



GLENFARCLAS 1977 / 42 YEARS OLD

The Family Casks | Sherry Hogshead #7293

Family Casks 1977 (Winter 2019 release) is over 42 years in a single sherry hogshead — cask #7293, drawn at natural cask strength of 43.6% volume after the angel's share has done its work. 210 bottles, non-chill-filtered, natural colour. THE CASK: a sherry hogshead held the spirit through more than four decades of Speyside warehouse seasons — the smaller-format wood working faster on the malt than a butt would. The mid-40s strength is what the cask delivered after the long evaporation; the bottling is intentionally undiluted. The earthy rancio note is the marker of mature sherry-cask whisky at the upper end of the cellar's age range — a slow oxidative development that no younger whisky reproduces. SERVING: a tulip glass, room temperature, neat — this is a contemplation pour. The architecture is fully integrated; water adds nothing and risks blurring the rancio. At the table it pairs with bittersweet dark chocolate, candied chestnut, aged Stilton with quince, or a long-aged Dominican corajo cigar where the spice and the rancio find common ground.

Tasting notes

Color

Deep mahogany, copper highlights.

Aroma

Deep, indulgent — dried fig, polished oak, dark chocolate, vintage leather, spiced orange, pipe tobacco.

Taste

Rich, layered — molasses, walnut cake, burnt toffee; black cherry, clove, touch of earthy rancio.

Finish

Long, harmonious — roasted nuts, demerara sugar, lingering sherry-soaked oak. 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. The house style is shaped by two choices that most modern Speysides have moved away from: direct-fired stills (gas flame under the pot, rather than internal steam coils — preserving a heavier, fattier, more textured spirit), and a near-total commitment to Spanish sherry casks for maturation. The Family Casks programme is the deepest expression of the cellar — single-cask vintage releases drawn from the Grant family's private reserves, no two bottlings alike.

