



Object of the Newsletter

To promote the appreciation of fine Scotch Whisky (and the drinking of it) amongst my friends and to spread the word on the joys of single malt. By the way, I do not profess to be an expert, I am merely expressing an opinion on the whiskies I am tasting. “Slange.”

In this issue I look at Bunnahabhain “Darach Ur” (which means 'New Oak' in Scots Gaelic - this no-age-statement malt has been Matured exclusively in virgin American oak casks. My good friend Mike brought a bottle over for me when he and his wife Pat came Over from Spain for a vacation.

Bunnahabhain (Boon-a-HA-bin) distillery is on Islay (Isla), but don't expect a lot of smoke and peat from this whisky (there is some), but this whisky is light and fruity.

I am a fan of the peaty whiskies from Islay, the Lagavulin 16 has been a favorite for decades, so how does this compare? It doesn't, it stands on it's own and is a fine whisky. I would be Happy to have a dram of this anytime.

Tasting Notes;

Nose - Sea shore, sweet

Palate - Oaky and vanilla spice with dried fruit

Finish - Toffee and salt

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





A wee bit of History

Bunnahabhain History and Distillery Information

The Bunnahabhain Distillery - meaning river mouth - was built in 1880/1881 by a partnership which was incorporated in 1882 as the Islay Distillery Co., and later amalgamated with Wm. Grant & Co., (Glenrothes - Glenlivet) to form Highland Distillers, the present owners.

Highland are producers of the blend "The Famous Grouse" and "Black Bottle". The malt supplied to Bunnahabhain requires the Phenols (smoke) to be at levels of 3 p.p.m (Parts Per Million). In comparison Laphroig comes in at between 35 and 40 P.P.M. Bunnahabhain is one of the milder Islay whiskies available and in its taste varies greatly from other fine spirits to be found on the island.

The water rises through limestone and is transported by pipeline to the distillery, so it doesn't pick up any peat on the way. Common bottlings are 12, 18 and 25 years old. The distilleries capacity is approximately 2.4m liters per annum, from two pairs of stills.

The drive towards Bunnahabhain from Port Askaig is great and the location of the distillery is stunning. The long and winding road according to Bunnahabhain offers wonderful views of Jura, the sound of Islay and the Rhuvaal Lighthouse on the most northern tip of Islay.



"Always keep your words soft and sweet, just in case you have to eat them."



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; **Bunnahabhain "Darach Ur"** For more information go to <http://www.bunnahabhain.com>





HISTORY OF THE ROYAL HIGHLAND SHOW

<http://royalhighlandshow.org>

Although the Royal Highland and Agricultural Society of Scotland was established in 1784, it wasn't until December 1822 that it held its first show at Queensberry House in Edinburgh's Canongate when according to The Scotsman newspaper "...between sixty and seventy five cattle were exhibited." There were also eight New Leicester sheep and "two beautiful pigs."

Around 1000 members and public attended that first event held on a site adjacent to today's Scottish Parliament. Gate takings were just over £52, seemingly sufficient to cover overheads.

It's a far cry from those humble beginnings in the 19th century to the present Royal Highland Show where there's up to 5000 head of livestock, attendances of around 180,000 and costs associated with staging the event approaching £1.5 million.

Following the inaugural event, the show became a fixture in Edinburgh and Glasgow before moving to Perth in 1829, thereby beginning the tradition of itinerant shows that was to last 130 years before the first "Highland" was held on the permanent site at Ingliston in 1960. The 2012 show is the 172nd to be staged.

During the late 19th and into the 20th century, the show had begun to take on more of a semblance of its modern day equivalent with agricultural implements being exhibited, livestock classes open to breeders from other parts of the UK and prizes for the likes of butter and cheese.

Since moving to Ingliston, however, the show has developed beyond recognition and is now internationally recognized as an annual celebration of Scottish farming, food and countryside, attracting an audience far beyond its farming roots - a showcase of all that's good about Scotland.

By the early and mid 19th century, the Highland and Agricultural Society was a much revered national institution enjoying the patronage of many of Scotland's dukes and earls, landowners, agricultural pioneers and the Royal family.

In 1859, the Prince of Wales, the future Edward VII, seventeen years old and a student at Edinburgh University, twice visited the Edinburgh show yard. In 1872 Queen Victoria expressed a desire to be enrolled as an ordinary member and in 1894, the Duke of York, the future George V, visited the Aberdeen show as President of Society.

Various members of the Royal family have served as Presidents of the Society, have been awarded Honorary Membership or have visited the Royal Highland Show.

The title Royal was bestowed at Inverness show in 1948 by King George VI, father of the current Patron, Her Majesty The Queen