



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 am merely expressing my opinion on the whiskies I am tasting, as you know, everybody has one.

I now look at the Glenfarclas 1963 family cask, I tried this at Whiskyfest in San Francisco, it was very fruity, and a little hot. Funny thing was, when I added water to it, it was still hot, but the flavor diminished, I've never had that happen before or since when adding water.

As the name suggests this was bottled in 1963, after a long maturation in a sherry cask, how long? I've no idea, I can't find that out, but judging from the taste and mouthfeel of the whisky, it was a long time.

Best bet to taste this whisky, is the next time you are in the Speyside region of Scotland go to the "Mash Tun" restaurant in Aberlour.

More on that in page 2.

So, would I buy it? No, it is a nice whisky, but way out of my price range.

You can buy Glenfarclas 1963 family cask for around \$7,150.00 a bottle.

Tasting Notes

Nose - Rich, fruity & chocolate

Palate - Madeira & rum fruits

Finish - Fruit & espresso

"Slainte Mhath"

Paul Bissett





The Mash Tun Restaurant

THE BAR & RESTAURANT

We have a limited number of tables available therefore booking in advance is highly recommended.

The Mash Tun is currently owned and run by Mark & Karen Braidwood, both of whom have a real passion for great food and Scottish malt whisky. This is reflected in the locally sourced and well presented food offered by friendly, helpful and knowledgeable staff. Mark and Head Chef Nick are passionate about Scottish contemporary cooking, and you will find The Mash Tun Menu a treasure trove of fantastic flavours.

Enjoy locally sourced food and Scottish whisky, and stay in one of the five whisky themed rooms situated above the bar area. Comfortable and well appointed, each of our rooms are individual and named after local whisky distilleries.

THE WHISKIES

The Mash Tun is home to a wide and varied selection of whiskies, both single malts and blends, predominately from Speyside but also incorporating distilleries from the rest of Scotland. Included in this selection is the exclusive Glenfarclas Family Cask Collection.

The Family Casks are a unique collection of 52 single cask whiskies, with one for each consecutive year from 1952 to 2003. The collection is unique as there is no other known collection of rare and old whiskies that covers 52 consecutive years from the same distillery.

The Mash Tun is home to the largest collection of the Glenfarclas Family Casks in the world that is on display and available to drink by the dram.

Mark and Kevin are also available to put together a bespoke tutored tasting of this collection.

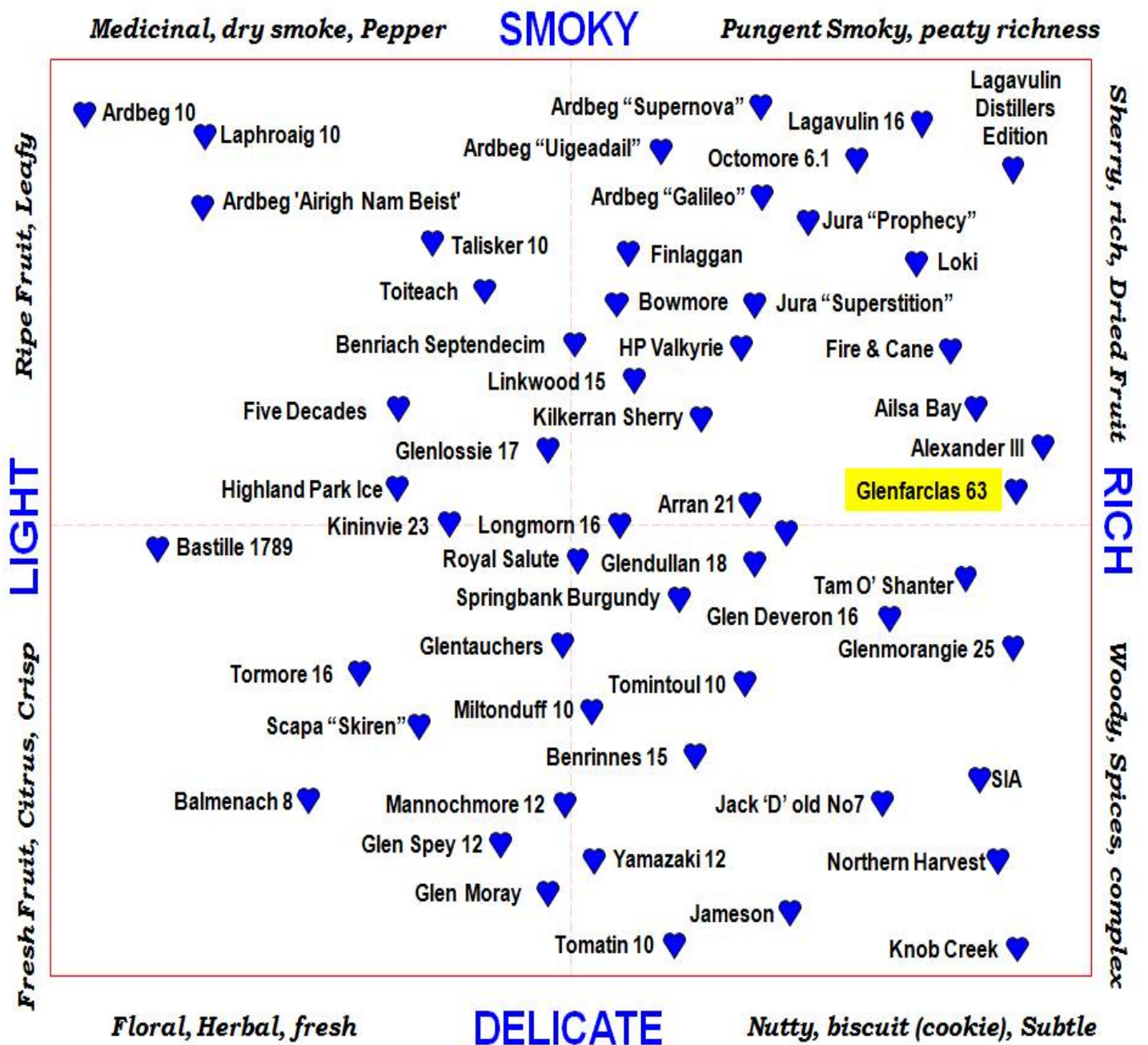
The bar is managed by Kevin Christie, who with his small team of enthusiastic staff are here to assist and guide you through the collection of whiskies we currently have at the famous Mash Tun Whisky Bar.

There is a wide range of whiskies available to suit all tastes and budgets with prices ranging from £3.50 to £1500 per 35ml dram.

www.mashtun-aberlour.com



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; [Glenfarclas 1963 family cask](#). For more information on [Glenfarclas](#) whiskies go to <https://glenfarclas.com>





Raise a Glass at a Scottish Whisky Festival in 2020

By Steve Duncan

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 2020. They are the perfect place to sample whiskies from different regions. Who knows – you might even find your favourite dram!

THE NATIONAL WHISKY FESTIVAL

25 January, Glasgow

Taking place at **SWG3** in Glasgow, the **National Whisky Festival** offers the chance to try a selection of fine whiskies from between 30 and 50 tasting stands. Included in the programme for the first time, will be a memorable piping and whisky tasting experience, linking this festival with the amazing **Celtic Connections**, where people can experience pipe tunes that follow the structure and flavour of some amazing drams. The drams will be specially selected by expert Rachel MacNeill from Islay Whisky Academy. Some of the best drams from around the world will be on offer, so why not come and celebrate Scotland's national drink in friendly and like-minded company?

FIFE WHISKY FESTIVAL

6 – 8 March, Cupar, Fife

The **Fife Whisky Festival**, heading into its third year in 2020, will again take place at the historic Corn Exchange in Cupar and will showcase the finest whiskies from the Kingdom of Fife and beyond. In 2019, over 30 exhibitors offered a huge range of whiskies to try as well as tasting samples at exhibitor stands. The live entertainment programme is also a big feature of this festival.

SPIRIT OF SPEYSIDE WHISKY FESTIVAL

29 April – 4 May, various locations across Moray Speyside

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 one of the most popular in Scotland and 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.



HIGHLAND WHISKY FESTIVAL

8 – 15 May, various locations

The **Highland Whisky Festival** is gearing up for a return in 2020, following its very successful inaugural year in 2019. Showcasing 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. Each distillery will host one full day of the festival and this year's promises to be another cracker!

STIRLING WHISKY FESTIVAL

9 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 a remarkable whisky journey.

WORLD WHISKY DAY

16 May, various locations

Raise a glass to Scotland's national drink on **World Whisky Day**. All you need is a bottle of whisky and some friends. Though you could opt to 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

22 – 30 May, 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 of Islay, with the programme featuring Gaelic and traditional music, ceilidhs, as well as events covering golf, history, natural heritage and more.

EDINBURGH WHISKY STRAMASH

23 – 24 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.



HEBRIDEAN WHISKY TRAIL FESTIVAL

19 – 23 May, various venues on the isles of Skye, Raasay and Harris

This whisky festival took place for the first time in 2019 and looks set to return in 2020. The festival includes whisky tastings, local food and drink and the four distilleries along the **Hebridean Whisky Trail** (Isle of Harris Distillers, Isle of Raasay Distillery, Torabhaig Distillery and Talisker Distillery) will feature alongside the Sligachan Hotel and Cuillin Brewery and the Aros Centre. Come along and show your support for this **brilliant festival** set amidst some of the UK's finest scenery.

EDINBURGH WHISKY FESTIVAL

6 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.

SPIRIT OF THE NORTH FESTIVAL

26 September, Inverness, Highlands

The **Spirit of the North Festival** will again take place at Bogbain Farm overlooking the Moray Firth, just south of the Highland Capital. The organisers promise that this 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 again serve the very best of Scottish cuisine.

DRAMATHON

17 October, Moray Speyside

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!

THE ISLAY WHISKY ACADEMY DIPLOMA

26 – 30 October, The Gaelic College, Bowmore, Islay

Learn enough to start your own distillery with the **Islay Whisky Academy**. This whisky symposium takes place on Scotland's whisky island, which is now home to nine fine distilleries. Spend your time learning about whisky production with knowledge shared by distillers, barley experts, chemists, coppersmiths, coopers, brand ambassadors and more.



THE DORNOCH WHISKY FESTIVAL

30 October – 1 November, Dornoch

Now in its fifth year, the **Dornoch Whisky Festival** showcases the best Scottish whiskies, alongside the finest Highland food and hospitality right in the heart of the North Highlands. Festival venues include **Dornoch Castle Hotel**, famed for its award-winning whisky bar, the **Carnegie Whisky Cellars, Thompson Bros. at Dornoch Distillery** and the revered **Royal Dornoch Golf Club**. Come for a dram or two and leave with new friends and wonderful memories of the festival and this stunning part of Scotland.

GLASGOW WHISKY FESTIVAL

21 November, Hampden Park, 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.



Strathisla Distillery in Keith, one of the venues for Spirit of Speyside