



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 the Glenfiddich "Age of Discovery" 19-year-Old, Madeira Cask. Glenfiddich have now brought out 3 "Age of Discovery" expressions, the other two being the Bourbon and Red Wine cask finishes. This is a superb scotch, nice and oily on the palate with wonderful flavors, so a big thank you to my brother-in-law Ivor for bringing me this bottle when he came over from Australia. There's the rub, you can't buy it in stores here in the USA, you either have to pick it up at duty free when travelling or you buy it online and pay the extra shipping costs. That could set me off on a major rant, I have just received a couple of whiskies that I had to order from Scotland as they are not available here in the USA (at the moment) and the shipping was more than either bottle of Scotch. I think I may have to settled down this evening with a nice dram of "Age of Discovery" to calm down. Hold everything as I was putting this newsletter together I found out that the Glenfiddich "Age of Discovery" 19-year-Old, bourbon Cask will go on sale in the USA this September.

You can buy Glenfiddich "Age of Discovery" for around \$135.00 a bottle.

Tasting Notes;

Nose - Gooseberries, grapes & orange

Palate - Fruity caramel, raisins and pepper

Finish - Warm, sweet marmalade

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





Burning Waste From Whisky Production, a Scottish Energy Project Will Power 9,000 Homes

By Clay Dillow <http://www.popsci.com>

Regretting having that “one more” scotch last night? This might make you feel a little better: your tittle of choice may soon be providing sustainable energy. The project, slated to begin operating in 2013, will be located in Rothes in Speyside, the famed whisky producing region that is home to such recognizable labels as the Famous Grouse, Chivas Regal, and Glenfiddich (all of which will contribute biomass to the plant).

The plant will burn a blend of wood chips and draff, the spent grains used in the whisky-making process. Additionally, pot ale--another residual product of the process--will be donated from distilleries and turned into organic fertilizer and animal feed for local farmers.

Of Scotland’s 100 distilleries, 50 are in Speyside and 16 of those will ship their draff to the site, which will burn nothing that comes from more than 25 miles away.

That makes this a pretty sustainable and very locally-sourced energy project--it’s even drawn a bit of praise from the local World Wildlife Fund folks. And it’s a model that could feasibly be replicated across other regions if successful.

This is not Scotland’s first foray into whiskey-fueled energy projects, but it is the first that will provide power to a public utility. Scotland’s largest distillery, Fife, has nearly completed its own on-site bioenergy plant that will feed energy back into the distillery.

And researchers at Scotland’s Napier University last year announced that they had devised a means to turn scotch-making residuals like pot ale and draff into biofuels that could burn in ordinary automobile engines.

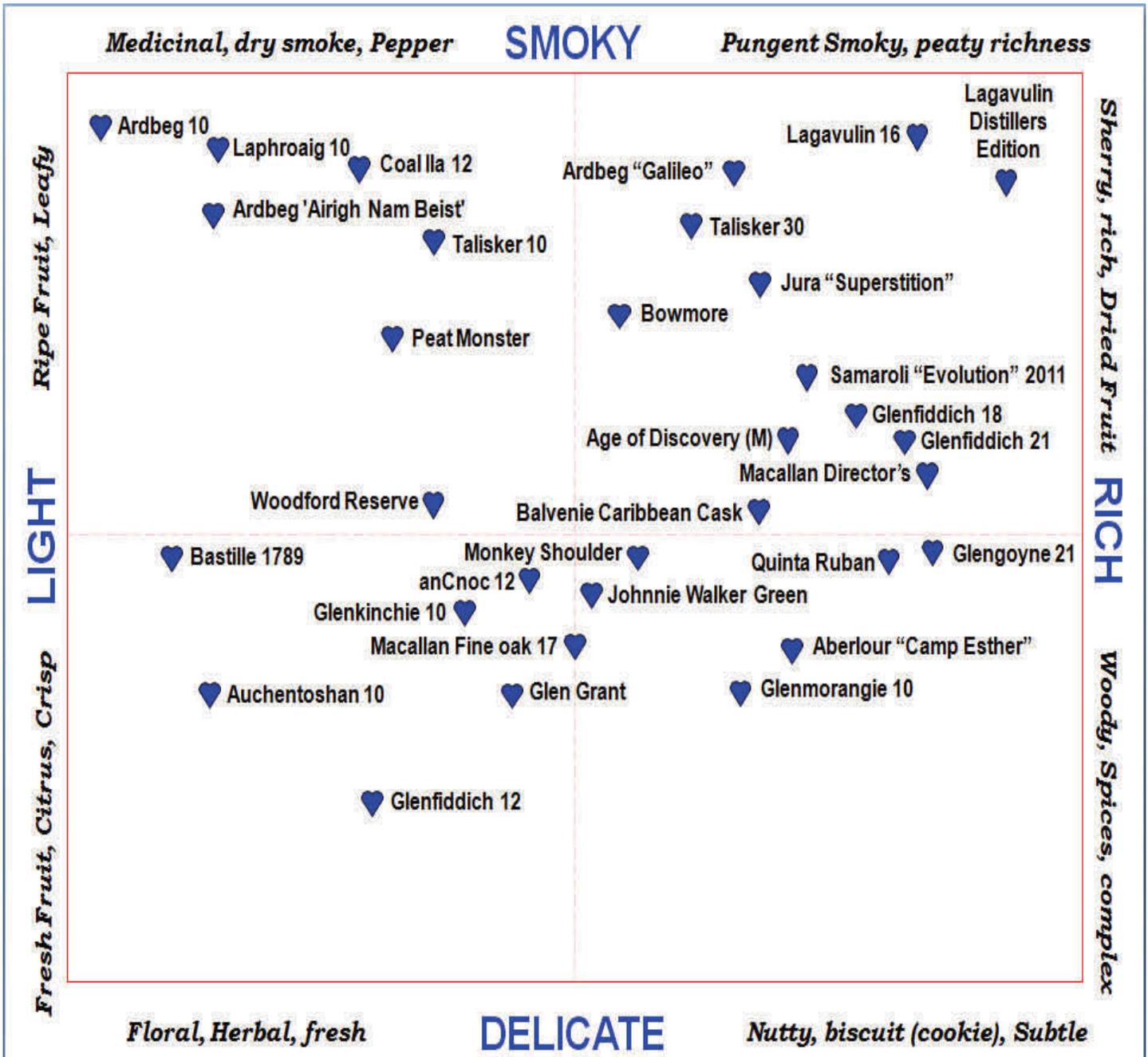
So raise a glass, for your scotch habit is now contributing to the renewable energy revolution.

"We frequently hear of people dying from too much drinking. That this happens is a matter of record. But the blame is always placed on whisky. Why this should be I never could understand. You can die from drinking too much of anything - coffee, water, milk, soft drinks and all such stuff as that. And so as long as the presence of death lurks with anyone who goes through the simple act of swallowing. I will make mine whisky."

(W.C. Fields, 1880-1946)



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 "Age of Discovery" For more information go to www.glenfiddich.com





Tasting

What to taste?

There are many ways to approach a Scotch Whisky tasting, for example, tasting whiskies of different ages, from different regions, or those matured in different casks. This is all part of the fun and discovery.

Select a suitable glass

A tulip-shaped glass will help to compare different whiskies by trapping the aromas in the bottom and releasing them in the small area at the top of the glass. Whisky is also often enjoyed from a tumbler, particularly if drunk with water or as a long drink.

Use your eyes

Hold up the glass up against a neutral background. What you see is important, as color can give clues about the age of the whisky and the type of cask used for maturation.

New-make spirit prior to maturation is as clear as water. After years maturing in the cask, however, it can be a much darker color. The color comes from the whisky sitting in the cask over years, ebbing and flowing in and out of the wood.

Check the legs

Swirl the whisky around the glass, coating its sides thoroughly. Then wait and watch, as the liquid runs back down the side of the glass, the 'legs' of the whisky.

If the 'legs' are thin and run quickly, then it may be a younger or lighter whisky. If the 'legs' are slow and thick, then it may be a heavier or older whisky.

Next the nose

Confirm your assumptions and discover more about the dram using your nose. Indeed, a master distiller will use his nose alone to make judgments about a whisky.

Don't worry if it proves difficult to describe the aroma - scientists have discovered a wide range of flavors in whisky and different people will pick up different aromas. With a little practice, it becomes easier.

Add some water

After 'nosing' the whisky, try adding a little still water, then use your nose again. The water will reduce the alcohol content, and raises the temperature slightly releasing more of the whisky's flavors - and you will see this happening in your glass.



Cont.

And now, finally, taste

Sip the whisky and allow it to lie on the tongue and coat the sides of your mouth. You might pick out different flavors to those you were aware of using your nose. Roll the spirit around so that it comes into contact with all your taste buds, sweetness at the tip of the tongue, saltiness along the sides, dryness and bitterness at the back.

The wonderful flavors will develop, unfolding in the mouth. Ask yourself what flavors you are experiencing and how the whisky feels in your mouth. Does the flavor last a long time or does it disappear quickly? This is the whisky's finish.

So what did you taste?

Well, there is no right or wrong answer. Everyone and every whisky is different. That is why tasting Scotch Whisky is such an enjoyable and rewarding individual experience.

