



Time to look at some of my current favorite whiskies, my top 10 from 2016.

(10) Glenfiddich 14-year-old

From Dufftown in the heart of Speyside. Not quite on a par with it's wonderful 15-year-old big sister, but a great addition to the range. Another home run from Glenfiddich.

Featured in issue 123, December 2015

Approximate Cost per bottle - \$60.00 a bottle.

Tasting Notes;

Nose - Vanilla, citrus, caramel

Palate - Toffee, pear, baked apple

Finish - Long, sweet, oak & fruit



(9) Glenfiddich 15-year-old

In my opinion, the best tasting whisky (against price), on the market today a constant in my whisky cabinet. This is also my break through whisky, after years of trying to taste something specific listed in the tasting notes, this is the one that delivered.

Featured in issue 11, April 2011

Approximate Cost per bottle - \$55.00

Tasting Notes;

Nose - Rich, spicy with oak & a small amount of peat

Palate - Honey, Pears, coffee, Spice with oak & chocolate.

Finish - Dry and spicy with some pepper





(8) Jura Brooklyn The “Brooklyn” is aged in American White Oak Bourbon, Amoroso Sherry and Pinot Noir casks, which makes for a complex and in my opinion very tasty dram. After thinking about it for a little while, it kind of reminds me of the Highland Park “Dark Origins”, it is similar, but yet quite distinct, if you tasted them side by side you’d get what I mean.

Featured in issue 127, February 2016

Approximate Cost per bottle - \$80.00

Tasting Notes;

Nose - Raisins, smoke & coffee

Palate - Rich Berries, smoke & coffee

Finish - Nice long sherried fruit finish with a hint of smoke



(7) Johnnie Walker Blue I have to say that, I’m enjoying this more than I ever have before, possibly because it was bought for me (a definite possibility, I am Scottish after all).

In the past I have had a bit of a problem with the “Blue”, it seemed over marketed and over priced, and I developed a chip on my shoulder about it.

Last night I had a dram and gave it deep consideration, it is in fact a superb whisky, and the first thing that struck me, on tasting it was the smoke on the front end. I really don’t remember that much smoke on previous tastings.

Featured in issue 144, October 2016

Approximate Cost per bottle - \$180.00

Tasting Notes;

Nose - Berries, citrus & spices

Palate - Smoke, toffee & hints of chocolate

Finish - Floral, fruity, with honey





(6) Highland Park “Dark Origin”

This whisky has no age statement (NAS), is bottled at 46.8% and is non-chill Filtered. I’m a big fan of Highland Park whiskies and this new one is a Standout, highly recommended.

Featured in issue 97, November 2014

Approximate Cost per bottle - \$90.00

Tasting Notes;

Nose - Cocoa, cinnamon, vanilla & liquorice

Palate - Light peat & chocolate orange

Finish - Long with heathery smoke & a little chocolate



(5) Springbank 18-year-old

This is yet another stellar whisky from the folks at Springbank. It’s not a cheap whisky, but in this case you definitely get what you pay for. If you should purchase this fine scotch, and are inclined to the occasional cigar, try it with a Partagas Corona they match up very Well.

Featured in issue 135, June 2016

Approximate Cost per bottle - \$160.00

Tasting Notes;

Nose - Strawberry, rhubarb, Marzipan

Palate - Honey, fruit, oats, liquorice

Finish - Long with coconut, chocolate and a hint of smoke





(4) Bruichladdich “Black Art”

This is a spectacularly good whisky, which is annoying, as they are not going to make it anymore, or at least that’s the last I heard. So if you see it, And can afford it, buy it. If you don’t like it, after you buy it, invite me round to your house and I’ll drink it for you.

Featured in issue 88, June 2014.

Approximate Cost per bottle - \$200.00

Tasting Notes;

Nose - Dried fruits, cherries, oak

Palate - Dried fruits, cherries, smoke, baked apple

Finish - Cherries, smoke, some brine



(3) Springbank 15-year-old from the Campbeltown

Region (once proclaimed the ‘whisky capital of the world’) of Scotland. This is an outstanding whisky, I like this a great deal, highly recommended.

Featured in issue 110, May 2015.

Approximate Cost per bottle - \$100.00.

Tasting Notes;

Nose - Dark chocolate, Christmas cake, almonds, toffee

Palate - Raisins, dark chocolate, marzipan & vanilla

Finish - Long with vanilla, Oak, sherry & cocoa





(2) Compass Box “This is not a Luxury Whisky”

Nothing special going on, on the outside, but on the inside HOLY KERSHMOLY!! This is just a superb whisky and I had the good fortune to taste it while standing talking to John Glaser at last year’s WhiskyFest in San Francisco, and did he ever nail it with this. The youngest whisky in here is 19-years-old. Highly recommended.



Featured in issue 134, May 2016

Approximate Cost per bottle - \$200.00

Tasting Notes;

Nose - Fruit cocktail, raisins, cinnamon

Palate - Fruit cocktail, toffee, banana

Finish - Raisin, figs, coconut, sweet peat smoke

(1) Gordon & MacPhail Speymalt from Macallan

What a treat! As soon as my nose got the aroma, it immediately reminded me of the Macallan ‘M’ that I had tasted the previous year in Edinburgh. This is luscious, luxuriously self-indulgent, completely and utterly decadent, well you get the idea.

Featured in issue 146, November 2016

Approximate Cost per bottle - \$1000.00

Tasting Notes;

Nose - Ripe fruits, nutmeg & cinnamon

Palate - Plum, toffee, raisin, stewed fruits

Finish - Long and full with raisins & sultanas





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. In this issue of the newsletter, I only have my top ten whiskies of 2016 shown.

