



# TASTING

AUGUST 21, 2009

*Top Shelf Tasters*





## Glenfarclas ( Speyside) 1965 / 43 Year old / Sherry

### Single Speyside Malt Scotch Whisky

Another of Douglas Laing's splendid (and very old) sherried malts from 'Probably Speyside's Finest Distillery'. Last year's 1966 vintage sold out in a week, so don't be shy if you want one.

### More Details:

Country:	<b>Scotland</b>
Region:	<b>Speyside</b>
Bottler:	<b>Douglas Laing</b>
Series:	<b>The Old Malt Cask</b>
Age:	<b>43 years old</b>
Vintage:	<b>1965</b>
Bottling Date:	<b>Dec 2008</b>
Strength:	<b>50%</b>
Bottle Size:	<b>70cl</b>
Cask Type:	<b>Sherry Butt</b>
Cask Number:	<b>4816</b>
Chill Filtered:	<b>No</b>
Number of Bottles:	<b>583</b>

### Brand Info:

#### Glenfarclas

[www.glenfarclas.co.uk](http://www.glenfarclas.co.uk)



- Multi-award winning Glenfarclas Single Highland Malt Scotch Whisky has been distilled on Speyside for six generations by one family – the Grants.
- The Glenfarclas Distillery was legally established in 1836, on the Recherlich Farm at Ballindalloch, in the heart of Speyside.
- In 1865, John Grant purchased the distillery for £511.19s.0d. Fifth generation John L.S. Grant, the present chairman, and his son George S. Grant, the present Brand Ambassador for Glenfarclas, look set to continue the legacy of their forefathers.

[Read more >](#)

Nose:

Palate:

Finish:

Rating:



## Pittyvaich 12 Year old Single Speyside Malt Scotch Whisky

### More Details:

Country:	Scotland
Region:	Speyside
Bottler:	Flora & Fauna
Series:	Flora & Fauna
Age:	12 years old
Strength:	43%
Bottle Size:	70cl

### Brand Info:

#### Pittyvaich

One of the shortest-lived malt distilleries, Pittyvaich was established by Arthur Bell & Sons in Dufftown in 1975 and closed in 1993 while still in its teens. The buildings were demolished in 2002. The only official bottling was under the Flora and Fauna label a few years after Bell's had become part of UD (later Diageo). There have been a few independent bottlings. The house style is sherried, with upfront fruit and spice.

[Read more >](#)

Nose:

Palate:

Finish:

Rating:



## **Bowmore 2000 / 7 Year old / Sherry Cask**

### **Single Islay Malt Scotch Whisky**

A new bottling of Bowmore 2000 from Murray McDavid. This little beauty has been matured in sherry casks and bottled at natural colour and without chill-filtration at 46%.

### **More Details:**

Country:	<b>Scotland</b>
Region:	<b>Islay</b>
Bottler:	<b>Murray McDavid</b>
Age:	<b>7 years old</b>
Vintage:	<b>2000</b>
Strength:	<b>46%</b>
Bottle Size:	<b>70cl</b>
Cask Type:	<b>Sherry</b>
Chill Filtered:	<b>No</b>
Number of Bottles:	<b>2450</b>

Nose:

Palate:

Finish:

Rating:



## **Mortlach 16 Year old**

### **Single Speyside Malt Scotch Whisky**

A cracking malt from a great, but criminally under-exposed distillery, Mortlach has a rich, complex, spicy sherried character and deserves far wider recognition.

### **More Details:**

Country:	<b>Scotland</b>
Region:	<b>Speyside</b>
Bottler:	<b>Flora &amp; Fauna</b>
Series:	<b>Flora &amp; Fauna</b>
Age:	<b>16 years old</b>
Strength:	<b>43%</b>
Bottle Size:	<b>70cl</b>

Nose:

Palate:

Finish:

Rating:



## Aberlour 18 Year old

### Single Speyside Malt Scotch Whisky

An exciting new addition to the range from Aberlour (already one of our favourite distilleries thanks to the excellent a'bunadh). This was one of the highlights at this year's Whisky Live: rich and fruity, with a great textured mouthfeel.

#### More Details:

Country:	Scotland
Region:	Speyside
Bottler:	Distillery Bottling
Age:	18 Year old
Strength:	43%
Bottle Size:	70cl

#### Customer Reviews:

##### Posted on 31 Mar 2008 :

This is fantastic if you like big sherried whiskies. Nose: Sherried oak. Butterscotch and brown sugar. I can sniff this till the cows come home. Palate: Spicy Christmas pudding Finish: Long rich and warming. Lovely after dinner malt. Posted By: Christopher Teague

#### Tasting Notes:

##### Producer's Tasting Notes

Nose: Rich and complex, milk chocolate and butterscotch combine with ripe peach and orange zest.

Palate: Perfect structure - initial notes of soft apricot and cream offset by developing flavours of liquorice and oak with a touch of honey.

Finish: Very long and balanced, progresses from creme brulee to a gentle oak flourish.

#### Brand Info:

##### Aberlour

[www.aberlour.co.uk](http://www.aberlour.co.uk)

The Aberlour Distillery is at the heart of Speyside, the country's premier whisky-making region. No fewer than half of Scotland's malt distilleries are located in Speyside, which is renowned for producing whiskies of subtle depth and elegance. Situated at the junction of the rivers Lour and Spey, the distillery is surrounded by glorious scenery, dominated by the rugged peaks of Ben Rinnes a short distance away. Pure spring water for making the whisky is drawn from the Lour, and the maturing spirit in the warehouse beneficially inhales the moist Speyside air.

Nose:

Palate:

Finish:

Rating:

Nose:

Palate:

Finish:

Rating:



## Ardbeg 1998 / Renaissance

### Single Islay Malt Scotch Whisky

Here at last! It's the Ardbeg Renaissance, the end of the series that began with the 'Very Young' 6yo which now changes hands for silly money on eBay. This is the first 10-year old Ardbeg that is entirely comprised of spirit produced after Glenmorangie's takeover of the distillery in 1997. A fitting end to the series.

### More Details:

Country:	<b>Scotland</b>
Region:	<b>Islay</b>
Bottler:	<b>Distillery Bottling</b>
Age:	<b>10 Year old</b>
Vintage:	<b>1998</b>
Strength:	<b>55.9%</b>
Bottle Size:	<b>70cl</b>

### Brand Info:

#### Ardbeg

Ardbeg was officially established by the MacDougall family in 1815, the same year as Laphroaig came into official existence a few miles along the road, although it seems that illicit distilling had already been taking place on the site for over twenty years, with Alexander Stewart having founded a distillery there in 1794. Like its fellow southern Ileachs, Laphroaig and Lagavulin, Ardbeg is heavily peated, with a turfy smoke and seaspray character predominant in most bottlings. The distillery fell foul of the global whisky downturn in the late 1970s, which, coupled with some criminal mismanagement by the then owners Hiram Walker, led to the distillery falling silent in 1981. Production resumed sporadically in 1989, but the distillery fell silent again in 1996.

Nose:

Palate:

Finish:

Rating:

### Tasting Notes:

#### Tasting Notes by Tim F

N: Immediate sherbertiness (if that's a word) - lemony. Then some tinned fruit salad, sugar syrup, sawdust and peach melba. The peat remains in the background as the nose develops green apples and barley sugar, then comes forward: coal smoke & woodsmoke, very nice. With time, the nose becomes more peppery, with not unpleasant hints of tweed and old floorboards, like an ageing relative's attic. But the real thing is the sherbert: it's almost as if the whisky is effervescent - you can't help half-expecting it to fizz up your nose...

P: A big coal hit, then the spices come rushing in - yowser! Very warming, the bonfire notes are here again, but accompanied by some exotic fruit. Then it's the turn of the coal - this is a smouldering, intense, complex whisky. It's also delicious.

F: As the smoke and spice roar on, the finish becomes slightly drying, with dusty oak, honey and...is that peach yoghurt? Whatever. This is going down a treat.

Comment: A great end to the 'Young' series. Ardbeg call it the 'path to peaty maturity', but whatever you want to call it, it's been a great trip. And this stuff is brilliant. Bodes very well for the widely-anticipated new batch of 10 year-old.

## Producer's Tasting Notes

**Aroma:** Leap into this Ardbeg with a blast of peat soaked in vibrant tropical juices. Toasted vanilla and sizzling cinnamon escape into the atmosphere with sherbet space dust and smooth Swiss chocolate spheres. Wispy creamy malt brings a light frothiness, softening the effervescent fruits and sizzling spices as they continue to erupt from the inner peaty core.

Add water and observe the aromas accelerate and explode.

Juicy melons, pineapple chunks and lime jus bring sparkling zest and vitality as they fizz from the glass, released against a background of musky scented peat with clouds of jasmine and violets. Fresh summer blackberries and redcurrants bring a rich fruity display before a shockwave of camphor and menthol freshens and cools the air with bursts of aniseed and spiced rum. In the background, the smoky remnants of a fireworks display linger and dissipate.

**Taste:** The effect of the full ten-year-old maturation explodes on the tongue. An explosive crackle of peat sizzles and pops setting off a chain reaction of flavour explosions: cinnamon-spiced toffee and smoked chocolate limes fuse on the tongue; warm toasted bananas and bitter almonds meld together; ginger-spiced apples and pears soak into the palate; Seville orange crystals in marmalade bring a zingy bite.

As the fizzy explosions reduce to a sizzle, smoke from the explosions builds up; developing into a smoke house filled with freshly ground dark espresso coffee, sticks of liquorice root and a bowlful of sugared almonds, coating the palate with chewy peat oils.

**Finish:** The taste goes on and on leaving a smoky jet stream of simmering peat oils, wispy vanilla cream and chewy liquorice whirls.

Nose:

Palate:

Finish:

Rating:



**Southern Tier “Jahva” Imperial Coffee Stout 11% ABV NY**

2-row pale malt  
Caramel malt  
Chocolate malt  
Black malt  
Roasted barley  
Cascade and Columbus hops  
Jamaican roasted coffee

Nose:

Palate:

Finish:



**“1809” Berliner Weisse 5% abv Fritz Briem Germany**

Nose:

Palate:

Finish:



**Stone Brewery “11th Anniversary Ale” 9/07 8.7% abv CA**

Nose:

Palate:

Finish:



**Left Hand Brewing Co “Smoke Jumper” Smoked Imperial Porter  
2008 Bottle Conditioned, no abv listed,**

Nose:

Palate:

Finish:



**Stone Brewery 13th Anniversary Ale 9.5% abv**

Nose:

Palate:

Finish:

**Troegs Flying Mouflan Ale, Troegs Brewing Co., Harrisburg  
9.3%, described as “hops dipped in candied sugar and  
rolled in dark chocolate nibs”**

Nose:

Palate:

Finish:

**Two Headed Beast Chocolate stout, High and Mighty Beer Co.,  
Holyoke, MA 5.5%, brewed with cocoa beans**

Nose:

Palate:

Finish:



**Weyerbacher Echo PA**

Nose:

Palate:

Finish:



**Weyerbacher Fox Trot PA**

Nose:

Palate:

Finish:



**Terrapin Beer Co "Rye Squared" Imperial Pale Ale 8.5% abv GA**

Nose:

Palate:

Finish:



**Strongbow English Dry Cider 5% abv HP Bulmers Importer & Bottler**

Nose:

Palate:

Finish:



**General Lafayette “Chocolate Thunder” Porter Barren Hill Brewing Co.,  
Lafayette Hill, PA 6.7% abv**

Nose:

Palate:

Finish:

**Espresso Oak aged Yetti, Great Divide Brewing Co., Denver, CO  
9.5% abv, stout aged on oak chips with coffee added**

Nose:

Palate:

Finish:

**Beer**

Nose:

Palate:

Finish:





