



## 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. "Slainte."*

In this issue I look at Jura 16-year-old "Durach's Own" which my friend Justin introduced me to. First, and most startling to me, was the aroma; I was instantly transported to when I was a boy, changing the tire on my bicycle. The smell reminded me of the rubber inner tube! After that I wasn't expecting much in the way of taste. Fortunately I was pleasantly surprised; I tasted green apples in abundance, followed by hints of chocolate orange and honey.

I have now tasted Jura "Prophecy" 10-year-old, "Superstition" and This. Of the four I have to say the "Superstition" is my favorite, with this "Durach's own" falling into last place.

In my opinion there is no dishonor in taking last place, when up against such a fine selection of whiskies. I would be happy to drink any of those mentioned above.

### Tasting Notes;

**Nose** - Rubber tires (That's just my nose)

**Palate** - Green apples, chocolate orange & honey

**Finish** - Warm and slightly spicy

*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 [www.scot-talks.com](http://www.scot-talks.com)*

*"Slainte Mhath"*

*Paul Bissett*





## The Isle of Jura, Scotland

For more information on Jura go to the island's web site <http://www.jurainfo.com>

The Isle of Jura can be found off the west coast of Scotland, and more specific a few miles north-east from Islay, separated by the Sound of Islay. It borders on the east at the Sound of Jura with the Kintyre Peninsula and Knapdale Argyll on the other side. To the north the island of Scarba is Jura's closest neighbor separated by the Strait of Corryvreckan with its famous whirlpool. To the west the island of Colonsay can be found, separated by the Atlantic ocean. Jura is an island in the Southern Inner Hebrides.

The Isle of Jura is roughly the same size as Islay (Isla) and its name is believed to originate from the Norse "Island of the Deer". Despite its size Jura is only inhabited by approx. 200 people, who are outnumbered by the huge population of deer. Latest counts by gamekeepers show that Jura has almost 5,500 deer, making an encounter with one of these majestic animals inevitable when visiting Jura.

**Lords of the Isles:** Although there is no evidence found of viking raids and viking settlements on Jura, the island, the same as the other Inner Hebridean islands, were under Norse control and ruled from the Isle of Man. This situation lasted until Somerled ended Norse power in the Hebrides. Somerled's descendants, with their headquarters on Finlaggan Isle of Islay, and known as the Lords of the Isles, controlled large parts of Western Scotland and later became the famous Clan Donald.



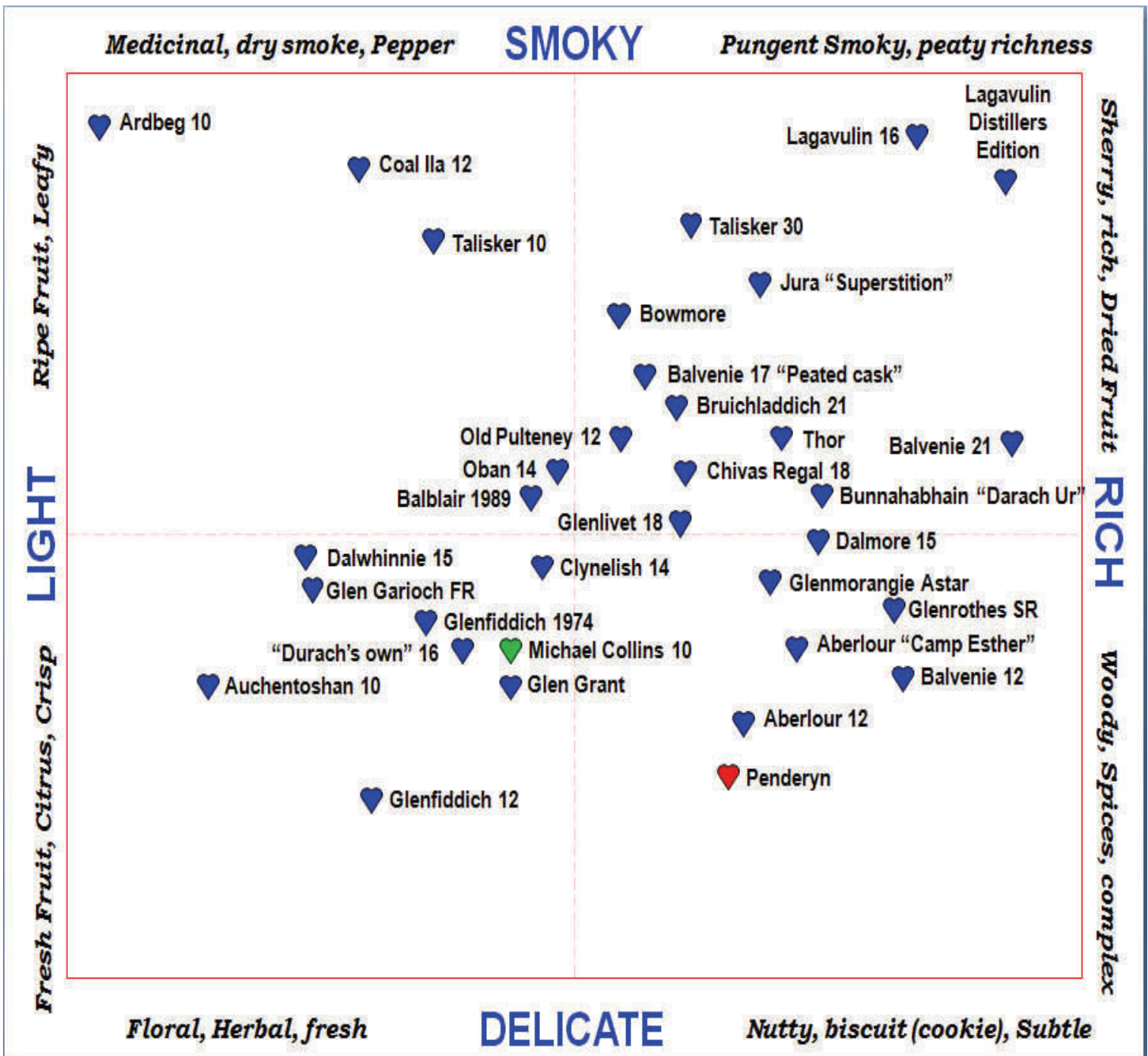
Isle of Jura seen from the Isle of Gigha

"Always do sober what you said you'd do drunk. That will teach you to keep your mouth shut."

**Ernest Hemingway**



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; Jura 16 year old “Durach’s own” For more information go to <http://www.isleofjura.com>



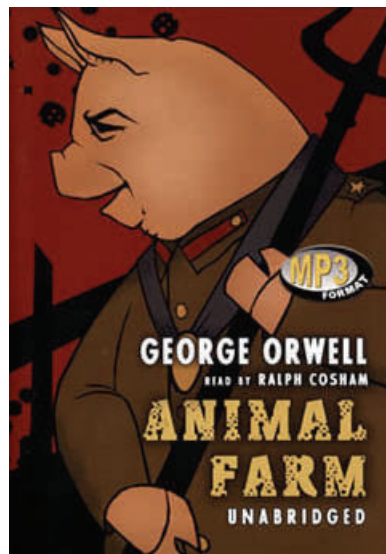
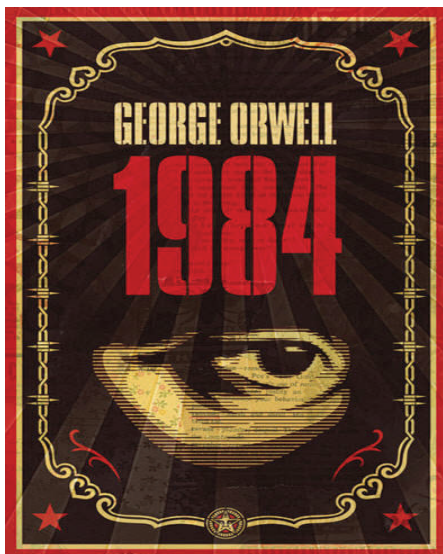


## The story of George Orwell

In the north of Jura, in Barnhill, the cottage where Eric Blair, better known as George Orwell, lived from 1946-48 while writing his novel “1984”. Orwell had first visited the island in 1945 and later had an almost fatal encounter in the Gulf of Corryvreckan that separates Jura from the smaller island of Scarba to the north.

One day in 1947, Orwell had taken a break from writing to sail with his nephews and nieces. However, their boat was caught by the whirlpool that the gulf is famous for and, despite losing the boat, Orwell and the youngsters managed to reach a small rock where they were later picked up by a fishing boat. Orwell returned to Barnhill where he finished his novel. Had things turned out differently on that day in the gulf, the world might not have read about Big Brother.

The Corryvreckan Whirlpool as it is called, is caused by an underwater mountain reaching almost to the surface of the strait, causing the whirlpool to activate when the tides change. With a strong westerly wind and upcoming tide the whirlpool is best visible.



“People sleep peaceably in their beds at night only because rough men stand ready to do violence on their behalf.”

George Orwell