



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 its 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 Benrinnes 15-year-old, which unusually for a Speysider has been triple distilled. At this point you are probably think it will be a light flavored whisky like Auchentoshan from the lowlands or possibly like an Irish whiskey, but no, this one delivers on flavor, that extra distillation hasn't made for a lightly flavored whisky.

That's not a put down on Auchentoshan, or Irish whiskies, I like both, but the extra distillation will normally take away about 24/25% of the whiskies flavor.

This whisky is matured mainly in European oak and bottled at 43% which is about standard for the American market and it does have added coloring (which does not harm the flavor).

This whisky is not readily found in the American market, but if you do find it, I would recommend you buy it.

So, would I buy the Benrinnes 15-year-old? Yes, it's worth a shot!

[You can buy Benrinnes 15-year-old for around \\$70.00 a bottle.](#)

Tasting Notes

Nose - Cereal, floral & toffee

Palate - Cereal, sweet malt & a hint of peat

Finish - Long & dry with a hint of citrus

"Slainte Mhath"

Paul Bissett





Benrinnes distillery

The distillery was founded by Peter McKenzie in 1826 and was destroyed by a flood in 1829, then rebuilt in 1835 in the outbuildings of a farmhouse by John Innes, and officially founded under the name Lyne of Ruthrie.

The distillery went bankrupt, and Lyne of Ruthrie was sold to William Smith and he changed the name of the distillery to Benrinnes, before selling the property to David Edward who ran the distillery until his son Alexander took over the operation in 1887. At this time the distillery had two stills, a wash still with a capacity of 1080 gallons, and a spirit still of 1004 gallons.

In 1896 the distillery was damaged in a fire. It was rebuilt and modernized to use electricity. The distillery was sold to John Dewar and Sons in 1922. Under Dewar's stewardship it was rebuilt in 1955, replacing the Malting floors with a Saladin box (a mechanical device used for turning the barley during the malting process), and ending the farming activities on the site.

The distillery was expanded in 1966, adding three stills to the three existing stills, which were all converted to internal heating in 1970.

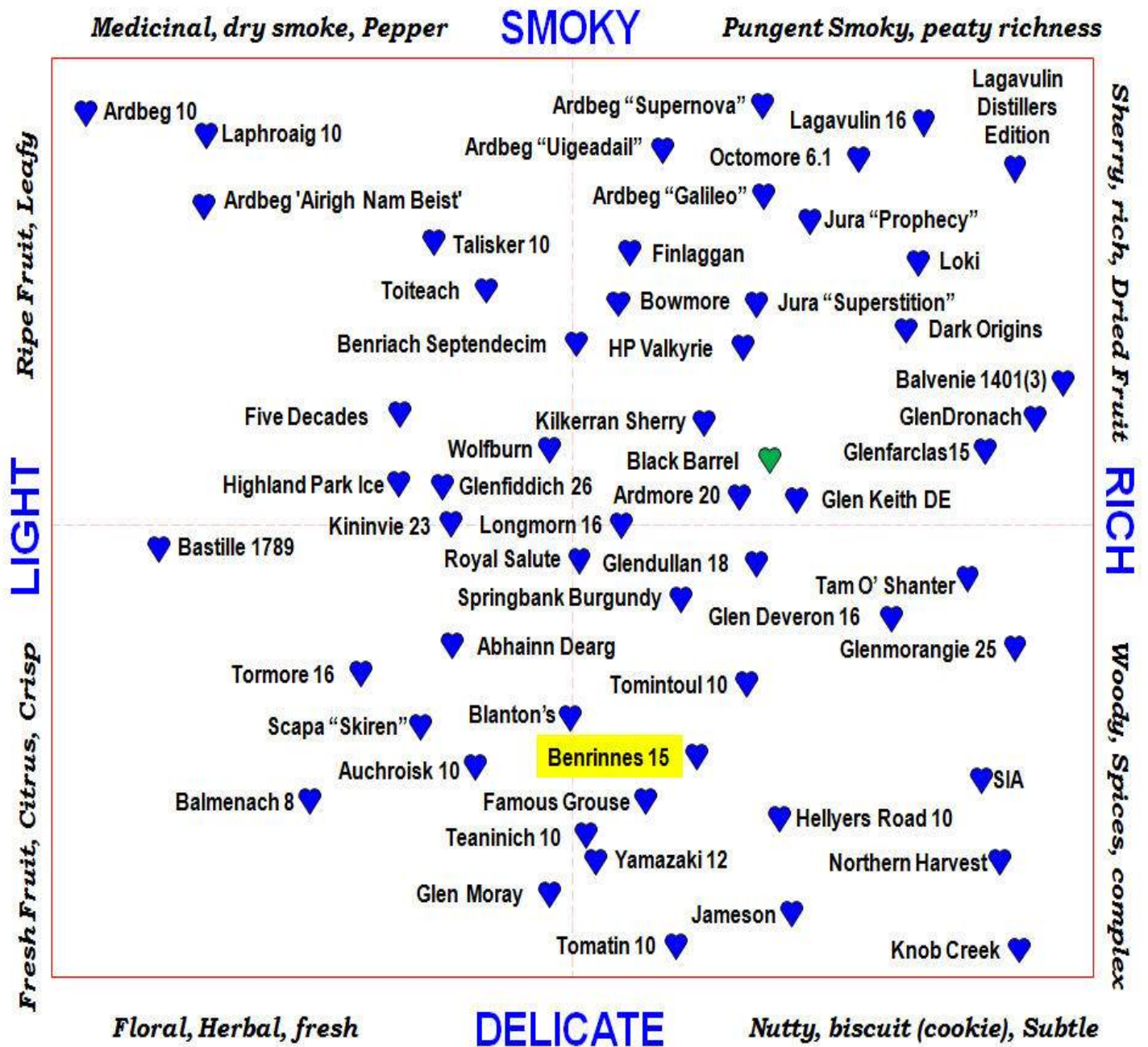
In 1974 Benrinnes changed its distillation process to a partial triple distillation process. The distillery stopped producing its own malt in 1984 and removed the Saladin box.

The triple distillation process was abandoned in 2007, when it switched to a more common configuration of two wash stills and four spirit stills. The Benrinnes distillery is currently owned by Diageo.





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; Benrinnes 15-year-old. For more information go to [No distillery website](#).





Raise a glass at a Scottish Whisky Festival in 2019

By Amy Robinson

We love a good whisky festival here in Scotland. It's no wonder – after all, the term 'whisky' comes from the Gaelic *uisge beatha*, which translates as the 'water of life'. And anything called the 'water of life' must be worthy of a bit of a celebration, surely?

We've put together a list of great Scottish whisky festivals and events from all across the country that take place in 2019. They are the perfect place to sample whiskies from different regions. Who knows – you might even find your favourite dram!

FIFE WHISKY FESTIVAL

8 – 10 March, Cupar, Fife

The new **Fife Whisky Festival**, taking place at the historic Corn Exchange in Cupar will showcase the finest whiskies from the Kingdom of Fife and beyond. Over 30 exhibitors will offer a huge range of whiskies to try as well as tasting samples at the exhibitors stand. There will also be live entertainment to enjoy too.

INVERNESS WHISKY & GIN FESTIVAL – THE BIG DAY OUT

13 April, Inverness, Highlands

The **Inverness Whisky & Gin Festival** will again take place at Bogbain Farm overlooking the Moray Firth, just south of the Highland Capital. The organisers promise that the Big Day Out will be an adventure from start to finish! There will be live music throughout the day and a Fired Up Scotland pop up restaurant will serve the very best of Scottish cuisine.

SPIRIT OF SPEYSIDE FESTIVAL

1 – 6 May, Speyside, Highlands

Join whisky lovers from far and wide in romantic Speyside for a unique and varied whisky festival programme. The **Spirit of Speyside Whisky Festival** is filled with special manager and behind-the-scenes distillery tours, whisky and food pairings, whisky tours by train or 4x4, sensory experiences, ceilidhs, whisky-themed walks and more, held across a huge range of iconic distilleries and local venues.

STIRLING WHISKY FESTIVAL

10 – 12 May, Stirling

Stirling Highland Hotel is transformed into a whisky lover's paradise during the **Stirling Whisky Festival**, featuring top distillers from all over Scotland. You can opt for a ticket which also allows entry to a whisky masterclass where you will have the chance to try special and rare malts and go on an educational whisky journey.



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HIGHLAND WHISKY FESTIVAL

10 – 17 May, various locations

There's a brand new whisky festival hitting the scene this year! The **Highland Whisky Festival** is gearing up to showcase eight of the finest distilleries along the North Coast 500 over eight days. Join exclusive tastings, tours and events at Balblair, Clynelish, Glenmorangie, Old Pulteney, The Dalmore, The Singleton of Glen Ord, Tomatin and Wolfburn and taste some truly iconic Highland single malts.

WORLD WHISKY DAY

18 May, various locations

Raise a glass to Scotland's national drink on **World Whisky Day**. You could attend an associated whisky-themed event, such as the combined history tour with whisky tasting by Mercat Tours held in Edinburgh's ancient Blair Street underground vaults, or why not head to your favourite whisky bar or plan a visit to a **distillery**?

FÈIS ÌLE, THE ISLAY FESTIVAL OF MUSIC AND MALT

24 May – 1 June, Isle of Islay

Set sail (or fly) to the enchanting Isle of Islay, Scotland's whisky island, for **Fèis Ìle**. Expect a warm Hebridean welcome and great craic as you explore the distilleries and sample whiskies with the island's famous peaty flavours. The festival also offers a taste of the unique island culture, with the programme featuring Gaelic and traditional music, ceilidhs, as well as events covering golf, history, natural heritage and more.

EDINBURGH WHISKY STRAMASH

18 – 19 May, Edinburgh

'A glorious rammy of whisky' is what the organisers call it, and we couldn't agree more. Set in the opulent and historic Surgeon's Hall on Nicholson Street, the **Edinburgh Whisky Stramash** is the whisky event which doesn't take itself too seriously. There are plenty of whisky experiences to take part in – some of them quite whimsical in nature – which showcase whiskies from both Scotland and beyond.

EDINBURGH WHISKY FESTIVAL

15 June, Edinburgh

The Assembly Rooms in Edinburgh is where you can find the **Edinburgh Whisky Festival**, a one-day event which will delight whisky fans. Included in the price of your ticket is the sampling of whisky from all of the exhibitors. There are also some rare and more exclusive whiskies available to purchase, or you can educate your senses at whisky masterclasses.



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DRAMATHON

19 October, Speyside, Highlands

Now this is an event with a difference – **Dramathon** is a marathon distance race where whisky is very much the motivation! Running part of the Speyside Way from Glenfarclas Distillery to Glenfiddich distillery, you can race distances of a full marathon, a half-marathon, a 10K or a relay race. Along the way, get stamped as you pass distilleries to collect whisky miniatures at the finish line. It won't just be the whisky that will warm you up!

THEATRE OF DRAMS

21 – 25 October, Bowmore Hall, Islay

Learn enough to start your own distillery at the **Theatre of Drams Festival**. This whisky symposium takes place on Scotland's whisky island – Islay and 2019 will be the festival's third year running. Spend your time learning about whisky production with knowledge shared by distillers, barley experts, chemists, coppersmiths, coopers, brand ambassadors and more. If you're short of time, it's still possible to join the festival for just a day or two by cherry-picking your preferred events.

GLASGOW WHISKY FESTIVAL

9 November, Glasgow

This festival brings Scotland's national drink to the country's national stadium. Whisky lovers flock to the **Glasgow Whisky Festival** at Hampden Park to sample and savour a wide range of great whiskies. This festival also showcases the distilleries which are closest to Glasgow along with the city's independent bottlers.

There are lots of other whisky events taking place throughout the year, including tastings and food pairings – why not find a **whisky event** taking place when you visit? Or, find a **distillery** and take a tour.

