



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.

In this issue I look at the Benriach Septendecim Peated 17-year-old, first of all just to clarify the name. Septendecim is Latin for seventeen. This whisky harks back to Benraich's nineteenth century roots, a time when the majority of Speyside distilleries were producing peated whiskies, unlike today, when it is quite rare. Septendecim is non chill filtered, and bottled at natural color (no caramel added), with a strength of 46% ABV.

This is not your Islay peated whisky, that beats you around the head with peat and smoke and leaves you smiling with enjoyment (if like me you are a fan of big peat).

This is a peated whisky for sure, but is a lighter, Highland-style whisky with a healthy kick of peat on the back end.

If you like peat, but don't like to be beaten up by it, you'll like this.

You can buy Benriach Septendecim for around \$75.00 a bottle.

Tasting Notes;

Nose - Vanilla, cedar, caramel apple

Palate - Vanilla, peat/smoke, black pepper cinnamon & rhubarb

Finish - Long with peat & spice

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





Top Scot

Sir Sean Connery is voted top Scot with whom most people would want to share a dram. James Bond actor Sir Sean Connery is named the top Scot that people would like to share a dram with in a recent poll by the Spirit of Speyside Whisky Festival. The research revealed that 22% of people would prefer him as a drinking partner over historical figures and fellow stars from the world of Scottish entertainment, sport, and politics. Mary Queen of Scots came second in the poll with 9% of the vote, fending off competition from the likes of tennis player Andy Murray (5%), football legend Sir Alex Ferguson (8%) and poet Robert Burns (5%). As the nation marks the 50th anniversary of his death, Winston Churchill was found to be the famous figure that most people wanted to sit down and enjoy an alcoholic drink with (7%). The formidable former Prime Minister beat comedian Stephen Fry into second place (2%), while Elvis Presley was third (2%).



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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; [Benriach Septendecim Peated 17-year-old](#). For more information go to www.benriachdistillery.co.uk





Do Scotsmen really wear kilts?

Written by Barbara Weibel

Everyone has heard it - the speculation and jokes about what Scots wear under their kilts. I was no different. When I finally decided to visit Scotland, it was the first thing that came to mind. But I assumed, as I suspect many do, that kilt-wearing men were more of a stereotype than a reality. Imagine my surprise the first morning, when I walked down the Royal Mile to Edinburgh Castle, where briefcase-toting men were casually walking to work, outfitted in full kilt regalia.

Any discussion about the history of the kilt is rife with disagreement. Early Irish stone carvings depicting men in knee-length garb have led to speculation that kilts were developed in Ireland and later imported by Scots. English lore insists that Thomas Rawlinson, who owned an iron smelter in the Scottish Highlands early in the 18th century, modified the clothing of his workers because their belted plaids were too hot for use in his factory.

He purportedly cut their tunic-like garments in half and added a belt, which became the kilt as we know it today. Today, both theories have been largely debunked by historians. Irish carvings show men in tunics, rather than in traditional two-piece kilts, and the English myth is easily disproved because, beginning in the early 1600's, literature sources state that wearing of the "belted plaid" was nearly universal among all Gaelic Highlanders.

Though I quickly became accustomed to seeing men in kilts on the streets of Edinburgh, it wasn't until I was invited to a Scottish wedding at Blair Castle that I realized just how fashionable kilts have become. With one or two exceptions, every male guest at the wedding sported a kilt. Fascinated, I made the rounds of the castle's great hall, noting that no two were alike. Each featured a woolen knee-length garment that was pleated in the back; wrapped around to the front; fastened with belts, buckles, and finished with a pin on the free edge.

A sporran (Gaelic pouch) hung from a chain or belt on top of the front of each skirt and long woolen socks, turned down just below the knee, were often garnished with a sheathed knife, belted to the calf just above the ankle. Finally, each kilt was topped with shirt and jacket of the wearer's choice.



Despite similarities, the variety among kilts was astounding. Sporrans ranged from simple leather pouches to large purses embellished with fur or sealskin. Stockings were decorated with tassels and, in some instances, held up with garters. Tartans ranged from the well-known green/red/navy plaid to combinations with orange, tan, grey, and maroon. I even saw a couple that sported baby blue and pink plaids!

When my new friends explained that every clan has a particular tartan that has been handed down over the generations, I realized that, with Scottish ancestry on my mother's MacDonald side, I too should have a clan tartan. On the trip back to Edinburgh, my host family obliged my wish to buy a scarf in my tartan, stopping at numerous shops along the way. Unfortunately, we were traveling through Campbell territory.

The great feud between the Campbell's and MacDonalds may be ancient history, but asking for a MacDonald tartan in Campbell country raised more than one eyebrow. I may not have found a MacDonald tartan scarf, but I departed with something even more precious: memories of a warm and welcoming country, where men wear kilts with pride and flair.

For more articles by Barbara Weibel go to <http://holeinthedonut.com>

