



Taiwan whisky beats Scotch in blind taste test

專家盲測：台灣威士忌大勝蘇格蘭威士忌

A Taiwanese whisky **wiped the floor with** a trio of top Scottish blends in a **connoisseur's** blind taste test organized to mark Scotland's annual Burns Night festivities, the *Times* reported Monday.

The Taiwan-distilled Kavalan brand, described as a "Far Eastern incomer," came top in a test against three Scottish and one English whisky in a historic hostelry in Leith, north of Edinburgh, said the paper.

"Oh. My. God," author and whisky connoisseur Charles MacLean told the paper when the unexpected result was confirmed.

The newspaper organized the test itself, in what it called a "piece of mischief-making" inspired by the launch of an English whisky, "St. George's" last November.

Its hope was to catch the experts out with the **tippie** from Scotland's traditional "Sassenach" English rivals — but to their surprise it was the Asian whisky which came up trumps.

"It's tropical fruits. Tropical fruit jam," said MacLean, chairman of the panel, after Kavalan — which is not marketed in Britain — came out top with 27.5 points out of a possible 40 maximum.

Langs, a three-year-old Scottish premium blend, scored 22 points, followed by King Robert — also from north of

the border — on 20 and the English three-year-old malt on 15.5.

Last came quadruple-distilled Scottish blend Bruichladdich X4+3, on only 4.5 points, described by MacLean as "not cooking oil. Not diesel oil. Sewing machine oil."

In a commentary the *Times* noted: "Asians are not only some of the world's most **sophisticated** consumers of Scotch, but have begun distilling malts that compete with the best Scottish distilleries."

Burns Night, named after 18th century poet Robert "Rab-bie" Burns, competes with St. Andrew's Day as a focus for traditionally whisky-fueled celebrations in Scotland and by Scots around the world. (AFP)

英國《泰晤士報》週一報導，蘇格蘭年度慶祝活動「伯恩斯之夜」的一場名家盲測品酒會上，台灣威士忌擊敗三支頂級蘇格蘭威士忌脫穎而出。

報導指出，在愛丁堡北部利斯一間歷史悠久的酒吧舉辦的口味測試中，被稱為「遠東新品牌」的台灣釀造威士忌「噶瑪蘭」，擊敗三支蘇格蘭威士忌和一支英格蘭威士忌。

這個出人意料的結果一出爐，作家兼威士忌品酒名家查爾斯·麥克連對記者驚呼：「噢，我的天哪。」

由泰晤士報主辦的這場名為「大鬧一場」的盲測，靈感源於去年十一月推出的英格蘭威士忌「聖喬治」。

該盲測品酒會原本是希望這些專家，能從英格蘭威士忌和其競爭對手蘇格蘭威士忌中選出最佳威士忌，但出乎眾人預料的是，竟是一支亞洲威士忌脫穎而出。

品嚐過這支末在英國販售的噶瑪蘭威士忌後，評審團首席麥克連說：「這支酒帶有熱帶水果、熱帶果醬的香味。」這支酒得到最高分二十七點五分（滿分四十分）。

三年份的蘇格蘭特級威士忌「Langs」得到二十二分，其次是同樣來自蘇格蘭北部邊境、得分二十分的「King Robert」，以及三年份的英格蘭麥芽威士忌，得分十五分。

最後一名則是經過四次蒸餾的蘇格蘭「Bruichladdich X4+3」威士忌，得分僅四點五分，麥克連評論這支酒「既非沙拉油，也不是柴油，而是縫紉機油」。

《泰晤士報》的一篇評論指出：「亞洲人不僅是全世界最懂得品嚐蘇格蘭威士忌的消費者族群之一，也已開始釀造能匹敵蘇格蘭威士忌的麥芽威士忌了。」

以十八世紀詩人羅伯特·「拉比」·伯恩斯命名的「伯恩斯之夜」，和「聖安德魯日」同為世界各地蘇格蘭人狂飲威士忌的傳統蘇格蘭慶典。 (法新社/翻譯：袁星塵)

An engraved bottle of the spirit that is to become England's first whisky in over 100 years is pictured at the distillery in Roudham, Norfolk, eastern England, on Dec. 2, 2009. PHOTO: AFP

二〇〇九年十二月二日，英格蘭百年來第一支威士忌雕刻瓶身在英格蘭東部諾福克郡的勞德罕釀酒廠亮相。 照片：法新社

TODAY'S WORDS 今日單字

1. **connoisseur** /ˈkɒnə, sɜː/ n.

鑑定家 (jian4 ding4 jia1)

例：Ryan is something of a wine connoisseur.

(萊恩是個了不起的品酒家。)

2. **tippie** /ˈtɪpl/ n.

含酒精飲料 (han2 jiu3 jing1 yin3 liao4)

例：My favorite tippie is a glass of rum on the rocks.

(我最喜歡的酒類飲料是蘭姆酒加冰塊。)

3. **sophisticated** /səˈfɪstɪ, ketɪd/ adj.

精通的 (jing1 tong1 de5)

例：Julia's taste became more sophisticated as she got older.

(隨著年紀增長，茱莉亞的品味愈來愈精練了。)

LANGUAGE POINT 重要片語

wipe the floor 徹底擊敗

You **wipe the floor** with someone if you defeat them in a game or competition. In the article, Kavalan whisky **wiped the floor** with Scotch whiskies.

Example: "Rob was expected to **wipe the floor** in the snooker final, but in the end he was beaten by a newcomer."

如果說你「**wipe the floor with**」某人，就表示你在一場遊戲或比賽中擊敗他們。上文中提到，噶瑪蘭威士忌擊敗蘇格蘭威士忌脫穎而出。

例如：「大家原先預期羅伯會在撞球決賽中擊敗對手，但他最後卻敗給一個新手。」

WARNING: Excessive consumption of alcohol can damage your health. 飲酒過量有害健康