



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.

I now look at Craigellachie 23-year-old, a relatively new release, as it only came out last year (2014). Not quite a typical Speyside whisky, yes it has the fruit as you would expect, but it also has a good measure of spice as well. I had to give it some water, then some more, to calm the heat/spice down, then I enjoyed it. It does come at 46% which is 3% higher than the average for whiskies sold in the American market, so it's possible, that I'm just not used to the extra alcohol, but I doubt it's that. What I really don't understand is it's price point, I know it was awarded the prestigious "Best Whisky in Show" at the San Francisco World Spirits Competition 2015.

I can't help but, compare it's taste and price to a couple of my favorite 21-year-olds. The Balvenie 21-year-old Portwood and the Glenfiddich 21-year-old Gran Reserva and to my taste (and wallet) the Craigellachie fails to live up to the cost. Both the Balvenie and Glenfiddich are less than half the price and are both stellar whiskies. I'm off to WhiskyFest in a few days and hope to try some other Craigellachie whiskies, and also ask them why it's so expensive.

You can buy Craigellachie 23-year-old for around \$410.00 a bottle.

Tasting Notes;

Nose - Malt, vanilla, orange and oak

Palate - Caramel, orange and spice

Finish - Sweet and spicy

"Slainte Mhath"

Paul Bissett





A Jacobite Journey through Scotland

In the National Trust for Scotland we are lucky enough to have several sites which are connected to the Jacobite story so we thought we'd look at a few of these special places and share their unique stories.

Firstly, to the majesty of Killiecrankie. This steep sided gorge was home to the Battle of Killiecrankie in 1689 in which the Government army was sent north to deal with Viscount Dundee's newly formed Jacobite army. The Jacobites were able to rout the Government army, but it came at a cost. Roughly one third of the Highland force was killed and Viscount Dundee was mortally wounded. He died on the battlefield and was carried the few miles to the nearby parish church of St Bride, above Blair Castle where he was buried.



Killiecrankie in the Autumn

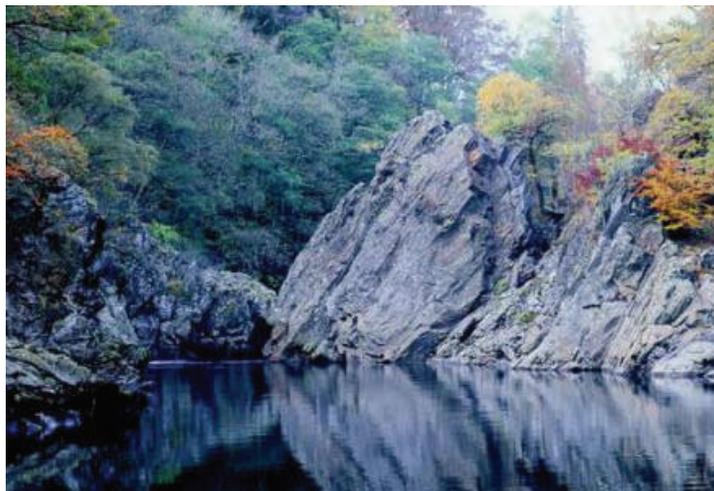
The death of Dundee, in the midst of the confusion of a cavalry charge, became the subject of numerous legends, the best known of which was the tale that he was invulnerable to lead (due to having made a pact with the Devil) and was killed not by the government shot but by a silver button from his own coat being pushed into the wound.

Another legend of Killiecrankie is the Soldiers Leap. Along the gorge is a narrow section where it is said Donald MacBean, a government soldier, avoided capture by jumping 5.5m (18.5 feet) across the river. Despite losing his shoe on the way across, he survived and escaped, later becoming a prize fighter. You can walk out to the point at which MacBean made his famous leap but I wouldn't fancy giving it a go myself.



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; [Craigellachie 23-year-old](http://www.spiritofspeyside.com/planning_your_visit/speyside_distilleries/779_craigellachie_distillery) For more information go to http://www.spiritofspeyside.com/planning_your_visit/speyside_distilleries/779_craigellachie_distillery





Soldiers Leap at Killiecrankie

Today the gorge is famous for its autumn colors. Its Gaelic name 'Coille Chneagaidh' or 'Wood of Shimmering Aspen' sums it up perfectly. There is a beautiful walk along the gorge or for the more adventurous there is a bungee jump off the Garry Bridge.

From gorgeous Killiecrankie to the equally stunning Glencoe. This beautiful site is considered one of the most picturesque spots in Scotland but its history is a little more on the ugly side. In 1692 the Massacre of Glencoe took place in the early morning of the 13th February. Members of the MacDonald clan were murdered by soldiers of the neighboring Campbell clan for not pledging allegiance to William III.



Glencoe



The Highland clan chiefs had been set a deadline of the 1st January 1692 to swear an oath of loyalty to William III to be granted an indemnity.

MacDonald was late in declaring his oath and an order, signed by the King himself, was raised to enact the massacre.

Alastair MacIain, 12th Chief of Glencoe, and the man responsible for the late pledge, was killed as he tried to rise from his bed. 37 other men were murdered in their homes or as they tried to flee with as many as 40 women and children dying from exposure after their homes were burned down. Today there is a monument in Glencoe remembering the fallen MacDonald men.

Finally we couldn't talk about Jacobites without mentioning Glenfinnan Monument.



Glenfinnan Monument

It was here that Prince Charles Edward Stuart truly began his '45 campaign on 19th August 1745. On the hills around the monument Charles raised the Jacobite standard for the first time and began his fateful campaign which would end the following year at Culloden.

All the mustered clans heard as Charles claimed the Scottish and the English thrones in the name of his father, James, the Old Pretender.



The Unknown Soldier on top of Glenfinnan Monument

Be sure to check out these places and even more to discover the history of the Jacobites and of course make sure you visit Culloden to complete your visit! As always please like, share, tweet, follow, comment and enjoy uncovering the pages of history as you take your own Jacobite adventure.

<https://cullodenbattlefield.wordpress.com/2015/10/23/a-jacobite-journey-through-scotland>

