

Meeting Date: ^{May} April 18, 2019

Lagavulin 16 YO

\$77.12 + tax - 43% alc./vol. Islay.

NOSE: Caramel and peat arrive at the scene first and threaten to take over but stop just short of domination. Orange zest, smoked meat, iodine, brine and some crisp red apples orbit the dense caramel and peat core. Overall there is a slight medicinal / novocain quality to the whole aroma that is more intriguing than it is off putting.

TASTE: Peaty upfront with that same iodine meets Novocain quality hanging around. Burnt orange glaze, ash malt, subtle toffee, coffee cake, cinnamon and something a little hard to explain swims in the murky orange caramel depths. It's like a vanilla mint pepper combo that adds a punchy sweetness.

FEEL: Oily and coating it's a smooth and relaxing dram.

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

Score: 88

Notes: _____

Name: Getzinger

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.

Below 69 Not sure it's safe to drink

Meeting Date: May 18, 2019

Sutherland's Benrinnes 18 YO

45.2% ABV. Speyside. Oak Bourbon Cask. \$88.90 + tax

One of the remaining 18 Single Malt Distilleries still operating which is over one Century old. This Distillery forms part of the Diageo stable of Single Malt Distilleries. Its not seen very much out in the market as a standalone Brand for the very reason it is used primarily to provide outstanding flavour for long established Blends such as in the Johnnie Walker range. The strong smooth flavour is typical to the location of the Distillery, along the banks of the River Spey, near to other famous Distilleries such as Macallan, Cardhu and Tamdhu.

Nose: A typical Speyside style of sweetness and aromas of local barley fields. Striking are the flavours of old local fruits and plenty of lovely organics.

Taste: A soft start and plenty of toffee sweetness emerges followed by a bitter note at the end. Perhaps hints of liquorice come to light at the end but the overwhelming power comes from the mix of nose and taste where the aromas of barley fields keep lingering.

Bottled at a higher strength and no chill-filtering at the time of bottling so as to deliver a full flavour to the palate. There is no addition of caramel as our Malt Leader wishes for you to enjoy the full depth of flavour without compromise

Color: Pale Yellow / Yellow Gold Bronze Amber Mahogany

Nose: Floral Citrus Grass Honey Coconut Malty Oak Nutty Molasses Sherry Sweet Smoky 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: 91

Notes: _____

Name: JC Burdoy

^{May}
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FEEL: Oily and coating it's a smooth and relaxing dram.

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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

Score: 90

Notes: Best peat I've had - not been a fan of peat.

Name: Roger

Rating Scheme

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70-79 Average. No unique qualities. Flaws possible.

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Color: Pale Yellow Yellow Gold Bronze Amber Mahogany

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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

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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

Score: 84 **Notes:** _____ **Name:** FITZGERALD

Rating Scheme

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70-79 Average. No unique qualities. Flaws possible.

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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: 78

Notes: _____

Name: FITZGERALD

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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

Score: 89

Notes: _____

Name: L. GRAY

Rating Scheme

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70-79 Average. No unique qualities. Flaws possible.

Below 69 Not sure it's safe to drink

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Nose: Floral Citrus Grass Honey Coconut Malty Oak Nutty Molasses Sherry Sweet Smoky 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: 80

Notes: _____ Name: L. GRAY

*Too expensive
tastes like 8 y old
light on nose*

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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

Score: 94

Notes: _____

Name: Jim G.

Rating Scheme

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80-89 Good to very good. Plenty of character and no identifiable flaws. Worth seeking out.

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Below 69 Not sure it's safe to drink

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Nose: Floral Citrus Grass Honey Coconut Malty Oak Nutty Molasses Sherry Sweet Smoky 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: 87 **Notes:** _____ **Name:** Jim G. _____

May
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FEEL: Oily and coating it's a smooth and relaxing dram.

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 *Psychands bitters*

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

Score: 92

Notes: _____

Name: JOE G.

Rating Scheme

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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: 86/100

Notes: _____

Name: JOE GWISDALA

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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

Score: 90

Notes: SWEET FINISH

Name: NORMAN H.

Rating Scheme

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

Body: Alive ^{Light} Balanced Abrasive Assertive Delicate Bland
Light Medium Full Smooth Rich Creamy Textured Big Crisp Mouth-coating Silky Velvet

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

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

Score: 87

Notes: _____

Name: NORM H.

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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

Score: 93

Notes: _____

Name: JEFF H.

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Score: 83 **Notes:** _____ **Name:** JEFF H.

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Lagavulin 16 YO

\$77.12 + tax - 43% alc./vol. Islay.

NOSE: Caramel and peat arrive at the scene first and threaten to take over but stop just short of domination. Orange zest, smoked meat, iodine, brine and some crisp red apples orbit the dense caramel and peat core. Overall there is a slight medicinal / novocain quality to the whole aroma that is more intriguing than it is off putting.

TASTE: Peaty upfront with that same iodine meets Novocain quality hanging around. Burnt orange glaze, ash malt, subtle toffee, coffee cake, cinnamon and something a little hard to explain swims in the murky orange caramel depths. It's like a vanilla mint pepper combo that adds a punchy sweetness.

FEEL: Oily and coating it's a smooth and relaxing dram.

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

Score: 85

Notes: _____

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.

Below 69 Not sure it's safe to drink

Meeting Date: May 18, 2019

Sutherland's Benrinnes 18 YO

45.2% ABV. Speyside. Oak Bourbon Cask. \$88.90 + tax

One of the remaining 18 Single Malt Distilleries still operating which is over one Century old. This Distillery forms part of the Diageo stable of Single Malt Distilleries. Its not seen very much out in the market as a standalone Brand for the very reason it is used primarily to provide outstanding flavour for long established Blends such as in the Johnnie Walker range. The strong smooth flavour is typical to the location of the Distillery, along the banks of the River Spey, near to other famous Distilleries such as Macallan, Cardhu and Tamdhu.

Nose: A typical Speyside style of sweetness and aromas of local barley fields. Striking are the flavours of old local fruits and plenty of lovely organics.

Taste: A soft start and plenty of toffee sweetness emerges followed by a bitter note at the end. Perhaps hints of liquorice come to light at the end but the overwhelming power comes from the mix of nose and taste where the aromas of barley fields keep lingering.

Bottled at a higher strength and no chill-filtering at the time of bottling so as to deliver a full flavour to the palate. There is no addition of caramel as our Malt Leader wishes for you to enjoy the full depth of flavour without compromise

Color: Pale Yellow Yellow Gold Bronze Amber Mahogany

Nose: Floral Citrus Grass Honey Coconut Malty Oak Nutty Molasses Sherry Sweet Smoky 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: 88

Notes: _____

Name: Jay Cawgan

May
Meeting Date: April 18, 2019
Lagavulin 16 YO

\$77.12 + tax - 43% alc./vol. Islay.

NOSE: Caramel and peat arrive at the scene first and threaten to take over but stop just short of domination. Orange zest, smoked meat, iodine, brine and some crisp red apples orbit the dense caramel and peat core. Overall there is a slight medicinal / novocain quality to the whole aroma that is more intriguing than it is off putting.

TASTE: Peaty upfront with that same iodine meets Novocain quality hanging around. Burnt orange glaze, ash malt, subtle toffee, coffee cake, cinnamon and something a little hard to explain swims in the murky orange caramel depths. It's like a vanilla mint pepper combo that adds a punchy sweetness.

FEEL: Oily and coating it's a smooth and relaxing dram.

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 Salty
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

Score: 96

Notes: _____

Name: Mike J.

AC

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.

Below 69 Not sure it's safe to drink

20550

Meeting Date: May 18, 2019

Sutherland's Benrinnes 18 YO

452% ABV. Speyside. Oak Bourbon Cask. \$88.90 + tax

One of the remaining 18 Single Malt Distilleries still operating which is over one Century old. This Distillery forms part of the Diageo stable of Single Malt Distilleries. Its not seen very much out in the market as a standalone Brand for the very reason it is used primarily to provide outstanding flavour for long established Blends such as in the Johnnie Walker range. The strong smooth flavour is typical to the location of the Distillery, along the banks of the River Spey, near to other famous Distilleries such as Macallan, Cardhu and Tamdhu.

Nose: A typical Speyside style of sweetness and aromas of local barley fields. Striking are the flavours of old local fruits and plenty of lovely organics.

Taste: A soft start and plenty of toffee sweetness emerges followed by a bitter note at the end. Perhaps hints of liquorice come to light at the end but the overwhelming power comes from the mix of nose and taste where the aromas of barley fields keep lingering.

Bottled at a higher strength and no chill-filtering at the time of bottling so as to deliver a full flavour to the palate. There is no addition of caramel as our Malt Leader wishes for you to enjoy the full depth of flavour without compromise

Color: Pale Yellow Yellow Gold Bronze Amber Mahogany

Nose: Floral Citrus Grass Honey Coconut Malty Oak Nutty Molasses Sherry Sweet Smoky 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: 83

Notes: _____

Name: Mike

May

Meeting Date: April 18, 2019

Lagavulin 16 YO

\$77.12 + tax - 43% alc./vol. Islay.

NOSE: Caramel and peat arrive at the scene first and threaten to take over but stop just short of domination. Orange zest, smoked meat, iodine, brine and some crisp red apples orbit the dense caramel and peat core. Overall there is a slight medicinal / novocain quality to the whole aroma that is more intriguing than it is off putting.

TASTE: Peaty upfront with that same iodine meets Novocain quality hanging around. Burnt orange glaze, ash malt, subtle toffee, coffee cake, cinnamon and something a little hard to explain swims in the murky orange caramel depths. It's like a vanilla mint pepper combo that adds a punchy sweetness.

FEEL: Oily and coating it's a smooth and relaxing dram.

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

Score: 92

Notes: It's good

Name: D. Ward

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.
- Below 69** Not sure it's safe to drink

Meeting Date: May 18, 2019

Sutherland's Benrinnes 18 YO

45.2% ABV. Speyside. Oak Bourbon Cask. \$88.90 + tax

One of the remaining 18 Single Malt Distilleries still operating which is over one Century old. This Distillery forms part of the Diageo stable of Single Malt Distilleries. Its not seen very much out in the market as a standalone Brand for the very reason it is used primarily to provide outstanding flavour for long established Blends such as in the Johnnie Walker range. The strong smooth flavour is typical to the location of the Distillery, along the banks of the River Spey, near to other famous Distilleries such as Macallan, Cardhu and Tamdhu.

Nose: A typical Speyside style of sweetness and aromas of local barley fields. Striking are the flavours of old local fruits and plenty of lovely organics.

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Bottled at a higher strength and no chill-filtering at the time of bottling so as to deliver a full flavour to the palate. There is no addition of caramel as our Malt Leader wishes for you to enjoy the full depth of flavour without compromise

Color: Pale Yellow Yellow Gold Bronze Amber Mahogany

Nose: Floral Citrus Grass Honey Coconut Malty Oak Nutty Molasses Sherry Sweet Smoky 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: 86

Notes: Good but price is too high

Name: Dan Wald

SELECTION	DATE	Ted	Roger	Cliff	Larry	Jim	Don H	Jay	Norm	Dan	Mike	Don W	Max
Lagavulin 16	5/19/2001	90		88	75		92		85		96	91	
Lagavulin 16 (2)	?	85		76	93		90		92	96	95	ABS	
Lagavulin 17	4/21/2009	90		80	91		ABS		88	93	96	ABS	
Lagavulin 12	2/22/2014	85		73	82		82		90	93	90	87	

If you spend any time researching the commentary on Lagavulin 16 you will easily discover that it is international favorite. Winner of multiple gold medals in whiskey competitions, Lagavulin has reached the status of "cult favorite whiskey." The tasters of note recognise of course the peat, the smoke, the sweet, the complexity. They get these impressions all the way through the experience of nosing, tasting and reflecting. Many complement Lagavulin 16 with solitude, reflection and cold rainy nights. Our job is to discover these attributes and evaluate them in comparison with our memory of the best of the best. Does it measure up to the hugely favorable commentary? Or is it hype?