



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. "Slainte."

In this issue I look at the Glengoyne 21 year old, which has flavors appropriate to Christmas. My son Paul happened to send this whisky to me for Christmas last year (thank you son) either he got lucky, or he has more whisky knowledge than he admits to. This whisky is like all your favorite Christmas desserts distilled down into an amber nectar and poured into a glass for you to relax by the fire and savor. Back in 2007 my wife Tracey, myself and our friend David McDonald hiked the West Highland Way from Milngavie just outside Glasgow to Fort William (almost 100 miles) in the highlands and the trail passes close to Glengoyne distillery. We did not stop there, as it involved climbing over a barbed wire fence (in a kilt) and negotiating a field of cows, but a short while later stopped for lunch at a nearby pub and with lunch we tried a Glengoyne 10 year old, I have to say that none of us were very impressed with it. The 21 year old is an entirely different story, I like this whisky a lot and it will not only be drunk at Christmas.

Tasting Notes;

Nose - Apple, ginger, cherry, chocolate

Palate - Cherry, nutmeg, oak, ginger & caramel

Finish - Warm & spicy

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





A wee bit of History

For more information go to www.glengoyne.com

Glengoyne Distillery is often described as Scotland's most beautiful distillery. The distillery is situated just 15 miles north of Glasgow on the scenic A81, and is also close to Loch Lomond and the Trossachs. The distillery, which takes its name from "Glen Guin" or Glen of the Wild Geese, has been producing an exceptional single malt scotch whisky for over 200 years.

Glengoyne Distillery is situated in a wooded valley in the southern highlands of Scotland close to a small river that flows into Loch Lomond. With its neat, manicured buildings and whitewashed walls, the distillery sits like a white jewel beneath the rolling Campsie Hills at the gateway to the highlands.

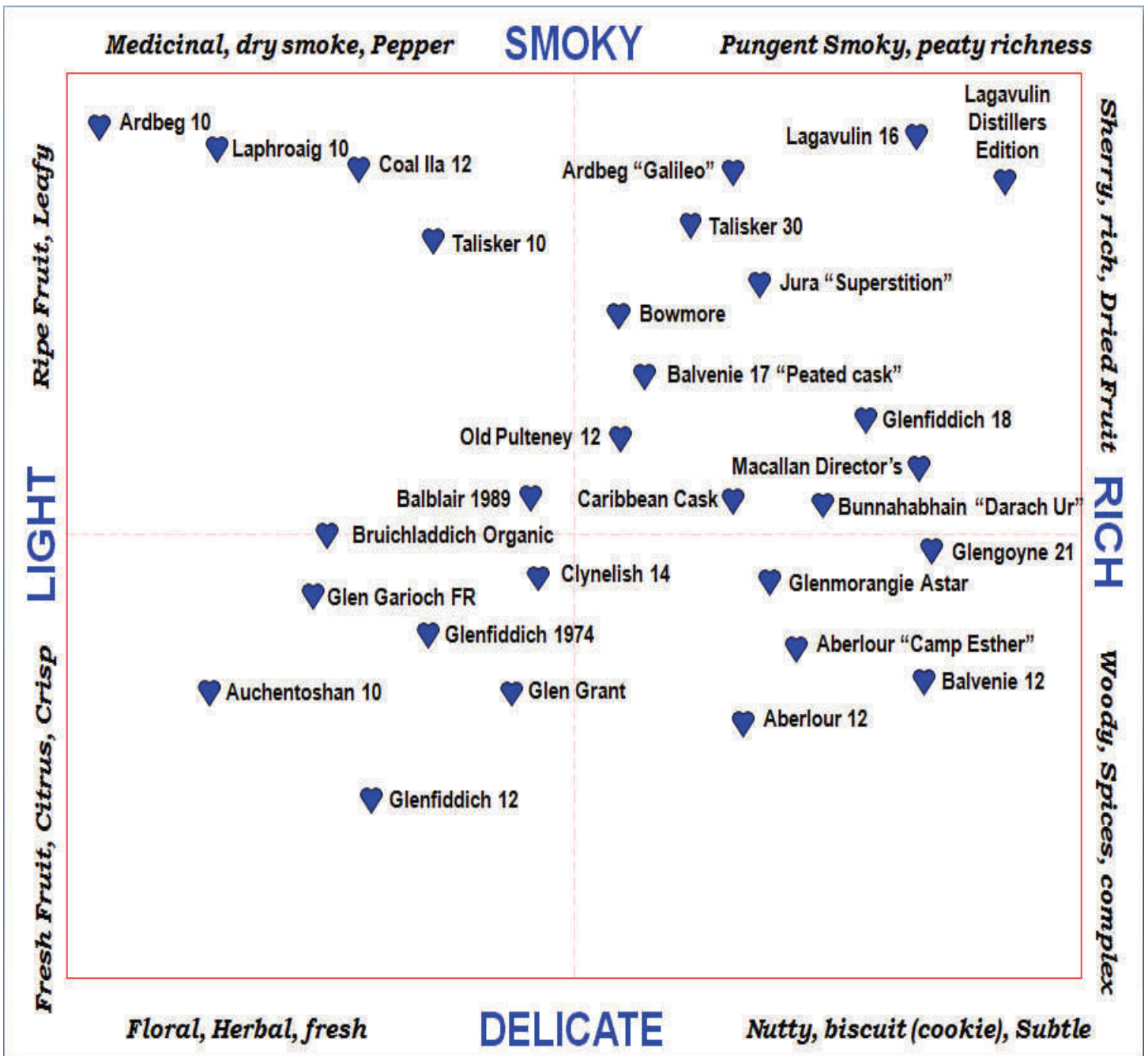
Glengoyne Distillery is located at Dumgoyne, north of Glasgow, Scotland. Glengoyne is unique in producing highland single malt whisky matured in the lowlands. Located on the highland line, the division between the highlands and lowlands of Scotland, Glengoyne's stills are in the highlands while maturing casks of whisky rest across the road in the lowlands. Unlike many malt whisky distilleries, Glengoyne does not use peat smoke to dry their barley, but instead uses warm air.



Glengoyne distillery from the West Highland Way footpath



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; Glengoyne 21 year old For more information go to <http://www.glengoyne.com>





West Highland Way Diary - To read the whole article go to www.scot-talks.com/West-Highland-Way.html

Day One (7/14/07): Milngavie to Drymen (20 miles)

After eighteen months of anticipation the hike starts (after walking a mile from our hotel) with a photo opportunity at the Obelisk in Milngavie (pronounced Mulguy) Main Street. We deliberately started a little late (0930) as I remembered that there was a Whisky Distillery (Glengoyne) about 30 minutes walk from the start. I had suggested that we take one of the tours that started a 10am. For the next three and a half hours I kept saying it must just be over the next hill or round the next bend, when we finally reached the Distillery, it would have involved climbing over a couple of fences and walking through a herd of cattle for about half a mile, we all agreed that it was not worth the effort. We stopped for lunch at the Beech Tree Inn, we also sampled the Glengoyne Distilleries Whisky, and we concluded that we had made the right choice not to visit the Distillery.

So far, the way had been through undulating (hilly) parkland, woods and fields, most of the remainder of the days walk would be along quiet country roads, until we reached the Queen Elizabeth National Forest, which would have been more scenic had not major logging been going on. This logging caused us the first of our detours, we had planned to cross over Conic hill as the views from the top of Loch Lomond and the mountains behind are breathtaking. Unfortunately the way ahead was closed, so we headed down to Drymen a long and at this point in the days hike hard descent, which led us straight to the Clachan Inn (Licensed 1734) where we had planned to have dinner. We had read about the Heather Ale they served in the Clachan, unfortunately they had stopped serving it some years before. We relaxed while waiting for a taxi to take us to our first nights lodging at the Oak Tree Inn, Balmaha.

My bad memory about how far it was to the Distillery and the length of the first days walk, seemed to have made my fellow hikers a little wary of any of my predictions for the rest of the hike.



Tracey & David at the end of day one