



## 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"*

This issue I look at Bowmore "Legend" Islay single malt, there is no age statement (NAS) on this whisky. Bowmore whiskies tend to be more smoky as opposed to peaty as in, for example, the three Southern Islay distilleries of Ardbeg, Lagavulin and Laphroaig. This may be due to Bowmore's malted barley being broken before it is dried over a very smoky fire.

I sampled this whisky recently at the Ventura, California "Seaside Highland Games." If ever there was an appropriate Highland Games to taste this whisky, then the Ventura games would be the place. You could stand in the park and throw a stone into the Pacific ocean, so where better to taste those Smokey and salty island notes, than a stones throw from the Pacific with the sound of Bagpipes playing in the background.

This is a nice family friendly games, not too large that you feel lost, but not too small that there isn't enough going on to occupy your day. I look forward to returning next year.

### Tasting Notes;

**Color** - Light Amber

**Nose** - Some smoke and Citrus

**Palate** - Lightly Smokey with Honey

**Finish** - Smoke and Saltiness

*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](http://www.scot-talks.com).*

*"Slainte Mhath"*

*Paul Bissett*

*With thanks to Google images.*





## A wee bit of History

The Bowmore distillery on Islay is believed to have been built in 1779, which would make Bowmore one of the oldest working distilleries in Scotland. However, the records from this early period are often relatively vague, so when the first Bowmore was actually distilled is hard to determine with 100% accuracy.

In 1950 Bowmore was purchased by William Grigor & Sons Ltd. from Inverness. A little over a decade later, in 1963, Stanley P. Morrison Ltd. bought Bowmore, increased the number of stills to four and added a visitor centre - proving that they understood marketing even when the single malt market was still in its infancy, back in the 1960's.

The marketing of the Bowmore whisky brand became even more sophisticated after Suntory from Japan bought Morrison Bowmore Distillers Ltd in 1994. Suntory also owns the Lowlands distillery Auchentoshan and Glen Garioch in the Eastern Highlands.

A large amount of the whisky produced at Bowmore is bottled as a single malt with the rest of the whisky produced at Bowmore being used as an ingredient of blends like Rob Roy & Black Bottle. Bowmore still has its own maltings, although it only produces about one third of the malted barley that they use.

The rest of the malted barley is produced at the nearby Port Ellen maltings.

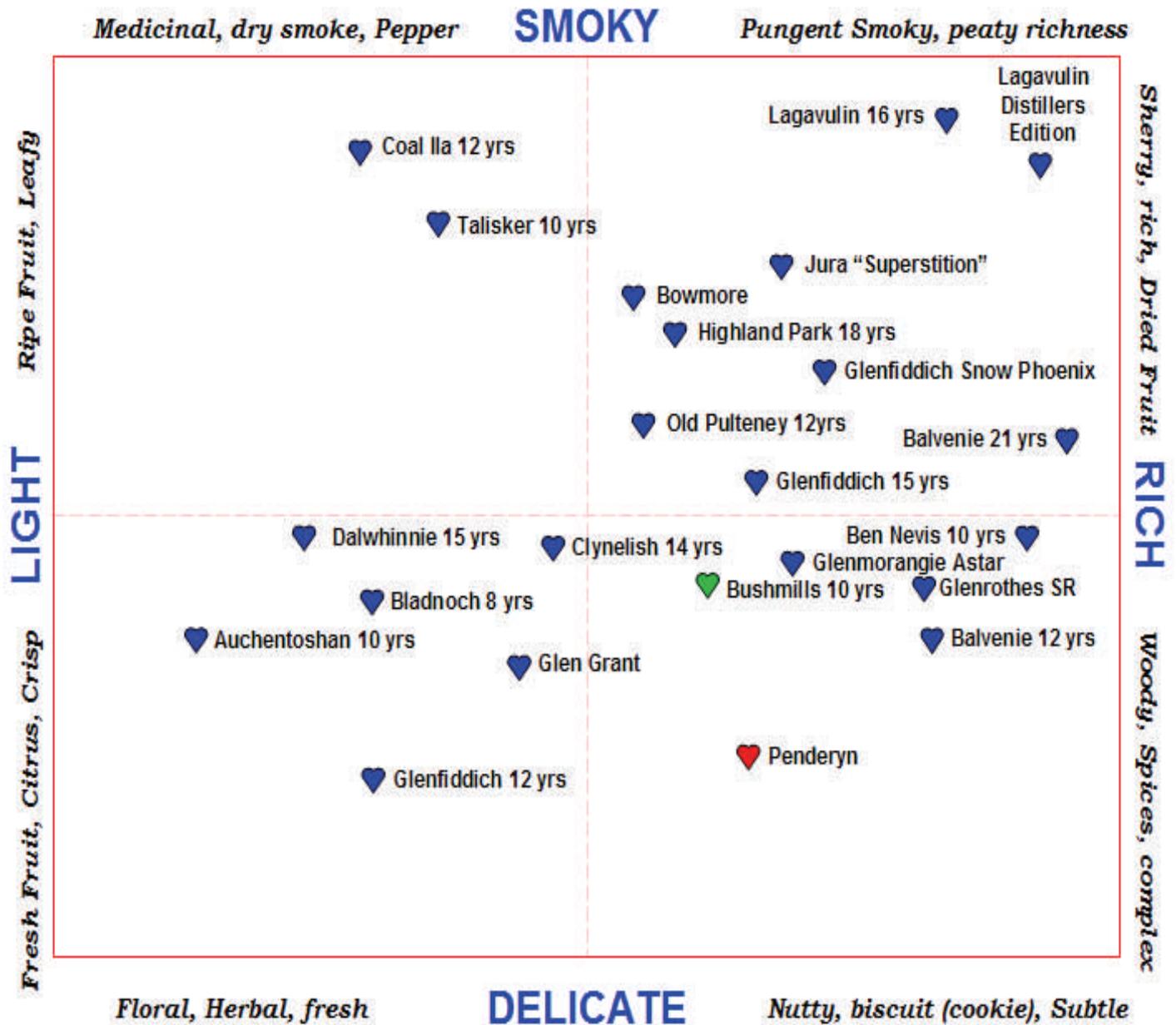


### **Puns for Educated Minds**

“The fattest knight at King Arthur's round table was Sir Cumference. He acquired his size from too much pi.”



Below is a simple guide to help you choose your single malt Whisky, and the flavor notes I get from it, hopefully you will get something similar. 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, but because the map is filling up, I will remove the oldest whisky. This issue; **Bowmore "Legend"**. For more information go to <http://www.bowmore.com>





## Bowmore Distillery, Holiday cottages

A stay at Bowmore Distillery offers the chance to stay at the heart of one of Scotland's oldest distilleries. The cottages are all beautifully renovated to 4 star "Visit Scotland" standard. All are located within or beside the distillery complex and guests are invited to take a complimentary distillery tour, to savor a dram and to simply relax.

**THE OLD BAKERY:** Built in 1887, The Old Bakery is close to Bowmore's tiny harbor and one can imagine life as it must have been back then with fishing boats coming and going and people in and out of the busy bakery. Today, The Old Bakery offers the ultimate in luxury self-catering accommodation with a fantastic dining kitchen that will inspire the most reluctant of chefs to cook a meal.

**DISTILLERY HOUSE:** Built in 1840, Distillery House occupies a corner plot in the heart of Bowmore, with the tiny stonebuilt harbor to one side and the iconic Bowmore Round Church to the other.

**GARDEN COTTAGE:** Look out of the front windows over to Bowmore's tiny 'Town Square' or stroll out of the back into the beautiful Bowmore Garden – the perfect place to sit with a dram and gaze across Loch Indaal.

**MALTMAN'S COTTAGE:** Built in the early 1900's for the distillery workers, this cottage is situated right beside Bowmore Distillery. You will feel a sense of magic staying beside this historic place. The cottage has stunning views of both the distillery and over Loch Indaal.

**MASHMAN'S COTTAGE:** Attached to Maltman's Cottage, Mashman's Cottage allows you to experience the magic of being in close quarters to Islay's oldest distillery. The word 'cosy' may just have been created especially for Mashman's Cottage.

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