



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 Old Pulteney 21-year-old. Aged in a combination of Bourbon and Sherry casks, the 21 year has loads of dried apricots and an oily mouthfeel this whisky was rated the #1 Whisky in the World by Jim Murray's Whisky Bible for 2012. This expression, which was created at the most northerly distillery in mainland Scotland, in Wick, Caithness, scored 97.5 points out of 100.

Do I agree with Jim Murray, no I don't. As much as I like this, and I do, I like it a lot. I actually prefer the Old Pulteney 12 year old which reminds me of how whisky used to taste when I was young and the Whiskies weren't finished in port/Madeira/Rum etc.

Everyone's taste differs, and my friend David McDonald rates this 21-year-old very highly, as do I, but the best in the world? Maybe not, then again maybe I just need to buy a bottle and try it again?

You can buy Old Pulteney 21 year old for around \$135.00 a bottle.

Tasting Notes;

Nose - Spice, butterscotch, apple

Palate - Caramel, spicy, fruity with a hint of brine

Finish - Medium to long, caramel, hint of smoke & brine

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

"Slainte Mhath"

Paul Bissett





Whisky galore: exports up by 11% as worldwide demand

grows <http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/home-news/whisky-galore-exports-up-by-11-as-worldwide-demand-grows.1378295410>

Exports grew in the first six months to almost £2 billion, compared with £1.78 billion in the first half of last year, an increase of 11%, according to the Scotch Whisky Association (SWA).

Growth was recorded in mature markets such as the US and France and in emerging economies such as South Africa and countries in South America.

Increases in exports to these countries helped mitigate declines in some Asian countries such as China, Japan, South Korea and Taiwan.

The US remains the biggest market by value, increasing by 29% to £391 million in the first half of the year compared with the first half of last year. It is followed by France which saw exports grow by 6%, to £199 million, and Singapore which jumped by 19%, to £174 million. Exports to South Africa also shot up by 19%, to £65 million.

Rapid growth was recorded across South and Central America.

Mexico is now the ninth biggest market for whisky exports, increasing by 67% to £54 million compared with the first six months of last year. Brazil recorded growth of 42% to reach £49 million, while exports to the distribution hub of Panama rocketed by 86% to £31 million to meet increasing demand across Latin America.

Trade agreements with a number of countries in Latin America came into force last month and are expected to further boost exports to the region with an end to import tariffs and creation of fairer tax arrangements.

Increases in exports to Germany, up 28% on last year's figures, and Latvia, up 6%, reflects growth in the Russian market, according to SWA.

Gavin Hewitt, SWA chief executive, said: "Demand for Scotch whisky from mature and emerging markets around the world grew strongly in the first half of this year after a slow start in 2012.

"While these figures provide a snapshot of what is happening with exports, the industry is confident this expansion will continue.

Significant new investment in the industry in Scotland by Scotch whisky producers reflects the belief that growth will be sustainable.

"Scotch whisky is widely recognized as a quality product and leads the way into new markets for other food and drink exports from the UK. It continues to be vital for the UK's export-led recovery. Developments, such as new trade deals, help ensure success will continue."

"Between two evils, I always pick the one I never tried before."

Mae West



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; Old Pulteney 21 year old. For more information go to <http://www.oldpulteney.com>





Must-visit Scottish Castles <http://www.cometoscotland.com/plan-your-trip/top-tips/scottish-castles>

Edinburgh Castle, Edinburgh

Standing magnificently on volcanic rock at the head of the Royal Mile, the castle has a far-reaching and dramatic history spanning thousands of years. The Scottish Crown Jewels can also be seen here.

Craigievar Castle, Aberdeenshire

Said to be the inspiration for Walt Disney's fairytale castles, this stunning building is one of the best examples of Scottish Baronial architecture. The great tower stands just as it did when completed in 1626.

Eilean Donan Castle, Highlands

This is one of Scotland's most photographed castles and quite rightly so, it's absolutely stunning. Ruined during one of the Jacobite risings in the early 18th century, it was restored to all its glory some two centuries later and is now the headquarters of the Clan McRae.



Dunvegan Castle, Isle of Skye

Built on a rocky outcrop, Dunvegan is the oldest continuously inhabited castle in Scotland and has been the ancestral home of the Chiefs of Clan MacLeod for 800 years.

Culzean Castle, Ayrshire

This grand cliff-top country house was remodeled in the late 18th century by the renowned architect Robert Adam in his trademark neo-classical Georgian style. You can also enjoy panoramic views over the Firth of Clyde from here.



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Stirling Castle, Stirling

Perched high on volcanic rock, Stirling provides spectacular views over two of Scotland's most historic battlefields - Stirling Bridge and Bannockburn. The Great Hall and the Royal apartments have been restored to their original splendor.

Caerlaverock Castle, Dumfries

With its moat, twin towered gatehouse and imposing battlements, Caerlaverock Castle is one of the finest medieval structures in Scotland.

Glamis Castle, Angus

This is the ancient seat of the Earls of Strathmore, the childhood home of HM Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother, the birthplace of HRH The Princess Margaret and the legendary setting for Shakespeare's 'Macbeth'.

Blair Castle, Perthshire

Blair Castle is the ancient seat of the Dukes and Earls of Atholl and home to the Atholl Highlanders, the last remaining private army in Europe?



Inveraray Castle, Argyll

The ancestral home of the Duke of Argyll, Chief of the Clan Campbell this iconic castle is a must-visit if you're in the west coast of Scotland.