

A Finnish scientist has developed the perfect whisky glass:

"It was supposed to be just a hobby"

In the whisky glass designed by Jari Tuominen, the ledges around the edges disperse the pungent smell of the alcohol and bring out the aromas of the whisky. Two universities, doctors and brain researchers have been involved in the development.

Image: Ledges on the rim of the SAVU glass dispel the pungent smell of ethanol and bring out the aroma of the whisky better.

A Finnish summer evening is full of scents: sauna, smoke and birch wood the smoke and the birch wood. And it can happen that the smells lead to an aha experience when a splash of whiskey in the glass and a professional taster is present.

Jari Tuominen from Järvenpää is just such a person. A Doctor of Chemistry career at VTT Technical Research Centre for Technology, Finland, where he worked with of different smells and scents.

During a sauna evening, Tuominen noticed that the smells around him were very were very similar to what came out of the whiskey glass. However, there was a problem.

"The smell of ethanol stung your nose and masked the fine aromas of the whisky," Tuominen recalls.

This discovery was made more than five years ago.

Tuominen is 65 years old, but far from retired. The chemist developed the SAVU whisky glass, which eliminates the strong smell of alcohol.

In Finland, 5,000 jars were sold in one year, and now they are targeting markets abroad.

TUOMINEN doesn't consider himself a whisky expert, although he says he's learned "a thing or two" along the way.

He used to taste wines with his friends, and that's how he has become a wine connoisseur. And that's how he got to know the whisky lovers.

"They asked me to give a lecture on smells and scents. Wine and whisky lovers have in common that they are looking for the best aromatic experience, and that's where the sense of smell is crucial," says Tuominen.

However, the strong smell of alcohol, especially in whiskeys, can turn off a beginner. Tuominen reports on an American study that found that 98% of women and more than 80% of men consume ethanol as an unpleasant smell.

Since whisky lovers drink their whisky by the glass, the starting point was clear: Tuominen needed to design a glass where the tasting experience was no longer compromised by the pungent smell of the alcohol.

And as the idea took shape, Tuominen drew the first sketch of the glass on the first thing that fell into his hands - an envelope.

Image: Jari Tuominen has made his career as an odor analyst at VTT Technical Research Centre of Finland.
PHOTO: EDELGLAS

The starting point for the development of whisky glass was purely scientific, and the solution was from chemistry, physics and human physiology. Tuominen also called in other experts.

"The glass was developed by laboratories at the Universities of Helsinki and Turku, as well as by doctors and brain researchers."

But somewhere someone had to be found who could make the glass himself.

Tuominen turned to the master glassblower Kari Alakoski, who was interested in the idea of making the "perfect" whisky glass.

After several attempts, Alakoski managed to blow a glass for the first time. The first model was 16 centimeters high and weighed half a kilo.

With this, Tuominen discovered that the smell of alcohol that rises to the nose had been greatly reduced. So the technical solutions developed worked.

After the first prototype, nine more had to be produced before the final version was ready. Each glass is handmade.

The main idea behind SAVU glass is the shelf-like shelves on the edge of the glass - The ledges.

"In technical jargon, these are the distillation stages. When the whisky remains in them, the ethanol evaporates and the other flavours slowly come out. After a few minutes the alcohol is fruity, a minute later they are completely different."

Tuominen is particularly pleased with the feedback he has received. of people who hate whisky. When he once gave the drink to a Lions Club Lady, the reception was not exactly jubilant.

"Whisky, oh no, we haven't had that yet," the ladies explained. But when the whisky was in the glass for a few minutes, the ladies wondered what perfume I had been wearing. I had poured for her."

TUOMINEN founded a company SAVU glass for production and marketing. The glass was given the name SAVU.

"Actually, it was supposed to be just a hobby, but now it's gotten out of control. But it's just so much fun."

The first whisky glasses were sold in Finland a few years ago. However, the company's goal is the international market. SAVU glass AG, the manufacturer of SAVU, has obtained patents for the invention in North America, EU countries, Japan and China.

Dr. Janne Savolainen, who is responsible for the company's business, business development, marketing and sales, is pleased with the interest and fascination that SAVU glass arouses among people in Central Europe, from beginners to hardened professionals.