



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.

This issue I look at Macallan Fine Oak, 10-year-old. I was fortunate enough to receive a bottle as a gift from my friend, Steve Haines, and his father, Fred, when they came over from Wales for the World Rugby 7's tournament in Las Vegas.

I really like this whisky and the 17-year-old fine oak is one of the best I've ever tasted, also the Macallan 12-year-old (Sherry finish) has been a favorite for years.

These are whiskies done right, unlike the nonsense that is Macallan's no age statement 1824 series, based on the color of the whisky. This has come about, because of the increasing demand for scotch and Macallan (The Edrington group) realizing that they can't keep up with demand. They have used younger whiskies along with this color scheme and tried to pass it off as a new way to gauge the quality of whisky.....BAD IDEA!!!

All my whisky drinking friends agree with me, that as bad ideas go, the 1824 series ranks up there with getting involved in a land war in Asia or going up against a Sicilian when death is on the line.

You can buy Macallan fine oak 10-year-old for around \$40.00 a bottle.

Tasting Notes;

Nose - Honey, vanilla, citrus

Palate - Honey, vanilla, citrus, butterscotch, some spice

Finish - Medium, honey, citrus, oak, some spice

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





Macallan fine Oak range

With thanks to <http://www.squaremeal.co.uk>

When it comes to luxury and sophistication, the very best brands are defined by their ability to maintain the highest standards and their refusal to compromise or cut corners on quality. Whether it's cars, watches, clothes or perfume, the constant pursuit of excellence is what defines a true icon.

And when it comes to buying that special gift for Christmas it's to these super-premium brands that the discerning customer turns, since they will deliver quality and exude class every time. In the field of whisky, that brand is The Macallan, a Speyside single malt that has forged its reputation on a foundation of the finest ingredients, an unerring attention to detail and the employment of the very best mastery.

At every stage of the whisky-making – from planting new oak trees to pouring the liquid into the glass – the creators of The Macallan have put quality before everything else. Take The Macallan Fine Oak, for instance, a range of malt whiskies that has brought together all the very best aspects of great whisky-making.

The highest quality grain barley, prepared to The Macallan's unique specification, is malted and mixed with pure spring water before being fermented. It is then distilled in unique squat pot stills, which allow the rich flavor oils to pass into the robust spirit. The 'cut' is the amount of distilled spirit collected from the stills as 'new make' spirit. The Macallan takes one of the best 'cuts' of any distillery in Scotland; only the best of the best, typically just 16%, goes forward to fill the casks.'

The spirit that is collected is matured in three different cask types; European oak seasoned with sherry and American oak seasoned with either sherry or bourbon. The spirit is matured for a minimum of 10 years and in some cases considerably longer, until it is thought to be perfect. Then, and only then, is this spirit removed from cask by the whisky maker and honored to carry the name The Macallan.

The result is a range of malts that are complex, elegant, delightful and packed with flavor, a heady mix of vanilla, honey, dried fruits and orange. It is a range that has excited and delighted whisky aficionados and experts across the world; a range against which all other single malt whiskies must be judged.

The Macallan Fine Oak range includes a 10 year old, 15 year old, 17 year old 21 year old and 30 year old, with prices ranging from under \$65 to \$1200.



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. This issue; *Macallan 10-year-old Fine oak*. For more information go to <http://www.themacallan.com>





MACALLAN “STRUGGLING” IN TRAVEL RETAIL AFTER AGE REMOVAL

by Alan Lodge

The decision to withdraw age statements from The Macallan whiskies in travel retail has led to a significant drop-off in sales at World of Whiskies, according to a source at the store.

The Edrington Group moved to withdraw age statements from The Macallan’s travel retail portfolio as it became apparent there was not enough stock to meet future demand, but the World of Whiskies source at the London Gatwick North Terminal store told *the drinks business* that consumers are now ignoring the brand in favor of those that state their age.

The Macallan launched a new “family” of single malts dedicated to the global travel retail sector in 2008.



The 1824 Collection of four expressions – Select Oak, Whisky Maker’s Edition, Estate Reserve and 1824 Limited Release – was created by John Ramsay, the now retired master whisky maker for parent company The Edrington Group, and Bob Dalgarno, The Macallan’s whisky maker.

The World of Whiskies source said: “We hardly sell any of The Macallan since they made the switch. The new range is really struggling.

“Consumers in travel retail tend to be looking for a little bit of luxury, something that they wouldn’t normally buy in their local shop.

“They tend to look for age statements above anything else as a mark of quality, and as such The Macallan is missing out massively, in my opinion.

“I can’t remember the last time we sold any. People simply ignore it. I think the company has made a mistake by removing the age statements.”

the drinks business is currently awaiting a response to the claims from The Edrington Group.

The store has also witnessed how consumers still go for age statements over vintage releases.

The source said: “Consumers still prefer and understand age over vintage.

“Whiskies such as The Glenrothes choose to release specific vintages, but we find that consumers will always go for a specific age first rather than look for a specific year.”



New Whiskey Glass a Combination of Aesthetics and Science

By Ray Pearson www.whiskytastings.com

Whiskey drinkers, rejoice! Forget traditional shapes of glasses that direct *all* the whiskey's aromas to the nose; here's a scientifically-designed glass that lets "the alcohol smell" escape, and emphasizes only the pleasant aromas. The making and enjoyment of whiskey is actually more about its *aroma* than its taste. In Scotland, at least one Master Blender's nose is insured by Lloyds of London for north of one million dollars (no word on similar coverage for the palate).

Aroma is paramount when it comes to personal enjoyment, too, and the shape of the glass you're drinking from makes a big difference. Most glasses are wide at the bottom and narrower at the top, to allow the aromas to rise and meet the nose. In glass science, this type of design is called "convergent rim." Copitas, spirit nosing glasses, snifters, or any of the many other designs currently on the market, do the minimum to create upward movement of the spirit, and almost nothing to enhance all the nuances of the whiskey's character. In fact, in most cases, they collect and focus significant alcohol directly to the nose, interfering with the wonderful aromas of the liquid.

A new glass design, meticulously researched in the USA at Arsilica, Inc., approaches the nosing and drinking experience from a scientific standpoint. Called NEAT™, the pot-still shape relies on Naturally Engineered Aroma Technology. Business partners George Manska and Christine Crnek, executives at Arsilica discovered that not all aromas *should* be collected at the nose. The prime example is ethanol, the "alcohol smell" in whiskey. Ethanol is disagreeable, numbs and kills the olfactory neurons and obscures the desirable and pleasant aromas which occur naturally in fermented and distilled beverages. Manska explains, "The widely flared lip and its proximity to the surface of the liquid allows the ethanol to escape before nosing, and positions the nose directly over the concentrated vapors." Studies at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, back up this claim and prove the ethanol is dissipated, allowing only flavorful esters and aromas to remain.

Test marketing the NEAT™ glass at whiskey events around the country has evoked comments like "I can finally smell the earthy herbs my husband talks about", "It's so comfortable to hold", and "This glass reminds me of the beautiful copper stills at the distillery we visited".

Glass has developed over the millennia since it first appeared in Mesopotamia over 5000 years ago, as the material from which to drink liquids. For centuries, glass's economy, neutrality to taste and aroma, and its ability to conform to beautiful designs have been taken for granted. The NEAT™ glass combines artisanal craft with scientific aroma technology to take spirits appreciation to new sensory heights.

NEAT™ glasses are hand-made, mouth blown in the USA in 100% lead-free Crystalyn™ crystal. Currently, the NEAT™ glass is sold on-line at www.theneatglass.com