



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”

My good friend, Ray Pearson (The Whiskymeister: <http://whiskymeister.wordpress.com>) recently gave me a sample of Jura “Superstition” to try, I was very impressed, so I asked Jeff at the Liquor Bank (my go to guy for whisky) to get some in for me. If you are wary of smokey whiskies, this could be a good introduction for you. It does not beat you over the head with huge amounts of peaty smoke like some of it’s neighbors from Islay; the smoke in “superstition” is more subtle.

As it is Halloween, when better than today, to try this mysterious Spirit? Crafted from a selection of the finest aged Jura single malt whiskies, go ahead and treat yourself.

I don’t know if this is recommendation or not, but our Scottish Terrier “Heather” likes a “lick” of this whisky and isn’t the slightest bit interested in any other kind, either blend or single malt.

Tasting Notes:

Color - Gold

Nose - Oranges and smoke

Palate - Orange Peel, Cookies, Smoke, Spice

Finish - Sweet and Smokey, hints of Orange

The Isle of Jura Distillery celebrated it’s 200th anniversary in 2010.

“Slainte Mhath”

Paul Bissett

With thanks to Google images.





A Wee bit of History

<http://www.isleofjura.com/library/tales-and-superstitions.aspx>

Many moons ago, the Diurachs were entitled to distil whisky for personal consumption. Alas, all good things come to an end and meddling politicians introduced a ban in 1781.

Twenty nine years later, as legend has it, Laird Archibald Campbell awoke; sober, it must be said; in the middle of the night to see the ghostly figure of an old woman hovering over his bed. She berated him over the lack of the golden liquid on the island. It was this apparition that persuaded him to reverse this punitive measure and erect a distillery at an old smugglers' cave in the hamlet of Craighouse in 1810.

Nothing, it seems, lasts forever. A victim of neglect and economic gloom, it wasn't long before the distillery fell into disrepair.

It wasn't until the 1950's when, in a bid to entice new inhabitants to the island, two local estate owners Robin Fletcher and Tony Riley-Smith rebuilt the distillery, employing a genius by the name of Delme-Evans to weave some architectural magic. By 1963 their work was complete and the fortune of the island had changed, the distillery had offered new employment and the island began to flourish once again, Delme-Evans had introduced taller stills allowing the distillery to create an eclectic mix of malts, a feature that helped differentiate Jura from its island neighbors.

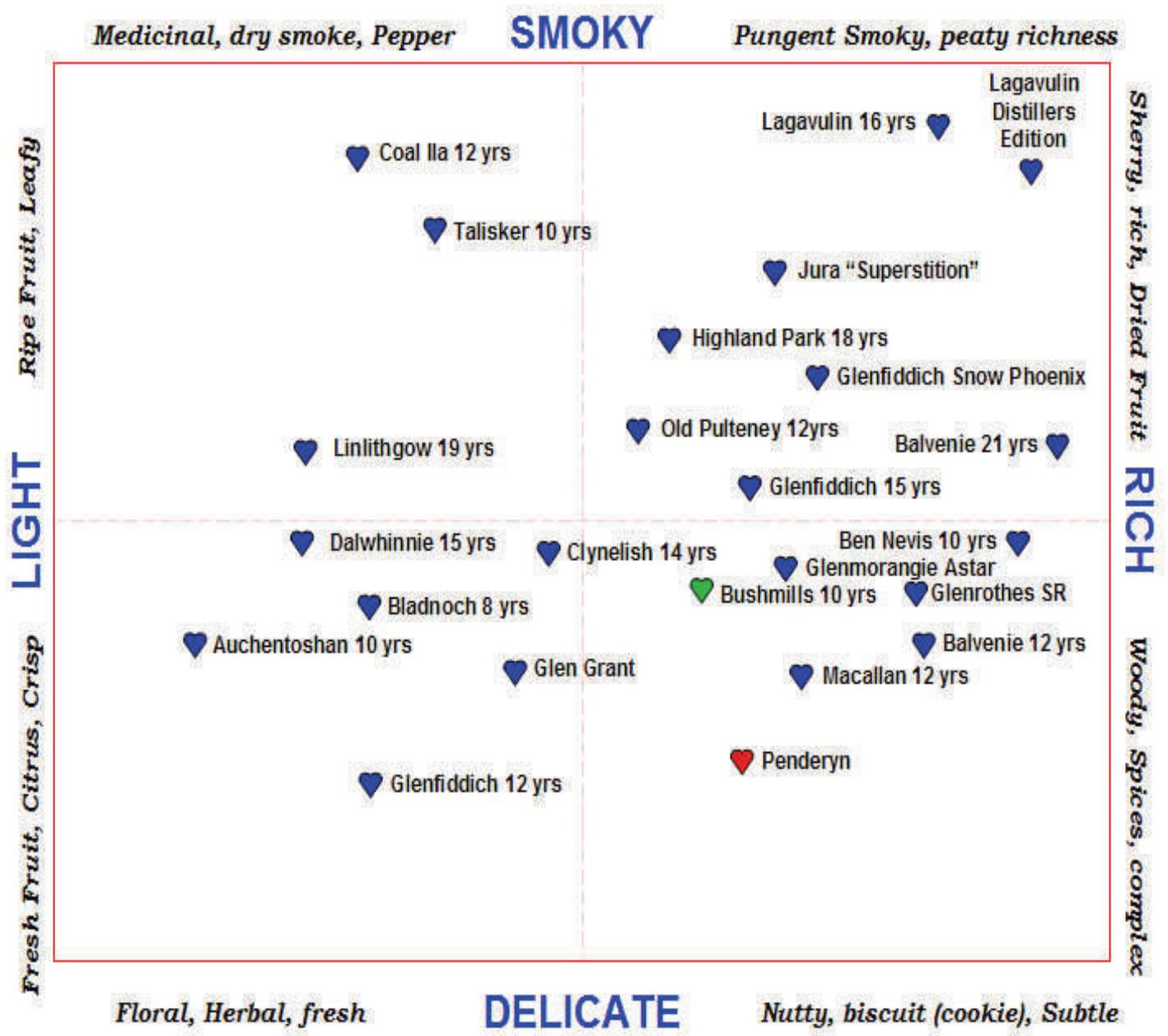
We don't know if the old woman is planning a return visit but a bottle of 16 year old Jura whisky is kept in a secret cave on the island for her.



"Women and cats will do as they please, and men and dogs should relax and get used to the idea."



Below is a simple guide to help you choose your single malt Whisky, and where it fits in the flavor map. 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; **Jura "Superstition"**. For more information on **Isle of Jura** whiskies go to; <http://www.isleofjura.com/home.aspx>





Halloween

Halloween had its beginnings in an ancient, pre-Christian Celtic festival of the dead. The Celtic peoples, who were once found all over Europe, divided the year by four major holidays. According to their calendar, the year began on a day corresponding to November 1st on our present calendar. The date marked the beginning of winter. Since they were pastoral people, it was a time when cattle and sheep had to be moved to closer pastures and all livestock had to be secured for the winter months. Crops were harvested and stored. The date marked both an ending and a beginning in an eternal cycle.

The festival observed at this time was called Samhain (pronounced Sah-ween). It was the biggest and most significant holiday of the Celtic year. The Celts believed that at the time of Samhain, more so than any other time of the year, the ghosts of the dead were able to mingle with the living, because at Samhain the souls of those who had died during the year traveled into the otherworld. People gathered to sacrifice animals, fruits, and vegetables. They also lit bonfires in honor of the dead, to aid them on their journey, and to keep them away from the living. On that day all manner of beings were abroad: ghosts, fairies, and demons--all part of the dark and dread.

Samhain became the Halloween we are familiar with when Christian missionaries attempted to change the religious practices of the Celtic people. In the early centuries of the first millennium A.D., before missionaries such as St. Patrick converted them to Christianity, the Celts practiced an elaborate religion through their priestly caste, the Druids, who were priests, poets, scientists and scholars all at once. As religious leaders, ritual specialists, and bearers of learning, the Druids were not unlike the very missionaries and monks who were to Christianize their people and brand them evil devil worshippers.

Samhain, with its emphasis on the supernatural, was decidedly pagan. While missionaries identified their holy days with those observed by the Celts, they branded the earlier religion's supernatural deities as evil, and associated them with the devil. As representatives of the rival religion, Druids were considered evil worshippers of devilish or demonic gods and spirits. The Celtic underworld inevitably became identified with the Christian Hell.

The effects of this policy were to diminish but not totally eradicate the beliefs in the traditional gods. Celtic belief in supernatural creatures persisted, while the church made deliberate attempts to define them as being not merely dangerous, but malicious. Followers of the old religion went into hiding and were branded as witches.





Diurach (Gaelic word for the people of the Isle of Jura)

If you go to the Jura distillery webpage you can sign up to become an honorary Diurach, which gets you a certificate (see mine below), entitles you to a dram of their whisky every month for life (but you have to be on Jura to collect).

If you go to the link Diurach's Due, you will see other offer's that you are entitled to as a Diurach.

<http://www.isleofjura.com/home.aspx>

