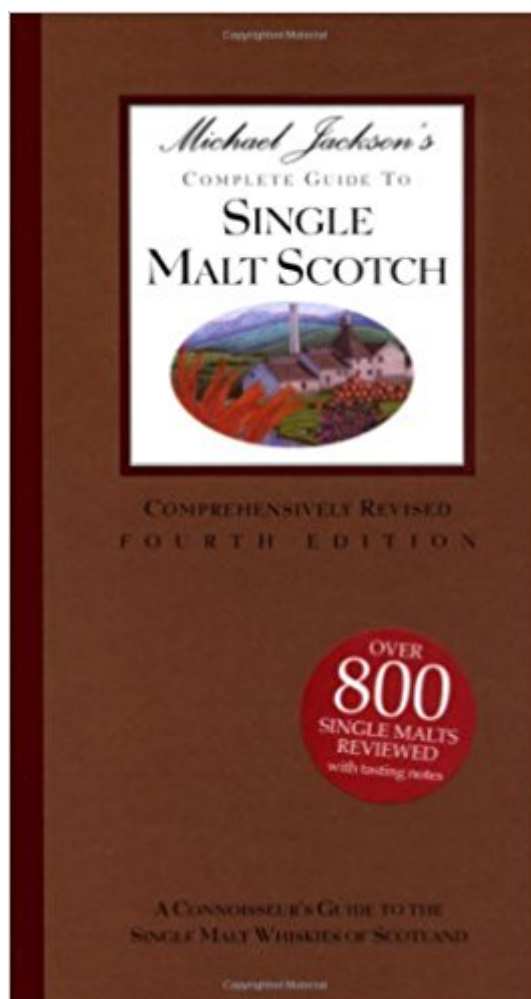


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Michael Jackson's Complete Guide To Single Malt Scotch 4th Ed



Synopsis

Now a classic reference, the fully revised and updated fourth edition of Michael Jackson's critically acclaimed connoisseur's guide provides tasting notes and scores for more than 800 single malt whiskies (500 of them new bottlings since the last edition). Anyone serious about his or her malts will find a storehouse of useful information in Michael Jackson's Complete Guide to Single Malt Scotch. In addition to providing a succinct introduction to the world of single malts, Jackson, always passionate about his subject, gives detailed information on the malt whiskies produced by more than 100 distilleries. Color reproductions of the labels are accompanied with tasting notes and numerical ratings. For those headed to Scotland, he lists distilleries (with addresses and telephone numbers) that welcome visitors. -Food and Wine

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Customer Reviews

In Michael Jackson's Complete Guide to Single Malt Scotch, devotees of the dram can peruse the latest revised edition of the 1989 work. In 336 pages brimming with maps, photos, and informed overview of factors such as geography and flavor components--even proximity to the sea--Jackson sketches the evolution of Scotch whisky, from the prebottling days, when shopkeepers like Johnnie Walker and the Chivas Brothers would create their own blends for sale, to the late-1960s and 1970s' surge of individual distilleries marketing their own bottlings. Lamentably labeling the former as a time when "orchestrations drowned out the soloists," Jackson provides some sweet sheet music of his own: 294 pages are devoted to an A-to-Z review (including full-color labels and tasting notes) of more than 800 singles from "every Scottish malt distillery that has ever witnessed its

product in a bottle." It's the perfect book to take to your local liquor store next time you're trying to navigate the high shelf of Scotland's highlands, lowlands, and islands. You may laugh at Jackson's description of Auchentoshan Select's "oily" nose with "hints of citrus zest" or Aberlour 10-year-old's "mint-toffee" bouquet. But you'll be laughing out of the other side of your haggis when you actually smell them. All the notes are well researched and designed to appeal to Cardhu-carrying connoisseurs, as well as those who'd just like to know more about Bowmore. In his introduction, the author describes a whisky's finish as "a crescendo, followed by a series of echoes. When I leave the bottle, I like to be whistling the tune." Scotch drinkers will find plenty to wet that whistle in Michael Jackson's Complete Guide to Single Malt Scotch. --Tony Mason

As the world's bestselling writer on whiskey, Michael Jackson needs no introduction. He was renowned for his pithy wisdom and a remarkable ability to evoke aromas and flavors. Jackson wrote many books on this subject and won many awards, including the André Simon Award and the 1999 Glenfiddich Drinks Writer of the Year. He was twice honored by Malt Advocate Magazine as "Industry Leader of the Year" and elected the first chairman of the Guild of Beer writers in France, Germany, and Belgium. He also contributed to a variety of publications, including The Independent and Whisky Magazine. He passed away in 2007.

I received the book today. It's the first version I've bought since the MJ penned 4th and sadly the last. No tasting notes of the Clynelish 14yo distillery bottling and inexplicably the Lagavulin 16yo distillery bottling (rated 95 in the 4th edition and described as "this classic Islay malt"). I realize the 16yo expression has not changed in many years but pretty much every Laphroaig distillery bottling is reviewed. I too rubbed the pages together thinking several had stuck together but the page numbering at the bottom told all. With the large increase in the number of distillery bottlings it seems the independent bottlings have been squeezed out of the book. There is no mention in the introduction, that I could see, of what constitutes an "independent bottling" and for most distilleries just one independent bottling is reviewed. The compact "other bottlings of ..." notes of earlier editions has been dropped entirely. The introduction section has ballooned from 30 pages in the 4th edition to 70 pages but it's lost its defining conciseness, of course there is space dedicated to buying for investment, bleh. Proof reading seems minimal as I've found numerous typos already :-("Due attention has been paid to malt whiskies exclusive to the burgeoning travel retail sector" from the MJ legacy page pretty much expresses the above review in a single sentence.

A friend of mine had this book and when he and I started enjoying scotch and cigars together we began trying different scotchs and making note of the differences in taste, smell, packaging, history, etc. Then he remembered this book and suddenly the experience exploded with the history of scotch, of the individual distilleries and the talents and proclivities of the makers. This is an excellent book if you really want to know your scotches and enjoy the breadth of options. The only reason I did not give this book 5 stars is because it assumes the buyer knows the vocabulary and the meaning of some of the simple and basic terms. For example, I would like to know the difference between Scotch and Scotch Whiskey. What is a Rye and why is it in a book about Scotch? I can find the info elsewhere and it does not stop me from recommending this book very highly. To learn about the regions and the history and the personality of each bottle of scotch is one of life's simple joys. And the 2 page autobiography of the author (Michael Jackson) is a real heart warming story as well. Great book indeed.

This book is great for those looking to learn more about the art of scotch. Though this seems to be the bible amongst the scotch community, I would say it is less comprehensive than I would have expected. To be fair, I just started becoming a scotch aficionado recently, so this book was the right level of difficulty for me. But I will need to buy additional books if I truly want to learn everything about scotch production (example, details of the distillation process, the distinguishing qualities of highlands and speysides, how cask acquisition works, etc). Also, in terms of detailing the qualities of specific scotch, I was left wanting for better descriptions. I understand that each person may taste slightly different flavors and scents, but I was still hoping for more than 3 or 4 suggestions. That all being said, I have not seen a scotch book yet that is better than this text. So I still recommend it strongly.

I received this book as a Christmas gift. I use it frequently when I happen to spot a potential purchase in the Scotch section of my local Total Wine. The book is excellent in the case of single malts and useful in the case of vatted and blended Scotch, but the section on independent bottlers is almost non-existent. This is a shame because there are some excellent independents out there and I would have liked to read Michael Jackson's views on their offerings.

I purchased an earlier version of this guide close to 20 years ago. Given that Michael Jackson has passed away, I wasn't sure what to expect with this revised edition updated by other people. I wasn't disappointed. This is the go to book about Single Malt Scotch! I use it to sort out what new

(to me) single malt's I'll try next. I find it particularly useful for finding extremely high quality scotches that don't cost as much as a large screen TV! It's also very useful to understanding the differences between Isle, Highland and Lowland scotches. Definitely worth the money. I give it as gifts to fellow single malt scotch lovers.

I'm new to single malt scotch drinking. So this book has it all. Explanations about making scotch... descriptions of the regions... descriptions about the distilleries... how to drink single malt scotch... how to collect it... reviews of collectable bottles. I can't think of any other book you could possibly need whether you are new to scotch like me or whether you have enjoyed scotch your whole life.

My husband loves single malt Scotch and has referred to his older Michael Jackson's guide for many years, published in 1990. It was time for an update! I bought him this 2015 book and he likes it for two reasons - it is still laid out the same as his old book (listing Scotchs alphabetically by name and not by regions and showing photos of the labels) and this one includes a lot more background to single malts at the beginning of the book. All in all, it was a much-appreciated gift!

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