

Arran 14 YO Single Malt. 46% ABV \$46.69 plus tax

August 18, 2018

The only working distillery on an island that was once home to many of the illicit stills on the west coast of Scotland

Nose: starts malty and clean but quickly there's a burst of fresh fruits: citrus, peaches, caramelized apples, some melon and berries. Nice hints of buttercups in the background. Hints of sweet oak with whiffs of vanilla and coconut as well. Cleaner than the 12yo, very rounded and really nice. There's a nice interplay between sherry and bourbon influence. It doesn't need water, but a few drops make the citrus stand out. **Palate:** creamy attack, initially less sweet than I thought it would be. Also more oak than expected. Malty centre with hints of citrus and pears. Obvious vanilla. Developing more spicy notes towards the end, nutmeg and light pepper. **Finish:** medium length, slightly biscuity with barley sugar and lingering spices.

Color: Pale Yellow Yellow Gold Bronze Amber Mahogany

Nose: Floral Citrus Grass Honey Coconut Malty Oak Nutty Molasses Sherry Sweet Smoky Pungent Peat

Palate: Woody Zesty Vanilla Oily Peppery Raisins Intense Grassy Caramel Berries Balanced

Chocolate Floral Citrus Honey Coconut Nutty Sherry Sweet Smoky Malty Peat Rich/Earthy

Alive Balanced Abrasive Assertive Delicate Bland

Body: Light Medium Full Smooth Rich Creamy Textured Big Crisp Mouth-coating Silky Velvet

Finish: Short Medium Long Abrupt Bitter Intense Tingling Robust Oaky Crisp Delicate

Length of finish (minutes): 1 1.5 2 2.5 3 3.5 4 4.5

Score: 91 **Notes:** _____

Name: Ted Burgdorf

Rating Scheme

95-100

A classic! All components are balanced appropriately, with the complexity and character expected in a classic.

90-94

Outstanding! One of the best for its style. Distinctive.

80-89

Good to very good. Plenty of character and no identifiable flaws. Worth seeking out.

70-79

Average. No unique qualities. Flaws possible.

Balvenie 14 YO Peat Week. 48.3% ABV. \$81.79 plus tax.

August 18, 2018

There are a few misconceptions around Scotch whisky that I still hear today. First, I often hear how scotch is 'smoky' with strong iodine notes, and therefore a big turn-off for whisky drinkers. In truth, most scotch sold contains very little in terms of smoky notes. The second misconception is, only Islay distilleries make peated whiskies. In truth, peat was a main fuel source up until the 1950s in many parts of Scotland and was commonly used in the whisky making process. Being a natural fuel source, the heat from burning peat was used to dry barley, and in the process it smoked the grain. The smoky notes survived all the way to bottling. I should note, though, it's not quite that simple. Today's peated whiskies often have a slower fermentation process to help contain these levels of peat. In the early days of scotch, most scotch was peated. Today, most peated distilleries are located in Islay (though not all Islay distilleries are heavily peated) and scotch outside of Islay can be made with peated barley. Almost all scotch has some levels of peat, but often too low to detect. At any rate! Since 2001, Balvenie has returned to their roots by making a peated whisky for one week each year. They call this period of time "Peat Week."

Nose: Beautiful vanilla and candy lime notes. Really beautiful citrus notes. Great pastry. Freshly cut apple pie. Hints of cinnamon. My peat detector does not go off (it's not overly sensitive). Rich buttery sweet. **Palate:** Beautifully creamy notes (smooth like butter), with a wallop of intense spice, char, dark chocolate, and even more butter. The peat notes come through, lightly coating the palate.

Color: Pale Yellow Yellow Gold Bronze Amber Mahogany

Nose: Floral Citrus Grass Honey Coconut Malty Oak Nutty Molasses Sherry Sweet Smoky Pungent Sea Air Peat

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Chocolate Floral Citrus Honey Coconut Nutty Sherry Sweet Smoky Malty Peat Rich/Earthy

Alive Balanced Abrasive Assertive Delicate Bland

Body: Light Medium Full Smooth Rich Creamy Textured Big Crisp Mouth-coating Silky Velvet

Finish: Short Medium Long Abrupt Bitter Intense Tingling Robust Oaky Crisp Delicate

Length of finish (minutes): 1 1.5 2 2.5 3 3.5 4 4.5 5

Score: 91

Notes: _____

Name: Jeff Burdick

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Chocolate Floral Citrus Honey Coconut Nutty Sherry Sweet Smoky Malty Peat Rich/Earthy
Alive ~~Balanced~~ Abrasive Assertive Delicate Bland

Body: Light Medium Full Smooth Rich Creamy Textured Big Crisp Mouth-coating Silky Velvet

Finish: Short Medium Long Abrupt Bitter Intense Tingly Robust Oaky Crisp Delicate

Length of finish (minutes): 1 1.5 2 2.5 3 3.5 4 4.5

Score: 90

Notes: _____

Name: Curtis Cameron

Rating Scheme

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Nose: Floral Citrus Grass Honey Coconut Malty Oak Nutty Molasses Sherry Sweet Smoky Pungent Sea Air
Peat Medicine

Palate: Woody Zesty Vanilla Oily Peppery Raisins Intense Grassy Caramel Berries Balanced
Chocolate Floral Citrus Honey Coconut Nutty Sherry Sweet Smoky Malty Peat Rich/Earthy
Alive --Balanced ---Abrasive Assertive Delicate Bland

Body: Light Medium Full Smooth Rich Creamy Textured Big Crisp Mouth-coating Silky Velvet

Finish: Short Medium Long Abrupt Bitter Intense Tingling Robust Oaky Crisp Delicate

Length of finish (minutes): 1 1.5 2 2.5 3 3.5 4 4.5 5

Score: 88

Notes: _____

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Score: 88

Notes: _____

Name: Roger Crawford

Rating Scheme

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Peat

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Chocolate Floral Citrus Honey Coconut Nutty Sherry Sweet Smoky Malty Peat Rich/Earthy

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Score: 83 Notes: _____

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Finish: Short Medium Long Abrupt Bitter Intense Tingling Robust Oaky Crisp Delicate

Length of finish (minutes): 1 1.5 2 2.5 3 3.5 4 4.5

Score: 75

Notes: _____

Name: FITZGERALD

Rating Scheme

95-100

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90-94

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80-89

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Score: 78 **Notes:** _____

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Chocolate Floral Citrus Honey Coconut Nutty Sherry Sweet Smoky Malty Peat Rich/Earthy

Alive— Balanced Abrasive Assertive Delicate Bland

Body: Light Medium Full Smooth Rich Creamy Textured Big Crisp Mouth-coating Silky Velvet

Finish: Short Medium Long Abrupt Bitter Intense Tingling Robust Oaky Crisp Delicate

Length of finish (minutes): 1 1.5 2 2.5 3 3.5 4 4.5

Score: 84

Notes:

worth every penny

Name:

Larry Gray

Rating Scheme

95-100

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Finish: Short Medium Long Abrupt Bitter Intense Tingling Robust Oaky Crisp Delicate

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Score: 87

Notes: _____

Name: Larry King

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Notes: _____

Name: Jim

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Peat

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Chocolate Floral Citrus Honey Coconut Nutty Sherry Sweet Smoky Malty Peat Rich/Earthy

Alive Balanced Abrasive Assertive Delicate Bland

Body: Light Medium Full Smooth Rich Creamy Textured Big Crisp Mouth-coating Silky Velvet

Finish: Short Medium Long Abrupt Bitter Intense Tingling Robust Oaky Crisp Delicate

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Score: 85

Notes: _____

Name: Jim

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Chocolate Floral Citrus Honey Coconut Nutty Sherry Sweet Smoky Malty Peat Rich/Earthy

Alive Balanced Abrasive Assertive Delicate Bland

Body: Light Medium Full Smooth Rich Creamy Textured Big Crisp Mouth-coating Silky Velvet

Finish: Short Medium Long Abrupt Bitter Intense Tingling Robust Oaky Crisp Delicate

Length of finish (minutes): 1 1.5 2 2.5 3 3.5 4 4.5

Score: 89

Notes: _____

Name: Don H

Rating Scheme

95-100

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80-89

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Peat

Palate: Woody Zesty Vanilla Oily Peppery Raisins Intense Grassy Caramel Berries Balanced

Chocolate Floral Citrus Honey Coconut Nutty Sherry Sweet Smoky Malty Peat Rich/Earthy

Alive Balanced Abrasive Assertive Delicate Bland

Body: Light Medium Full Smooth Rich Creamy Textured Big Crisp Mouth-coating Silky Velvet

Finish: Short Medium Long Abrupt Bitter Intense Tingling Robust Oaky Crisp Delicate

Length of finish (minutes): 1 1.5 2 2.5 3 3.5 4 4.5 5

Score: 84

Notes: _____

Name: Don J. H.

Arran 14 YO Single Malt. 46% ABV \$46.69 plus tax

August 18, 2018

The only working distillery on an island that was once home to many of the illicit stills on the west coast of Scotland

Nose: starts malty and clean but quickly there's a burst of fresh fruits: citrus, peaches, caramelized apples, some melon and berries. Nice hints of buttercups in the background. Hints of sweet oak with whiffs of vanilla and coconut as well. Cleaner than the 12yo, very rounded and really nice. There's a nice interplay between sherry and bourbon influence. It doesn't need water, but a few drops make the citrus stand out. **Palate:** creamy attack, initially less sweet than I thought it would be. Also more oak than expected. Malty centre with hints of citrus and pears. Obvious vanilla. Developing more spicy notes towards the end, nutmeg and light pepper. **Finish:** medium length, slightly biscuity with barley sugar and lingering spices.

Color: Pale Yellow Yellow Gold Bronze Amber Mahogany

Nose: Floral Citrus Grass Honey Coconut Malty Oak Nutty Molasses Sherry Sweet Smoky Pungent Peat

Palate: Woody Zesty Vanilla Oily Peppery Raisins Intense Grassy Caramel Berries Balanced

Chocolate Floral Citrus Honey Coconut Nutty Sherry Sweet Smoky Malty Peat Rich/Earthy

Alive Balanced Abrasive Assertive Delicate Bland

Body: Light Medium Full Smooth Rich Creamy Textured Big Crisp Mouth-coating Silky Velvet

Finish: Short Medium Long Abrupt Bitter Intense Tingling Robust Oaky Crisp Delicate

Length of finish (minutes): 1 1.5 2 2.5 3 3.5 4 4.5

Score: 88

Notes: More peaty than I expected
Great

Name: Mike

Rating Scheme

95-100

A classic! All components are balanced appropriately, with the complexity and character expected in a classic.

90-94

Outstanding! One of the best for its style. Distinctive.

80-89

Good to very good. Plenty of character and no identifiable flaws. Worth seeking out.

70-79

Average. No unique qualities. Flaws possible.

Balvenie 14 YO Peat Week. 48.3% ABV. \$81.79 plus tax.

August 18, 2018

There are a few misconceptions around Scotch whisky that I still hear today. First, I often hear how scotch is 'smoky' with strong iodine notes, and therefore a big turn-off for whisky drinkers. In truth, most scotch sold contains very little in terms of smoky notes. The second misconception is, only Islay distilleries make peated whiskies. In truth, peat was a main fuel source up until the 1950s in many parts of Scotland and was commonly used in the whisky making process. Being a natural fuel source, the heat from burning peat was used to dry barley, and in the process it smoked the grain. The smoky notes survived all the way to bottling. I should note, though, it's not quite that simple. Today's peated whiskies often have a slower fermentation process to help contain these levels of peat. In the early days of scotch, most scotch was peated. Today, most peated distilleries are located in Islay (though not all Islay distilleries are heavily peated) and scotch outside of Islay can be made with peated barley. Almost all scotch has some levels of peat, but often too low to detect. At any rate! Since 2001, Balvenie has returned to their roots by making a peated whisky for one week each year. They call this period of time "Peat Week."

Nose: Beautiful vanilla and candy lime notes. Really beautiful citrus notes. Great pastry. Freshly cut apple pie. Hints of cinnamon. My peat detector does not go off (it's not overly sensitive). Rich buttery sweet. **Palate:** Beautifully creamy notes (smooth like butter), with a wallop of intense spice, char, dark chocolate, and even more butter. The peat notes come through, lightly coating the palate.

Color: Pale Yellow Yellow Gold Bronze Amber Mahogany

Nose: Floral Citrus Grass Honey Coconut Malty Oak Nutty Molasses Sherry Sweet Smoky Pungent Sea Air
Peat

Palate: Woody Zesty Vanilla Oily Peppery Raisins Intense Grassy Caramel Berries Balanced

Chocolate Floral Citrus Honey Coconut Nutty Sherry Sweet Smoky Malty Peat Rich/Earthy

Alive Balanced Abrasive Assertive Delicate Bland

Body: Light Medium Full Smooth Rich Creamy Textured Big Crisp Mouth-coating Silky Velvet

Finish: Short Medium Long Abrupt Bitter Intense Tingling Robust Oaky Crisp Delicate

Length of finish (minutes): 1 1.5 2 2.5 3 3.5 4 4.5 5

Score: 92 **Notes:** Very nice. lots of flavors. **Name:** Mike

Balanced

Arran 14 YO Single Malt. 46% ABV \$46.69 plus tax

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Color: Pale Yellow Yellow Gold Bronze Amber Mahogany

Nose: Floral Citrus Grass Honey Coconut Malty Oak Nutty Molasses Sherry Sweet Smoky Pungent Peat

Palate: Woody Zesty Vanilla Oily Peppery Raisins Intense Grassy Caramel Berries Balanced

Chocolate Floral Citrus Honey Coconut Nutty Sherry Sweet Smoky Malty Peat Rich/Earthy

Alive Balanced Abrasive Assertive Delicate Bland

Body: Light Medium Full Smooth Rich Creamy Textured Big Crisp Mouth-coating Silky Velvet

Finish: Short Medium Long Abrupt Bitter Intense Tingling Robust Oaky Crisp Delicate

Length of finish (minutes): 1 1.5 2 2.5 3 3.5 4 4.5

Score: 89

Notes: _____

Name: DONWARD

Rating Scheme

95-100

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90-94

Outstanding! One of the best for its style. Distinctive.

80-89

Good to very good. Plenty of character and no identifiable flaws. Worth seeking out.

70-79

Average. No unique qualities. Flaws possible.

Balvenie 14 YO Peat Week. 48.3% ABV. \$81.79 plus tax.

August 18, 2018

WAY TOO MUCH!!!
1000

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Color: Pale Yellow Yellow Gold Bronze Amber Mahogany

Nose: Floral Citrus Grass Honey Coconut Malty Oak Nutty Molasses Sherry Sweet Smoky Pungent Sea Air

Palate: Woody Zesty Vanilla Oily Peppery Raisins Intense Grassy Caramel Berries Balanced

Chocolate Floral Citrus Honey Coconut Nutty Sherry Sweet Smoky Malty Peat Rich/Earthy

Alive Balanced Abrasive Assertive Delicate Bland

Body: Light Medium Full Smooth Rich Creamy Textured Big Crisp Mouth-coating Silky Velvet

Finish: Short Medium Long Abrupt Bitter Intense Tingling Robust Oaky Crisp Delicate

Length of finish (minutes): 1 1.5 2 2.5 3 3.5 4 4.5 5

Score: ~~100~~ 109

Notes: MORE CREAMY

Name: DON WARD

Arran 14 YO Single Malt. 46% ABV \$46.69 plus tax

August 18, 2018

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Color: Pale Yellow Yellow Gold Bronze Amber Mahogany

Nose: Floral Citrus Grass Honey Coconut Malty Oak Nutty Molasses Sherry Sweet Smoky Pungent Peat

Palate: Woody Zesty Vanilla Oily Peppery Raisins Intense Grassy Caramel Berries Balanced

Chocolate Floral Citrus Honey Coconut Nutty Sherry Sweet Smoky Malty Peat Rich/Earthy

Alive Balanced Abrasive Assertive Delicate Bland

Body: Light Medium Full Smooth Rich Creamy Textured Big Crisp Mouth-coating Silky Velvet

Finish: Short Medium Long Abrupt Bitter Intense Tingling Robust Oaky Crisp Delicate

Length of finish (minutes): 1 1.5 2 2.5 3 3.5 4 4.5

Score: 85

Notes: GOOD STUFF TO A NOVICE!

Name: JAY LANGHAM

Rating Scheme

95-100

A classic! All components are balanced appropriately, with the complexity and character expected in a classic.

90-94

Outstanding! One of the best for its style. Distinctive.

80-89

Good to very good. Plenty of character and no identifiable flaws. Worth seeking out.

70-79

Average. No unique qualities. Flaws possible.

Balvenie 14 YO Peat Week. 48.3% ABV. \$81.79 plus tax.

August 18, 2018

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Color: Pale Yellow Yellow Gold Bronze Amber Mahogany

Nose: Floral Citrus Grass Honey Coconut Malty Oak Nutty Molasses Sherry Sweet Smoky Pungent Sea Air Peat

Palate: Woody Zesty Vanilla Oily Peppery Raisins Intense Grassy Caramel Berries Balanced

Chocolate Floral Citrus Honey Coconut Nutty Sherry Sweet Smoky Malty Peat Rich/Earthy

Alive Balanced Abrasive Assertive Delicate Bland

Body: Light Medium Full Smooth Rich Creamy - Textured Big Crisp Mouth-coating Silky Velvet

Finish: Short Medium Long Abrupt Bitter Intense Tingling Robust Oaky Crisp Delicate

Length of finish (minutes): 1 1.5 2 2.5 3 3.5 4 4.5 5

Score: 90

Notes: Novice!

Name: Jay Langham

Arran 14 YO Single Malt. 46% ABV \$46.69 plus tax

August 18, 2018

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Color: Pale Yellow Yellow Gold Bronze Amber Mahogany

Nose: Floral Citrus Grass Honey Coconut Malty Oak Nutty Molasses Sherry Sweet Smoky Pungent Peat

Palate: Woody Zesty Vanilla Oily Peppery Raisins Intense Grassy Caramel Berries Balanced
Chocolate Floral Citrus Honey Coconut Nutty Sherry Sweet Smoky Malty Peat Rich/Earthy
Alive Balanced Abrasive Assertive Delicate Bland

Body: Light Medium Full Smooth Rich Creamy Textured Big Crisp Mouth-coating Silky Velvet

Finish: Short Medium Long Abrupt Bitter Intense Tingling Robust Oaky Crisp Delicate

Length of finish (minutes): 1 1.5 2 2.5 3 3.5 4 4.5

Score: 90

Notes: First scotch I may not know what I'm talking about

Name: Bill Miranda

Rating Scheme

95-100

A classic! All components are balanced appropriately, with the complexity and character expected in a classic.

90-94

Outstanding! One of the best for its style. Distinctive.

80-89

Good to very good. Plenty of character and no identifiable flaws. Worth seeking out.

70-79

Average. No unique qualities. Flaws possible.

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Nose: Floral Citrus Grass Honey Coconut Malty Oak Nutty Molasses Sherry Sweet Smoky Pungent Sea Air
Peat

Palate: Woody Zesty Vanilla Oily Peppery Raisins Intense Grassy Caramel Berries Balanced

Chocolate Floral Citrus Honey Coconut Nutty Sherry Sweet Smoky Malty Peat Rich/Earthy

Alive Balanced Abrasive Assertive Delicate Bland

Body: Light Medium Full Smooth Rich Creamy Textured Big Crisp Mouth-coating Silky Velvet

Finish: Short Medium Long Abrupt Bitter Intense Tingling Robust Oaky Crisp Delicate

Length of finish (minutes): 1 1.5 2 2.5 3 3.5 4 4.5 5

Score: 89

Notes: Novice

Name: Bill Miranda