

GLENFARCLAS 1960 | 53 YEARS OLD

The Family Casks 2014 | Sherry Cask #1775

Family Casks 1960 is among the most extraordinary aged Scotch whiskies in the entire Family Casks canon, a 53-year-old single sherry hogshead (cask #1775), bottled in 2014 at natural cask strength after more than half a century of evaporation. 194 bottles. THE CASK: a sherry hogshead, smaller than the standard butt, faster wood-interaction surface area per litre, held the spirit through the long maturation. The lower cask-strength (45.2%) is the result of natural evaporation, not proofing-down: the angel's share has had over five decades to take its share, and what remains is concentrated, integrated, more amber-than-mahogany in the glass. The herbal oak and the cigar-humidor weight come from the cask's slow oxidation past any modern frame of reference. SERVING: a tulip glass, room temperature, neat. The bottle is reserved for the rare evening and the patient drinker, water and ice are both unnecessary and counterproductive. Pairs with quiet conversation and a long-aged Dominican cigar; food becomes a distraction at this age.

Tasting notes

Color

Dark amber, aged copper highlights.

Aroma

Mellow stewed berries, herbal oak, old leather, Cuban cigar humidor, toffee, roasted cocoa, whisper of fine cognac.

Taste

Great length, noble dryness, fruity sherry sweetness, dried herbs, light tobacco, ancient impeccably integrated oak.

Finish

Very long, deep, drying, tobacco, waxed oak, old sherry; distinction only time and an exceptional cask deliver.

GLENFARCLAS DISTILLERY At the foot of Ben Rinnes in Speyside, and one of a handful of Scottish distilleries still in continuous family ownership: the Grants have run Glenfarclas since John Grant bought it in 1865 for £511.19, and the sixth generation is now at the helm. Using direct-fired stills, gas flame under the pot, rather than internal steam coils, Glenfarclas preserves a heavier, fattier, more textured spirit. The Family Casks programme, single-cask vintage releases drawn from the Grant family's private reserves, no two bottlings alike.