



This issue I look back at 2012 and pick the ten best (in my opinion) whiskies that I've tasted in the last year.

Starting at #10 and working down to #1;

(10) Oban 14 year old from the town of Oban. This is a mainstay of my whisky cabinet.

Featured in issue 27, December 2011.

Approximate Cost per bottle - \$65.00

Tasting Notes;

Nose - Sweet, fruity, with sea salt, small amounts of peat & smoke

Palate - Rich fruit, honey, malt, spice & light smoke

Finish - Sweet oak with a pinch of salt



(9) Highland Park "Thor" from the most Northerly of Scotland's Distilleries, on the Orkney Islands.

Featured in issue 40, June 2012.

Approximate Cost per bottle - \$180.00

Tasting Notes;

Nose - Sweet, peach, ginger & vanilla

Palate - Honey, smoke, vanilla, apple

Finish - Fruity, spicy with a hint of smoke





(8) Macallan “Directors Edition” from Craigellachie, Moray.
Featured in issue 49, November 2012.

Approximate Cost per bottle - \$45.00—only available from COSTCO stores

Tasting Notes;

Nose - Caramel, vanilla & raisins (a hint of banana?)

Palate - Sweet, caramel, dried fruit mix & cinnamon

Finish - Caramel & dried fruit with a little spice

(7) Glengoyne 21 year old, From the most southerly of the highland distilleries.
Featured in issue 52, December 2012.

Approximate Cost per bottle - \$160.00

Tasting Notes;

Nose - Apple, ginger, cherry, chocolate

Palate - Cherry, nutmeg, oak, ginger & caramel

Finish - Warm & spicy





(6) Talisker 30 year old from the Island of Skye off the west coast of Scotland. Should be higher up my list, but the price is prohibitive. **Featured in issue 31, February 2012.**

Approximate Cost per bottle - \$400.00

Tasting Notes;

Nose - Sea air, smoke, vanilla and citrus

Palate - Spicy, salty, creamy chocolate

Finish - Long, smooth, smoky, salty and peppery

(5) Old Pulteney 12 year old, from the most northerly distillery on the Scottish Mainland, in the town of Wick. I just like this more and more, it has earned a permanent place in my whisky cabinet. **Featured in issue 14, May 2011.**

Approximate Cost per bottle - \$38.00

Tasting Notes;

Nose - Quite intense with a hint of salt (sea air)

Palate - Medium bodied, faintly salty with an orange note.

Finish - Long and predominantly orange flavored, hint of malt.





(4) Lagavulin 16 year old from the Island of Islay (Isla) off the west coast of Scotland. Another constant in my whisky cabinet and a favorite of many decades.

Featured in issue 3, December 2010.

Approximate Cost per bottle - \$60.00

Tasting Notes;

Nose - Smoke, Chocolate, flowery

Palate - Dry, Sweet, Smokey, Peaty

Finish - long, elegant peat-filled finish with lots of salt and seaweed

(3) Balvenie 14 year old Caribbean cask from Dufftown in the heart of Speyside. A new release in October of 2012.

Featured in issue 50, November 2012.

Approximate Cost per bottle - \$70.00

Tasting Notes;

Nose - Honey, vanilla, malt & raisins

Palate - Malt, raisins, toffee & spice

Finish - Malty & spicy





(2) Glenfiddich 15 from Dufftown in the heart of Speyside. In my opinion, the best tasting whisky (against price), a constant in my whisky cabinet. **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



(1) Ardbeg Galileo from the Island of Islay (Isla) off the west coast of Scotland. Unfortunately a limited release of only 50,000 bottles. **Featured in issue 46, September 2012.**

Approximate Cost per bottle - \$110.00

Tasting Notes;

Nose - Fruity, toffee, smoky

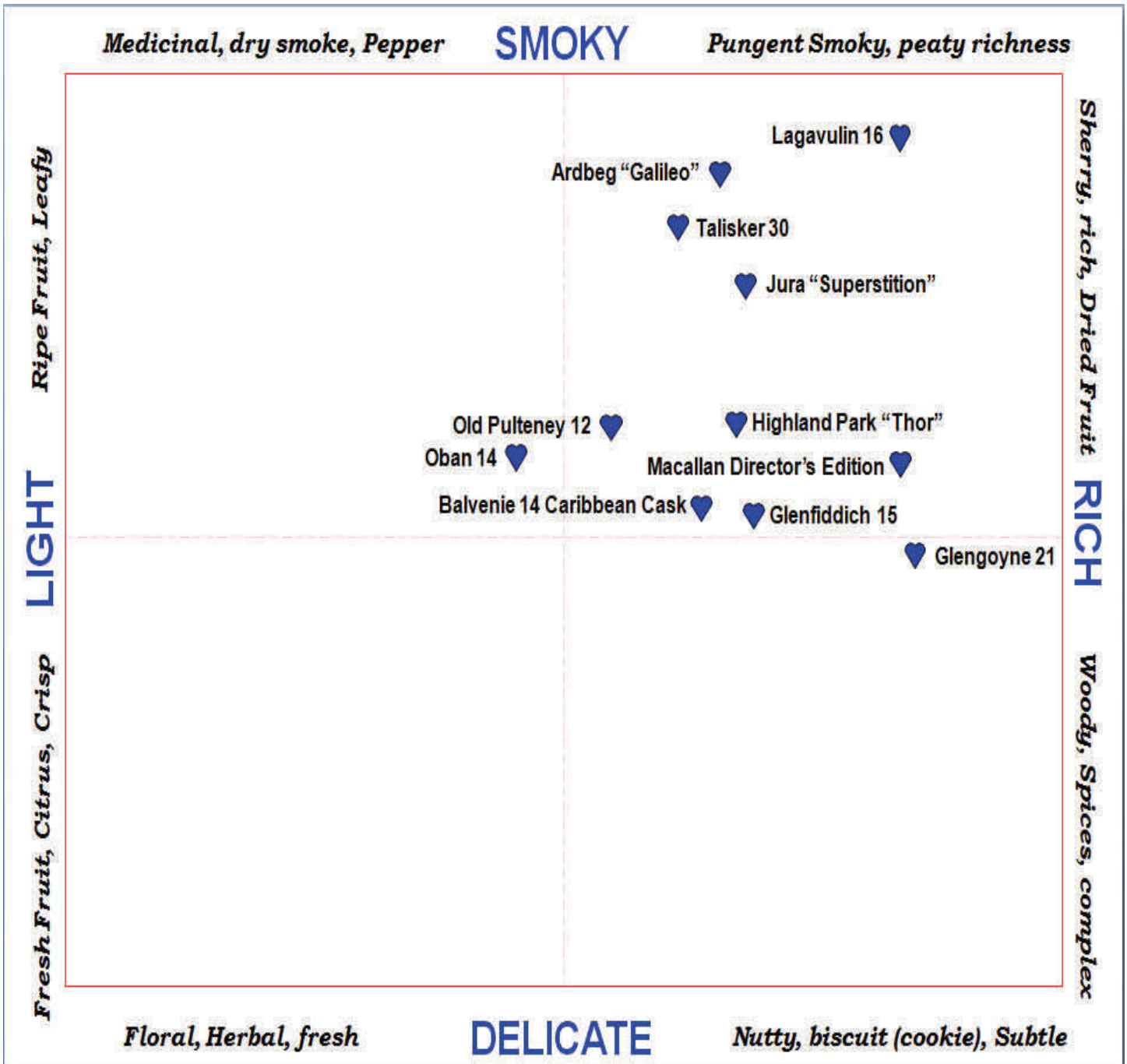
Palate - Chocolate, toffee, smoke, peat, rich fruit

Finish - Long, warm, smoke, peat and chocolate malt





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 2012 listed.



Sherry, rich, Dried Fruit
RICH
Woody, Spices, complex