

Queensland Malt
Whisky Society Grand
Central Sept

Cask Strength - 22 / 02 / 2017
Glenfarclas Distillery
Ballindalloch, Speyside



In 1836 a license was granted to a small distillery called Glenfarclas, at Rechlerich Farm on the Ballindalloch Estate. However, it wasn't until John Grant acquired the tenancy of the farm, in 1865, that the distillery began to realise its full potential. Gradually, John Grant and his son began to travel with their whisky and so began the spread of Glenfarclas fame, a business which spans five generations of the Grant family. They nurtured the business and were quick to realise you don't improve a single malt whisky, you cherish it.

Tucked into the gentle meadowland at the foot of the majestic Benrinnes mountain lies Glenfarclas. High above the distillery a small spring of pure soft, cold, crystal clear water rises from the heart of Benrinnes. This magical spring is fed by the slow-melting snow as it filters through the heather and peat and down across the granite below.

It is the copper pot still however that makes the whisky great. A good still allows you to tap the lightest and best fractions of the spirit content. Glenfarclas Single Highland Malt Whisky is not distilled in a continuous process. It is made with care and meticulous attention in batches. Finally after distillation, the whisky is transferred into the finest Spanish sherry casks. Sleeping in the dark cold traditional warehouses, the young whisky lies undisturbed with only the Angels sharing its' secrets. From the oak sherry casks comes the whisky's distinctly rich golden amber colour and the sweet mellow flavour which is totally unique. And so it has been for over a century, in fact the only thing that has changed over the hundred and sixty years - is the label.



“Long, luxurious, with a pulsing vanilla grape mix and a build up of spices; light oils intensify and elongate. I doubt if any restorative on the planet works quite as well as this one does. Or if any sherry cask whisky is so clean and full of the joys of Jerez. A classic malt which has upped a gear or two and has become exactly what it is: a whisky of pure brilliance.

95.5 points.”

Jim Murray, 2014

“Beautiful polished brass / amber gold. Opening pass detects toffee apple, polished leather and juicy, grapey malt. Second inspection finds marzipan and toasted oats followed by crunchie bar and intense vanilla. The aromatic range is matched on the palate, delivering a concentrated, medium dry, peppery attack with a delicious interplay between sugar, tannin and spice. Finishes with flashes of dates, creme-caramel and crunchie bar before drying with oatmeal biscuit, toffee apple and dappled explosions of sweet spice. Bracing, invigorating malt. Those who religiously follow Aberlour's Abunadh will discover similar solace here. Tremendous stuff.

95 points.”

nicks.com.au, n.d.

Colour: Deep peaty-gold.

Nose: Complex, oaky, apples and pears, and a tempting dark toffee sweetness.

Flavour: Dry and assertive, develops quickly to reveal a rich spiciness, combined with a hint of oak and sherried fruit.

Finish: Amazingly smooth for the strength; wonderfully warming and with a lingering smokiness, yet very rounded.

Comment: A great whisky holding all the flavours of all the Glenfarclas in one glass. Being so warming, this is the perfect Hogmanay dram. Don't be afraid of the strength and order a 210, if you dare!

The smoothness makes the 105 drinkable at cask strength, but I suggest adding a little water to fully explore its great depth.

“The alluring opening aroma offers scents of plum pudding, mince pie and dark caramel; aeration reveals notes of roasted chestnut, beeswax, pork sausages, old saddle leather and vanilla wafer. The entry is prickly, but sweet and sappy; at mid palate large flavors of dark caramel, oloroso Sherry, vanilla cream and dark chocolate are added. Concludes with deep flavors of sweet oak, toffee and butter cream. Luscious.

90-95 points”