff 10-year-old, Speyside single malt Whisky. A nice light bodied whisky that is a mainstay in the Balantine's blend whisky, which is probably why most people have not come across it. As that's where the majority of the distilleries production goes.

This particular whisky was independently bottled by A.D. Rattray, and matured for 10 years in American Bourbon barrels, being bottled as a cask strength whisky at 60.9% ABV.

Would I buy it, yes I would, although I wouldn't shout from the rooftops about how wonderful a whisky it is, it's a good whisky, not a great one.

And quite expensive for a 10-year-old, but only 218 of these were bottled, making it a rare acquisition, and yes, you can still get it, look online.

[You can buy Miltonduff 10-year-old for around \\$55.00 a bottle.](#)

Tasting Notes

Nose - Butter, citrus & shortbread

Palate - Honey, marmalade & toffee

Finish - Sweet lemon

"Slainte Mhath"

Paul Bissett





The Host with the most

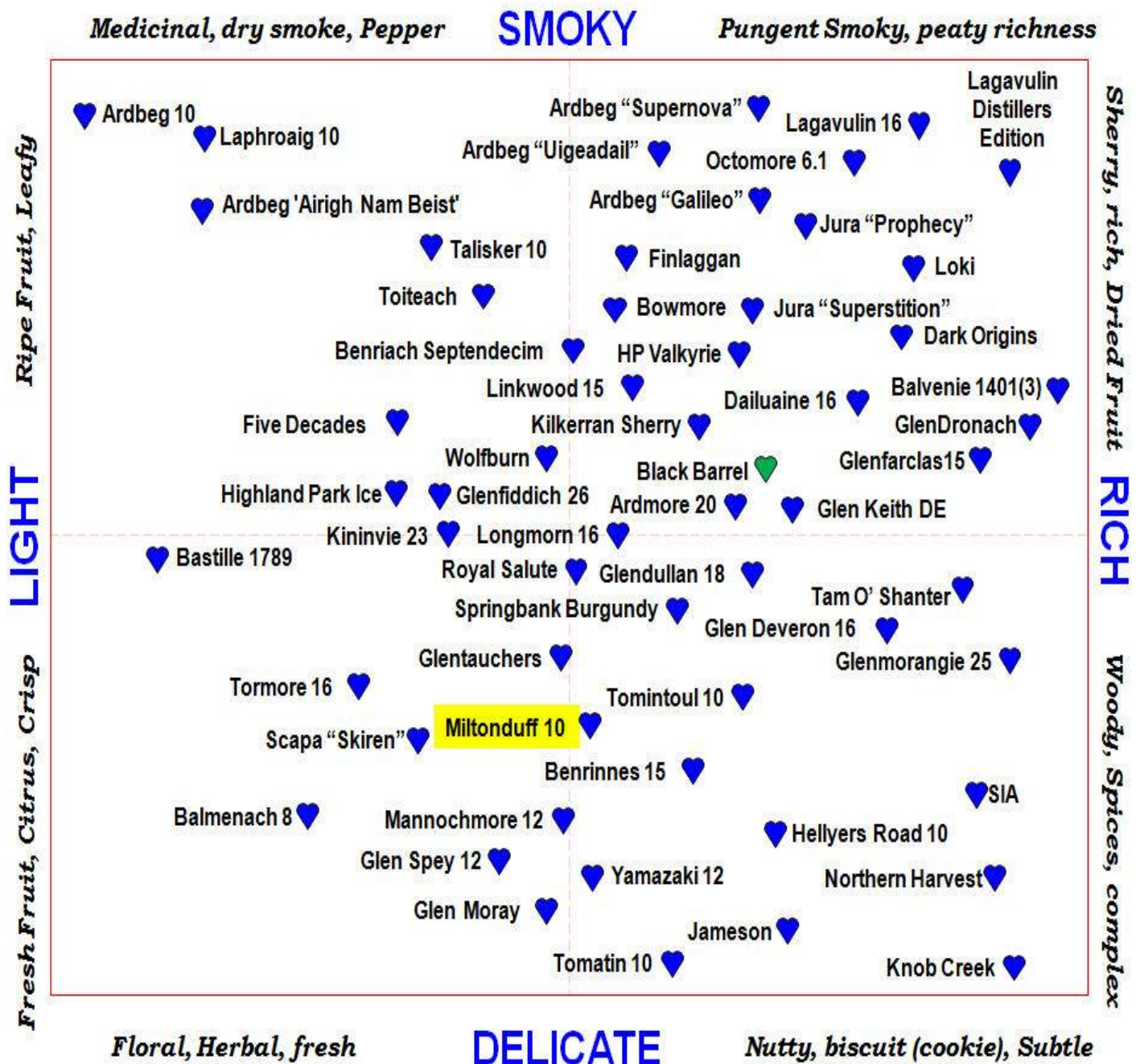
If you're planning on having a few friends over for whisky tasting, there are some key pointers to remember: Firstly, if you're going to try a selection, or 'flight' of whiskies, then make sure you have a mat on which to rest your glasses. This allows you to write down what is in each glass on your table. You don't want to forget which is which, when comparing different samples! You might even want to print your own mat out for each of your friends, if you know which bottles you'll be sampling in advance. Secondly, try and pour your whiskies in advance. Anywhere between 10 minutes and a couple of hours is fine, but only the latter if you have a method of covering the glass. This allows the whiskies to breathe a little and develop in the glass. Remember: some of your whiskies will have taken a minimum of 12 years to mature, others a lot longer, so don't be afraid to give it some time in the glass. The addition of a small amount of water to whisky can also open the liquid up and reveal a more mellow character of the whisky. Make sure you have some good quality spring or bottled water ready on the table so they guests can choose if they would like to add water or not. There is no correct or incorrect to enjoy your whisky; whichever you find most flavourful and provides you with the best drinking experience. Be careful with adding water: you can always add more, but you can't remove it after you've poured it in. So if you're not sure if your whisky needs water, take a sip of whisky, then a sip of water and mix them in your mouth. If it works, do it in the glass. Simple, really. When it comes to flavour, sample the lightest whiskies first. Anything with a big, heavy, sherry or smoky flavour is going to leave your palate with a very long after taste, so make sure the lighter, more delicate whiskies are sampled first. For example, The Glenlivet 12 Years Old (honey, exotic fruits, vanillas and apricots) should be tried before The Glenlivet 21 Years Old (Christmas cake, sultanas, ginger, cinnamon and dark chocolate).

Always try and keep a journal with all your tasting notes in it. One way is to join the Guardian's of The Glenlivet and receive your very own booklet. Another good way is to have an A-Z telephone directory. Whenever you have a whisky, file the tasting notes under the letter applicable to the distillery, for example 'G' for Glenlivet. This means you'll be able to keep a record of what you have tasted, which expressions are your favourites and how they compare to other releases from the same distillery.

Finally, don't forget to enjoy your whisky responsibly. You'll have such a better time if you drink slowly, in small measure and accompanied by plenty of water and some nibbles to keep you going. Remember: whisky is mainly water, you are mainly water, so don't forget to drink lots of water



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; [Miltoduff 10-year-old](#). For more information go to [No distillery website](#).





The Best Big Box Whiskies by Store

Private-label whiskies sold at big box and national grocery stores like **Costco**, **Trader Joe's**, **Walmart**, and **Total Wine & More** can offer some of the best values on the shelf—if you know which ones to buy, that is.

Whisky Advocate's tasting panel blind-tasted over 40 different whiskies, ranging from scotch and Irish to bourbon, rye, and Canadian, to determine which bottles offer the best quality. Our top scorers are listed below, along with links to the full set of whiskies that we tasted from each store.

TOTAL WINE & MORE

Glen Fohdry Aiteal an Òir 12 year old Speyside single malt scotch—91 points, \$38

Perfumed fruits, soft spices, light nuttiness, and warm malty flavors come together in a perfectly proofed whole.

Glen Fohdry Làn-abaich 21 year old Speyside single malt scotch—91 points, \$80

Bright, clean, and lively, with flavors of citrus, berries, milk chocolate, and delicate floral notes.

Shieldaig 18 year old Speyside single malt scotch—90 points, \$47

Flower bouquet, candied fruit, nuts, and sweet oak combine for a light but lengthy flavor experience.

Olde Point 4 year old blended Canadian whisky—88 points, \$15

Sweetly fruity with pleasing pastry crust notes, along with nuts, caramel, coconut, and polished oak.

TRADER JOE'S

Trader Joe's Glen Moray 16 year old Speyside single malt scotch (Distilled in 2001)—90 points, \$40

Layers of rich fruits, gentle spice, cigar wrapper, chocolate, and oak come together in a symphony of flavor.

Trader Joe's Ardmore 10 year old Highland single malt scotch (Distilled in 2008)—87 points, \$33

A generous but gentle peatiness pervades this herbaceous and citrus-forward whisky that's well-balanced with spice and oak.



The Best Big Box Whiskies by Store Cont.

Trader Joe's 10 year old Highland single malt scotch—87 points, \$26

The smokiness of a cigar wafts through Juicy Fruit, saline, and candy notes into a toasty oak finish.

COSTCO WHOLESALE

Kirkland 20 year old Sherry Cask Finished Speyside single malt scotch—92 points, \$58

A classic sherry bomb, with milk chocolate, raisins, brown sugar, hazelnuts, cloves, almonds, and plenty of oak.

Kirkland 7 year old Tennessee Straight Bourbon (Batch T-1796)—91 points, \$30

Big-boned and assertive, it has full flavors of orange peel, root beer, gingerbread, cooked berries, and well-integrated oak.

Kirkland 18 year old Sherry Cask Finished Speyside single malt scotch—90 points, \$54

Lush, well-aged, and richly sherried with flavors of candied violet, nougat, ginger, and orange oil.

WALMART

Granndach 12 year old blended scotch—86 points, \$24

A swirl of sherry flavors—plums, chocolate, dried fruit, and sugared nuts—mingle with gingerbread, oak, and chocolate-covered raisins.

