



## 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.*

In this issue; I look at Compass Box “Hedonism” blended grain whisky, made from a combination of eight to 15 casks of grain whisky from distilleries such as Cameron Bridge, one of the oldest continuously operating distilleries in Scotland.

Most of the whisky in Hedonism has been aged in first-fill American oak casks. This ageing yields a whisky that is full and round with richly flavors of vanilla and toffee.

Let's cut to the chase, do I like it? Yes, I do. In fact I've liked all of the Compass Box whiskies I've tried (and I've tried most of them). Yes I railed at Compass Box “Peat Monster” last year, more because, in my mind at least, it should have been called “Peat Puppy” instead. I just thought it's flavor didn't live up to it's name.

I think that “Hedonism” is a more appropriate name, this is a bit self Indulgent, as scotch should be.

You can buy Hedonism Whisky for around \$85.00 a bottle.

### Tasting Notes;

**Nose** - Lots of ripe fruit, vanilla cake

**Palate** - Creamy toffee, cherry & sweet spice

**Finish** - Spicy milk chocolate

*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](http://www.scot-talks.com)*

*“Slainte Mhath”*

*Paul Bissett*





## **BACARDI BUYS SCOTCH STAKE IN COMPASS BOX**

by Becky Paskin

The Bermuda-based company, which acquired Angel's Envy Bourbon earlier this week, confirmed that through the investment it has become a "long-term" supplier to Compass Box through its John Dewar & Sons business.

Founded in 2000 by John Glaser, former global marketing director of UDV, Compass Box produces several small batch Scotch whiskies including Hedonism, Peat Monster, The Spice Tree, Great King Street, Asyla and Oak Cross.

The company recently announced the launch of Hedonism Quindecimus in celebration of its 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

In a statement, Bacardi confirmed Compass Box would operate independently, retaining its unconventional and innovative philosophy, as well as its small batch production values.

"Bacardi has held a long-term belief in supporting innovative founders in emerging and growing businesses," said a spokesperson for Bacardi.

"Bacardi also has a well-known track record of maintaining the unique heritage of a brand's origin. John continues to lead and run the business and it operates as a standalone company. In essence, it's business as usual at Compass Box Whisky Co."

The acquisition enhances Bacardi's footprint in Scotch whisky, which as of late 2014 includes Dewar's, William Lawson's, and the Last Great Malts of Scotland – Craigellachie, Aberfeldy, Aultmore, Royal Brackla and Deveron.

Compass Box is yet to respond to a request for comment.

**To read more of these articles, go to;**

<http://www.thespiritsbusiness.com/2015/04/bacardi-buys-scotch-stake-in-compass-box>

There are three kinds of men. The one that learns by reading.  
The few who learn by observation.  
The rest of them have to pee on the electric fence for themselves.  
**Will Rogers**



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; Compass Box "Hedonism". For more information go to <http://www.compassboxwhisky.com>





## Possible new long distance trail for Scotland

A Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) report suggests that a new long distance walking trail running from Tyndrum to Oban could attract 32,000 visitors per annum and bring £1m a year in to the local economy,

The proposal is in an SNH report published today (28th June). The trail would run through impressive mountain scenery, woodlands and alongside lochs before reaching the coast. It would pass through and chain the villages of Dalmally, Lochawe, Taynult and Connel.

Covering approximately 45 miles, it would link the West Highland Way to the Oban – Fort William cycle route and, in the future, it could be extended to Mull and Iona. The route would support the lifestyles of local people for dog walking and recreational activities; and visitors for either shorter trips or the challenge of going the whole distance.

Of the 32,000 potential visitors, analysis suggests that 26,000 (81%) would be day visitors, 6,000 (19%) would stay overnight and 3,000 (9%) would undertake the whole route.

According to the report, the strengths of the route include the scenery and landscape, local tourist attractions, the wide range of facilities in each village and good transport links, allowing easy access to the path at various points along the way.

Unsurprisingly, branding and market positioning are seen as crucial to the trail's success. To be recognized as a key national route, it would have to be extended in the future, possibly to Mull and Iona, and given a compelling name,. SNH are suggesting 'The Way to the Isles'.

The report highlights Development opportunities along the route – with potential for existing businesses to adapt or expand what they offer in terms of accommodation, shopping, food and drink. There may also be opportunities for farmers and land managers to provide food, accommodation and produce; offer volunteering opportunities and carry out minor maintenance on the route. Circular paths and links to the main villages and local visitor attractions are important to encourage people to use the path and spend money locally.

The study was funded by SNH in response to interest from the communities local to the proposed route.

Stephen Austin, SNH operations officer based in Oban says: 'The great thing about this proposal is that it has come from the local communities.



## Possible new long distance trail for Scotland cont.

‘We’re very keen to see the development of more trails across the country to help people get out and enjoy the outdoors and also help generate income to underpin the rural economy.

‘However this proposal is still at a very early stage. A route has yet to be identified and this will only be done with the agreement and support of farmers and landowners – but this report helps highlight the potential benefits of the path, as well as the need to get the promotion and marketing right.

‘We’re setting up a steering group to take the project forward. We hope those living and working in the area will be interested in taking part, particularly farmers and land managers who have a vital role to play in its development.’

Kenny Harris from Taynuilt, who came up with the idea for the route, says: ‘I’m delighted to hear that the proposed path is moving on a little further. I have always thought it could benefit local businesses if it goes ahead, particularly those along the route.

‘I hope it also encourages new business in the area and brings health benefits by helping locals and visitors alike to get out in some of the most beautiful countryside in the world.’

