



In the first issue of the new year I look at my current favorite whiskies, my top 10 if you will. Some that get replaced every time I empty the bottle, some new favorites that may join my perennial favorites.

Starting at #10 and working down to #1;

(10) Oban 14 year old from the town of Oban. This is a mainstay of my whisky cabinet. **Featured in issue 27, December 2011.**

Approximate Cost per bottle - \$65.00

Tasting Notes;

Nose - Sweet, fruity, with sea salt, small amounts of peat & smoke

Palate - Rich fruit, honey, malt, spice & light smoke

Finish - Sweet oak with a pinch of salt

(9) Glenfiddich 21 year old Gran Reserva. Kudos to Brian Kinsman the Glenfiddich Malt Master; this is “class in a glass”, a sublime dram. **Featured in issue 57, March 2013.**

Approximate Cost per bottle - \$150.00

Tasting Notes;

Nose - Honey, vanilla, toffee, dates, cinnamon

Palate - Rich honey, toffee & spice

Finish - Long buttery & warm, with spicy citrus





(8) Macallan Fine Oak 17. This has the finer points of a lowlander, without any of the drawbacks, it's flavors really pop like a quality Speysider should. **Featured in issue 61, May 2013.**

Approximate Cost per bottle - \$140.00

Tasting Notes;

Nose - Caramel, vanilla, flora, nuts

Palate - Vanilla, citrus & toffee

Finish - Medium with a hint of orange



(7) Arbeg 'Airigh Nam Beist' (Arry Nam Bayst), From the island of Islay (Isla). Not easy to come by, but if you find one buy it. **Featured in issue 56, February 2013.**

Approximate Cost per bottle - \$125.00

Tasting Notes;

Nose - Apple, ginger, cherry, chocolate

Palate - Cherry, nutmeg, oak, ginger & caramel

Finish - Warm & spicy





(6) Glenfiddich 15 from Dufftown in the heart of Speyside. In my opinion, the best tasting whisky (against price), a constant in my whisky cabinet. **Featured in issue 11, April 2011.**

Approximate Cost per bottle - \$55.00

Tasting Notes;

Nose - Rich, spicy with oak & a small amount of peat

Palate - Honey, Pears, coffee, Spice with oak & chocolate.

Finish - Dry and spicy with some pepper



(5) Old Pulteney 12 year old, from the most northerly distillery on the Scottish Mainland, in the town of Wick. I just like this more and more, it has earned a permanent place in my whisky cabinet. **Featured in issue 14, May 2011.**

Approximate Cost per bottle - \$38.00

Tasting Notes;

Nose - Quite intense with a hint of salt (sea air)

Palate - Medium bodied, faintly salty with an orange note.

Finish - Long and predominantly orange flavored, hint of malt.





(4) Lagavulin 16 year old from the Island of Islay (Isla) off the west coast of Scotland. Another constant in my whisky cabinet and a favorite of many decades.

Featured in issue 3, December 2010.

Approximate Cost per bottle - \$75.00

Tasting Notes;

Nose - Smoke, Chocolate, flowery

Palate - Dry, Sweet, Smokey, Peaty

Finish - long, elegant peat-filled finish with lots of salt and seaweed

(3) Balvenie 14 year old Caribbean cask from Dufftown in the heart of Speyside. A new release in October of 2012. Now a Regular in my whisky cabinet. **Featured in issue 50, November 2012.**

Approximate Cost per bottle - \$70.00

Tasting Notes;

Nose - Honey, vanilla, malt & raisins

Palate - Malt, raisins, toffee & spice

Finish - Malty & spicy





(2) Ardbeg Galileo from the Island of Islay (Isla) off the west coast of Scotland. Unfortunately a limited release of only 50,000 bottles. **Featured in issue 46, September 2012.**

Approximate Cost per bottle - \$110.00

Tasting Notes;

Nose - Fruity, toffee, smoky

Palate - Chocolate, toffee, smoke, peat, rich fruit

Finish - Long, warm, smoke, peat and chocolate malt

(1) Samaroli 'Evolution' 2011 from the preeminent Italian bottler, Samaroli and is a vatting of incredibly old single malts from Scotland's artisan distilleries, chosen exclusively for their traditional production methods. The oldest whisky in the vatting clocks in well over 40 years old, and it includes many of Scotland's hardest to find malts. This is truly a special whisky representing a style no longer being produced by most blenders. While each is only represented in small portions, the single malts within this vatting are unprecedented in their rarity. **Featured in issue 64, June 2013.**

Approximate Cost per bottle - \$320.00

Tasting Notes;

Nose - Sherry, apples & figs

Palate - Spicy baked apple, fig and very slightly smoky

Finish - Long, elegant, Fruit compote





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. In this issue of the newsletter I only have my top ten whiskies of 2013 listed.

