



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 Bruichladdich (pronounced Brook-Laddie) "The Organic". I was fortunate in being given a bottle to try, by Joanna Miller of Young's Market company, which I duly shared with my whisky friends, to favorable reviews.

For those of you that remember issue 41 in which I reviewed the Balblair, this whisky is along similar tasting lines.

"The Organic," however takes it even further along the delicate route, this is without a doubt the lightest whisky I have ever tasted. I don't mean that in a bad way (and I like smoky whiskies), this may be light, but it is flavorful and I thoroughly enjoyed it.

I can happily recommend it, and intend to buy some for myself. If you are looking for a nice aperitif, then this is it.

For a bit of history on the Bruichladdich distillery, see issue 39 of my newsletters. For more information on Islay go to http://www.discoverislay.com/islay_history_heritage.html

Tasting Notes;

Nose - Pears, apples, vanilla

Palate - Honey, pear, vanilla, lemon & malt

Finish - Vanilla, malt & honey

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





UISGE SOURCE

by Jonny McCormick, the Whisky Advocate contributor brings exclusive news of a new product which could enhance your enjoyment of single malt Scotch whisky.

Here's the thing. When you reward yourself with a decent single malt whisky, most of us add a little splash of water to bring the alcohol strength down to allow the aroma and flavor sensations to blossom fully. It's a personal thing, but do you stop to think about the water you add?

That's where Uisge Source hopes to make a difference by launching a range of bottled Scottish spring water specifically chosen for the single malt drinker. Starting with the belief that the best water to splash into your dram is the water from which the whisky is made, they set out to research the benefits and science behind this.

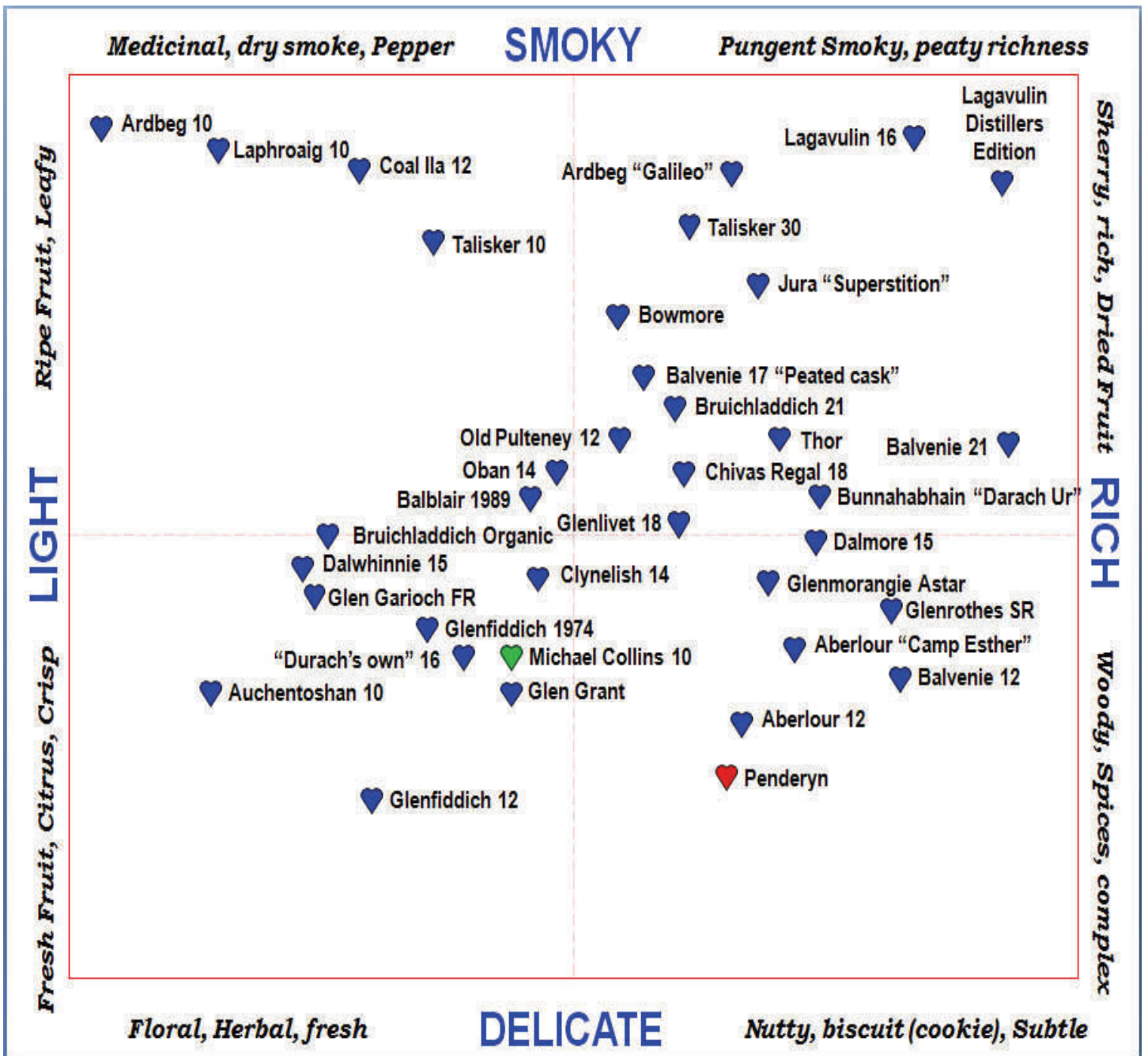
I'll admit, I was skeptical at first but the arguments are plausible and intriguing. I'm aware that if I drink single malts when I'm travelling and ask for water, I may be offered anything from a giant vessel of city tap water to a bottle of sparkling mineral water depending on the establishment. Here and there, I suspect you may have had similar disappointments too (or you're drinking in more sophisticated bars than me). The type of water you add does irrefutably alter the flavor and experience. Just try drinking a whisky you know intimately far from home with the local tap water and you'll see the difference.



To read the full article, go to <http://www.whiskyadvocateblog.com/2012/09/05/the-drop-that-makes-the-dram>



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; Bruichladdich "The Organic". For more information go to <http://www.bruichladdich.com>





Clan McDonald (MacDhomhnuill)

Motto: Per mare, Per Terras - translated - By sea and by land.

Clan Chief: Right Honorable Godfrey James Macdonald of Macdonald, 8th Lord Macdonald, Chief of the Name and Arms of Macdonald, High Chief of Clan Donald and 34th hereditary Chief of Clan Donald.

Clan Seat: Armadale Castle on the Isle of Skye.

Lord of the Isles

Going back to 4 a.d. when the Gaels from Ireland invaded parts of the west coast right through to the 13th century and the Battle of Largs the north west coast was under continued infiltration from the vikings and it was not until the Battle of Largs in 1263 where the forces of King Magnus III of Man and the Isles as well as his ally, King Haakon IV of Norway were finally defeated that a semblance of peace came to the area. King Haakon had conferred the title Lord of the Isles on Angus Mor as part of the deal when they jointly attacked at Largs.

After the defeat Angus Mor accepted King Alexander 3rd of Scotland as his overlord and managed to keep his lands. He is looked on as the first of the clan Macdonald. This was to signal another 300 years of political jousting for power which saw castles rise and fall until finally in the late 15th century the title was forfeited by King James the 4th.

The title is now inherited by the eldest child of Scotland's reigning monarch, at present Charles Prince of Wales.

During this period the influence of the Clan MacDonald rose and fell. The clan's official seat is actually Armadale Castle, but there have been many others associated with this clan and especially within the same area - the Isle of Skye

For more information on clan McDonald there are many online references, but here is the one I used <http://www.scotlandinoils.com/clan/Clan-MacDonald.html>



MacDonald Castles on the Isle of Skye

Armadale Castle: Built in the late 18th century as a mansion house and added on in the early 19th century. Today it is partly in ruin, but houses the MacDonald Clan centre which is open to the public.

Dunsaith Castle: Was the seat of the Clan MacDonald of Sleat.

Duntulm Castle: Originally a fort recorded around the 9th century. The Macdonald's enter the picture around the early 16th century and again the castle changed hands many times with the MacLeods, eventually in the early 18th century it was abandoned.

Knock Castle originally built in the 15th century by the Clan MacLeod its was taken over by the MacDonalds and lost and re-taken many times until a major re-construction in the late 16th century which kept it in MacDonald hands for nearly a hundred years until its total ruin.



Armadale castle, Isle of Skye

MacDonald Castles on Islay

Dunyvaig Castle on the south side of Islay, once the naval base for The Lord of the Isles, was the seat of the Clan MacDonald of Dunnyveg.

Finlaggan Castle is located on an island, on Loch Finlaggan. It was built in the 13th century and destroyed in the 14th century possibly due to their support of Robert the Bruce which at that time made them unpopular. It was the seat of the chief of Clan Donald, Lord of the Isles.

There are many more clan Donald castles in the western isles and on the mainland, too many to mention here.