

*Newcomers Whisky Club*

*February 8, 2013*



*Uncommon Glens*

*"The light music of whiskey falling into a glass*

*- an agreeable interlude."*

*James Joyce*

## Tonight's Menu

---

*The Glenrothes, Select Reserve*

*Glengoyne, 17 year-old*

*Glenglassaugh, The Spirit Drink  
That Dare Not Speak Its Name'*

*Glenglassaugh, Revival*

*Glendronach, The Revival, 15 year-old*

*Glen Garioch, 12 year-old*

*Glendarroch, 42 year-old*



### The Glenrothes

**Select Reserve, NAS, 40% abv**

*\$38 Total Wine*

**The Glenrothes** is a single malt Scotch whisky, produced at the Glenrothes Distillery, beside the Burn of Rothes in the Speyside region. The Glenrothes is used in blended scotch whiskies such as Cutty Sark and The Famous Grouse. The Glenrothes is owned by Berry Brothers and Rudd, after being bought from the Edrington Group in 2010

#### Production

The Glenrothes is different to many other single malts in that since 1993 the bottlings are not determined by age but by vintage. The Glenrothes is also sold as "Select Reserve", a recently introduced non-vintage line. The Glenrothes is mainly matured in Spanish ex-Sherry casks, and some ex-Bourbon casks. Special bottlings include "Single Cask" bottles, which are taken from one single cask of whisky from a particular year. In the late 1980s, a few years before Glenrothes Distillery decided to bottle The Glenrothes as vintages, some casks of whisky prior to 1974 were left to mature together. These casks were bottled as a 30-year-old Glenrothes. Only 1134 bottles were produced.

#### Character

The house style is a warming, mouth-coating creamy spirit, with the classic Speyside "pear drop" character. Thanks to its ageing and production, Glenrothes whisky is known for its spicy, rich character.

#### History

The distillery was built in 1878 by James Stuart & Co, who then also worked the nearby Macallan distillery. The first whisky ran off the stills on the 28 December 1879. The distillery itself had a shaky start and a chequered history. Over-proof whisky is notoriously highly flammable and the distillery has paid the price. Extension work began in 1896 on a second malt kiln, and an increase in stills from two to four but, before the work was finished, a fire in December 1897 caused serious damage. The distillery saw further damage with a serious explosion in 1903. Then, in 1922, a fire in Warehouse Number One caused the loss of 200,000 imperial gallons (910,000 L) of whisky. Another fire in 1962 afforded the opportunity for expansion and a further re-build in 1982 extended the still hall to five wash stills and five spirit stills.



#### Distillery Description

John Ramsay, our Malt Master, has crafted a selection of The Glenrothes which typifies the distillery house character - ripe fruits, citrus, vanilla and hints of spice. The Select Reserve is a first for us. A non-Vintage-specific selection carefully chosen by John and produced to the same high quality standards as The Glenrothes Vintage selections; only here we select and vat from casks from different years.

**Tasting Notes:**

Appearance: Pale golden. Bouquet: American oak, vanilla and coconut, hint of plums. Palate: Full malty flavour, medium sweet, vanilla and orange zest Finish: Long and slightly spicy.

**Trivia:** Glenrothes is one of almost two dozen malt whisky distilleries that were founded over a century ago during the 'whisky boom' of the late 19th century and which have managed to survive until this day.

---

**Miscellaneous Reviews:**

*The Glenrothes Select Reserve is the entry-level variation on this whisky, an 80-proof concoction from Speyside with no age statement, a single malt vatted from Glenrothes whiskies of a variety of ages. (Since its all malted barley and all from Glenrothes, it's still a Single Malt, not a blended/vatted malt.) The color is medium gold, tinged with green. The nose is redolent of menthol and herbs, rosemary and thyme, while the body hits you with a hefty dose of orange citrus. I get a taste of briny seaweed in the finish, which isn't particularly long but offers a surprising amount of heat for an 80-proof Scotch. Somewhat out of balance, the flavor profile of Select Reserve is a bit all over the map, a kind of very early expression that cries for more time in the barrel to develop more sweetness and vanilla character. ([www.drinkhacker.com](http://www.drinkhacker.com))*

*Nose: Spice, spirit and citrus. Fruitiness too, with a combination of pale sultanas and sharp woodland berries. Palate: Slightly spirity, spicy and with mixed peel character. Finish : Biscuity. Comment: Youthful, but without the lip-smacking class of the older vintages. – Arthur Motley. Nose: Crisp oak, malt bins/shredded wheat, estery. Hot bracken, patisserie (almond, vanilla) kumquat, praline. Seems young. Palate: Spicy and fresh. Decent depth in the centre. Good flow. Light milk chocolate, clootie dumpling mix, citrus peels, hazelnut shell. Finish: Dry cereal, nutty, young. Comment: It's a perfectly decent dram but not a patch on the great 'vintage' bottlings. – Dave Broom ([www.whiskymag.com](http://www.whiskymag.com))*

*The Glenrothes Select Reserve pours light gold and gives aromas of vanilla, malt, ripe fruits and a touch of briny sea air. Take a sip and find lots of malty sweetness, vanilla, zesty orange and hints of peat smoke. It's clean and medium-bodied on the palate, with very little astringency. It finishes long, dry and spicy. The Glenrothes Select Reserve doesn't quite match up to some of the brand's vintage-dated expressions. And it could probably use a bit more time in the barrel to mellow out. But overall, it's a decently-balanced, full-flavored whisky. It's easy-going enough to be your nightly dram, but carries enough complexity to pair with a fireside cigar. ([www.cocktailenthusiast.com](http://www.cocktailenthusiast.com))*

**Notes:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



**Glenroyne**  
**17 year old, 43% abv**  
\$66 – Total Wine  
**Highlands**

**Glenroyne Distillery** is a whisky distillery continuously in operation since its founding in 1833 at Dumgoyne, north of Glasgow, Scotland. Glenroyne is unique in producing Highland single malt whisky matured in the Lowlands. Located upon the Highland Line, the division between the Highlands and Lowlands of Scotland,

Glenroyne's stills are in the Highlands while maturing casks of whisky rest across the road in the Lowlands. Unlike many malt whisky distilleries, Glenroyne does not use peat smoke to dry their barley, but instead uses warm air.

The distillery began distilling in 1833 as the *Burnfoot distillery*. It was originally owned by George Connell who built the distillery and took out a lease on the surrounding land, on which was built a warehouse which is still in use today. In 1876 the distillery was sold, by Archiball G. MacLellen, to the Lang Brothers who were based in Glasgow. It is stated that the Langs intended to name the distillery *Glenroyne*, but due to a mistake by a clerk it was recorded as *Glen Guin*. In 1894, or 1905 it was changed to *Glenroyne* which comes from 'Glenquin' or 'Glen of the Wild Geese'

In 1984 the Lang Brothers became suppliers of whiskies to the then Queen Mother, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth's household. The Royal Warrant has since been delegated to Ian Macleod and is featured on all Glenroyne products.



**Modern era and expansion**

In April 2003, Ian Macleod Distillers Ltd. acquired Glenroyne Distillery, and the 'Glenroyne Single Malt' and 'Langs Blended Whisky' brands. The acquisition of Glenroyne Distillery meant that Ian Macleod became a fully integrated distiller, blender and bottler. Under

Ian Macleod, Glenroyne saw a vast increase in output capacity as well as a similar rise in sales. Today, Glenroyne has eight working warehouses with a total capacity of nearly two million litres (4.5 million bottles) or spirit.

**Distillery Description:**

The slowest distillation process in Scotland; six years spent preparing the perfect oak casks before they receive their first drop of spirit. Barley dried by air, never peat. Glenroyne gives you pause to reflect that it's only by investing valuable time and infinite care that you can create something of real worth.



## Tasting Notes

**Appearance:** Medium gold with a rich glow. **Nose:** Some sherry, Christmas pudding. Plenty of fruit - raisins, ripe apples and tinned oranges in syrup. **Mouth Feel:** Rich, mouth-coating. Malty, treacle, slightly nutty. Orange peel, apple compote. Rich oak. **Initial taste:** Malty, treacle, slightly nutty. Orange peel, apple compote. Rich oak. **After Water:** Pear Drops and vanilla. **Finish:** Long and rich, with spicy oak. **Comments:** Wonderfully ripe fruit and spicy fruit. The effects of our copper stills and oak casks jostle for prominence, but neither succeed. This is supremely well balanced whisky.

**Trivia:** The visitor centre of Glengoyne distillery draws **around 40,000 visitors** per year.

---

### Miscellaneous Reviews:

*Color : Dark honey. Nose: Bittersweet and deeply enticing. Chocolate, hard black raisins. Hay and grass and fresh air. Some wine oakiness and a good fruity sweetness. Body: Full and rich: Palate: This is like diving into a cask for explanation of what oak aging does!!! I get oak first that then explodes in two directions: (1) the flavours of raisins and chocolate, malt and yeast, wine and rum cake, and (2) vanilla yogurt creaminess and almost citric sweetness. It somehow remains light while having a great rich depth of flavour. Finish: Soft sherry characteristics carry on for minutes. Long finish. This dram rocks my world. If you think unpeated whisky is boring, give this a try. ([www.drwhisky.blogspot.com](http://www.drwhisky.blogspot.com))*

*I will admit that I'm also a huge fan of the 21 year old Glengoyne, rich and fruity without overwhelming the nose/palate. At 17 years, the spirit poses a great balance between fruits, and spice with the oak, nuts, and malty undertones. The nose shows off citrus notes (like candied orange peel), spice cake (lots of baking spices here like cloves, cinnamon, and the like), and fruit galore. Dried fruits like raisins, fresh red apple notes, and subtle hints of vanilla, cocoa powder and wheat grass juice (yeah that's a weird sour-y grassy sort of note, very herbal/vegetal). In the mouth, it's very rich and slightly oily. Big malty grainy notes, toffee and oak dominate the palate with hints of baked apples, bitter almond, coffee and vanilla. The finish is long and drawn out, with note of wood smoke, vanilla/butterscotch, oak and hints of wildflowers. This is a big tasty dram and well worth a look, especially with a somewhat pocket unfriendly price tag of \$100. It's a bit steep for the standard consumer, but it's a rewarding and worth dram to seek out and try. ([www.cataclysmofscotch.wordpress.com](http://www.cataclysmofscotch.wordpress.com))*

**Dave Broom** *Nose: Masses of sweet oak: cocoa, hot butter, taffy, chocolate ganash and some light cherry notes. Some cereal alongside polished oak and nuts. Palate: Excellent layering effect. Flows across the palate: creamy and smooth, hot gorse and very chewy. Finish: Red and black fruits. Comment: There are masses of oak here, but it has real sweet-hearted charm. ([www.whiskymag.com](http://www.whiskymag.com))*

**Notes:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



## Glenglassaugh

**"The Spirit Drink that dare not speak its name"**

**New Make Spirit, 50% abv (unavailable in U.S.)**

**Eastern Highlands**

(Excerpted from [www.whisky-pages.com](http://www.whisky-pages.com))

Not exactly the snappiest brand name you've ever heard, but then the Glenglassaugh Distillery Company Ltd is not allowed to use the distillery title on this bottling of 'new make' spirit.

The reference is to a quotation from Oscar Wilde, and serves as a tongue-in-cheek gesture to the legislation that only allows bottled pot still malt spirit less than three years old to be described as a 'Spirit Drink.'

The innovative Glenglassaugh product is based on the output from one single mash and just 8,160 bottles have been released. According to company Managing Director Stuart Nickerson, "We felt it was an interesting concept to turn normal practice on its head and, for the new spirit, release a single mash rather than a single cask. We're excited by the result and we think this is a world first, offering the connoisseur and enthusiast a different insight into distilling practice and flavour development.

"We believe 'The Spirit Drink that dare not speak its name' offers something new to the market, and we are delighted to release this expression in acknowledgement of the interest aroused by Glenglassaugh's re-opening."

### Distillery Information:

In 2007 a group of investors, who were also whisky enthusiasts, were looking for a whisky distillery with heritage and one that produced top quality single malt Scotch whisky. Their trail led them to Glenglassaugh and soon after a deal was done to purchase the distillery. On the 29th February 2008 the keys were officially handed over to the newly formed "Glenglassaugh Distillery Company Limited" and a new chapter for this illustrious distillery began.

There then followed several months of refurbishing the distillery, replacing pipes, pumps and heat exchangers, installing a new boiler and steam heating system and erecting a new chimney and replacing all the electrical system. Thankfully the important process equipment, the mash-tun, the washbacks and the stills were all in working order and were ready to be re-started.

On the 28th November 2008 Scotland's First Minister, Alex Salmond, started the malt mill for the first mash at Glenglassaugh Distillery in 22 years. The first mash followed a few days later and the first new spirit ran from the stills on 4th December 2008 and was subsequently filled into cask on the 16th December 2008.

Since that first mash the new company has continued to grow, winning awards, gaining new friends and advocates. The products can now be found in over 20 countries around the world, in Africa, Australasia, Asia, Europe and North America.

In 2009 three aged whiskies were released a 21 year old (subsequently replaced by a 26 year old), an "Aged Over 30 Years" and an "Aged Over 40 Years" with the latter two winning Gold Medals (best in class) and individual trophies at the International Wine and Spirit Competition in 2009, while the 21 year old won a double gold medal at the San Francisco International Wine and Spirit Competition in 2010.

In 2009 the distillery also challenged convention by releasing two bottled products which were not mature enough to be called whiskies, "The Spirit Drink that dare not speak its name" and "The Spirit Drink that blushes to speak its name". Both full of character and both very different and which became increasingly popular in mixer drinks. These drinks were followed in 2010 by "Fledgling XB" and "Peated".

2009 also saw the launch of the Octave Cask ownership scheme, where private individuals can own their own cask of whisky (50 litres), mature it at the distillery and then bottle the contents in a few years time. Over 500 Octaves have now been sold since this scheme was launched.

---

**Miscellaneous Reviews:**

*Glenglassaugh's 'Spirit Drink' offers a slightly cereal-y nose of cream and summer meadows, while water teases out fresh fruits. Initially peppery and 'upfront' on the palate, pleasing, brittle toffee notes emerge with time, while dilution leaves an extremely drinkable, smooth, fruity dram with spicy overtones. The medium-length finish is sweet and spicy. Now all we need do is wait until the spirit currently being made at Glenglassaugh matures into whisky. Meanwhile, however, 'whisky-pages' is assured there will be more innovative releases from the revived Portsoy distillery in the months ahead. ([www.whisky-pages.com](http://www.whisky-pages.com))*

**Nose:** A strong pear aroma joined by a bit of malt and a slight floral note. **Palate:** Peppered attack, then quite sweet, pears, more pears and malt. **Finish:** Very long, fruity and sweet. **Overall:** You would not believe that this is supposed to become whisky once. It reminds more of a pear eau de vie than anything else. Quite enjoyable in its own right though, but with a solid price tag. ([www.dramming.com](http://www.dramming.com))

**Notes:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



## Glenglassaugh Revival

3 year old, 46% abv  
\$62, [www.whiskyshopusa.com](http://www.whiskyshopusa.com)  
Eastern Highlands

The Glenglassaugh Distillery is a single malt Scotch whisky distillery located in a picturesque site just outside the Speyside region in Northeast Scotland. The Distillery was established in 1875 by a local entrepreneur James Moir and his two nephews, Alexander and William Morrison. James Moir had an expanding grocery business in the town of Portsoy and was wanting to establish a distillery that would produce a whisky of the highest quality to satisfy the growing demand from his customers. The site was originally chosen due to its proximity to a clean and pure water supply of the highest quality (Glassaugh Springs), easy access to the nearby barley fields and because it was known locally to have been the site of one of the many illicit distilleries that had operated in the area and which had produced excellent whisky. Following the death of both James Moir and William Morrison, Alexander Morrison was forced to sell the distillery and in 1892 the company was sold to Highland Distillers and until 2008 has been owned by them.

In 1960 it was rebuilt and upgraded to double the production capacity and to yield lighter spirit. However in 1986 when the whole whisky industry was reviewing operations the economics of running this relatively small and remote distillery persuaded the owners that they should stop production and the distillery has stayed silent since then. The whisky from this distillery had traditionally been used in the production of renowned blended whiskies such as Cutty Sark, Laing's, and The Famous Grouse.



In 2009 the new company released some the old stock as exclusive Highland Single Malt Scotch Whiskies with outstanding success. At the 2009 International Wine and Spirit Competition Awards the 30 Year Old expression was awarded a Gold Medal (Best in Class) and the trophy for Best Cask Strength Scotch Whisky and the 40 Year Old was awarded Gold Medal (Best in Class) and the trophy for Best 40 Year Old Scotch Whisky.

Also in 2009, the company introduced 2 new innovative products which are produced using the same process as that used for making single malt Scotch whisky but without the ageing process. "The Spirit Drink that dare not speak its name" is the result of one mash of malted barley, fermented and distilled twice. On 16th December 2011 the first bottling of Glenglassaugh from spirit distilled under the present ownership was bottled and released for sale only from the distillery shop

**Distillery Information:**  
The first Single Malt Scotch Whisky from the re-furbished Glenglassaugh Distillery which is available through normal distribution channels. The Glenglassaugh "Revival" is a combination of first and refill cask styles, finished in 1<sup>st</sup> fill Oloroso sherry butts for a



period of 6 months. Non-chill filtered and natural colour, a Highland Single Malt with a coastal charm.

**Tasting Notes:**

**Colour:** Copper. **Nose:** Sweet caramel and toffee with notes of nutty sherry, milk chocolate and honey. Ripe plums, red berries and oranges. Caramelised sugar and earthy, charred oak. **Palate:** Sweet, rounded and creamy. Oranges, plums, cherry and walnuts, chocolate, honey-mead, sherry and soft, spiced oak. **Finish:** Medium with warming mulled-wine spices, sherry and caramel.

**Trivia:** Established in 1875, the Glenglassaugh malt whisky distillery has been **silent** for more than half of its lifetime. So, in 2008 the old Glenglassaugh distillery had worked for only 58 years

---

**Miscellaneous Reviews:**

**Nose:** Very sharp you can tell that it is quite young. Quite sweet, burnt honey, caramelised sugar and spiced almonds. Sweet, strong and fiery. **Taste:** I have to admit I was quite apprehensive about this with the nose and past experience but it genuinely is not too shabby! Sizzles around the palate and feels stronger than the 46% ABV. Has a lovely texture, like Spiderman candy sticks! That kind of chalky, hard, sweetness. The Oloroso comes through for a little rum and raisin cake. **Finish:** Unsurprisingly for a young whisky there is not much. Pleasant and warming. **Overall:** There is definitely potential. Still a little young, but actually not a horrendous early release. Fairly pleasant and pretty strong, I actually quite like it by itself. Worth a try if you are looking to try whisky at its earliest official release stage. ([www.edinburghwhiskyblog.com](http://www.edinburghwhiskyblog.com))

Ok, I've already reviewed a pre-production sample of this but bear with me – this is a bottle straight from a whisky shop! Nice packaging eh? No age statement but it's a 3yo, obviously. Last time round I said: Very fruity, floury sweetness. Pears, acidic pineapple. Some vanilla, maybe a spot of nutmeg? I can't argue with that really. The tropical-sweet spirit is strong, the sherry gives balancing spices and a chocolaty warmth that goes all the way down. A wee splash of water brings it along beautifully. Still a little spirity (spiritual? Haha) but I actually like that. Probably still a 4/5. I've tasted plenty of <5yo drams before but this stands out because of the care, the thought, the intelligence that's gone into the maturation. Instead of just rushing a 3yo out the door to generate much needed turnover for a new distillery, the chaps (and ladies) at Glenglassaugh have worked hard to make a young dram which is rich, complex and far more mature than it has any right to be. One to watch, great things are ahead. ([www.jason-scotchreviews.blogspot.com](http://www.jason-scotchreviews.blogspot.com))

**Notes:**

---

---

---

---

---

---

**Glen Garioch**  
**12 year old, 48% abv**  
\$55, Goody Goody



The distillery, which originally incorporated a brewery and tannery, stands on the very edge of the town Oldmeldrum in Aberdeenshire. The Garioch - pronounced 'Geery' - is a tract of richly fertile land, some 150 square miles in extent. The location is known as 'the granary of Aberdeenshire', where barley and crystal springs have been abundant for over a thousand years, so it is not surprising that Glen Garioch Distillery was established as early as 1794 – one of the oldest operating distilleries in Scotland.

In 1968 the production of Glen Garioch was suspended on account of 'chronic water shortages', however in 1972 a manager was appointed with a brief to find another water source. A spring was discovered on a neighboring farm. It came to be called 'The Silent Spring' as it could neither be seen nor heard.

Leading with the 1797 Founders Reserve at the heart of the range, Glen Garioch will periodically release hand selected individual batches of stock at the peak of their perfection, aiming to demonstrate the quality and breadth of the Glen Garioch spirit. Launched as 'Single Batch Releases', the first will be the Glen Garioch 1990 Vintage and the Glen Garioch 1978 Vintage which will join the 1797 Founders Reserve.

Glen Garioch is operated by Morrison Bowmore Distillers, which is owned by the Japanese company, Suntory.

**Distillery Description:**

Established in 1797, Glen Garioch, is Scotland's most Easterly distillery. Situated in the historic Valley of the Garioch, traditionally the finest barley growing area in all of Scotland. For over 200 years Glen Garioch Distillery has been handcrafting a beautiful range of natural, non-chill filtered single malt whiskies.



At Glen Garioch we take the maturation process very seriously. The quality of our casks is an essential ingredient in our recipe for producing only the finest of single malt whisky. The Glen Garioch 12 Years Old gains its distinctive Highland character from maturation in two wood groups: American Bourbon, and Spanish Sherry casks. Each stage of the marriage adds distinct characteristics to the final single malt. Bourbon to soften and Sherry to add depth of flavour – fresh heather, poached pears and just a hint of oak.

**Tasting Notes:**

Nose - Heathy floral notes are balanced with the richness of poached pears and the sweetness of malted barley. Palate - Crème Brule and sweet ripe banana at first then comes a light oakiness with pear fruitiness.

**Trivia:** In 1982 Glen Garioch was the first distillery in Scotland to convert its stills to **gas-firing** - a move that was followed a few years later by many other whisky distilleries.

---

**Miscellaneous Reviews:**

*Quite oily with a slight burnt coffee note. Pleasantly complex with a touch of heather along with a slight perfumed white flower note and a touch of earthy with a light peat. Quite a lithe nose with some developing honey and a lovely mineral-fresh edge. The palate opens with a crisp, granity start, followed by toasted caramel and earth notes. Subtly fruity but distinctly mineral in character. Good length with a citrus twist in the finish and a slightly perfumed aftertaste. Conclusion: If this was a wine it would definitely be called a 'vin de terroir'. ([www.gauntleys.wordpress.com](http://www.gauntleys.wordpress.com))*

*Delicate sherry notes soften the oak spice, and the malty sweetness provides a foundation for this whisky. The layered sweet notes (vanilla cream, butterscotch, caramel) and fruit (lime, apple, caramelized pear) show mostly on the front of the palate, with the firm, warming dry, oak spice emerging towards the finish. A lot of oak influence for its age, but not excessive. ([www.whiskyadvocateblog.com](http://www.whiskyadvocateblog.com))*

**Nose (undiluted):** Dandelion, hops, lager beer, a little spirited. **Palate (undiluted):** Sweet porridge with brown sugar on top. What starts out ordinary builds quickly on the palate to become quite a whopper of flavors. The little train that could if you will. What happens? A massive railway car of flavors of golden wheat, ears of corn that have been freshly shucked, boiled to perfection and then drizzled with butter and salt! Hmmm! Wait, there is more. Oak, barley sugar, hops and lager notes. **Finish (undiluted):** Big salt licks, stewed apples, dried apricots, burnt toast and a flourish of peat. The salty tang hangs nicely. The finish is quite grippy and mouth coating. You'll be salivating like Pavlov's dogs! **Recommendation - Add a little water!** In light of the ABV of 48%, it does taste a little hot on the finish. The high ABV contributes to the big mid-palate and mouth tingling finish. I prefer this malt with a little water. Don't get me wrong; it is very enjoyable neat, but the addition of water just takes it down ever so slightly such that it is more pleasurable, and maybe more complex. ([www.jasons-scotchreviews.blogspot.com](http://www.jasons-scotchreviews.blogspot.com))

**Notes:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



## GlenDronach

**The Revival, 15 year-old, 46% abv**

\$79, Total Wine

**Glendronach distillery** is a Scottish whisky distillery located near Forgue, by Huntly, Aberdeenshire, in the Speyside whisky district. Distilling was undoubtedly carried out in the area in the days before legal distilling came to GlenDronach and the noisy rooks would have proved a useful ally to warn of approaching strangers - especially excise officers. Built in the form of a square and covering four acres, GlenDronach is one of the few distilleries where barley is still malted on a malting floor, providing about 15% of the distillery's requirement.

The distillery was founded in 1826 by James Allardes (referred to often as Allardice). Allardes was a frequent guest of the 5th Duke of Gordon who was largely responsible for the Excise Act of 1823, which sanctioned the distilling of Whisky in Scotland and was instrumental in creating the modern malt whisky industry.

The GlenDronach Distillery has had various owners over the years, including Captain Charles Grant, younger son of William Grant of Glenfiddich fame, who purchased it from the Crown in 1920. It remained in that branch of the Grant family until 1960, when George Grey Grant sold it to Wm. Teacher & Sons Ltd. GlenDronach is currently owned by BenRiach Distillers Co.

GlenDronach is one of the most important constituents of Teacher's Highland Cream Scotch whisky.

### Distillery Description:

When GlenDronach opened its doors in 1826, many Scottish single malts were matured in Spanish sherry casks. However over the years the ever-increasing rarity and price (they are over 10 times as expensive as 'standard' barrels!) has seen a major switch to American Bourbon barrels by the whisky industry. Indeed today there are perhaps only two distilleries that can truly be classified as 'sherry maturation' houses and only one where 100% of the single malt sold still enjoys its primary maturation exclusively in sherry casks. We are proud to be that distillery.



Even today if you were to wander around our distillery you would be transported back into the great Victorian era of whisky production. Walk along the line of Oregon pine washbacks fermenting away and smell the damp air in the original stone dunnage maturation warehouses as you walk past line upon line of Spanish Oloroso butts quietly giving up their 'share' to the angels. Our coal fired furnaces are no longer in operation due to health and safety rules, however, the GlenDronach Distillery was the last distillery in Scotland to use them.

## Tasting Notes:

Renowned amongst many whisky enthusiasts around the world, this remarkable and full bodied malt is matured for a minimum of 15 years in the finest Oloroso sherry casks. Bottled at 46%, the GlenDronach Revival is non chill filtered and of natural colour. A truly excellent single malt

**Appearance:** Deep gold with a lovely mahogany heart. **Nose:** Incredible concentration of aromas. Treacle, toffee and chocolate orange. **Palate:** A very dynamic and full bodied dram for its age. Chewy with coffee chocolate and treacle scones. **Conclusions:** A veritable feast to enliven the senses

**Trivia:** Glendronach was mothballed in 1996 by Allied Distillers; it was **re-opened** May 14, 2002.

---

## Miscellaneous Reviews:

*At 15 years the malty cereal notes so prevalent in the 12 year old expression have all but disappeared. Instead we're left with sweet Oloroso sherry and chewy toffee. Rich and creamy melted chocolate, lightly spiced orange, and fine threads of vanilla and oak are rounded out by a touch of dried cherry and tart plum. Delightful. Though wickedly tasty in its own right, the nose is so much bigger than what you get on the tongue. How could it not be? By no means is this a disappointment...simply an observation. It all ends on a high note, as the finish is unique and defining. The mildly peppered blackberry notes that linger are something that will keep me coming back to this one time and again. Doubtless, the best expression in the current range. Shimmeringly beautiful. This one had me at 'hello'. ([www.allthingswhisky.com](http://www.allthingswhisky.com))*

**Nose:** First whiff identifies presence of sherry with sharp barbs of alcohol. Upon clearing a warm vanilla sea breeze meets a vibe of citrus and the unmistakable scent of freshly shredded sun-dried coconut husks. **Palate:** Heavy with instant depth of flavor. Not a heavy bite (i.e. the Macallan 12yr -- This is due to a heavier sweetness, which could be considered good, bad, or neutral). Waves of vanilla, toffee, chocolate and cherry caress the tongue. A sweet blend of almonds meets a subtle salty kick. High quality barley malt meets its equal with a distinct sherry finish. Water is a welcome addition to this full bodied dram; helping both balance and ease the intensity. **Finish:** Strong sherry finish leaves a thick coat on the palate. Each subsequent drink fans the flames of the sherry, oak, and complex malt. Long-lasting, further enticing the lucky drammer! **Final Thoughts:** The Glendronach Revival 15 delivers nothing but quality! The sweet Speyside dram comes through with the distinct Glendronach tone. Having been delightfully surprised by the Glendronach 12 a few months back, I had high expectations for the 15 yr. I was glad to find the 15 yr extended the experience of the 12 yr in refinement, but not altogether in the aim of creating a top shelf sherried whisky. ([www.dramofscotch.com](http://www.dramofscotch.com))

**Notes:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



## Glendarroch

**42 year-old, Cask Strength, 41.5% abv**

**Duncan Taylor, Clan Lonach bottling**

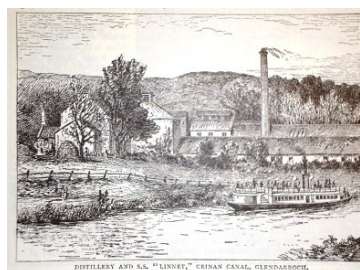
Distilled 1966, Bottled 2009

\$126, Specs

Duncan Taylor has its origins in Glasgow where the company was initially a merchant and broker of Scotch whisky casks within the Industry. Devotion to the principle of providing only the finest casks to be filled at Scotland's leading distilleries has been a key feature of the company's history and this tradition of building an outstanding portfolio of only the finest scotch whiskies is being maintained to this day by the current owners. When the company moved its headquarters to the North East of Scotland, close to Speyside - Scotland's largest whisky producing region - it also took the decision to focus on the production and marketing of its own brands and to cease the "brokering" of whisky in cask form to Distillery companies and Independent bottlers.

The company now has an established design, marketing and production operation and has complete control of the entire production process from cask selection and management, through "in-house" product and packaging design to its own "under bond" bottling facilities. Rigorous quality control procedures are in-place throughout the company's systems to ensure that the Duncan Taylor ethic of unrivalled quality continues to be integral to the high reputation enjoyed by the company's award winning brands.

Founded in 1938, the company has ownership of one of the largest privately held collections of rare Scotch whisky casks in the world.<sup>[1]</sup> The company has been laying down casks from premium Scottish distilleries for decades and has, in recent years, made its branded products available to whisky connoisseurs worldwide.



## Glendarroch Distillery – a short history:

(Excerpted – **Scotch Missed: Scotland's Lost Distilleries**, Brian Townsend, Neil Wilson Publishing Co. Ltd., 2004)

Originally established in Ardrishaig, Argyll in the western Highlands of Scotland, the distillery first opened its doors in 1831 under the name Henry Hoey & Co's Glenfyne Distillery. Over the course of its history, the distillery had several names, including Glenfyne, Glengilp, Glengilph and Glendarroch. While under the ownership of William Smyth, who owned the company for eight years (1870-1878), the name Glendarroch was introduced and lasted until 1919, when the Glenfyne name was reestablished. The distillery ultimately closed its doors in 1937.



The distillery was situated in a scenic location below Achnagbreach Hill. It was an extensive operation with two water wheels and supplied by the Ard Burn and the Darroch Burn. It had an annual output of 80,000 gallons.

After surviving World War I, the of Prohibition in the United States on the scotch whisky industry, and The Great Depression, why the distillery closed at the peak of the late-1930's distilling revival is a mystery. One theory is that it was a victim of its own size, it's somewhat isolated location, and that despites its size that it only managed a very modest output....*"For all its mystique, whisky-making is an industry with the harsh disciplines and financial rigours of business. At the end of the day, perhaps the bottom line ruled."*(Townsend)

**Lonach Release – Glendarroch:**

So, if Glendarroch ceased operations in 1937, what's in this bottle of whisky? The contents of this Lonach – Glendarroch release is a Glenfarclas distilled spirit aged in a bourbon cask. Why use the Glendarroch name if this is a Glenfarclas? Quite simply, some distillers do not allow their names to be used by independent bottlers, and Glenfarclas is one of them.

---

**Miscellaneous Reviews:**

*Nuts, butter, and a little spicy oak. Finishes dry and clean. A very inactive cask to have gone so long and be this light-flavored and not over-oaked. If you like 'em crisp and refreshing, this one's for you. (www.lawhiskeysociety.com)*

**Color:** Golden amber. **Nose:** Citrus, dried un-sulphered apricots, chocolate, and primrose. **Taste:** Bitter coffee, star fruit, vanilla, mellows into sweetness. Silky vanilla custard, chocolate, crème brûlée French toast. Vanilla, a little spice that melds into the rest so well after the initial shocking taste, ends up working together phenomenally! (www.seriousscotchgals.com)

**Notes:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

