

# "A Taste of Scotland"

9/17/20 (Thursday @ 7:00 PM) - 6 Single Malts & Cigars - \$40 Advance Purchase at Maxwell's or Pay Online  
Maxwell's Cigar Bar, 158 Towne Lake Pkwy, Woodstock, GA 30188 - Ph: (770) 627-2006

WHISKY #1 **GLEN GRANT** Single Malt / The Major's Reserve / NAS / 40% ABV / OB / Dist Owner: Gruppo Campari S.A. (Davide Campari-Milano S.p.A.) / Speyside (Rothes)



Glen Grant Distillery  
Rothes, Aberlour, Moray AB38 7BS  
SCOTLAND

Pronunciation: GLEN-grant - SWA Whisky Map Location: #69

Slogan: "A pale whisky with a colorful history"

Region (District): Speyside (Rothes)

Status: Active/Producing

Neighbors: Glenrothes, Caperdonich, Speyburn, Glen Spey

Established: 1840

Founder: Brothers John & James Grant (the owners of the nearby Dandelaithe Distillery).

Location: With the sea and the port of Garmouth nearby, the River Spey to the south and surrounded by barley-growing plains, all the basic ingredients for malt whisky are convenient for GG Distillery. It is tucked away at the end of the main street of Rothes where some of the original buildings remain and is set round a small courtyard with turreted and gabled offices in Scottish Baronial style of 1880s.

House Style: Herbal and nutty when young (apéritif style), but can be a huge after-dinner dram (digestif) when matured at length in sherry casks.

Water Source: Caperdonich Well/Black Burn (production); River Spey (cooling)

Barley: Optic

Malted Barley Spec (Phenols): 0-ppm (Unpeated)

Gristmill: 1 Porteus Malt Mill (two pairs of rollers)

Mashing Equipment: 1 s/s semi-Lauter tun (12.28-ton). Uses 4 courses of water. The contents are usually left to soak for several hours rather than draining off the 'wort' straight away.

Washbacks: 10 Oregon pine (aka Douglas fir) WBs @ 91,176-L (charged @ 60,000-L); 'wort' (sugary water) is yeast fermented to make 6-8% ABV 'wash' (distiller's beer).

Fermentation: 48-hours

8 Pot Stills: 4 Wash @ 22,730-L (charged @ 15,100-L), 4 Spirit @ 11,547-L (9,600-L); stills equipped with a purifier positioned between the Lyne arm and the condenser.

Condensers: 8 shell and tube condensers (externally situated).

Casks: Bourbon (on-site for single malt) & Sherry (off-site); 1st fill & refill.

Warehouse: 7 3-story dunnage (11,500 casks) and 11 more in Rothes.

Vatting & Bottling: New on-site bottling hall (12,000 bottles per hour).

Capacity: 6.2-Mlpa per year (buy more GG; it's a tragedy that it's so under-utilized)

Current Output: 2.0-Mlpa (2019); the operators split their time between distilling and bottling.

Visitor Center/Tours: Yes - OBs: 10, 12, 12-NCF, 15, and 18 are its core bottlings. Limited releases.

Blending Role: 50% Single Malt, 50% Blends - Blend Partner: Chivas Regal/Royal Salute

Sister Distillery: Caperdonich (closed in 2002 and then demolished in 2010)

Parent-Owned Distilleries: Appleton, Espolòn, Forty Creek, Glen Grant, San Nicolas & Wild Turkey distilleries. Parent-Owned Brands: Aperol, Appleton, Campari, Dreher, Cinzano, SKYY, Espolòn, Wild Turkey and Forty Creek brands.

Notations: In 1870's, GG was the first single malt marketed to the general public. Its ads in the UK and USA described GG single malt as 'pure, mild and agreeable, peculiarly adapted for family use'. By 1887, sales were so strong they built a distillery (Caperdonich) next door (like Clynelish/Brora). Glen Grant whisky is awesome!!

Master Distiller Emeritus: Dennis Malcolm, OBE. He was awarded on the Queen's birthday in 2016. Under the British honors system, Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (OBE) is a step higher than MBE (Member) but a step lower than CBE (Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire).

Legal Name of Distillery: Glen Grant Distillery Company Limited

Owner (Parent): Gruppo Campari (Davide Campari-Milano S.p.A., 2006)

Distiller Licensee: Campari Group Speyside Ltd.

USA Importer: Campari America (Skyy Spirits, LLC/Davide Campari-Milano S.p.A.)

Elevation: 78m MSL (256 feet above mean sea level)

## OFFICIAL TASTING NOTES:

Age: A vatting of 6-8 year single malt (according to *Dramstat.com*)

Malt Spec (Phenols): 0-ppm (Unpeated)

Casks: Bourbon casks (mainly refill)

Style: Rich, smooth, fruity with a hint of spice.

EYE: Light golden in color.

NOSE: Soft, slightly dry with a delicate apple/fruity note.

PALATE: Creamy, fruity.

FINISH: Slightly dry, nutty. Comment: "Its balance and quality are nothing short of superb", Jim Murray's Whisky Bible (2008).

JWS: It's a fine aperitif-style whisky that's delicious and a good value. May I suggest that your dram sessions maybe enhanced if a wee dram (¼ oz) of this fine whisky (or another such as Cragganmore, Strathisla, Scapa or Glen Moray) were the first poured.

Whisky #2 **MacLEOD's** Single Malt Scotch Whisky / 'Highland' / NAS / 43% ABV / IB: Glengoyne Dist / Dist Owner: IMD / Brand Owner: Ian Macleod and Co. Ltd. (Peter J. Russell & Co.) / Highland (Southern)



**JWS:** Certainly, it's Glengoyne Single Malt which is owned by the Ian MacLeod & Company Ltd. Selected to represent all the excellent aspects of glorious Highland whisky, namely their elegance, complexity and dry, smoky notes, the Macleod's Highland single malt Scotch whisky is the perfect whisky to introduce someone to Highlands whisky with. Macleod's deserves a round of applause for this one.

**Style:** Delicate Sherry notes with aromas of toasted malt and citrus fruit, hints of white pepper, orange and strawberry on the palate with a lingering milk chocolate edge.

**EYE:** Pale gold.

**TASTING NOTES-**WhiskyJub.com **WITHOUT WATER - NOSE:** Subtle Sherry influences with butter-scotch and raisin notes. A hint of chocolate is present. **PALATE:** Smooth with hints of pepper initially. Cinnamon, prune, and ripe banana flavours develop, followed by hints of fresh raspberry and dark chocolate. **FINISH:** Subtle charred oak.

**WITH WATER - NOSE:** Soft vanilla and Sherry aromas mingle with brown sugar and dried fruits with a fresh lemon peel edge. **PALATE:** Smooth and sweet with orange zest, banana and cinnamon flavours are complemented by a touch of oak and grapefruit. Body Light. **FINISH:** Medium in length with a lingering spicy edge.

Ian Macleod Distillers Ltd. (Glengoyne, Tamdhu & Rosebank)  
Russell House Dunnet Way, Broxburn EH52 5BU  
SCOTLAND

**Established:** 1933

**Founder:** Peter J. Russell Snr.

**History:** Our company's founder, was a firm believer in the value of independence. Beholden to no single distiller, he bought only those whiskies which met his own and his customers' exacting standards. Both clearly had good taste, because more than 80 years down the line, Ian Macleod Distillers has built up an enviable portfolio of premium quality spirits and is proud brand proprietor of Glengoyne, Tamdhu, Rosebank, Isle of Skye, Smokehead Scotch whiskies and Edinburgh Gin to name but a few. We are currently the world's 10th largest Scotch Whisky Company and continued to grow via organic sales and acquisitions. We are a major supplier to the Buyer's Own Brand market, with a reputation for innovative thinking, Ian Macleod Distillers has also supplied own-label spirits to some of Europe's largest supermarket groups for over 40 years. With continued investment in our bottling plant, Broxburn Bottlers, in warehousing and most importantly of all, our unrivalled stocks of Scotch whisky, Ian Macleod Distillers is in a stronger position than ever to meet the increasing demand for its products from around the world.

**MacLeod:** MacLeod and McLeod are surnames in the English language. Generally, the names are considered to be Anglicized forms of the Scottish Gaelic MacLeòid, meaning "son of Leòd". One of the earliest occurrences of the surname is of Gillandres MacLeod, in 1227.

**Clan MacLeod:** Clan MacLeod is a Highland Scottish clan generally associated with the Isle of Skye. There are two main branches of the clan: the MacLeods of Harris and Dunvegan, whose chief is MacLeod of MacLeod, are known in Gaelic as Siol Tormoid ("seed of Tormod"); the Clan MacLeod of Lewis and Raasay, whose chief is MacLeod of The Lewes, are known in Gaelic as Siol Torcaill ("seed of Torcall"). Both branches claim descent from Leòd, who lived in the 13th century. Today, Clan MacLeod of The Lewes, Clan MacLeod of Raasay, and Clan MacLeod are represented by "Associated Clan MacLeod Societies" and the chiefs of the three clans. The association is made up of ten national societies across the world including: Australia, Canada, England, France, Germany, New Zealand, Scotland, South Africa, Switzerland, and the United States.

**Bottling:** Broxburn Bottlers in West Lothian near Edinburgh (a bottling operation set up by owners by Ian Macleod and J. & G. Grant in 1984).

**Production:** IMD currently produces and sells over 15m bottles of spirits per year.

**Parent-Owned Brands**

**Single Malt:** As We Get It, Chieftain's (The), Dun Bheagan, Glengoyne, Macleod's, Pig's Nose, Sheep Dip, Six Isles, Smokehead, and Tamdhu.

**Blended Whiskies:** Black Shield, Clan Macleod, Dunfife, The Feathery Scotch, Glenshire, Hedges & Butler Royal, Isle of Skye, King Robert II (excellent), Lang's, Major Gunn's, Marshal, Maxwell, Pig's Nose, Queen's Seal, Scottish Slag, and Six Isles.

**Gin:** Edinburgh, King Robert II, London Hill, Marlborough, and Raffles.

**Vodka:** King Robert II, and Rostov.

**Rum:** King Robert II, & Trawler, and Watson's Demerara.

**Liqueurs:** Wincarnis 1887.

**Wine:** Wincarnis Wine.

**Parent-Owned Distilleries:** Glengoyne (2003), Tamdhu (2011) & Rosebank (2018). Rosebank (1840-1993) should be operational by YE-2020. As it's one of the most esteemed distilleries ever in Scotland, it's reopening is much anticipated. Robbie Hughes, Group Distillation Director, is overseeing the restoration of Rosebank's dilapidated buildings. Virtually all of the production equipment will be replaced with new equipment of the identical specifications. Rosebank will continue to be triple-distilled.

**Management Team:**

Managing Director: Leonard J. Russell Jr.

Chairman: Peter Russell, Founder

**Legal Name:** Ian Macleod Distillers Ltd.

**Owner (Parent):** Ian Macleod Distillers Ltd. (Peter J. Russell & Co. Ltd., since 2003)

**USA Importer:** Shaw Ross International Importers, LLC (Miramar, FL), a wholly-subsiary of Shaw Ross International Importers, Inc. (Miami, FL)

**USA Office:** Ian Macleod USA (eMail: americas@ianmacleod.com)

**Broker:** Quest Brands, Chattanooga, TN (CEO: Ed Kohl, K.Q.)

**GA Distributor:** Atlanta Beverage Company, Atlanta, GA

WHISKY #3

**BLADNOCH** Single Malt / 'Samsara' (Bourbon & CA Red Wine) / NAS (11+ yr) / 46.7% ABV / NCF / OB / Dist Owner: Bladnoch Distillery Ltd. (David Prior) / Lowland (Scottish Borders)



Bladnoch Distillery Ltd.  
Bladnoch, Wigtown, Dumfries and Galloway DG8 9AB  
SCOTLAND

Pronunciation: BLAD-knock - SWA Whisky Map Location: #99  
Translation: The Old Gaelic name of a same named river of which the meaning is unknown  
Slogan: "Spirit of the Lowlands"  
Region (District): Lowlands (Borders) - Neighbors: Annandale, Ailsa Bay & Girvan  
Established: 1817 - Founder: John and Thomas McClelland, brothers.  
Status: Active/Producing (first restart distillation was June 20, 2017; first filling was July 6, 2017)  
Location: Situated in beautifully remote area of Galloway at the southern extremity of Scotland on the Solway Firth and near the River Bladnoch, 1-mile from Wigtown. Diageo ceased production in 1993. The Armstrong brothers purchased it in 1994 and spent the next 6 years refurbishing the old plant and equipment before resuming operations in December 2000 to 2009.  
House Style: Pastoral and floral; reminiscent of hedgerows, with lemon-y/citric notes and some cereal. The overall impression is light and appetizing with a short finish. It's a Lowlander that's big enough to be drunk as an all-rounder rather than just as an apéritif. There is also a limited peated version (produced at year end) that is an antitypical Lowlander.  
Water Source: Clyde Tidal Weir (River Bladnoch) and Ma Berry Loch, a dam built to overcome the tidal effect on the river. CTW, commissioned in 1901, was the fifth such structure installed to control the River Clyde. After failing in 1941 due to an undercutting of its abutments, the weir was rebuilt to its present structure in 1949. Water is piped from upper course of River Bladnoch to Loch Ma Berry to ensure its purity. (Water goes over a weir and under a dam.)  
Barley: Unpeated and peated malt is sourced from Simpsons of Berwick and other indie maltsters.  
Malt Spec (Phenols): 0-ppm (standard). Occasionally a medium-peated (18-ppm) spirit is produced.  
Gristmill: 1 Boby Mill twin-roller malt mill (Robert Boby Ltd.)  
Mashing Equipment: 1 s/s semi-Lauter tun (8-ton); acquired from Inver House.  
Washbacks: 6 Oregon pine washbacks @ 26,000-L (charged @ 23,000-L) filled from each mash.  
Fermentation: Up to 100-hours or longer; 48-hours (minimum)  
Yeast: Cream distiller's yeast  
2 Pot Stills: 1 Wash @ 13,500-L (charged @ 12,500-L); 1 Spirit @ 10,000-L (charged @ 9,000-L)  
Casks: ex-Bourbon & ex-Sherry; refills.  
Warehouse: 8 on-site dunnage WH's (50,000 casks are currently housed for other distilleries).  
Vatting & Bottling: Bottled off-site by independent bottling halls  
Capacity: 1, 500,000-Lpa per year (increased from 250,000-Lpa in 2017)  
Current Output: 600,000-Lpa (2019); 45,000L will be heavily peated  
Tours/Visitor Center: No (New VC will be opened in late 2017)  
OBs: Samsara NAS (8-yr), 10-yr, Delia (15-yr), Talia (25-yr) and Pure Scot blends.  
Blending Role: 95% Single Malt, 5% Blends - Blend Partner: Pure Scot (self-blend)  
Notations: (1) Bladnoch boasts one of the few 'whisky schools' in Scotland where one can attend classes conducted by on-site experts. (2) Bladnoch is the southernmost malt whisky distillery in Scotland. (3) Bladnoch has a usually high rate of evaporation (angel's share). (5) Before resuming production, Mr. Prior made the 'substantial investment' required to affect numerous upgrades, bring Bladnoch into compliance with current environmental regulations and its capacity up to 1.5-Mlpa (a commercially viable level).  
Management Team:  
Distillery Manager: Neil Bulloch  
Master Distiller: Nick Savage, Ph.D.  
Director of Sales: Will Pitchforth (Head of Commercial)  
President & CEO: David Prior, Chairman  
Legal Name of Distillery: Bladnoch Distillery Limited  
Owner (Parent): David Prior (since 2015)  
USA Importer: 375 Park Avenue Spirits (The Sazerac Company, Metairie, LA)  
GA Distributor: Atlanta Beverage Company, Atlanta, GA  
Elevation: 8.8m MSL (29 feet above mean sea level)

**Tasting Notes** by yours truly:  
BEFORE WATER - NOSE: Initially good wood notes which are followed by coconut/ vanilla, ripe summer fruit and alcohol (which I know will disappear after a few drops of water). PALATE: More coconut & vanilla. Well-balanced sweetness- to-wood flavors to the point of neutrality. As I do not like sweet whisky, it is spot-on perfect for my palate. FINISH: Lingers & slowly fades. It's a whisky connoisseur's dram. Young but complex. The casks seem to nicely offset the younger component (8-yr) whiskies. A genuine bargain in the so-called 'entry level' (I distaste that term) segment. AFTER WATER - NOSE: Better after 4 drops of water. The aroma volume is huge with notes of fully developed summer fruit and lovely mixture of high-quality oak casks. Perfect balance between the fruit and wood here. The whiskies in this NAS vatting were wisely chosen as the whisky is perfectly mature. I have no thoughts of "if they'd only given it another 6 months". PALATE: After a long nosing of its great aroma, it's very smooth and then dainty flavors coat one's palate. It's more elegant than without water. FINISH: The finish is quite long and elegant. This is an interesting complex and semi-dry whisky. REMARKS: Lots of aroma, elegant and interesting palate with a drying finish. I say that Samsara brings something special to the so-called entry level segment. It can take more water without fading. That's it: retro! This one reminds me of a grand old dram of yesteryear. Water is a good idea here as it multiplies both the nose and palate. The volume of the aroma is huge. Highland style. JWS



WHISKY #4 **GLEN GARIOCH** Single Malt / '1797 Founder's Reserve' / NAS / 48% ABV / NCF / OB / Dist Owner: Beam Suntory UK Ltd. (Suntory Holdings Ltd.) / Highland (Eastern)



A fine single malt with a rather pedestrian label!

Glen Garioch Distillery (Usually written Glengarioch Distillery and Glen Garioch Single Malt)  
Distillery Road, Old Meldrum, Aberdeenshire AB51 0ES  
SCOTLAND

Pronunciation: 'Glen GEAR-ee' in the ancient Doric dialect of Aberdeenshire; it's Pict rather than Scottish Gaelic. The Picts were a tribal confederation of peoples who lived in what is now northeastern Scotland during the Late Iron Age and Early Medieval periods. They are thought to have been ethnolinguistically Celtic. Where they lived and what their culture was like can be inferred from the geographical distribution of brochs, Brittonic place name elements, and Pictish stones. Picts are attested to in written records from before the Roman conquest of Britain to the 10th century, when they are thought to have merged with the Gaels. They lived to the north of the rivers Forth and Clyde, and spoke the now-extinct Pictish language, which is thought to have been closely related to the Celtic Brittonic language spoken by the Britons who lived to the south of them. Picts are assumed to have been the descendants of the Caledonii and other tribes that were mentioned by Roman historians or on the world map of Ptolemy. Pictland, also called Pictavia by some sources, gradually merged with the Gaelic kingdom of Dál Riata to form the Kingdom of Alba (Scotland). Alba then expanded, absorbing the Brittonic kingdom of Strathclyde and Northumbrian Lothian, and by the 11th century the Pictish identity had been subsumed into the "Scots" amalgamation of peoples. It has been proposed that they called themselves Albidosi, a name found in the Chronicle of the Kings of Alba during the reign of Máel Coluim mac Domnail, but this idea has been disputed.

SWA Whisky Map: #27 - Translation: 'Valley of the Garioch' - Slogan: "From the granary of Aberdeenshire"

Region (District): Highlands (Eastern) - Neighbors: Ardmore, Glendronach, Glenugie

Established: 1797 (Recent documents support a 1785 dating as there appears to have been a working distillery there.)

Founder: John and Alexander Manson, as per its official label, although others insist on Thomas Simpson.

Status: Active Licensed/Producing spirit

Location: The granite distillery of Glengarioch is found outside Aberdeen in the farming town of Old Meldrum. The Aberdeenshire farming landscape is more rolling agricultural fields and villages than mountains, crags and heather however. But that's not to decry the beauty and atmosphere of this part of Scotland as the village of Oldmeldrum and the surrounding countryside are stunning. The valley is called as the 'Granary of Aberdeenshire' yielding perhaps the highest quality barley in Scotland and explaining why a distillery at this site makes sense, the most easterly distillery.

House Style: A light spiciness with some softer floral, fruity flavors. GG whisky is light clean malt that has some spice and body. Not as light as some of the Speysiders and without the saltiness of coastal malts and the heavier peaty style of Island malts. It does, however, have its own niche within the Morrison Bowmore group that is Bowmore, Auchentoshan and Glengarioch. Bowmore's more heavily peated Islay character and Auchentoshan's light Lowland style are contrasted by Glen Garioch's spicy gingeriness.

Water Source: Process: Coutens Spring - Cooling: Coutens Spring and Meldrum Burn

Barley: Optic (430-litres of sugar per ton) is its current strain of its barley. The malted barley intended for whisky production is 'cross-bred' to build-up its yield and consistency (rate of germination, nitrogen level and fungus/insect/disease resistance), before it is presented as a suitable varietal. Such cross-breeding can take 7-8 years in order to achieve the required characteristics. Once that is demonstrated and the barley is mass produced for its end-users, it may have a life of as little as 8-10 years before the qualities begin to fade and the strain is dropped. Typically, the replacement variety affords a higher yield in terms of litres of sugar per ton. Right now, Concerto is the most popular barley variety for the Scottish distillers and Optic is second.

Malt Spec (Phenols): 0-ppm (unpeated) from Simpson's of Berwick-upon-Tweed (Until 1998, 8-10 ppm)

Peat Source: New Pitsligo Moss

Gristmill: 1 Porteus Malt Mill (original)

Mashing Equipment: 1 s/s full-Lauter tun (4.4 ton); 5-hr cycle.

Washbacks: 8 s/s WBs @ 21,000L (8% ABV)

Fermentation: 48-72 hours - Yeast: 21-kg of dry Anchor Distillers Yeast per WH per cycle

3 Pot Stills: 1 Wash @ 25,000L (charged @ 21,500L), Spirit @ 11,000L (charged @ 9,500L); 8-hr cycle. A second spirit still @ 12,000L is no longer used.

Middle Cut: 72.5% to 69% ABV (narrow cut) - Casks: Bourbon & Sherry (refill)

Filling Station: Its distillate is tankered to Glasgow for filling and trucked back to the distillery for on-site maturation.

Warehouse: 4 dunnage WH's with a capacity of 12k casks - Vatting & Bottling: BS facility in Spring Burn (Glasgow)

Capacity: 1.37-Mlpa per year - Output: 450,000L (2019) at 7 mashings per week. Buy a bottle; let's move the needle.

Visitor Center & Tours: Yes (last tour at 3PM); this is a *must-see* distillery. - OBs: Founder's Reserve & 12-yr

Blending Role: 100% Single Malt; 0% Blends - Blend Partner: Formerly it has been VAT-69 & Rob Roy

Distilleries Owned (14): Suntory, Hakushu & Chita (JP); Ardmore, Auchentoshan, Bowmore, Laphroaig & Glengarioch (SC); Cooley & Kilbeggan (IR); Maker's Mark & Jim Beam (US); Alberta Distillers & Canadian Club (CN). Parent-Owned Other Brands/Blends: Teacher's HL Cream (SC); Greenore, Tyr Connell, Kilbeggan & Connemara (IR); Chita, Hibiki & Kakubin (JP); Jim Beam, Basil Hayden, Knob Creek, Bakers, Bookers, Maker's Mark (US); Canadian Club (CN). Notations: There is no room for expansion and at one-time closure was considered. However, its whisky is so good, Morrison Bowmore decided to invest the funds required to bring its equipment up to governmental environment compliance.

Management Team: Distillery Manager: Kenny Grant - Global Master of Whisky: Iain McCallum (loves Glen Garioch)

Legal Name of Distillery: Glengarioch Distillers Ltd. - Owner (Parent): Beam Suntory UK Ltd. (Suntory Holdings Ltd.)

Distiller Licensee: Morrison's Glengarioch Distillery Ltd. - USA Importer: Beam Suntory Inc. (had been Campari America)

Elevation: 102m MSL (335 feet above mean sea level)

**TASTING NOTES - Master of Malt**: This NAS expression well represents the distinctive Highland character of Glengarioch Distillery.

**Casks**: Bourbon and Sherry Casks (mainly refills).

**EYE**: Amber gold of winter wheat with a bit of thickness on the sides of my Glencairn.

**NOSE**: Lots of caramel, butterscotch, buttery, sweet with white chocolate poking through. There was an underlying peppery, nutmeg spicy feel as well. Overall, very welcoming with lots of potential.

**PALATE**: Very mouth coating and dry, quite intense ginger, roast pork and crackling, malty and grainy in texture.

**FINISH**: Grain continues, distant peat, quite warming but not overly long.

**COMMENTS**: We recommend this malt 'neat' as it's very enjoyable without water. An easy-going style, its intensity holds the whisky together very nicely! It's a fine Highland Whisky albeit with a humble label!

**JWS**: If someone asks me about highland whisky, Glen Garioch is one that pops into my mind. How good is it? Like Springbank and Highland Park, Glen Garioch should be included in every home or restaurant bar. Given its 48% strength, astringent style and moderate cost, it is the perfect single malt for cocktails.

WHISKY #5 **TALISKER** Single Malt / 'Storm' / NAS / 45.8% ABV / NCF / OB / Dist Owner: Diageo Scotland Ltd. (Diageo plc) / Island (Skye)



Talisker Distillery  
Carbost, Isle of Skye IV47 8SR  
SCOTLAND

Pronunciation: 'TAL-isker' - SWA Whisky Map Location: #42  
Translation: 'Hawk Hill' or 'Sloping Rock' - Demonym: 'Sgitheanach' (a native of Skye)  
Slogan: "Made by the sea"  
Region (District): Island (Isle of Skye)  
Demonym: An inhabitant of Isle of Skye is called a *Sgitheanach*.  
Neighbors: Tobermory, Ben Nevis, Glenloch, Oban  
Established: 1830 (1832) - Founder: Hugh & Kenneth MacAskill, sons of local doctor.  
Status: Active/Producing  
Location: In Carbost, along the shore of Loch Harport on Isle of Skye, Inner Hebrides.  
Water Source: A burn on Cnoc-nan-Speireag (Production); River Pean (Cooling)  
Barley: Dercado (from Glen Ord Maltings)  
Malt Spec (Phenols): 18-25 ppm (MacLean) at malted barley level (MWYB 2017 lists 18-20 ppm).  
Gristmill: 1 Porteus Mill (4-roller)  
Mash Tun: 1 s/s semi-Lauter mashtun with a high copper dome (7.7-ton)  
Washbacks: Oregon pine WBs @ 53,000-L (charged @ 40,000-L) each. Wash at 8.9% ABV.  
Fermentation: 65-75 hours  
Yeast: Distillers yeast  
5 Pot Stills: 2 Wash @ 14,706-L (charged @ 10,000-L), 3 Spirit @ 11,024-L (charged @ 7,479-L); Wash stills' purifiers use cooler outside air (rather than water-jackets cooling).  
Condensers: 5 Worm Tubs (copper tubes submerged in cold water filled wooden vats)  
Middle Cut: 72% to 65% ABV (early cut to limit phenols to mid-level; most of the phenols are in latter part of the run, i.e., circa 62% to 60% ABV).  
Casks: Bourbon HH (used only twice for SM) and some Amoroso & wine casks.  
Warehouse: SM is matured on-site (6,000 casks); blend designated spirit is shipped off-island in bulk (not in casks) for cask entry & aging.  
Filling: On the mainland and then return to distillery for maturation.  
Vatting & Bottling: Diageo's Bottling Plant in Glasgow  
Capacity: 3.3-Mlpa - Current Output: 3.3-Mlpa (2017); 24-hrs x 5-days (10PM Sunday/10PM Friday)  
Visitor Center/Tours: Yes (But it's a 3-hour drive from Oban/Ben Nevis to Talisker and then 5 hours from Talisker to Inverness. I went once but never again as that trek takes too much time.)  
OBs: 10, Skye, Storm, Dark Storm, Port Ruighe, Neist Point, 18-year & Distillers Edition  
Blending Role: 20% Single Malt, 80% Blends - Blend Partner: Johnnie Walker (key malt)  
Parent-Owned Distilleries (28): Auchroisk, Benrinnes, Blair Athol, Caol Ila, Cardhu, Clynelish, Cragganmore, Dailuaine, Dalwhinnie, Dufftown, Glen Elgin, Glen Ord, Glen Spey, Glendullan, Glenkinchie, Glenlossie, Inchgower, Knockando, Lagavulin, Linkwood, Mannochmore, Mortlach, Oban, Roseisle, Royal Lochnagar, Strathmill, Talisker & Teaninich.  
Parent-Owned Blends (Partial): Johnnie Walker, J&B Rare, VAT-69, Bell's, Buchanan's, Dimple/Pinch, Old Parr, White Horse & Windsor Premier.  
Notations: (1) Uses traditional worm tub condensers. (2) Triple Distilled until 1961-62. (5) One of Diageo's 6 original Classic Malts. (6) Robert Louis Stevenson described Talisker as 'the King of drinks'. One of few SM bottled in early 20<sup>th</sup> century (as 8-yr).  
Management Team:  
Distillery Manager: Diane Ferrell (since December 2017)  
Operations Manager: Stuart Harrington - Managing Director: Alastair Robertson  
Visitor Centre Manager/Brand Home Manager: Ms. Georgie Crawford  
Chairman: Peter Lederer (Diageo Scotland Ltd) - CEO: Ivan Menezes (Diageo plc)  
Legal Name of Distillery: Talisker Distillery Co. Ltd.  
Owner (Parent): United Distillers & Vintners Ltd. aka UDV, since 1925 (Diageo plc)  
Distiller Licensee: Talisker Distillery Co. Ltd.  
USA Importer: Diageo North America, Inc.  
Elevation: 3m MSL (10 feet above mean sea level)

Malt Spec: 18-25 ppm. Cask: A combo of refill and rejuvenated ex-Bourbon casks.

**Tasting Notes Whisky Exchange:**

NOSE: Rich and unexpectedly honeyed initially. Then some pleasing singed oak notes and bandage-y aromas. Now bonfire smoke comes through. There even seems to be some milk chocolate and apple notes lurking in the rear. Everything in place; all very promising.

PALATE: Medium-full, the usual Diageo polished mouthfeel, with initial honey and then a very decent dose of hot smoke. The oak is there too, with vanilla and some (actually quite polite) peppery spices. The young whisky component is well-masked and the whole is rather more restrained in terms of mouthfeel than I expected, but the flavor intensity is, in my opinion, unarguably greater than the standard Talisker 10, which to be honest I have found surprisingly tame of late. Gets sweeter towards the death as the pepper lingers, counterpointed with unexpected sweet fruit and even a note of strawberry licorice which somehow works very well.

FINISH: Woody and spicy without becoming bitter. Good length. Sweetness returns at the death.

AWARDS: Gold Medal @ IWC (2015); Silver @ IWC (2015); Silver @ IWC (2015).

WHISKY #6 **ARBEG** Single Malt / 'Drum' (2019 Special Committee Only Edition) / NAS / 52% ABV / NCF / OB / Dist Owner: LVMH Moët Hennessy Louis Vuitton S.E. / Islay (Kildalton/South Shore)



Ardbeg Distillery  
Port Ellen, Islay (Kildalton) PA42 7EA  
SCOTLAND

Pronunciation: 'ard-BEG' - SWA Whisky Map Location: #1  
Slogan: "The ultimate single Islay malt scotch whisky" - Demonym: Ileach  
Region (District): Islay (South Shore/Kildalton)  
Neighbors: Laphroaig & Lagavulin - Translation: 'Small hillock'  
Established: 1815 - Status: Active/Producing

Founder: Alexander Stewart, then taken over by Duncan MacDougall 4-years later.  
Location: Ardbeg lies solitary in a small cove off the south coast of Islay. It's a remote location with exceptional conditions for whisky production. Its chief water source, Loch Uigeadail ('dark and mysterious place' in Gaelic), became the inspiration for a bottling launched in 2003 under the same name.

House Style: Earthy, tarry and very peaty, with citrus and apple notes, and a clear seaside edge. Unique sweetish finish begins with your first after swallowing breath.

Water Source: Loch Arinambeast & Loch Iaran Uisgeadale

Barley: Optic spring malting barley (from Port Ellen Maltings)

Malt Spec (Phenols): 54-ppm (since May 1998)

Gristmill: 1 Boby Mill twin roller mill (Robert Boby Ltd, 1881)

Mashtun: 1 s/s semi-Lauter tun (4.5-ton).

11 Washbacks: 3 larch + 3 Oregon pine @ 28,000-L (23,500-L).

Yeast: Mauri cultured distillers' yeast (dry); 75-kg per washback.

Fermentation: 60-hours (Week) & 96 hrs (Weekend) @ 8% ABV.

4 Pot Stills: 1 Wash @ 18,279-L (11,775-L); 1 Spirit @ 16,957-L.

Cuts: 73% to 62.5% ABV; Spirit Still run of 9-hrs with 5¼-hr MC.

Casks: 98% bourbon barrels; 2% sherry casks. Bourbon is 50-50% 1st fill (mainly JD, HH and MM); use 200-L American Standard Barrels.

Cask Entry: 63.5% ABV (reduced from 69.5% to 70.5% ABV)

Warehouse: 4 on-site (24,000 casks): 2 dunnage + 2 racked.

Vatting & Bottling: On mainland, Broxburn Bottlers, West Lothian.

Capacity: 2.4-Mlpa per year

Current Output: 1.4-Mlpa (2019); 2.4-Mlpa is planned for 2020

Visitor Center/Tours: Yes (Make an appointment several months in advance)

OBs: 10, Corryvreckan, Airigh nam beist, Uigeadail, Rollercoaster and special releases e.g., Galileo, Dark Cove (which is the 2016 Ardbeg Day limited edition).

Parent-Owned Distilleries (2): Glenmorangie (2004) & Ardbeg (2004)

Blending Role: 80% Single Malt, 20% Blends

Blend Partner: Ballantine, Teachers, Black Bottle & Johnnie Walker range.

Notation: Periods of closure (1981-89) and sporadic production (1989-96) have resulted in large gaps in aged whisky stocks. A significant portion of recent production is being retained for extended maturation for the purpose of assuaging this issue.

Management Team:

Distillery Manager: Mickey Heads

Master Ambassador: David Blackmore (Global Ambassador)

Chairman & CEO: Bernard Arnault (LVMH)

Legal Name of Distillery: MacDonald & Muir Ltd dba Ardbeg Distillery

Owner (Parent): Glenmorangie plc (Moët Hennessy-Louis Vuitton S.A.) aka LVMH

Distiller Licensee: Alexander McDougall & Co., Ltd.

USA Importer: Moët Hennessy USA, Inc.

Elevation: 5m MSL (16 feet above mean sea level)

*Rum 'drum' aka machine or dump pungeon is a 500L or 132USG cask made of thick staves of toasted American white oak.*

In Ardbeg Drum, Ardbeg Scotch whisky from ex-bourbon casks has been rested in ex-rum casks from the Americas, to produce a downright wondrous para-diddle of aromas. Fragrant pine resin, wood-smoke, and sea spray dance alongside ripe banana and pineapple. Lavender, licorice, and vanilla sway into rich dark chocolate, before parading into a long, smoky finish. Drum is the first whisky released by Ardbeg to have enjoyed a finishing period in rum casks! It was initially matured in ex-bourbon casks before being transferred over to casks that had previously held rum from the Americas. The result pits the classic savory smoke of Ardbeg's spirit against the bright, fruity notes introduced by the rum casks, a wonderfully tasty juxtaposition!

**Tasting Notes** - Master of Malt:

NOSE: Roasted pine, fresh vanilla pod, meaty malt, fried banana and spicy clove.

PALATE: Dried fruit soaked in rum, stem ginger, mint imperial sweets, fiery peat and a waft of coastal salinity.

FINISH: Toasted brown sugar, red chili, chocolate and a juicy hint of papaya.