



## 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 the Glenfiddich 125th anniversary special release 25 year old. Thank you Joanna from Youngs market company for giving me a taste of this rare and hard to come by whisky, very much appreciated.

Those of you, who like myself are big Glenfiddich fans, will be surprised to hear that this whisky has notes of smoke and peat. Not huge amounts, but it is there and easily discernable.

Because of so few bottles being available this comes with a hefty price tag, in my opinion the taste does not live up to the price, mind you that would be asking a lot of any whisky at this price. It's not a bad whisky, I like it, but even if I could afford a bottle, I think the money would be better spent, on the 12, 15, 18, 21-year-olds and the "age of discovery" range. That being said, a "Happy anniversary" Glenfiddich, keep up the great Work.

You can buy the Glenfiddich 125th anniversary special for around \$275.00 a bottle. If you can find one. I'd recommend an airport duty-free as your best bet, you may even get it a little cheaper.

### Tasting Notes;

**Nose** - Some smoke, toffee and figs

**Palate** - Peat, honey, citrus and vanilla

**Finish** - Dry and smoky

*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*





## GLENFIDDICH CELEBRATES 125TH ANNIVERSARY WITH NEW RELEASE

10th September, 2013 by Amy Hopkins



The Glenfiddich Anniversary Vintage is one of the rarest bottlings ever released by the distillery

The Glenfiddich Anniversary Vintage – part of the Glenfiddich Rare Collection – is a 25-year-old expression first casked in European sherry oak on Christmas Day 1987.

Malt master Brian Kinsman then selected a small number of centenary casks so that Glenfiddich founder William Grant's great-great grandson Peter Gordon and his son Dougal could choose which would become the Glenfiddich Anniversary Vintage.

Peter Gordon, who is also company director of Glenfiddich, said: "It was an honor to select this whisky – it truly reflects the pioneering spirit that has underpinned our 125 year history and my great-great grandfather's legacy of making 'the best dram in the valley'."

With only 286 bottles available, the limited edition expression is said to have notes of fruit cake, almonds, cinnamon, citrus and vanilla on the nose, with spice, sweet sherbet and oak on the palate. "Bottled from just one European oak sherry cask and testament to the uniqueness of this exclusive whisky, Glenfiddich Anniversary Vintage has a cask-strength abv of 55.4%.

"Glenfiddich has been family-run since 1887 and with the freedom of independence and the foresight of long-term planning, we have created the largest collection of single malt stock anywhere in the world."

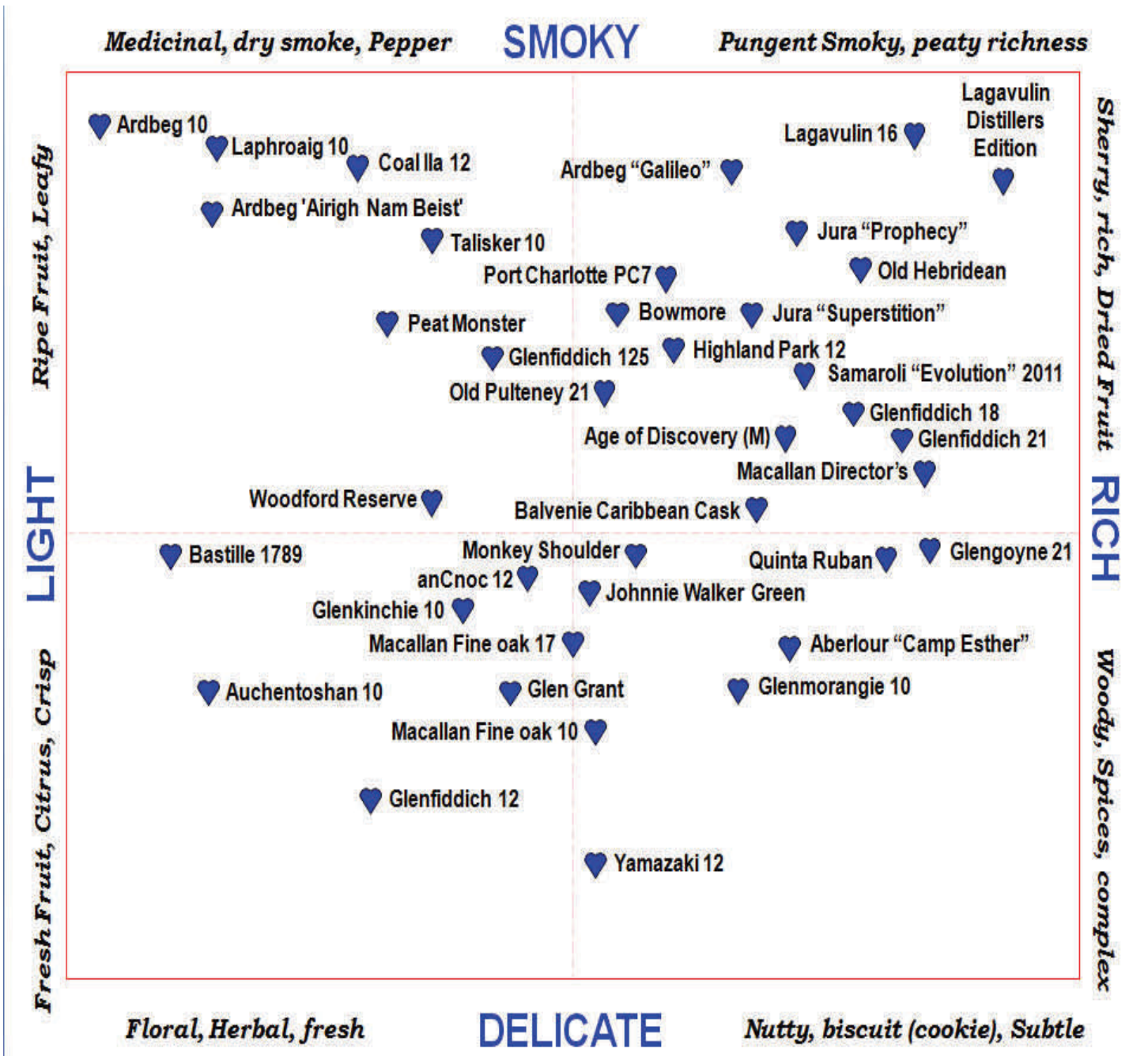
Each bottle of Glenfiddich Anniversary Vintage is individually numbered and is finished with a rustic copper and blue design.

**"Is the glass half full or half empty, it depends on whether your  
pouring or drinking"  
Bill Cosby**





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 125th anniversary](http://www.glenfiddich.com) For more information go to <http://www.glenfiddich.com>





## ***The Spirit of Speyside***

MAY 7TH, 2013

JOHN HANSELL <http://www.whiskyadvocateblog.com>

*Joel Harrison of CaskStrength.net reports for us on his recent trip to the Spirit of Speyside whisky festival.*

Film has Sundance. Rock music has Glastonbury. Single malt Scotch whisky? Depending on your palate, it has two important festivals of celebration, both held during May. Towards the end of the month, peat-heads and fans of smoke are drawn like the angels to Islay's warehouses where, under the banner of "Fèis Ile: the Festival of Music and Malt," each of the island's eight distilleries (plus Jura) host their own open day, turning the isle into something akin to a whisky theme park for a week.

However, peat is not for everyone and, with Islay being limited in capacity for both transport and accommodation, those whisky advocates whose palates are more focused on heather and honey have a more than suitable alternative: The Spirit of Speyside Festival.

As the global appetite for scotch increases, so the Spirit of Speyside festival has started to grow, offering a wide range of tastings, tours, dinners, walks, shows, quizzes, and other creative events which highlight not just the global popularity of Speyside whiskies, but also their increasingly relaxed, entertaining and inclusive attitude.

Boasting an enormous number of distilleries, Speyside is the beating heart of Scotch whisky production; be it stand alone single malts or those which play the vital role as key components in blends. This makes organizing a festival across so many potential sites, with so many different brands, flavors, and focuses a tricky task, so I headed out to the region to see how it works.

On arrival, one just has to open up the specially produced newspaper for the festival to see a mindboggling double page spread of events. All of which are excellently supported by a comprehensive festival bus service costing just £25 for a ticket, which will last you the duration of the five days and allows unlimited travel between participant distilleries and other key destinations.

The festival's opening is marked by a gala dinner on the Thursday evening, hosted each year by a different single malt distillery. 2013 saw the baton passed from The Macallan to The Glenlivet, who staged their fantastic feast in a converted warehouse where the 300 guests were treated to speeches, musical entertainment, and a charity auction of rare and collectable bottles from across the region.



## Cont.

From there in, planning becomes simply a matter of choice. From bespoke tours and tastings, such as “The Ultimate Mortlach Experience” which includes a rare bottle from the distillery created only for the festival, at £150, through to “Fill Your Own Octave Cask” at Glenglassaugh, for just £10, there is something for everyone to do. On the Saturday alone, I counted over 50 available events, some with regular time slots across the day. Price-wise, some of the events are free, but the majority weigh in at under £20 per person.

From the myriad of tastings on offer at the festival, my pick of the bunch (and my word, what a big bunch there is to choose from) was a tasting at Aberlour distillery. Billed as “Casks from the Past,” just four whiskies, with a combined age of over 150 years, were on show.

As it turned out, the first three drams were all extra special Aberlours: the first was a limited edition 12 year old, at 56.8% from a first fill *oloroso* sherry cask. A real monster, this bottling is sadly only available locally (the first few cases were offered to the residents of Aberlour village, who had to turn up with proof of address to enable them to make the purchase). I say sadly as it was a real winner of a dram. It was followed by two cask samples, drawn for use in the tasting only: one at 26 years of age (60.2% ABV) and one from 1978 (55% ABV). The curveball final dram came courtesy of the closed distillery, Inverleven. Distilled in 1973 and bottled at 48.85% ABV, this Lowland single malt was made using their ‘Ugly Betty’ Lomond still which now sits on the aforementioned Isle of Islay, making The Botanist gin at Bruichladdich distillery.

As the festival rolled on, one of the most pleasing aspects was not just trying a variety of different expressions from across the region, but hearing voices and accents from across the world from all those who had made the effort to attend.

Carrying everything from the 200-only limited edition festival bottling from Glenfiddich, through to the first release under new ownership from Tamdhu distillery, who chose the festival to officially re-open the distillery, the valiant effort from the whisky lovers seemed to throw the gauntlet down to the angels and the 2% per-year share of Speyside Scotch which they take away. I guarantee you, this year’s record number of visitors took home a lot more liquid than that, both in bottles and in their bellies. If you’re planning a trip to Speyside, try and make it during festival time. You won’t be disappointed.