

Glenfarclas[®]
·My Tribute·

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Glenfarclas 1968

Single Cask Highland Single Malt Whisky

Distilled & bottled by J & G Grant

GLENFARCLAS DISTILLERY, SPEYSIDE, SCOTLAND

Specially selected by Luc Timmermans

www.glenfarclas.be

A nice layer of
sherry
with touches of
eucalyptus,
orange zest
and fine
dark chocolate
notes,
warm raisin cake
followed by an intensity on the palate that shows
morello cherries
bitter chocolate
and
dates.

LUC TIMMERMANS' TASTING NOTES FOR 'MY TRIBUTE' 1968

Glenfarclas 1968 Vintage Single Cask 'My Tribute'

www.glenfarclas.be

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Glenfarclas 1968 Vintage Single Cask 'My Tribute'

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ABOUT THE DISTILLERY

Sometime 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.

Today this single cask of single malt Scotch Whisky, distilled in 1968, has been specially drawn from the distillery’s oldest and finest stocks. It was personally selected by Luc Timmermans, a noted collector of fine Glenfarclas and a renowned connoisseur of old and rare whiskies, as his tribute to the distillery’s 175 years of history.



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.



HOW GLENFARCLAS IS MADE

Glenfarclas is a classic Speyside single malt distillery—perhaps *the* classic Speyside single malt, revered by connoisseurs for its adherence to tradition and continuing family ownership. It is renowned throughout the world of whisky.

The distillery has been expanded on several occasions over 175 years, but certain unchangeable principles have been strictly adhered to over the years, 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 1968 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.





Students fight at the Catholic University of Leuven, Belgium, January 1968

1968 – GLENFARCLAS, BELGIUM & THE WORLD

A Year that changed History

As many of us well remember, 1968 was a year of ferment, holding the promise of radical change, of challenges to ‘the establishment’ (however that was defined) and, for many, of hope and optimism for a better future and a fairer society. But it was also a dark year, seeing the assassinations of Dr Martin Luther King and Robert Kennedy and the savage beating of Parisian students—by late May over 9 million French workers strike in sympathy to protest the police action.

During this period Taiwan was experiencing rapid and sustained economic growth, second only to Japan in the region, and the years around 1968 are often referred to as the time of the ‘Taiwan Miracle’ with the country taking a proud place as one of the four ‘Asian Tigers’.

Singapore was also moving to greater self-reliance, faced with the announcement in January 1968 that British troops would finally and completely withdraw from the island’s

defences by December 1971. Following their political successes the People's Action Party passed new labour laws and other legislation designed to attract foreign investment which soon led to a rapid industrialization programme alongside many urban renewal and infrastructure projects.

Richard M. Nixon was elected President of the United States and, at the 1968 Olympic Games in Mexico City, black US athletes Tommie Smith and John Carlos stunned the world with their 'black power' salutes. Real military power was demonstrated by the Soviet Union's invasion of Czechoslovakia at the head of more than 200,000 Warsaw Pact troops, putting an end to the 'Prague Spring', and beginning a period of enforced and oppressive 'normalization'.

In the arts, Andy Warhol was killed; Arlo Guthrie's *Alice's Restaurant* changed the development of popular music and the Oscars were shared between *In the Heat of the Night*, *Guess Who's Coming to Dinner*, *Bonnie and Clyde* and *The Graduate* (a great year for movie fans, it seems, who could also enjoy The Beatles' *Yellow Submarine* and the band's iconic *White Album*). Marcel Duchamp died that year but Barbara Hepworth, Henry Moore, David Hockney and Alexander Calder were all active.

Cream disbanded, while Deep Purple and Yes were formed. In the world of classical music there were new compositions from Milton Babbitt, Samuel Barber, Peter Maxwell Davies, Dmitri Shostakovich, Karlheinz Stockhausen and Hans Werner Henze amongst others.

In Belgium student protest brought the government to its knees when on February 7, 1968, after weeks of uproar and tumult at Leuven University following many years of passionate debate on the question of language and national identity, the Catholic-blue government of Paul Vanden Boeynants resigned. After the government fell, the Christian Democrat party split into a Flemish and a French-speaking wing and the country experienced many profound changes. By 1970 Belgium was no longer a unitary state and thus the country's federal structure has its roots in the turbulence of 1968.

By a strange coincidence, the cask that was eventually to provide the 'My Tribute' bottling by Belgian enthusiast and collector Luc Timmermans was laid down on the same day as the Leuven University protests. Otherwise, events were rather calmer at Glenfarclas, but that is not to say that significant changes were not in hand. It was becoming evident to George Grant, father of the present Chairman that the company could no longer rely entirely on supplying the blending market. The decision was made to start to develop Glenfarclas' own brands and, in particular, to fill new make spirit on the company's own behalf for eventual sale as single malt.

One particularly significant step was the launch of the much-loved *Glenfarclas 105*, which has proved consistently popular ever since. For many drinkers it is their first introduction to cask strength single malt whisky—and an enjoyable and memorable one it proves.

The casks laid down in 1968 then are particularly important in Glenfarclas' long-term survival as an independent, family-owned company. They are, quite literally, the foundation

of the business' present-day success. Thus, in choosing a cask from this momentous year, Luc Timmermans has not just made his tribute to 175 years of rugged independence but chosen from the 'crown jewels'.

This whisky is important not simply as a fine and satisfying dram but as a long-lasting symbol of a great survivor from a different age of Scotch whisky. When you drink the *Glenfarclas 1968 'My Tribute'* you are drinking a whisky that changed its own history in a year that will be long remembered.



TASTING NOTES

by Luc Timmermans



Nose: *A fresh & vibrant nose that shows the finest sherry and raisins, mocha coffee and overripe dates & figs with a fine layer of cassis jam and cohiba cigars ending with a nice touch of old leather wax, old books and oak.*

Taste: *First a nice layer of sherry with touches of eucalyptus, orange zest and fine dark chocolate notes, warm raisin cake followed by an intensity on the palate that shows morello cherries, bitter dark chocolate and dates.*

Finish: *Long lingering finish with orange zest, cacao and dried fruits*

Balance/complexity: *A lovely complex dram, fresh for its age but at the same time deep, profound & intense on the palate. Try it with a dash of water to open this fine dram completely allowing it to show its true class. A dram to savour with your closest friends.*



by Serge Valentin

CERTIFIED MALT MANIAC & INDEPENDENT WHISKY REVIEWER AT WWW.WHISKYFUN.COM

Nez: d'abord des fruits secs (figues, dates, bananes), puis des touches mentholées de plus en plus évidentes, avec aussi un peu de camphre et d'eucalyptus ainsi qu'un soupçon de fumée de bois. Prend ensuite de plus en plus d'ampleur, sur une combinaison de notes de bois de cèdre, de liqueur d'orange et de havane. Le tout est très classique et très expressif, faisant parfois penser à un très vieux cognac. **Dilué:** un boisé fin et élégant émerge davantage. Encaustique, cire d'abeille, brou de noix.

Bouche (sans eau): beaucoup plus puissant et vigoureux que le suggérait le nez, presque brutal, avec une certaine âcreté qui rappelle le thé russe. Le boisé est plus fort, apportant des touches de moutarde et à nouveau de cigare. Les fruits restent un peu en retrait à ce stade. **Dilué:** les fruits s'expriment beaucoup plus, avec beaucoup d'oranges, de raisins secs, de pruneaux et une très jolie touche tant chocolatée que réglissée.

Finale: longue, très équilibrée entre le boisé et les fruits secs. Le côté mentholé revient à la rétro-olfaction, ainsi que des notes de clous de girofle, de cannelle et de bonbons à la violette.

Commentaire: très classique, avec un chêne très présent mais fondu, qui apporte beaucoup de structure à ce très vieux Glenfarclas. Très ferme sans eau, plus souple et séducteur une fois dilué.

by Ruben Luyten

INDEPENDENT WHISKY REVIEWER AT WWW.WHISKYNOTES.BE



Nose: Stunningly fragrant and fresh for such an oldie, with an elegant sherry influence. There's thick apricot and raspberry jam, ripe figs, cherry pie and raisins. Hints of Havana tobacco leaves, chamomile tea and vanilla fudge. The varnished, slightly bourbonny oak comes forward but with balancing honeycomb sweetness and scented waxiness. Teasing spices too, like cinnamon and nutmeg. All this interwoven with a soft veil of smoke and eucalyptus. Nothing short of wonderful.

Taste: On the palate it develops the mint and eucalyptus theme a little further. It shows mirabelles and plums, crystalized oranges and dried figs. Some chocolaty notes as well as soft resin. Impressive how there's no obvious dryness from the oak, just spices like anise and cloves, and hints of cough sweets. Goes on with leather, cocoa and orange liqueur.

Finish: Fades out slowly and elegantly, on Seville oranges, dried fruits, mint and hints of herbal tea.

Conclusion: This is the perfect tribute to 175 years of classic Glenfarclas craftsmanship, with a hell of a lot of boxes ticked. It's accessible yet complex, predictable yet magical. An example of how a sherried Glenfarclas should be, or better still, a supreme example of how a sherried whisky should be.



Johan van Samang

INDEPENDENT WHISKY REVIEWER AT WWW.ONVERSNEDEDEN.COM

Neus: *Heerlijke, elegante neus. De balans tussen de drogere sherrytonen van het vat en het zoete fruit is perfect. Ik heb tonen van geroosterde noten, cake, gekonfijt fruit, marsepein, dadels en honing, gevolgd door bitterzoete appelsien, abrikozencompote en rijpe ananas. Onderliggend chocolade, oud leder, antiekwas en high-end balsamico. Antiekshop. Prachtig. Een beetje munt ook. Mooie, ronde eik en een ideale hoeveelheid kruiden. Erg complexe neus, mooi gelaagd.*

Smaak: *Zijdezacht. Uitzonderlijkzacht voor 44jaar rijping op sherryvat en nog altijd meer dan 54% alcohol. De sherry vertaalt zich in melkchocolade, praliné, pruimen, sappige eik en kruiden (peper, zoethout, kruidnagel). Evolueert van mooi droog naar zoetere en fruitigere tonen. Bananen, zwarte bessen en braambessen. Knap. Koffie noteer ik nog, net als tabak. De eik blijft erg goed getemd, overheerst nooit.*

Afdronk: *Erg lang, en daar kunnen we alleen maar blij mee zijn, het genieten blijft duren. Mooie, ronde eik en kruiden, perfect in harmonie met honing en fruit.*

Conclusie: *Stijlvolle, complexe en elegante whisky. En de grote sterkte van deze whisky is de balans, op geen enkel moment gaat er ook maar iets overheersen. Grote klasse.*

Ho-Cheng Yao (aka 'Kingfisher')

CERTIFIED MALT MANIAC, FOUNDER OF THE TAIWAN SINGLE MALT WHISKY SOCIETY
& KEEPER OF THE QUAICH



品飲者：姚和成

品飲紀錄：

相當漂亮的深琥珀色，相當的具有油性而在杯壁形成綿密的淚腳。香氣呈現標準的重雪莉影響：有著蜜李、葡萄乾等蜜餞香氣，之後出現蘋果派般的聯想與肉桂、可可等的辛香料調性，相當複雜而具層次感。香氣表現上相當紮實，但是同時又呈現貴族般的優雅。入口有著相當溫和的口感，僅僅在舌尖上呈現些許單寧的刺激感，明顯是因為陳年於品質相當好的橡木桶所帶來的影響，尾韻長而繚繞，相當的回甘而讓你不自覺的再飲一口。整體來說保存的酒廠結實的酒體卻又呈現細細致的優雅感，是我喝過最好的幾支格蘭花之一。

Appearance: *Beautiful amber colour, quite oily and fine legs.*

Nose: *Quite heavy sherry influence, plum, dried fruit, raisin, apple pie, hints of cinnamon and spice, complicated and layered. Quite good structure but also gives you a noble and elegant feel.*

Taste: *The palate is quite gentle but with some tannic attack, obviously comes from lengthy aging.*

Finish: *Long and lingering. Mouth watering and really makes you have another dram immediately. Conclusion: One of the best Glenfarclas' I've ever tasted.*



THE 1968 SERIES

Luc Timmermans has had a long love affair with Glenfarclas and, in particular, casks dating from 1968. Not only was this the year that the distillery first began to market its single malt in its own right, and to build stocks for the future but it was also the year of his birth. Here, in his own words, he explains his fascination with 1968.

The “My Tribute” cask is sadly my last Glenfarclas cask from 1968 but over the past few years I have been privileged to be able to bottle a few of these exceptional whiskies.

CASK #688–2004

It all started many years ago at the Limburg Whiskyfair in Germany. During a memorable cask sample tasting hosted by George Grant, I was able to enjoy many samples, of which cask #688 really stood out from the pack. I selected this cask together with my good friends Sjoerd and Hans-Georg to be bottled as the 'Glenfarclas for Friends edition No.1'. To this day, John Grant considers this one of his personal favourite bottlings of Glenfarclas and a superb example of the distillery at its finest. And thus my enthusiasm for Glenfarclas 1968 began.

CASK #689–2005

During my next visit to Glenfarclas and its warehouses I decided to try more casks of 1968 and stumbled on cask #689. I hosted a Glenfarclas tasting at the Bootshuis in Hofstade (Belgium) and all people attending the tasting agreed: this was simply too good to leave in the warehouses. So shortly afterwards, cask #689 was bottled as 'My Private Selection No.1'.

CASK #699–2009

On 1st March 2008 for my 40th birthday party, George Grant gave me 40 cask samples of 40 different casks, naturally all from 1968, and all of them unique and exceptional. During my tasting of all these samples I discovered another beauty, cask #699 which I bottled for the Lindores Whiskyfest and the Lindores Whisky Society.

CASK #702 & #5240–2010

One year later when I returned to my samples I decided to vat casks #702 and #5240 together. It turned out that the vating was exponentially better than the individual expressions. The fine fruity notes of cask #5240 married perfectly together with the deep Oloroso notes of cask #702.

CASK #697–2011

The cask series 69x truly appealed to me and the more I tried them the more I liked them. This cask #697 stood out since this was a fresh fill Pedro Domecq Manzanilla Sherry Cask, the only one of this type filled in 1968. The fine fruity notes mixed with a little touch of salt, so typical of this kind of sherry, made this cask truly remarkable.

THE FINAL CASK #5241–MY TRIBUTE–2012

2011 was the year of Glenfarclas' 175th Anniversary and together with George Grant I decided to honour this event and pay my personal tribute to the finest people working at the finest distillery with the launch of my final cask of 1968. Not wanting to intervene in the year of celebration we decided to launch this special cask in 2012. And, as they say... always keep the best for last.

I hope you will enjoy this truly memorable whisky and share it with friends and family. While you are enjoying this fine dram don't forget to read the exciting story of Glenfarclas so beautifully described in the book of the Official History of Glenfarclas, written by my dear friend Ian Buxton.

LUC TIMMERMANS Honorary Member of the Grand Order of Glenfarclas

THE LIMITED EDITION

After 44 years of slow and steady uninterrupted maturation in Glenfarclas' traditional Highland warehouses,
the 1968 cask selected by Luc Timmermans produced just 175 full bottles of 70cl.

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 presentation.

The signatures below guarantee the authenticity of the 1968 Single Cask 'My Tribute'
which has been bottled by hand under the direct supervision of the distillery.

