

*Glenfarclas*<sup>®</sup>  
1953







# Glenfarclas®

1953

SINGLE CASK

HIGHLAND SINGLE MALT SCOTCH WHISKY

DISTILLED & BOTTLED BY J&G GRANT

GLENFARCLAS DISTILLERY, SPEYSIDE, SCOTLAND



specially selected for **WealthSolutions**

# **GLENFARCLAS**

*1953 Vintage Single Cask*

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in a limited edition of 400 copies only by J & G Grant and Wealth Solutions  
to accompany the Glenfarclas 1953 Vintage Single Cask

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GLENFARCLASS DISTY



## ABOUT THE DISTILLERY

**S**ometime in the eighteenth century an unknown Strathspey farmer began distilling in the Glen of the Green Grass. His business prospered in this land—fertile in summer, yet bleak and austere under winter’s snow. By 1836 the distillery was well-founded. For 175 years it has single-mindedly gone on, independent in ownership and outlook, continuing to make the fine single malt whisky that today the world knows as **GLENFARCLAS**.

Glenfarclas was first licensed in 1836. In an age of multi-national businesses; of consolidation, rationalisation and distant, corporate ownership it stands out as being traditional, family owned and for concentrating exclusively on whisky, as opposed to a portfolio of different products.

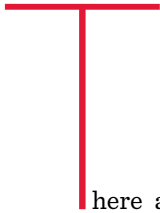
While Robert Hay was the first to distil here, the Grant family had been farming in the immediate area for many decades before him. It was a natural move then, for them to acquire the distillery in 1865 and for years afterwards distilling formed part of the annual round of farming life. This was quite normal in Scotland at that time, but it is highly unusual today for the controlling family to remain on site and to be closely directing operations, as they have done for six generations.

The distillery is located at Ballindalloch in the Spey valley, long regarded as one of the most propitious locations for distilling fine whisky.

The company survived the disastrous crash in the whisky business of the late 1890s, despite being in partnership with the firm of Pattison & Co who precipitated the crisis. At this time, an attitude of resolute independence was formed in the family and, despite many approaches from other companies, Glenfarclas remains firmly in family control.

Over time, Glenfarclas has survived economic recessions, wars, Prohibition, national transport and power strikes, furious competition and consolidation in the whisky industry and several take-over bids. This commitment to independence and a single-minded focus on Scotch Whisky production has served the firm and its employees well. An atmosphere of mutual trust and respect has been formed between owners and the workforce, many of whom have worked for the company all their lives.

## PRODUCTION



here are many clarets, but only one Cheval Blanc; many cheeses, but only one Parmigiano Reggiano; many whiskies, but only one Glenfarclas.

The distillery has been expanded on several occasions, but cleaves to certain unchangeable principles, notably direct firing of the stills and the use of high quality sherry casks for maturation in the traditional, damp, low-lying dunnage warehouses.





Direct firing is considered essential to the flavour at Glenfarclas. As early as 1904 Sir Walter Gilbey (then the proprietor of the Glen Spey, Strathmill and Knockando distilleries) noted that 'It is a curious fact that the heat of the fire imparts a Flavour to the vaporised matter. The fire heat gives the Spirit a character which distinguishes it from Spirits distilled by the Patent Still. It imparts to the Spirit the character known as empyreumatic, which is easily recognised in the product of the Pot Still ...'

One hundred years and more on and Glenfarclas remains true to the principle of direct firing, largely abandoned elsewhere. For all its additional cost and inefficiency, it is an unchanging part of the distillery. Suffice it to note that in 1980 a short-lived experiment with indirect firing in just one spirit still was carried out, using coils from Miltonduff distillery. 'The spirit was not Glenfarclas', say the Grants. The offending equipment was removed after just three weeks and direct firing promptly resumed. The character of the spirit is everything, as memorably demonstrated by this superb 1953 cask.

Together it exemplifies everything that Glenfarclas stands for: continuity; excellence in distilling; rigour in cask selection and wood management; family guardianship of an enduring tradition.

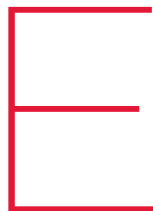








1953



Europe was just beginning a process of slow recovery from a traumatic war.

In Britain, sweets, eggs, cream, butter, cheese, margarine and cooking fats finally came off rationing and the public were able to buy them freely — where they were available. But, on a happier note, Queen Elizabeth II, who remains the nation's monarch to this day, was crowned in 1953 and Edmund Hillary, and Sherpa Tenzing Norgay made the first successful ascent of Mount Everest (and got back down again).

In Poland, which had been officially established as a People's Republic in the previous year, Soviet

influence continued and political and living conditions were hard. Cardinal Primate Stefan Wyszyński was placed under house arrest and there was a notorious show trial of priests in Kraków.

Soviet leader Joseph Stalin died, triggering a power struggle not finally resolved until Nikita Khrushchev consolidated his position several years later, leading to a programme of de-Stalinisation.

In the U.S.A., President Harry Truman announced the development of the hydrogen bomb and in February British scientists James D. Watson and Frances H.C. Crick of Cambridge University announced that they had determined the double-helix structure of DNA. They were later awarded a Nobel Prize for their work.

The Korean War ended and Fidel Castro began the Revolution in Cuba.

The year 1953 also marked the first successful separation of Siamese twins and the first open-heart surgery; the first TV broadcasts in Japan; the advent of colour television in the U.S.A.: the first west to east non-stop transatlantic jet flight; a new polio vaccine; a Pulitzer prize for Ernest Hemingway and the execution of Soviet atom spies Julius and Ethel Rosenberg.

World population reached 2.681 billion. The Oscar for Best Picture was claimed by Cecil B. DeMille's

The Greatest Show on Earth and Sir Winston Churchill was awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature. Marilyn Monroe posed nude for Playboy magazine and the iconic Chevrolet Corvette was launched.

During the war distilling had been restricted, and full production did not resume at Glenfarclas until 1949. The 1950s represented a period of boom for the Scotch Whisky industry and during this decade Glenfarclas was expanded and capacity increased.

At that time George Grant, father of the present Chairman (also George Grant) was running the distillery, having taken over the management on the death of his father in 1949.

It was George Grant's forward-looking and positive decision to increase production at the distillery for use as single malt rather than for sale to the blending industry. The finest quality sherry casks were laid down for this purpose from the early 1950s and, today, Glenfarclas holds probably the most extensive aged stock of any distillery in Scotland – a remarkable testament to the benefits of family ownership that we can enjoy to this day.

And so it was, that on 20th November 1953, 110 gallons of 'new make' spirit was filled to a fine sherry butt and rolled to Warehouse 9 at Glenfarclas where it would spend the next 58 years ...

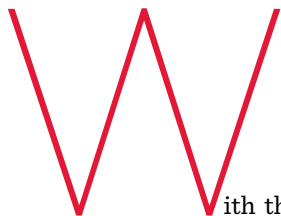


⊕ No 2 WASH ⊖

⊕ No 1 WASH ⊖

⊕ No 2 LOW WINEG ⊖

## TASTING NOTES



With the privilege of exclusive access to the distillery's rarest and oldest stocks, the 1953 cask was selected by Michal Kowalski of Wealth Solutions; Glenfarclas' George Grant and Serge Valentin, whisky connoisseur and a key member of the internationally renowned Malt Maniacs (see more at [www.whiskyfun.com](http://www.whiskyfun.com)).

Initially filled with 110 gallons (approximately 500 litres) the cask had begun life in Spain, where it was used to mature and then transport fine sherry to Scotland. It was bought by Glenfarclas and filled with whisky on 20th November 1953. This remarkable cask of whisky, has enjoyed the longest period of maturation of any whisky yet released by the distillery.

The original filling strength was 63.4% abv. After 58 years of maturation the strength had naturally dropped to 47.2% and the effect of evaporation was to reduce the amount of whisky to less than 300 litres, which all the while grew in the intensity of its flavour and colour.

In summary, this is a magnificent whisky: enormous, complex and with huge seams of flavour running through it. The biggest surprise though is just how fresh, juicy, and absolutely 'alive' the whisky is after 58 years in the cask. It is testament to Glenfarclas' wood-management policy that such incredibly high-quality casks are used, allowing the initial character of the spirit, laid down in the year that Mount Everest was first conquered, to develop such extraordinary complexity without dominating the final product.

Few whiskies reach this remarkable age and, of those that do, this stands out as retaining much of the vitality and freshness of youth. Many old whiskies would appear relatively lifeless and overly dominated by cask flavours ('woody') when compared to the sprightly yet venerable Glenfarclas 1953. It is perhaps fitting then to think of this whisky as a towering colossus. An absolutely enormous whisky, 'bigger' in flavour than perhaps any other you will try. There are however, many paths to the summit. Keep going back to the glass, and you'll find yet more flavours, yet more intrigue, and yet more enjoyment. Astonishing.



## TASTING NOTES

by Charles MacLean

WHISKY AUTHOR & EXPERT

*Appearance:* The colour of Golden Syrup: ex-Sherry U.S. oak refill? Oily legs and moderate beading.

*Aroma:* (straight) A mild nosefeel. Very clean, fresh and highly perfumed — the scent fills the room: hair lacquer, shampoo, face cream, almond oil (and pounded flaked almonds). I was reminded of an old-fashioned barber's shop. Beyond this, a fruity complex which includes fresh apricots and dried figs, and the gradual emergence of sweet tablet.

(@ c40%) Even a drop of water reduces the aroma. After a while some rich vanilla sponge emerges — even steamed syrup pudding, very slightly burnt. The latter develops into scorched brown paper.



*Taste:* (straight) Smooth and fresh; not as sweet as expected. Centre palate and quite tannic/mouth drying, with some spice. A long, rounded, warming finish.

(@ 40%) Still smooth, fresh and lightly sweet; a trace of ginger in the warming aftertaste.

*Development:* Warm sand and sand-dunes, with sun-tan oil.

*Comment:* Layer upon layer of flavour. A splendid old whisky; still lively, and not displaying any woodiness. Much influenced by the American oak cask, but wholly beneficially. Best enjoyed unreduced. Cheerful and friendly at natural strength.

## ABOUT WEALTH SOLUTIONS



wealth Solutions was established in 2007 with a mission to provide unique products for Polish collectors and investors. It was created by real enthusiasts for luxury goods such as fine Bordeaux wines, top quality Scotch Whisky and art.

These assets are perceived not only as sound alternative investments but also as an important element of prestigious private collections and the luxury life style. Today, with more than £30m worth of fine wines purchased by its clients, Wealth Solutions is regarded as one of the top wine banking advisors in

Europe. The company has also introduced a unique group investment in real estate allowing individuals to profit from the increases in value of land in Poland.

Over the past five years, more than 6,500 clients have trusted Wealth Solutions by purchasing top quality collectibles and using the company's expertise in alternative investments.

In 2012, Wealth Solutions has the exclusive privilege and honour to introduce to them an exceptional 58 year old whisky from one of Scotland's most renowned distillery – Glenfarclas.



**Wealth**Solutions

[www.wealth.pl](http://www.wealth.pl)

## THE LIMITED EDITION

*1953 Vintage Single Cask*

After 58 years of slow maturation in Glenfarclas' traditional Highland warehouses,  
the 1953 cask produced just 400 full bottles each of 70cl.

Bottled on 13th February 2012 at the cask strength of 47.2% abv,  
the whisky is naturally coloured and non-chill filtered.

Each bottle is accompanied by this book, written by well-known Scotch Whisky enthusiast and writer  
Ian Buxton, author of the Official History of the distillery *Glenfarclas. An Independent Distillery*.

This book is number                      to accompany the matching bottle.

The signatures below guarantee the authenticity of the 1953 Single Cask  
which has been bottled by hand under the direct supervision of the distillery.







