



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 Glenrothes Select Reserve, which I bought using my keen insight into Speyside single malt scotch whisky.....well, to tell the truth, the unusual shape of the bottle and it's distinctive label caught my eye and I thought "I'll give this a try." I wasn't disappointed, this is a single malt that I will buy again, and I will also explore some of the other vintages that Glenrothes produces. This whisky reminded me of birthdays when I was a wee boy, my auntie Agnes used to make me a "Cloutie Dumpling" for my birthday every year.

Tasting Notes;

Color - Gold

Nose - Spice, Citrus and fruity

Palate - Cloutie dumpling, Spicy

Finish - Biscuit (Cookie), cereal

Cloutie Dumpling

Cloutie refers to the cloth that this fruit pudding is traditionally made in. Delicious served hot with jam and/or cream or custard.

If you would like to see the recipe for a Cloutie Dumpling go to <http://www.scottishrecipes.co.uk/clotiedumpling.htm>

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





A wee bit of History

Glenrothes is situated on the Tay tributary of the River Spey, in the heart of the Speyside. The town of Rothes has 5 distilleries, Caperdonich, Glen Grant, Glen Spey, Speyburn, and the Glenrothes, produced from the waters of the Ardcanny Spring.

Glenrothes is an award-winning Speyside Single Malt, characterized by sweet, fruity elegance, with flavorings of ripe fruits, citrus, vanilla, and a spicy finish encased in creamy textures. But it has not been plain sailing for this distillery.

Whilst whisky making started in Rothes in 1840, it was not until 1870 that work commenced on the Glenrothes distillery. One of the founders, James Stuart, took over the Macallan distillery in 1868, and left Glenrothes in 1878, leaving William Grant and Robert Dick in charge.

The following year saw first whisky begin to flow from the distillery, but that date is more infamous for the “Tay Bridge Disaster,” on the night of December 28th 1879, the railway bridge over the Tay collapsed, plunging a passenger train into the icy river, killing 75 passengers.

In 1887, Glenrothes joined with the Bunnahabhain distillery of Islay to form the Highland Distilleries Limited. Annual production grew, and in 1896 a second pair of stills was added.

The distillery had a tough time during the early part of the century. During the First World War, the distillery briefly closed, and upon re-opening was hit in 1920 by the introduction of Prohibition before suffering a fire in the warehouse in 1922, which destroyed 200,000 gallons of maturing whisky. The struggles continued, seeing production fall to a 44 year low in 1931, and a second closing in 1933. However, this closure was also brief, with the repeal of the American Prohibition. Things started to improve.

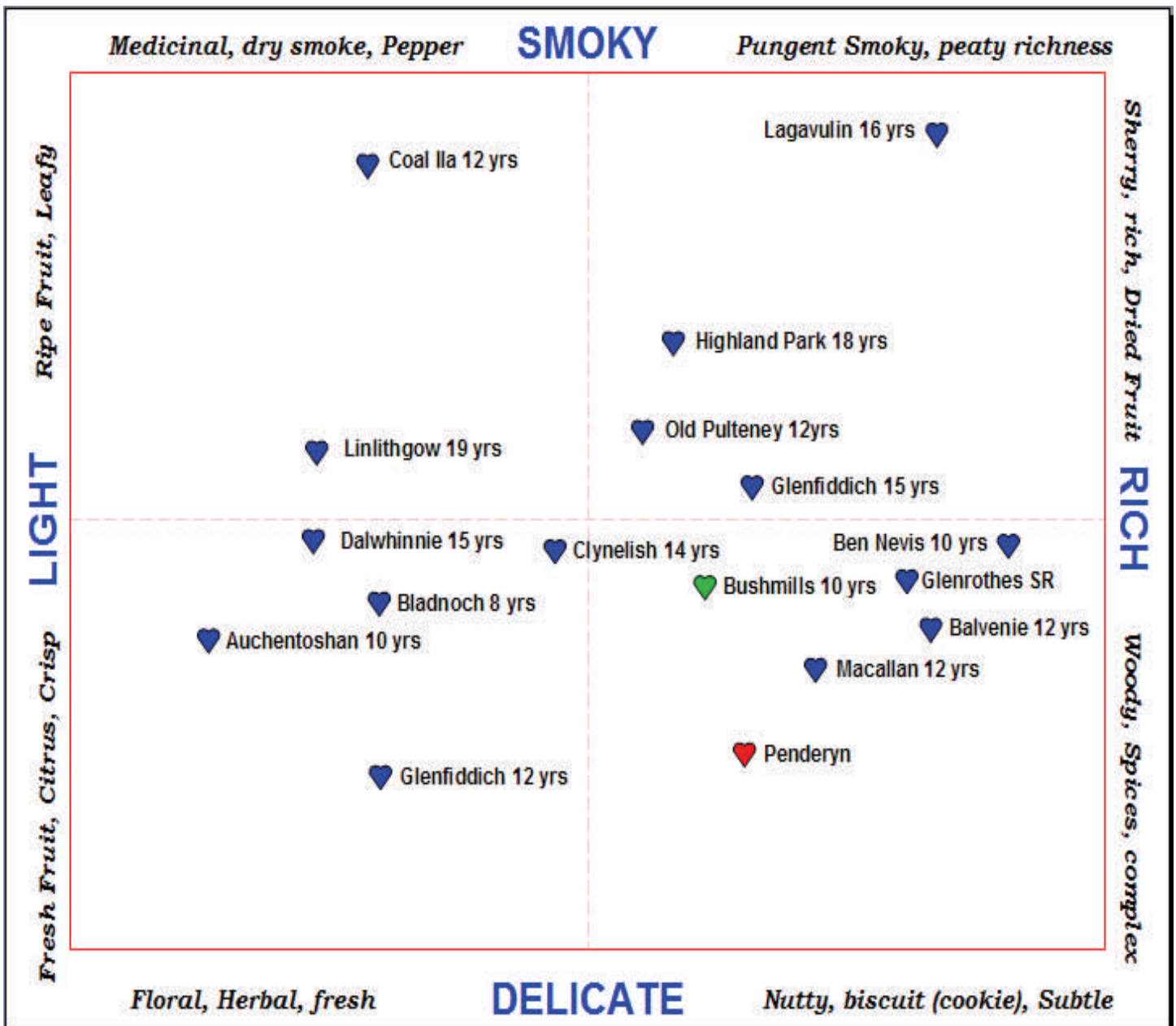
One point of note during this period was the launch of Cutty Sark whisky, by Berry Bros. based on the Glenrothes malt. Whisky experts know that Glenrothes malts have been blended and respected by many in the trade for a long time. That said, it was not until nearly 50 years later that Berry Bros proposed the production of a single malt under the Glenrothes name.

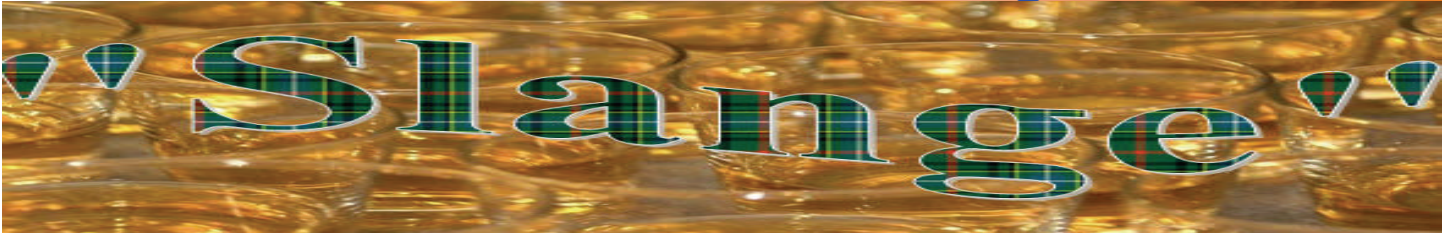
In 1987, the Glenrothes 12 year old, single malt was launched. Following the purchase of the Rothes House by Berry Bros, its renovation, an addition of a fifth pair of stills, meant that the Cutty Sark label finally in its spiritual home at Glenrothes in 1991. The famous whisky ship had been at sea for 68 years. And in 1994, the first ever Vintage Malt, a 25 year old known as “The Glenrothes Vintage 1979,” was launched.

**“Drive carefully... It's not only cars that can be recalled by their
Maker.”**



Below is a simple guide to help you choose your single malt Whisky, and the flavor notes I get from it, hopefully you will get something similar. 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; **Glenrothes Select Reserve**. For more information on Glenrothes whiskies go to <http://www.theglenrothes.com/uk>





“TOAST TO THE GHOST”

Biawa “Byeway” Makalaga was an orphaned child, found during the Boar War by Colonel Grant of Rothes under a bush on a track in Africa, rescued and taken back to Scotland. He grew up to become the Colonel’s helper and somewhat of a character in Rothes, at one stage playing for the village football team. He died in 1972.

When a new pair of stills was installed in 1979, a ghost was said to have appeared on two separate occasions inside the distillery. Nothing sinister was recounted, but concerns was sufficient and help was called, the investigation being handled by one Cedric Wilson, a university professor.

Mr. Wilson assessed that a ley-line had been disturbed during the installation of the stills. He walked through the neighboring cemetery in quiet contemplation, ambled up to a single gravestone, and had a quiet conversation at the graveside. He returned a few minutes later, explaining that all had been resolved amicably, and all was well.



Glenrothes Distillery and Graveyard

The grave he had visited was that, without knowing more or ever having visited the graveyard before, was that of “Byeway” Makalaga, and whilst the ghost has never been seen again, a mark of respect is now tradition at Glenrothes. A dram of The Glenrothes is often drunk with a “*Toast to the Ghost,*” the ghost of Byeway Makalaga.

With thanks to <http://www.grainmash.com>