

GLENCADAM

featured in

Glencadam

A distillery where time stands still

The last two centuries have wrought plenty of change in the world, but at Glencadam, evolution has been minimal. From the outside, the distillery still looks much as it did when founded in 1825; inside, 20th-century equipment has replaced older tools, and the waterwheel that once powered the operations is gone, but there's still a sense of stepping back in time. (The graveyard next door reinforces the feeling.)

Most emblematic of Glencadam's long legacy is its whisky, which is bright and clean, with a purity of character that speaks to its primary role as a blending ingredient for Angus Dundee brands like Scottish Royal and those of other producers. Starting with a clear wort, Glencadam's stills promote high copper interaction, thanks to both upward-angled lyne arms—which create more reflux, condensing alcohol vapors repeatedly—and external still heaters, which agitate the liquid inside. “That liquid is constantly circulating, and as it does so it picks up more copper sulfate,” says distillery manager Douglas Fitchett. “We try to get as much copper sulfate in the new spirit as we possibly can. Once it goes into cask, the oak takes the sulfur out.” The result? A whisky that's fresh as new-mown hay, kissed by the cask.

Needless to say, Glencadam uses no automation. “We produce consistent spirit,” says distilleries director Fleming. “But we're probably producing—and I'm not just saying that because I'm here—better spirit, because it's not done by machinery. It's done by human beings.” Glencadam will soon have a visitor center and offer tours. But it'll never lose touch with its history—especially when the new waterwheel is installed, right in the distillery's heart.

DRINK THIS

Glencadam 15 year old
46% • \$75
92 points

Heathery, sweet, and floral aromas build a strong foundation for pure flavors of shortbread, crushed almond, lemon, and coconut cake



Aged 10 Years

Impeccable balance from start to finish; clean and structured. The nose is floral and fresh with jasmine, freesie, and apple blossom, plus green pears, lemon, talcum powder, and almond cream. Lemon, coconut, and vanilla form a sweet bright palate that revels in its celebration of malt; Think of apricot jam in a shortbread thumbprint cookie. Sweet and clean finish with persistent lemon, vanilla, and mouthwatering oak.

—SSB

Aged 15 Years

More complex than its pale hue suggests. The nose is sweet and malty: Honey Nut Cheerios, butterscotch, sliced green apple with caramel dip, poached pear, and a whiff of sweet pipe tobacco. Lively white pepper and grated ginger permeate milk chocolate-covered caramels, toasted almond, and savory cereals on the palate; there's also fresh pear and apple and creamy vanilla. Almonds, pipe tobacco, dried orange zest, cacao nibs, and lingering restrained savory oak on the finish. —SSB

Aged 25 Years

Refined aromas of dried apricots, strawberries, peonies, candle wax, marzipan, graham cracker, candied ginger, and vanilla frosting carry through to the palate, which showcases sugared almonds. Raisinets, dried apricots, red berry jam, Fig Newtons, and savory tobacco. A few drops of water temper oak tannin. The finish is lengthy and complex, yet soft with orange marmalad, dark chocolate, coffee bean, dried cherries and ginger, and tobacco. There's a lovely delicacy among layered complexity. —SSB

92 Points

92 Points

93 Points



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