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Whiskypedia: A Compendium of Scotch Whisky

Charles MacLean

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Charles MacLean : Whiskypedia: A Compendium of Scotch Whisky before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Whiskypedia: A Compendium of Scotch Whisky:

22 of 22 people found the following review helpful. Helpful Guide to Scottish WhiskyBy KatawampasThis is a lovely book about Scottish whisky. MacLean starts by giving a quick history of Scottish distilling; this is helpful in understanding and appreciating the industry of today and it's also very interesting. Then he moves on to "Understanding the Label" with a color photo of a Scotch whisky label and a numbered explanation detailing what

each part means. Next is the "Taxonomy" of Scotch and "Regional Differences". He also discusses where flavor comes from, the raw materials in making scotch, malt the "Plant"/physical parts of a distillery: Mash tun, Washbacks, Stills, Condensers, Casks Warehouse styles. This is the first 37 pages of the book. Then on to the part of the book you will use most often: The alphabetical listing of each Scottish distillery, including the new ones who have not yet released a bottling the silent. There is a color photo of at least 1 bottle from each distillery which I find very useful when going shopping. I also really enjoy seeing the various labels bottle styles. MacLean gives a history of each distillery going back to the earliest days, even the illicit days of the distilleries, describing various owners/investors. Each entry (distillery) has: -Expressions - The current bottling of the distillery owner (proprietary) not the independent bottler releases. -Raw Materials - Source of the distillery water, peat malt. For all you "peat heads" (I like peaty whisky), he gives the maltings' phenolic content ppm. For example: Ardbeg - Port Ellen maltings at 55 ppm; Laphroaig- Port Ellen mainland maltings at 35-40 ppm, peat from Machrie Moss. -Plant: Description of the mash tun, washbacks, stills condensers. -Maturation: Type of barrel used warehousing description. -Style: Describes the style or character of the new-make spirit, not the mature whisky. These descriptions are mainly provided by the distillery owner. -Mature Character: MacLean's opinion and description of samples usually in the 12 year old range. He does not use a point system or ranking; just his overall tasting description. ***This is NOT the book to buy if you are primarily looking for specific bottling tasting notes. Each distillery listed has its address, phone number, website, owner, visitor information capacity listed on the left side of the page. The end of the book contains "Facts Figures" which include a breakdown of who owns whom, the top ten single malts with liters sold in 2007 (I assume although it doesn't state liters on the page) a pie chart visual of their market share. Next is a breakdown of the major consumer countries of malt whisky. Also a listing description of the 18 leading independent bottlers. This book has a very nice layout is printed on heavy paper. It's not a pocket book but it's also not huge and heavy. I've carried it in to the liquor store and I find it very helpful in learning about Scotch whisky. Do yourself a favor and buy a whisky glass; it really does enhance the flavor and enjoyment! Stolze Glencairn Whiskey Glass Boxed 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. An Academic Treatise, not a pocket guide By Wishful Dreams - Tim Townsend It is perhaps too exhaustive for my purpose. I would classify it as an academic treatise on scotch whisky. I was hoping for a book that would compare scotches using a common set of metrics. I am not interested in all the historical dribble that accompanies some of the descriptions. That's not to say there isn't value in much of the information that is provided (e.g. label definition, the taxonomy, regional differences, history of a particular brand, etc.). However, I was looking for a summary of the "style" and "mature character" (his categories) for each bottle, perhaps grouped by expected price range, somewhere in the book. I did enjoy reading parts of the book that wouldn't lend information for me to purchase or not purchase a given product. The section on who owns whom was of no value to me. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Great book overall By Ryan N. Overall I really loved this book I take it with me to the liquor store to help me pick out good whiskys on occasion. However the 1 huge flaw in this books is that they do not accurately describe the taste of the different variations of the same whisky makers. For example Spring bank 10 14 and 17 are all different but this books only has 1 description.

Why does Scotch whisky taste like it does? Where do the flavors come from? How might they have changed over the years? The flavor of Scotch whisky is as much influenced by history, craft, and tradition as it is by science. Individual distilleries give their whiskies unique characteristics. These characteristics do not arise magically (as was once thought), nor are they solely the result of the region (as is still thought, by some). They have their roots in the craft and custom of the distillery and of the district in which it is located, but the key influences upon flavor are the distilling equipment itself, how it is operated, and how the spirit is matured. Whiskypedia explores these influences. For the first time, the flavor and character of every malt whisky distilled in Scotland is explored with reference to how it is made. Introductory sections provide an historical overview, an examination of regional differences, and an explanation of the contribution made by each stage of the production process. This compendium is a comprehensive guide to all the distilleries in Scotland (both malt and grain). Each entry provides a brief account of the distillery's history and curiosities, lists the bottlings which are currently available, details how the whisky is made, and explores the flavor and character of each make. Malt whisky is the quintessential spirit of place, and this element of the story has been captured by John MacPherson's camera in specially commissioned images which compliment the text. Skyhorse Publishing, along with our Good Books and Arcade imprints, is proud to publish a broad range of cookbooks, including books on juicing, grilling, baking, frying, home brewing and winemaking, slow cookers, and cast iron cooking. We've been successful with books on gluten-free cooking, vegetarian and vegan cooking, paleo, raw foods, and more. Our list includes French cooking, Swedish cooking, Austrian and German cooking, Cajun cooking, as well as books on jerky, canning and preserving, peanut butter, meatballs, oil and vinegar, bone broth, and more. While not every title we publish becomes a New York Times bestseller or a national bestseller, we are committed to books on subjects that are sometimes overlooked and to authors whose work might not otherwise find a home.

From Booklist MacLean, who won a James Beard Award for Scotch Whisky: A Liquid History (2003), here provides

an AZ guide to Scotlands most famous export, after golf. Noting in his introduction that differences in flavor are less the result of distilleries locations, as is usually thought, than of tradition, technique, and market concerns, he provides information about materials, equipment, and procedures for aficionados curious to make such comparisons. But the heart of these entries lies in the historical notes and curiosities, where the authors research and enthusiasm are clearly evident. Buyers and collectors will find the list of expressions (commonly available bottlings) useful, while many users will jump straight to the informed, richly descriptive tasting notes (Dalmore smells rich and sherried, with sweet malt, fruit cake, orange peel and marzipan.) As Scotchs popularity grows, its world changes surprisingly fast, and updated information is crucial. The untimely death of beer and spirits writer Michael Jackson in 2007 makes the eminent MacLeans work more important than ever. Serious drinkersthisis is not a book for beginnerscan ask for no better guide. --Keir Graff Charles MacLean is a world authority on malt whisky.Daily TelegraphThe untimely death of beer and spirits writer Michael Jackson in 2007 makes the eminent MacLeans work more important than ever. Serious drinkersthisis is not a book for beginnerscan ask for no better guide. Keir Graff, Booklist