



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. “Slainte.”

In this issue I look at a Glenfiddich Vintage Reserve; the 1974 Glenfiddich single malt Scotch whisky. The whisky is Glenfiddich’s first ever vatted Vintage Reserve and celebrates the pioneering spirit and adventurous career paths of Glenfiddich’s highly skilled Brand Ambassadors, who joined Brian Kinsman (the Glenfiddich Malt Master) as part of the selection panel.

The 1974 is a limited edition of only 1000 bottles worldwide, so your chances of owning a bottle are slim. However, please keep an eye open at whisky events, as this is a delicious single malt and well worth the hunt to find even one dram.

My abiding memory of this whisky will be, talking to Mitch Bechard (the Glenfiddich West Coast, USA) ambassador just after finishing my dram of the 74. Mitch said he liked the subtle minty aftertaste and just as he said that, the mint kicked in for me.

The 1974 is, in a word, sublime. Thank you, Mitch, for inviting me to the tasting.

Tasting Notes;

Nose - Pear, citrus, strawberries

Palate - Smooth, sweet, orange & pear

Finish - Long, oak, some spice & mint

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





Speyside

The map below shows the whisky regions of Scotland.....basically all of Scotland is a whisky region, with just over 100 distilleries currently in production. For this piece, I am concentrating on Speyside, and although small in comparison to some of the other regions, over 50% of all malt whisky distilleries in Scotland are located in 'Speyside'. The Speyside region itself stretches from Inverness in the West to the watershed of the river Deveron in the East. The entire region is less than 100 miles wide and no more than 50 miles 'high'.

The Glenfiddich distillery is nestled in “Dufftown” which is also home to the Balvenie, Convalmore, Dufftown, Glendullan, Kininvie, Mortlach and Pittyvaich distilleries. If you are into single malt and want to see how it is made, there are many distilleries you can visit, but if you wish to make a vacation of visiting distilleries you need to come to Speyside.

Speyside is the only place in the world with a dedicated Malt Whisky Trail. The trail leads you through Speyside to seven working distilleries, including a fascinating cooperage and a historic distillery. From Benromach to Dallas Dhu, a perfect time capsule of whisky-making; from Glen Moray to Strathisla, home and heart of Chivas Regal; from the Glen Grant distillery to the Speyside Cooperage where real coopers work with incredible speed and skill; from Glenfiddich to The Glenlivet and Cardhu distilleries.

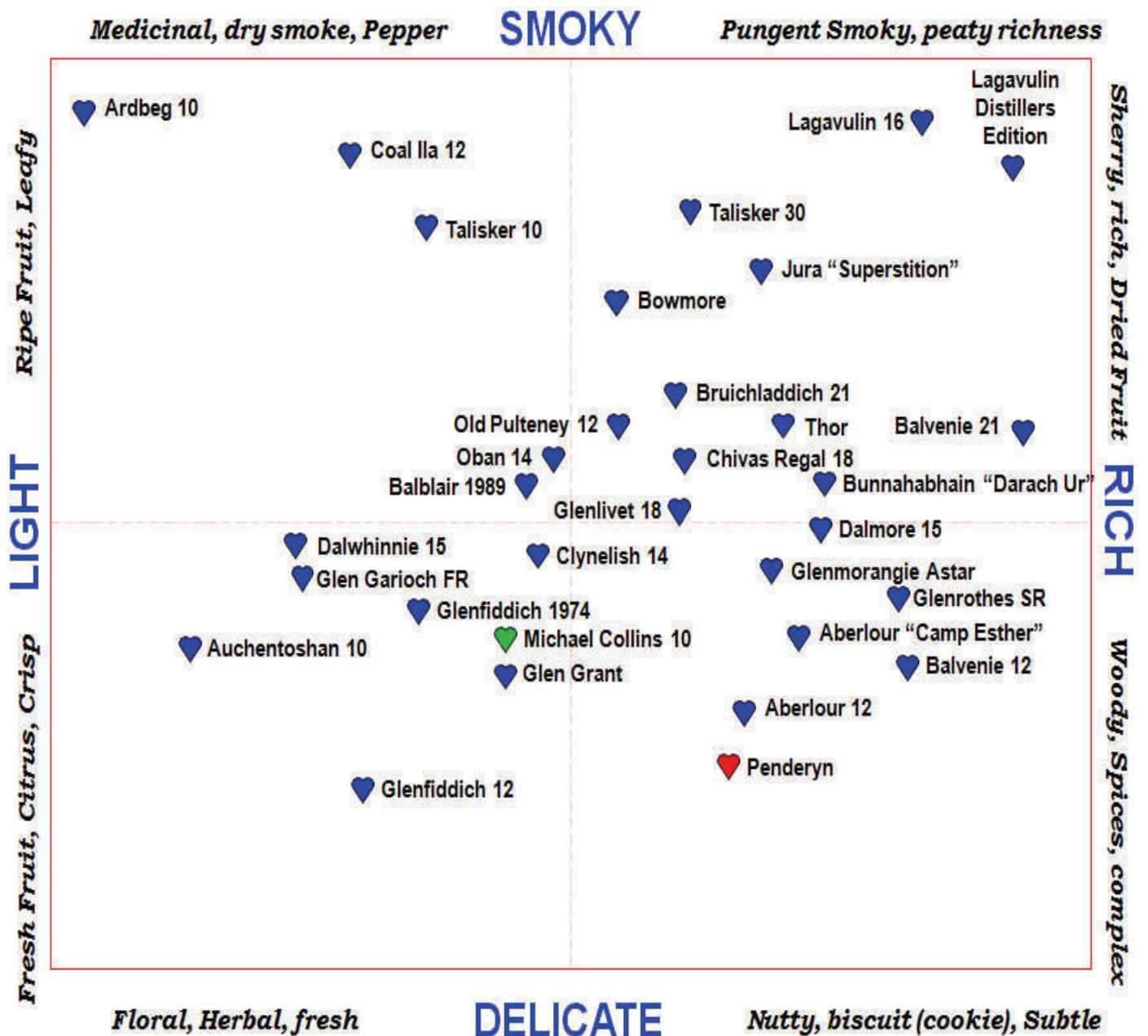


"An alcoholic is someone you don't like, who drinks as much as you do."

Dylan Thomas



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; **Glenfiddich 1974 vintage reserve**. For more information on Glenfiddich whiskies go to <http://www.glenfiddich.com>





World's best distillery tours (Recent article on CNN)

The Glenfiddich, Dufftown, Scotland

The Glenfiddich opened its doors in 1969 and is one of the few distilleries to offer tours year-round. Warehouses—dirt floors, stone walls, low ceilings—store the whisky as it matures, and the entire bottling process is on display. (The first drop from the Glenfiddich stills came on Christmas Day in 1887, which makes this year its 125th.) Three tours illustrate the stages of whisky production. The one-hour Classic includes a tutored tasting of 12-, 15- and 18-year-old whiskies. The Explorers is an in-depth 90 minutes that includes a visit to the Solera Warehouse and a tasting of several whiskies. The Pioneers is a half-day detailed tour, with a whisky master class that showcases spirits aged for 30 years. Can't get enough? Its sister distillery, The Balvenie, is located directly across the way.

glenfiddich.us

Heaven Hill Bourbon Distillery, Bardstown, Kentucky

Heaven Hill's Bourbon Heritage Center offers tours, tastings and plenty of historical insight into the Kentucky whiskey industry. Choose from a variety of tours that range from 30 minutes to three hours; each includes a pass through one of Heaven Hill's 49 rickhouses (barrel warehouses) and a tasting of two bourbons. In the fall of 2013 will be the debut of the Evan Williams Bourbon Experience: An artisanal pot distillery is the centerpiece, and a host of bourbon-oriented activities that celebrate the likes of Evan Williams Single Barrel Vintage and Parker's Heritage Collection small-batch bourbon rounds things out.

bourbonheritagecenter.com

George Washington Distillery, Alexandria, Virginia

You can get a taste of history at Mount Vernon, where George Washington's distillery was reconstructed several years ago and is now the gateway to the American Whiskey Trail. (It's also used a few times a year to make a rye whiskey, which is for sale on site.) Back in the 18th century, Washington was the country's largest commercial distiller. Today, costumed tour guides take visitors through the whiskey-making process, which is done adjacent to a water-powered gristmill. It's an interesting peek into Washington's spirit and the type of resourcefulness that he was famous for. Continue the journey by traveling to the Mount Vernon Estate, located three miles away.

mountvernon.org

To read the full article, go to;

<http://www.cnn.com/2012/07/13/travel/departures-distillery-tours/index.html>