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# WHISKYFUN.COM *by Serge*

Hi, this is one of our (almost) daily tastings. Santé!

June 19, 2014

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## The Short Sessions, two really old Glen Grant

After some very old Karuizawa or Glenfarclas, Wealth Solutions have recently issued a very old Glen Grant 1948 by Gordon & MacPhail. I had first thought I'd select another old Glen Grant by G&M as a worthy opponent, but the ones I have at hand were all bottled at around 40% vol., which is a bit lowish in this context. So I decided to rather choose this one...



**Glen Grant 25 yo (86° Proof, George Strachan Ltd, +/-1975) ★★★★★** It's not old, but it was distilled a long time ago. Remember the UK started to use ABVs on January 1st, 1980, so any strength in 'proof spirit' should suggest a pre-1980 bottling. 86° UK proof should mean  $86/1.75 = +/-49.1\%$ . This baby may have been distilled in the late 1940s. Colour: white wine. Nose: it is an unusually grassy, mineral and metallic Glen Grant, with some OBE in full swing. That means that we'll also find some earth, soot, gravel and all that, as well as touches of 'old camphor'. Old tools, engine oil, linseed oil, waxed fabric, Barbour grease... And all that! Very un-Glen Grant, I'd say. Mouth: unusual again, with a kind of metallic mix of pepper and iron in the arrival, with then more citrus and 'old oils'. Some earth again, lemongrass, funny wasabi or horseradish, touches of cigarette ashes... It's pretty big, rather 'nervous', evolving towards yellow grapefruits and other sharp citrus. Oily mouth feel, good power. Finish: long, a little acrid and pungent, but with lovely grapefruits again in the aftertaste. Comments: bigger and sharper than most old Glen Grants I could taste. A little austere in fact, but I really liked it. SGP:362 - 87 points.



**Glen Grant 66 yo 1948/2014 (46.6%, Gordon & MacPhail for Wealth Solutions, first fill sherry butt, cask #1369, 160 bottles) ★★★★★** We're close to the record 70 years old that G&M have recently come up with (Mortlach and Glenlivet). The only 1948 Glen Grant I have tried until now had been blended with some 1961 in a 'Royal Marriage' bottling (Charles and Diana). Colour: full gold. Nose: the opposite of the Strachan, with much more roundness and a pretty beehive-y profile, which isn't unusual in old Glen Grants. Beeswax, honey, pollen, old wood. What's really striking is this 'Indian' side, with some cashew sauce, soft curry sauce, coriander, lemon basil... Also touches of coconut oil, which may suggest the butt was made out of American oak. The 'Indian' side is really fascinating, and very unusual (and wonderful.) Mouth: keyword is oaky balance. You feel the oak but you wouldn't ask for less of it, which is a funny feeling. White pepper, quite a lot of eucalyptus, black Assam, white pepper, cinnamon, stewed peaches, honey sauce, chewing tobacco (as far as I can remember, I may have tried that thrice), then a little Greek retsina wine, certainly a little Chartreuse and lastly, notes of liquorice wood. It's not often that 'obvious' oak tastes this good. A matter of balance indeed... Finish: rather long, a tad gritty now, with notes of chlorophyll and mint. Cough lozenges and cinnamon mints, then bitter oranges and pomegranates. Comments: a wonderful experience, unless you're firmly against 'obvious oak'. Loved the mentholated side – and hey, it's more and more difficult to find whisky that's older than this humble taster. SGP:471 - 91 points.

**MORE NOTES>** Check the index of [all Glen Grant](#) I've tasted so far



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16 Jun 2014

## Glen Grant 1948 (G&M for WealthSolutions)

Posted by: [Ruben Luyten](#) In: [Glen Grant](#)

The latest superwhisky brought to us by Poland's investment company **Wealth Solutions** is a **Glen Grant 1948**, sourced from the **Gordon & MacPhail** stocks. It's a stunning 66 years old and bottled at cask strength.

The 160 decanters had already been sold before the presentation in May 2014, for an undisclosed (which probably means really high) amount.



**Gordon & MacPhail**, as one of Scotland's oldest independent bottlers, have always had long-standing contracts with major distilleries to buy new make and mature them either at the distillery, or more commonly in their own warehouses in Elgin. Their portfolio contains some of the oldest whiskies around.

**Glen Grant** is one of the few distilleries capable of presenting such extremely old whiskies, together with Glenfarclas, Glenlivet, Macallan, Dalmore and maybe a couple of others. In any case it will be the oldest whisky we've been able to try so far.



### Glen Grant 66 yo 1948 (46,6%, Gordon & MacPhail for WealthSolutions 2014, first fill sherry butt #1369, 160 btl.)

Nose: smoother, richer and sweeter than expected. It's quite subtle, very much bound together, but really exquisite. Lots of oily notes: precious old woods, hints of teak oil and eucalyptus. Soft fruity notes, like apples and orange blossom honey. Bergamot. Beeswax. Apricot jam. The polished oak is always there, but in a striking harmony. Lots of fresh mint. Faint toasted / smoky notes, almost hidden in the background. Mouth: almost immediately a gentle peppery heat coats the palate. Softly spicy rather than oaky. Huge notes of pipe tobacco and cigar boxes. Herbal tea. Still hints of bergamot oils and apricots. Cardamom and walnuts. Mint and eucalyptus. More savoury than the nose. Early Grey tea. Soft resin. Some toasted notes in the background. Finish: very long echoes of the spice mix, with a little liquorice and menthol.

Of course it's oaky – but that doesn't mean it's dry or tannic. It's a polished, exotic oakiness that works well alongside the rounder notes. I think the nose is delicious and the sappy palate surprisingly balanced. Even if you've tried 30 or 40 years old whiskies, this is hardly comparable. It's a different drink, a different experience altogether and a style on its own.

Score: **94/100**

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## 1594 notes by Ruben

This blog is my personal collection of impressions, written while searching for the ultimate single malt whisky.





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### Glen Grant 66 yo 1948/2014 G&M For Wealth Solutions

by OLIVER KLIMEK on JUNE 14, 2014

Cask 1369 – 46.6%

#### My Tasting Notes:

**Colour:** Dark amber

**Nose:** Light wood smoke, apricot jam, dried papaya, honey, waxed leather, smoked toasted almonds, cardamom.

**Palate:** Gooseberries, apricots, hints of pineapple, cake dough, mixed mild spices and wood tannins.

**Finish:** Very long, dry and fruity with a whiff of smoke

**Overall:** Some magnificent fruity aromas have developed over the decades but also the wood has had a significant influence. The driness is quite pronounced and kept just in check by the rich

primary flavours.

**Rating: 91/100 – Price tag undisclosed but likely substantial.**

Review sample provided by Wealth Solutions

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## Liquid History: Glen Grant 1948 , 66 yo, by G&M [Wealth Solutions]

1 JULY 2014 684 VIEWS WRITTEN BY: [GAL GRANOV](#)



My good whisky friend Shai always claims I prefer to review unicorn tears as he calls them, meaning very old and rare drams. Most times, I tend to disagree, as I try to post many available and not ultra rare and extremely expensive whisky tasting reviews, but this time I could not resist , and frankly It's really a one in a lifetime occasion, so why not?

A few weeks ago Wealth Solutions (*Wealth Solutions was established in 2007 with a mission to provide unique products for Polish collectors. The company was created by real enthusiasts of exceptional goods such as fine Bordeaux wines, top quality whisky, and art.*) released this extraordinary whisky, distilled in 1948, the same year the state of Israel was given its independence from the UK. They have released some other amazing drams I've reviewed here ( like that [1953 Glenfardlas](#) ,or the 1964 karuizawa), but this one is their oldest whisky Yet. Price of the bottle was not even disclosed (if you need to ask how much it costs, then you can't really afford id, can you?). Distilled in 1948, cask number 1369 was bottled 66 years later in 2014 at cask strength (46.6%), at natural colour and is non-chillfiltered. Shall we have a taster?

### Glen Grant 1948 , 66 yo, [G&M] , Undisclosed price

**Nose:** Oh yea that's the real deal. Old benches, Bookshelves and that old old and I mean **old** wood varnish feeling you get on such drams. I just love that profile. Mint. A hint of papaya and a bit of earthy smokiness. Spiced wood kind of smoke. Candied pineapple. Cardamom and the faintest hint of balsamic. Yessir. **Divine.**

**Palate:** Starts fruity, with Pineapple. Big time. Coconut and some more orchard fruit ( peach, plum) smoky nuts , spices and loads of dry seasoned wood. Majestic. Getting bitter espresso with cardamom towards the end. As dry as they get.

**Finish:** Very dry. Fruit. Double espresso. Crushed Ethiopian coffee beans. Lots of wood and wood varnish.

### Bottom line:

It's superb. It's divine. It's excellent, and yes it's woody. not too woody (for me that is). This is an EPIC dram. Can't really describe in words the feeling you get when you're given the chance of trying something so old from back then. I really don't know how many of those bottles are EVER going to get opened and enjoyed, but I sure hope that the rich people who got to buy them will be smart enough as to enjoy them, and not only hang to them as an investment. They are worth drinking, and they should be enjoyed. Maybe not THE BEST dram I've tried, but pretty close to that.

**Score: 95/100**

Many thanks to the guys at Wealth Solutions for this sample. Much obliged.

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