



GLENFARCLAS 1981 | 37 YEARS OLD

The Family Casks | Refill Sherry Hogshead

Family Casks 1981 is a 37-year-old single-cask Speyside drawn from refill sherry hogshead #1085, a outturn of just 211 bottles. Natural cask strength of 43.2% volume, non-chill-filtered, no added colour. THE CASK: a refill sherry hogshead — a cask that has held sherry-matured spirit before this fill, contributing softer wood-tannin and a more integrated sherry profile than a first-fill butt would deliver across the same time frame. Thirty-seven years in this cask brings the spirit into maturity: espresso, dark chocolate, dried fig — without the heavier sherry-monomania a more active cask would impose. The honeyed sweetness on the nose is a Glenfarclas distillate signature carrying through. SERVING: a Glencairn at room temperature, neat. The natural cask strength is integrated rather than hot; water is rarely needed. At the table it pairs with dark chocolate, candied walnut, aged Cheddar, or a Honduran corajo cigar where the spice and the cask depth find a balance.

Tasting notes

Color

Pale amber gold, bright highlights.

Aroma

Classically drawn — juicy sultana, candied peel, aged oak, pipe tobacco, mellow honeyed sweetness.

Taste

Deep, full-bodied — espresso, dark chocolate, dried fig, dark fruit core, dense oily texture.

Finish

Long, spicy, gently smoky — fruited, pepper-tinged frame that refuses to fade. 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.