



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."

This issue I look at Aberlour 12 year old, which I tried at home after buying a bottle I liked the look of, and I got lucky. This double matured version is a mix of traditional oak and sherry casks and is rich, fruity and, to my taste buds, has a delicious Christmas cake flavor to it.

Aberlour is also one of the best value Speyside malts available on the market today and I would recommend it to anyone that likes a good Speyside whisky.

Tasting Notes;

Color - Yellow/gold

Nose - Sweet, toffee, sherry

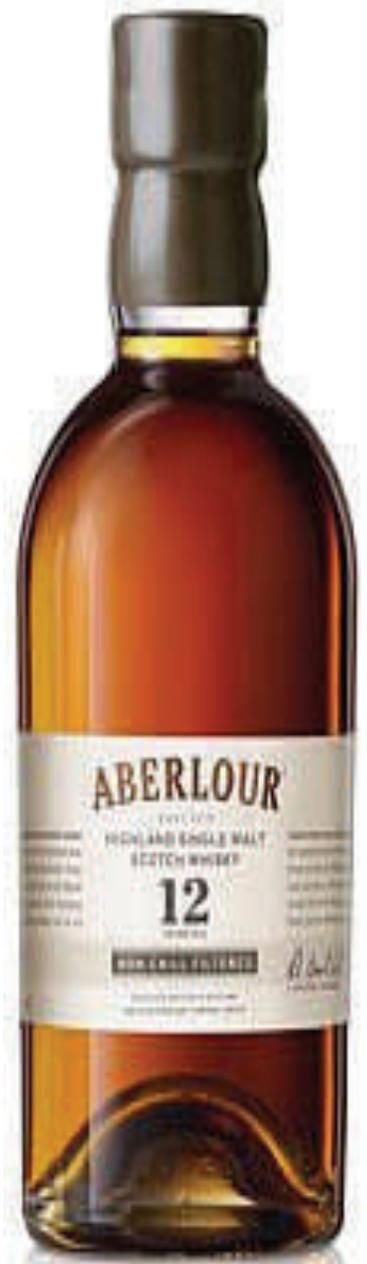
Palate - Rich, smooth, malty, fruity, some nuts

Finish - Toffee and fruit

If you like a scotch with your food, you could try the Aberlour 12 year old with either Salmon (Pan seared, poached, cured, smoked), or with Foie Gras, or with a desert such as a Lush Chocolate Cake with Cherries. The choice is yours.

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 <http://www.scot-talks.com>

*"Slainte Mhath"
Paul Bissett*





A wee bit of History <http://aberlour.com>

Situated at the junction of the Rivers Lour and Spey, the distillery lies in a beautiful glen, surrounded by glorious scenery dominated by the rugged peaks of Ben Rinnes a short distance away.

Pure spring water for making the whisky is drawn from underground springs, and the maturing spirit in the warehouse beneficially inhales the moist Speyside air.

Here, the abundance of nature and the centuries-old passion for making single malt whisky conspire to make the generous and multi-layered whisky of Aberlour.

‘Aberlour’ is a gaelic word meaning ‘mouth of the chattering burn [stream]’.

Although its labels read 1879, the Aberlour distillery was first founded in 1826 by James Gordon and Peter Weir. The original distillery, which was destroyed in a fire, was rebuilt in 1879 by James Fleming (1830–1895), and this is the date marked on the bottles. In 1892, the distillery was bought by Robert Thorne & Sons, who rebuilt and expanded the distillery in 1898 after a second fire, with the architect Charles Doig being called in to design the new facilities. In 1921, Robert Thorne & Sons Ltd sold the distillery to W. H. Holt & Sons, a brewery near Manchester. In 1945 S. Campbell & Sons Ltd bought the distillery. In 1975 Pernod Ricard acquired Campbell Distilleries. In 2002, a new, modernized visitor centre was opened.

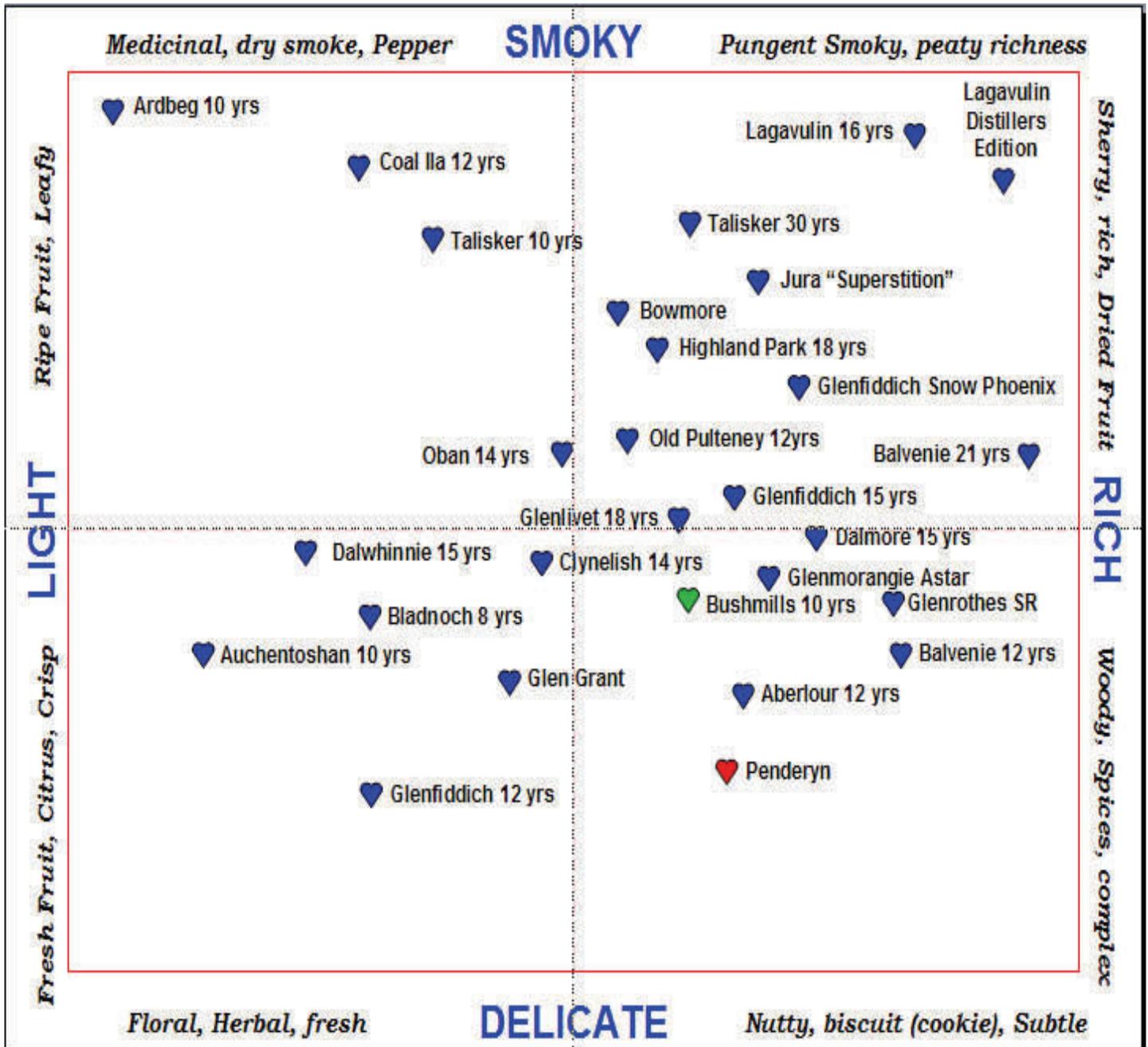


Aberlour Distillery

"The water was not fit to drink. To make it palatable, we had to add whisky. By diligent effort, I learnt to like it." (Sir Winston Churchill)



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; **Aberlour 12 year old**. For more information go to <http://aberlour.com>





Finalists announced in the Spirit of Speyside Whisky Awards

SPIRIT OF SPEYSIDE WHISKY AWARDS -FINALISTS ANNOUNCED

The Glenlivet triumphed in the first round of judging of the Spirit of Speyside Whisky Awards 2012, featuring in each of the three categories of the prestigious awards.

The judging panel for the first round of the awards, including industry representatives, whisky writers and specialist retailers, gathered at the Scottish Parliament in Edinburgh on Thursday, 26th January for a blind tasting of 56 of Speyside's finest malts hosted by Richard Lochhead MSP. The judges selected two finalists in each of three categories resulting in a good representation of sherry influenced whiskies, a new release from Tomintoul Distillery and another fine representation from Chivas Brothers.

The shortlisted finalists are:

12 Years and Under:

- Tomintoul 12 Years Old (Oloroso Finish)
- The Glenlivet 12 Years Old

13 to 20 Years Old:

- Aberlour 18 Years Old
- The Glenlivet 15 Years Old (French Oak)

21 Years and Over:

- The Glenlivet 21 Years Old (Archive)
- Knockando 25 Years Old (2011 Special Release)



To read the full article, go to;

<http://www.whiskyintelligence.com/2012/02/spirit-of-speyside-whisky-awards-finalists-announced-scotch-whisky-news>