

# DRAMMING

## EVERYTHING WHISKY

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### Glenfarclas 1953/2012

by OLIVER KLIMEK on MAY 16, 2012

For Wealth Solutions – First fill shery butt 1674 – 47,2%

#### My Tasting Notes:

**Colour:** Bright amber

**Nose:** Apples, raisins, dried apricots, butterscotch, a waxed wood table with a vase of flowers, whiffs of a dusty old cupboard and a wee bit of smoke.

**Palate:** A gentle but very noticable smokiness wraps around a rich fruit cocktail, and yes it is sprinkled with rose petals. Not very sweet but immensely flavourful. Where is the wood?

**Finish:** Endless, fruity, slightly dry and slightly smoky.

**Overall:** Simply magnificent. Most of these bottles are offered to investors. But anyone buying this bottle to increase their wealth by a few bucks misses out on a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. If you

can afford this whisky, please drink it!

Rating: 95/100 – Price Tag \$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$ – Value for your Money \$\$\$\$\$

Some bottles are available through [Master of Malt](#)

Review sample provided by Master of Malt

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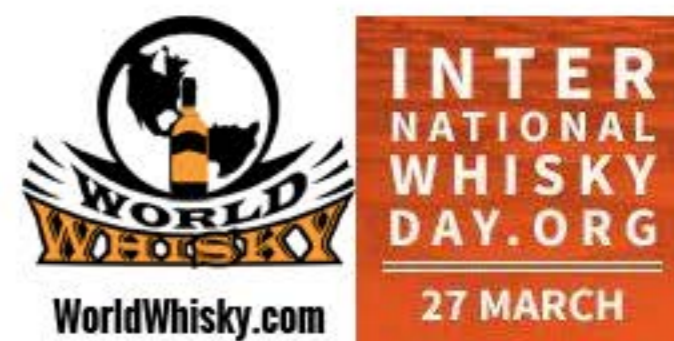
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01 Jul 2013

## Glenfarclas 1953 (cask #1674)

Posted by: [Ruben Luyten](#) In: [Glenfarclas](#)

This **Glenfarclas 1953** was one of the big releases everyone talked about in 2012, for different reasons.



Firstly because it was the oldest cask **Glenfarclas** had lying around (58 years old no less). At that time at least, its sister cask #1675 was bottled a bit later in 2012 as part of the Family Cask series, and just a couple of weeks ago Glenfarclas announced a third 1953 single cask (nearly 60 years) which they bottled in pair with a 1953 Hine cognac. I believe another 1953 cask will be bottled later this year, and after that one cask is still in the warehouses, so there's more to come.

Secondly because it was bottled for **WealthSolutions**, a Polish company that provides alternative solutions for people's wealth (yes, such a problem sometimes). Michal Kowalski, vice president, has a weak spot for art, primeur wines and whisky. This Glenfarclas - selected with the help of Serge Valentin and other insiders - was their first venture into the world of investment whiskies. In the meantime, they've also bottled a Karuizawa 1964. Of course it saddened the whisky community that these whiskies were openly sold for their potential rise in value. They feared it would probably never be savoured properly, merely "transacted", but let's face it, they were never within reach of a normal whisky enthusiast anyway. Also, it has to be said that they've surrounded the release with a lot of information so that buyers are at least educated and invited to taste.

Thirdly, but you may not have heard about this, because WealthSolutions generously distributed a couple of dozens of samples for reviewing (thanks guys!) but some of them popped up in online auctions. That's certainly against their intention to share this exceptional dram with enthusiasts.



The cask itself, an American oak sherry cask #1674, was filled on 20th November 1953 and bottled on 13th February 2012. It comes in a beautiful wooden box, together with a [special book by Ian Buxton](#).

### Glenfarclas 58 yo 1953 (47,2%, OB for Wealth Solutions 2012, first fill sherry butt #1674, 400 btl.)

Nose: surprisingly, not the oldest feeling nose in this little series. Yes, there's a certain metallic sourness, but it overcomes that with a nice sweet & sour fruitiness of orange peel, apricots and passion fruit. Also a kind of waxiness that you can only get at high ages, in between precious polished woods and lipstick. Also the usual slight leafiness, mint and resin. Hazelnuts and almonds. An impressively noble oldness. Mouth: oily, partly fruity, partly floral at first. The apricots are back, with garden fruits, but it shows only a very light sweetness. It's more of a fruit tea palate. The whole is rather leathery, nutty and spicy. Cashews, fresh peppercorns and ginger. Liquorice towards the end. Finish: pretty long considering the age, with the dryness of cinnamon powder and a pleasant warmth of toasted oak.



Impressive to say the least. It's not enough to buy any old cask and think it will be a great investment because it's old and rare. It has to be the best of its kind as well, and indeed that's probably what it is. Around € 8500, only available from [Master of Malt](#).

Score: **93/100**

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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.



# Glenfarclas 1953

ON MAY 14 IN SCOTTISH, SINGLE MALT WHISKY BY DAN



This morning a special bottle of whisky arrived, it was a bottle of Glenfarclas 1953 Highland Single Malt Scotch Whisky. And I couldn't be happier!

Its a 58 year old whisky, and the oldest Glenfarclas has ever released. Bottled at cask strength and non-chill filtered, this is actually a piece of history more than a bottle of Whisky.

Thank you to Glenfarclas for digging deep into there Dunnage warehouse and dragging this ancient whisky out for the world to enjoy.

With the whisky there is a book written by Ian Buxton, and a wealth of literature that came with it too.

**UPDATE: Press Release**

I got around to opening the press release which came on a fairly impressive brushed aluminium card shape USB Pen. The gist of it was this:

**Glenfarclas launches limited edition single malt – the oldest whisky in its history**  
The Glenfarclas distillery has launched a 58-year-old whisky – the oldest spirit ever to leave its walls. Only 400 numbered single cask bottles will be put on the market.

The single cask whisky launched by Glenfarclas is the oldest spirit released so far by the distillery. The privilege of exclusive access to the distillery's rarest and oldest stock, the remaining 4 casks distilled in 1953, were given by George Grant, of Glenfarclas to a panel comprised of Serge Valentin, a whisky connoisseur and a key member of the internationally renowned Malt Maniacs, Ben Ellefsen, Sales Director for Master of Malt (Whisky Magazine's 'Global Online Retailer of the Year' 2012), Michal Kowalski of Wealth Solutions and George Grant himself. The panel was unanimous in their selection, and cask #1674 was selected to be bottled.

The carefully chosen cask began its life in Spain, where it was used to mature and then transport fine sherry to Scotland. It was bought by Glenfarclas and filled with whisky on 20 November 1953. After 58 years of slow maturation in Glenfarclas' traditional Highland Dunnage warehouses, the 1953 cask yielded only 400 full 70 cl bottles. The whisky was bottled at cask strength of 47.2% abv and, of course, is naturally coloured and non-chill filtered.

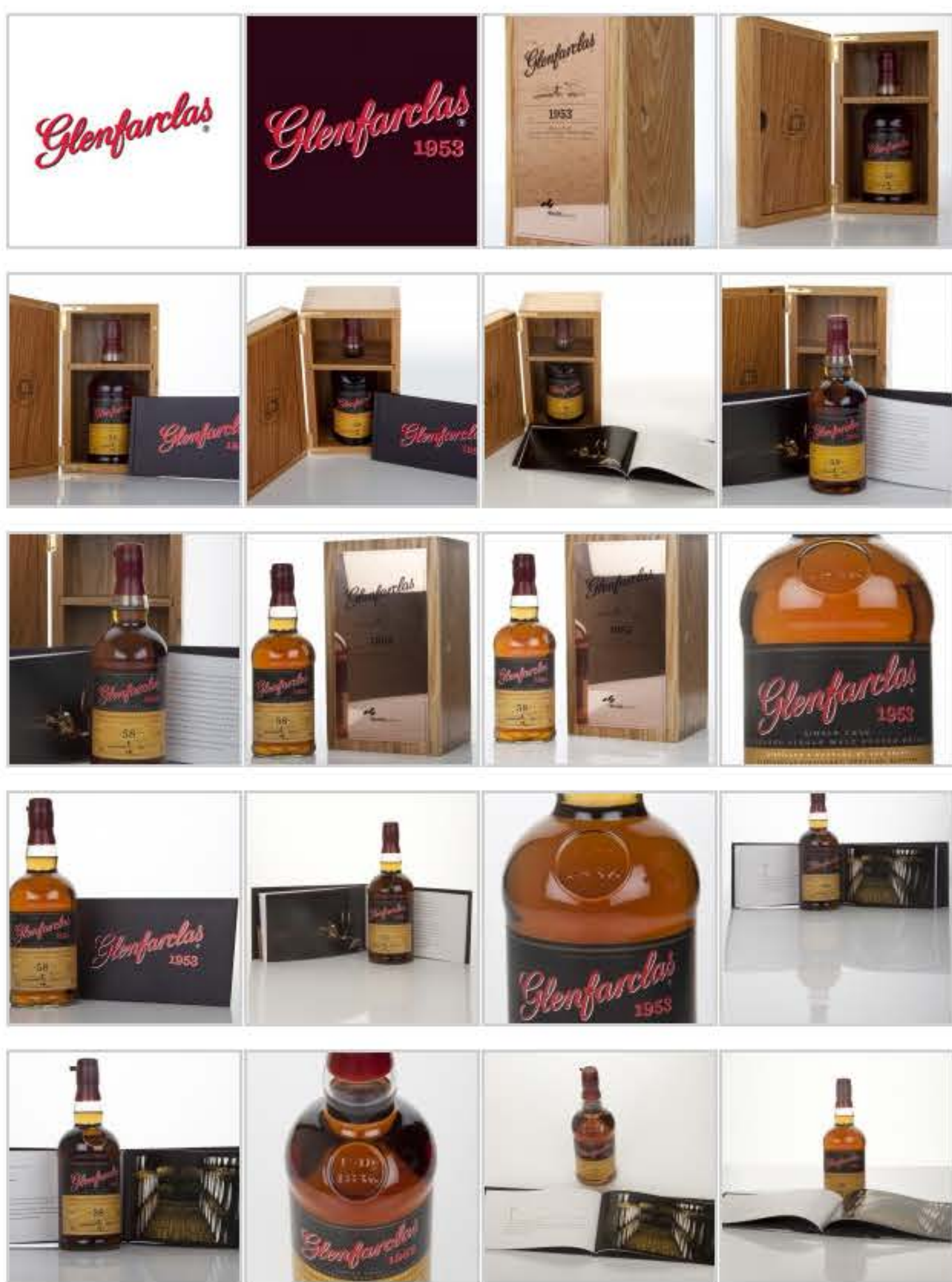
Layer upon layer of flavour. A splendid old whisky; still lively, and not displaying any woodiness. Much influenced by the American oak cask, but wholly beneficially. Best enjoyed unreduced. Cheerful and friendly at natural strength, said Charles MacLean, a writer and whisky connoisseur, summarising his appraisal of the spirit. This exceptional whisky deserves a special setting. Each bottle is accompanied by a special book written by Ian Buxton, a well-known Scotch whisky enthusiast and writer, the author of the official history of the Glenfarclas distillery entitled Glenfarclas – An Independent Distillery. The whole set is enclosed in a plain oak box.

For more information contact:  
Ben Ellefsen: Telephone: +44 (0)7816 661657. E-mail: ben@masterofmalt.com.

The book which comes with the whisky is authored by the prolific whisky writer Ian Buxton, and is a very nifty letter box shape hardback. The images, as you would expect, are beautiful featuring various aspects of the distillery, and a rather nice two page spread of a snow covered distillery. Other contents are a tasting notes section written by Charles Maclean and some nice historical information.

**Glenfarclas 1953 Tasting notes**  
by Charles MacLean  
WHISKY AUTHOR & EXPERT

**Appearance:** The colour of Golden Syrup: ex-Sherry U.S. oak refill? Oily legs and moderate beading.  
**Aroma:** (straight) A mild nosefeel. Very clean, fresh and highly perfumed – the scent fills the room: hair lacquer, shampoo, face cream, almond oil (and pounded flaked almonds). I was reminded of an old-fashioned barber's shop. Beyond this, a fruity complex which includes fresh apricots and dried figs, and the gradual emergence of sweet tablet. (@ c40%) Even a drop of water reduces the aroma. After a while some rich vanilla sponge emerges – even steamed syrup pudding, very slightly burnt. The latter develops into scorched brown paper.  
**Taste:** (straight) Smooth and fresh; not as sweet as expected. Centre palate and quite tannic/mouth drying, with some spice. A long, rounded, warming finish. (@ 40%) Still smooth, fresh and lightly sweet; a trace of ginger in the warming aftertaste.  
**Development:** Warm sand and sand-dunes, with sun-tan oil.  
**Comment:** Layer upon layer of flavour. A splendid old whisky; still lively, and not displaying any woodiness. Much influenced by the American oak cask



You can see from this video that the whisky is being aimed at polish Investors, watch the video to learn more.



**Update 2:**  
You can now buy this via **Master of Malt** for the princely sum of six thousand of the queens own whisky tokens. There are no user reviews about this 'oldest of old' Glenfarclas 1953 bottling yet, I'm not sure if I should be suprised or not, but for now you will have to rely on Charles MacLean's notes, which is no bad thing I assure you.

**About Daniel Cave**  
WhiskyTimes Founder, Petrol head, Digital Marketing Man and lover of life.



Tags: 1953, 58 yo, glenfarclas, old whisky

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## Tasting the oldest Glenfarclas to date -The 1953 Vintage 58 yo

21 MAY 2012 2,045 VIEWS WRITTEN BY: [GAL GRANOV](#)

*Glenfarclas*

You know the story: how much I Love Glenfarclas, and how much I love surprises, right? So imagine how happy I felt when I learnt that a wee sample bottle containing whisky made in 1953, and just bottled by Glenfarclas, is on its way here to the holy land! It's not everyday that such a treasure is

released (in fact this is the oldest Glenfarclas EVER to be released). Before we dive into this miracle of a dram, a few more facts about this very special whisky.



Cask #1674 containing the whisky filled on the 20th November 1953 was chosen by a group of four whisky experts we all know :Serge Valentin, who needs no introduction, Ben Ellefsen, Sales Director for Master of Malt Michał Kowalski of Wealth Solutions and George Grant himself. All four agreed that this cask was the best available and well worth bottling, and so it was. An Ex-Sherry cask, it yielded only 400 bottles at cask strength (you know how lucky those angels were, drinking their share for 58 years!) of 47,2% ABV. [originally the cask was filled with 500 liters of spirit at 63.4% which were reduced to only 300 liters].

This bottle is so unique, it comes with a book,telling its story and of course the story of family owned Glenfarclas distillery since it started until this day. Editor of the book is Ian Buxton, the renowned whisky writer, which adds his lovely style of writing to the package (even the wee sample was placed in a wooden box, very classy stuff), to create an excellent very collectible package. I do believe whisky is for drinking, so let's get on with the notes. It deserves to be drunk, and it's spectacular. This beauty can be yours for a mere £5995, so if you can afford one, go get it ([exclusively on Master of Malt](#))

### Glenfarclas 1953. 58 Year old. 400 btl's. 47.2% ABV . £5995

Now, how do you start drinking a whisky which costs more than 400 quid for a dram. Slowly. and with respect. and this is exactly how I treated this older gentleman, I gave it time, and nose it carefully.

**Nose:** *OMG!. A belter of a nose : old wood, but not over imposing, old library book, and wood polish, spices, a bit of pepper up front, and also dried fruit, butterscotch, and toffee, cocoa powder and orange peel candy. Gentle whiffs but still saving its might. A treat.*

**Palate:** *Oily and with a lot, and I mean a lot of wood spices. Citrusy with red grapefruit, wood bark, pepper, nutmeg, dark chocolate and some sage leaves. after a few seconds it gets nutty, and a bit more herbal. It's not as sweet as you might expect from a whisky which spent its entire life in a sherry cask, and what a long life it led.*

*Layer and layer of of tastes and textures, it really is so lovely.*

**Finish:** *Long , very long finish with those nuts, some toffee, and dry bitterness, and again, hints of sage leaves.*

A celestial experience. I was left speechless. It's such an old whisky, but yet so vibrant. The nose is delicate, yet the palate is quite robust, and multi layered, surprising you off gourd, revealing layer after layer of tastes, and sensations. Wow. This has to be one of the best whiskies I've EVER had. I know people would argue I'm just digging it because it's so expensive and limited, but I have to tell you it's not just that. it's really good as a drinking whisky. If you can afford it, do drink this stuff. it's Sublime.

**Score: 96/100**

*Many thanks to Ben Ellefsen, George Grant and Wealth Solutions for this official sample!*



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## The Old Man Of Ballindalloch



Well, here's a turn up for the books. As we mentioned in a previous post it seems that a few distilleries are raising the stakes by releasing some truly striking bottlings in preparation for the Queen's Jubilee of varying ages.



Well not **Glenfarclas**. George and his team haven't jumped on the 'Jubilimpics' bandwagon, yet are releasing their oldest expression in the distillery's history. A single cask, filled in 1953 has been purchased by Polish finance company, **Wealth Solutions**, released exclusively by **Master Of Malt** and by the looks of things, the 400 or so bottles are well on their way to becoming the stuff of legend. **George Grant** jokingly mentions that he wasn't even born when cask 1674 was filled and that it was his grandfather, who was in charge of the distillery.



The bottling was chosen from one of four casks of the oldest whiskies in Glenfarclas' warehouse and was bottled 47.2%.

On closer inspection, the rather grand miniature we have been sent of this ancient liquid is not the robust dark, tannic colour one would expect for a whisky nearing 60 years old, but as always, appearances can be deceiving, so the only way to truly judge this elder gent's talents are to pour a healthy dram.



**Glenfarclas - 58 years old - Cask 1674 - filled 20th November 1953 - 47.2%**

**Nose:** Surprisingly light, given all that time in the oak. Notes of lighter dried fruit emerge first, with apricot jam, chopped almonds, some sweet vanilla notes, balanced by a very light spicy note (hints of cinnamon buns, glazed with brown sugar) Further in, a sweeter caramel note develops, giving this a much more spritely feel than expected. Old for sure, but still working its magic.

**Palate:** The tannins make themselves known with an upfront dryness and more of the spiced buns. A return of the apricot, mixed with fragrant vanilla, more chopped nuts and cereal notes. A dash of water reduces some of the tannic influence, leading to a resurgence of the vanilla notes and this time sweeter fruit notes.

**Finish:** Lingering oak notes, with a particular spiciness left of the palate.

**Overall:** An elderly gentlemen, with all the stamina and sense of fun that an ageing playboy has, but with a wisdom and experience to back it up. This is a surprisingly youthful whisky in places, with some drier cask influence, but make no mistake, it certainly has more life in it yet. The Robert Redford of the Glenfarclas range. Superb.

at 10:54 Recommend this on Google

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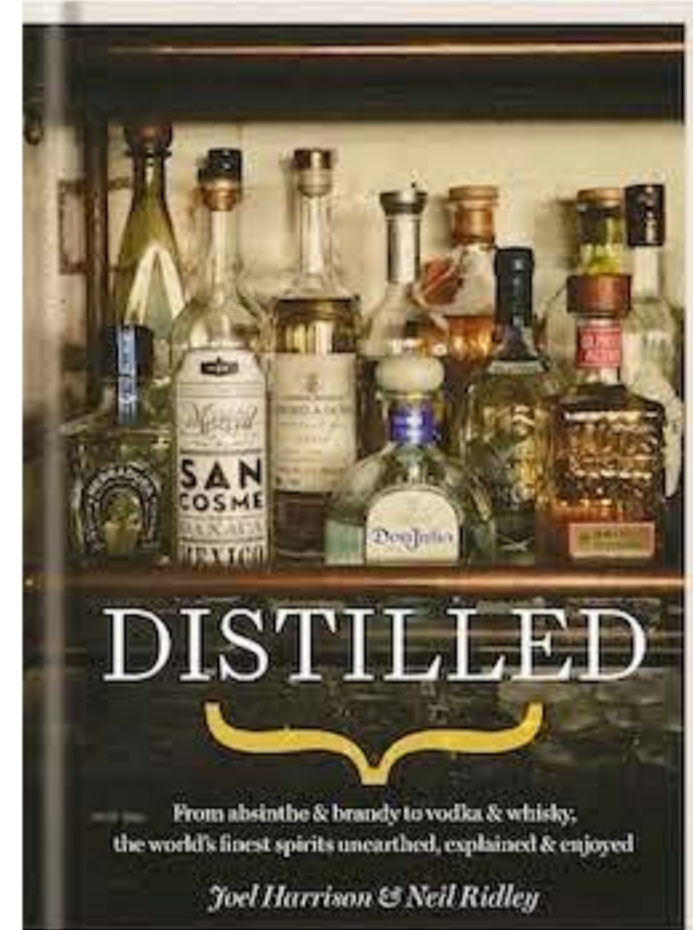


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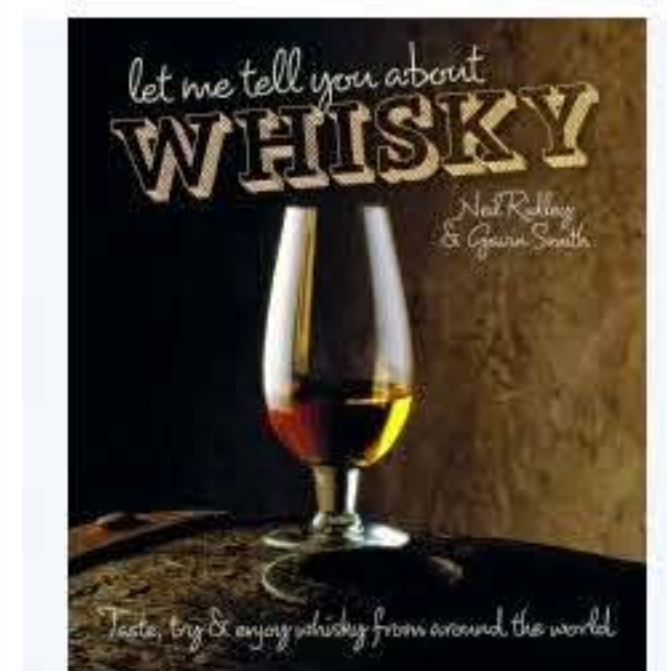
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