



May 10, 2007

All...

The CCAWS May wine tasting will be at the home of Susann and Michael Barbour on Sunday, May 20 at 2:00 pm.

Michael Barbour will present *Wild, Wonderful, Wacky Whites III*. Nan obviously influenced this format! In fact, she was intending to be the Wine Host but has been unavoidably rerouted to Italy. Poor Nan! So much wine and all that time!! Please call the Barbours by May 16th at if you would like to attend. You could also e-mail the Barbours (michaelsuebarbour@comcast.net), but do it **before** the 16th, please. **Expect the cost of this tasting to be between \$15 and \$20.**

Other items of interest---

- **John Landon Recovering (Recovered?)**---Just a short note to let you all know that our friend and treasurer, John Landon, underwent triple bypass surgery Wednesday, April 25. John is recovering well at home and is already plotting his escape from the house to join us for the wine tasting on the 20th. We wish him the best of luck and a speedy recovery. [Becky]
- **Don't forget your dues** of \$10 to CCAWS (Carroll County Chapter of the American Wine Society) **AND** your membership obligation (dues, \$57) to AWS (American Wine Society). Consider this a reminder that you **must** maintain membership in AWS (our parent organization) to remain a member of CCAWS. See www.AmericanWineSociety.org for details of on-line management of your AWS membership.
- **From Michael Barbour**---Thanks to all who attended this past Sunday (May 6). It was a small group, but it was fun. For those who could not attend, the scotch tasting notes follow. At the wine tasting here on the 20th, if we run out of wine, we will drink the scotch.

Scotch Whisky Tasting Notes---[Single Malt Scotch is the product of one specific distillery in Scotland that is 100% barley malt and has not been mixed with whisky from any other distilleries; aging for a minimum of three years in American oak is required.]

Single Malt Scotch – Single malts are the aristocrats of whisky. Their ancestry traces back to a time when farmers used illicit stills to avoid punitive excise duty. They are known as single malts because each is unblended, the product of a uniquely different distillery. In the making of scotch whisky, malted barley is dried over peat fires, thus allowing smoke from the peat to penetrate the barley, giving scotch whisky its distinctive smoky flavor. Note the spelling of “whisky”, which is traditional for scotch.

Taste is influenced greatly by origin. The Islands, Highlands, and Lowlands have contrasting climates and characters. This is imparted into the ingredients. Subtle differences emerge as the result of the barley, peat, and fine spring water being combined with local skills, types of oak, and distillery methods. Malts share one distinction. Unlike vintage wines, they reach maturity in the cask. Once bottled, their character remains unaltered. In order from north the south, the primary regions are as follows:

- *Orkney Islands* – a series of islands at the north of Scotland with only about two distilleries – Scapa and Highland Park. The island malts can be hard to define as each has its own character. Typical island scotches are peaty but less so than those of Islay. Highland Park

(15 yrs) is the choice for this tasting. It is rich, dark, and a little bit of sherry and smokiness. This is the northern-most distillery in Scotland, which has its own maltings.

- *Highland* – Home to more than 95% of Scotland's single malt distilleries and also the largest region geographically. Because of the large geographical area, Highland malts can be separated into North, West, East, and South. In general, Highland whiskies are rounded, robust and dry in character, with a hint of peaty smokiness. A relatively unknown Highland scotch, Glencoyne (17 yrs) will be tasted today. It is clear, bright, characterized by hints of oak, apple, and an exceptionally long, clean finish.
- *Speyside* – This region is to the east of Highland and most distilleries use the esteemed spring water running from Craggan Mor Hill. Cragganmore (13 yrs – 1992, bottled in 2005) Distiller's Edition is a finely balanced with a dry, rather delicate aroma, good firm body and a smoky finish. It's considered to be a definitive Speyside scotch with hints of sweet wood smoke and sandalwood.
- *Skye* – This region is a peninsula on the west side of Scotland. The peat content of the water and peating treatment during kilning is more pronounced than for most malts. Talisker (13 yrs – 1992, bottled 2005) Distiller's Edition is unique, being the only Skye distillery. The scotch is assertive, but not heavy; full-flavored with a pungent, peaty ruggedness. It explodes on the palate and lingers on.
- *Islay* – The isle of Islay is off the western coast of Scotland, very exposed to the elements, with the salty tang of the sea, and, thus, has its own malt classification. Islay's scotches are strong with smells and taste of seaweed, peat, smoke and earth, which are all elements of the assertive Islay character. Lagavulin (16 yrs) is the finest and most pungent, an intensely dry malt with a firm robust body and powerful aroma, in my opinion.
- *Lowland* – Lowland malts are typically soft, restrained and with a touch of sweetness. Glenkinchie (14 yrs – 1991, bottled 2005) Distiller's Edition is dry and smoky; a pale smooth malt, which reaches maturity at 10 years. It is mild, fresh tasting, grassy, just slightly dry, and has many subtleties to its taste and texture.

See you at the Barbours' ...

...LeRoy