







OUR HISTORY

Flavour has always been in our family at Gordon & MacPhail.

Established as a grocery business in 1895 in the heart of Scotland's whisky-making region, Gordon & MacPhail curated exotic commodities from around the world such as tea, coffee, wines, and spirits. As part of this tapestry of taste, the founders James Gordon and John Alexander MacPhail drew upon the finest local produce, stocking some of the region's single malt Scotch whisky, all the while supporting their motto of providing "a superior article at a popular price".

It was in these early years when a youngster by the name of John Urquhart joined the business to serve as an apprentice under the two founding partners. Quickly finding his feet, Urquhart found himself in a role helping James Gordon select and purchase whiskies from some of the local distilleries, as well as assisting with the creation of house blends for the shop's customers across the North of Scotland.

After John MacPhail's retirement and James Gordon's passing, both within a short space of time during 1915, John Urquhart found himself in the role of senior partner. In this position he was able to build up the spirits side of the business, focusing on understanding the spirit from the great local single malt whisky producers such as Macallan, Glenlivet, Glen Grant, Linkwood, and Mortlach, along with others both in the Speyside region and across Scotland.

It was through these carefully crafted relationships with the local single malt distillers and a deep understanding of the spirit which they produced, that John Urquhart was able to focus on the importance of maturation. Matching spirit with oak, Urquhart turned Gordon & MacPhail into 'Cask Curators', sourcing wood with which to fill new-make spirit from across Scotland's malt distilleries, only finally bottling it for sale when it reached its perfect maturation.

Having built up an impressive portfolio of maturing whisky casks, John Urquhart was able to pass on his profound knowledge and passion for Scotch through his family. In 1933, John was joined in the business by his son George and daughter Betty and later Gordon, who joined in 1950.



OUR HISTORY

By this time, the family were bottling the largest range of different Scotch single malt whiskies in the world and in the decades following the Second World War, many commenters observe it was Gordon & MacPhail who kept the water of life alive and flowing in Scotland. Through its close relationship with Scotland's malt distilleries, Gordon & MacPhail began to bottle single malts using individual distillery's own labels allowing both those working at the distilleries and the general public a chance to enjoy their unique single malt whisky, often for the very first time.

In the 1960s, George Urquhart took the unprecedented step of launching a range of single malts from distilleries across Scotland, bottling them under the banner 'Connoisseurs Choice'. This range was aimed at the emerging markets of France, USA, and The Netherlands who had all developed a love for well-matured single malt Scotch whisky and set the trend for single malts around the world

Inspired by the 'Connoisseurs Choice' collection, it wasn't just the ranges on offer from the Gordon & MacPhail stable which grew, but also the family involvement. Just as John had introduced George to the business, George proudly brought in his own children. The eldest, lan joined in 1967, followed by David, a business graduate, in 1972, Michael, a chartered accountant, in 1981, and Rosemary in 1990.

Today, George's grandsons Stephen Rankin and Neil Urquhart are part of the spirited journey, both joining the family business and eventually appointed as directors in 2010. The legacy continues with the fourth generation, as brothers Richard and Stuart Urquhart work in key roles in the business and uphold the family ideal of carefully matching spirit with oak, and only bottling whisky when it is truly ready.

Still operating its flagship shop from the same location of South Street, Elgin, for over one hundred and twenty years, Gordon & MacPhail has grown from its humble beginnings. Today it is recognised as a global business and vital part of the Scotch whisky industry, employing over 150 people in Elgin and beyond. Born from not just bottling whisky, but maturing it; understanding the cask from the inside out, Gordon & MacPhail brings you a family of whiskies where each bottle plays a vital role and where flavour is the key.

Welcome to the Gordon & MacPhail family of whiskies.

OUR RANGES

THE MACPHAIL'S CONNOISSEURS COLLECTION

A SPIRITED JOURNEY THROUGH SCOTLAND

CHOICE

CONNOISSEUR-AN EXPERT JUDGE IN MATTERS OF TASTE

CASK STRENGTH

SINGLE MALT SCOTCH WHISKY, STRAIGHT FROM THE CASK

SPEYMALT FROM **MACALLAN DISTILLERY**

THE SPIRIT FROM BESIDE THE SPEY

DISTILLERY LABELS & RARE VINTAGE

ANCIENT PARTNERSHIPS REALISED















GENERATIONS SCOTLAND'S LIQUID HISTORY







THE MACPHAIL'S COLLECTION

A SPIRITED JOURNEY THROUGH SCOTLAND

At the very heart of our business lies the sample room; its contents, the sum of over a century of experience maturing and bottling the finest Scotch whisky. We regularly sample the contents of our casks to make sure they are maturing well, only bottling them for sale when we believe they are truly ready.

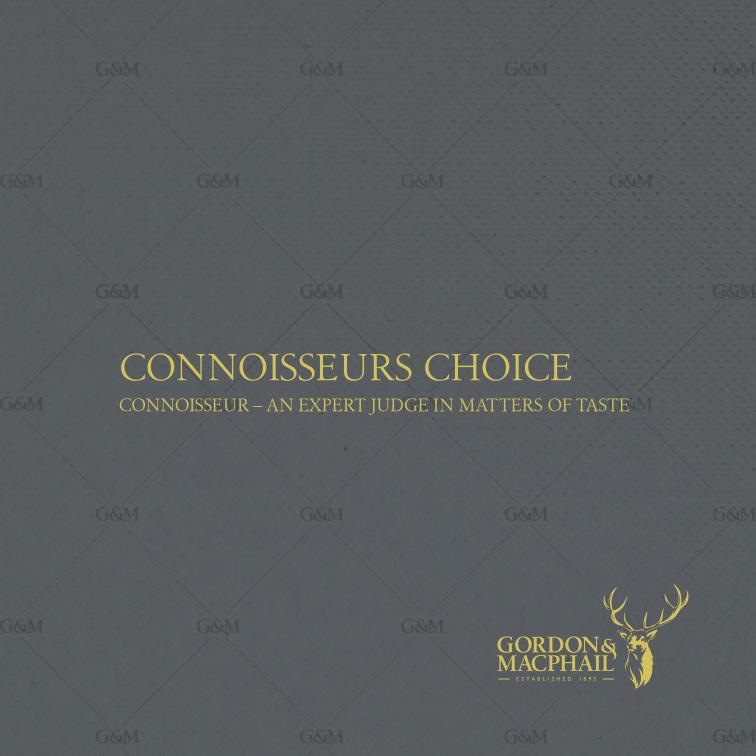
This approach to cask curation means we know exactly how spirit with a specific distillery character matures in different styles of oak. Using this knowledge, which has been handed down through four generations of the Urquhart family, we created 'The MacPhail's Collection': a selection of seven unique distilleries from across Scotland; providing the perfect starting point for a spirited journey to discovering the outstanding diverse flavours of single malt Scotch whisky.

Located in Scotland's key whisky-making regions, this broad assortment includes the highly characteristic island distilleries of Bunnahabhain on Islay and Highland Park on Orkney. The pair are complemented by Pulteney and Glenturret, respectively from the North and South of the Highlands, alongside Tamdhu and Glenrothes, both situated in Speyside. The collection concludes with the addition of a rare malt from the Glen Scotia Distillery in the Campbeltown region.

The seven distilleries scattered across Scotland which make up 'The MacPhail's Collection' each produce their own unique style of whisky. When we know it is ready, we bottle it at 43% ABV making sure each release carries either an age statement or a vintage.









CONNOISSEURS CHOICE

CONNOISSEUR – AN EXPERT JUDGE IN MATTERS OF TASTE

In the 1960s George Urquhart, one of the first of four generations of the Urquhart family to shape the future of Gordon & MacPhail, pioneered a range of single malt Scotch whiskies, which he selected, matured, and bottled. In doing so, he effectively invented a category in a market previously focused entirely on blended whiskies.

The 'Connoisseurs Choice' range from Gordon & MacPhail broke innovative new ground, giving a platform to many of Scotland's single malt distilleries from across all regions, some of which had never before been bottled as a single malt.

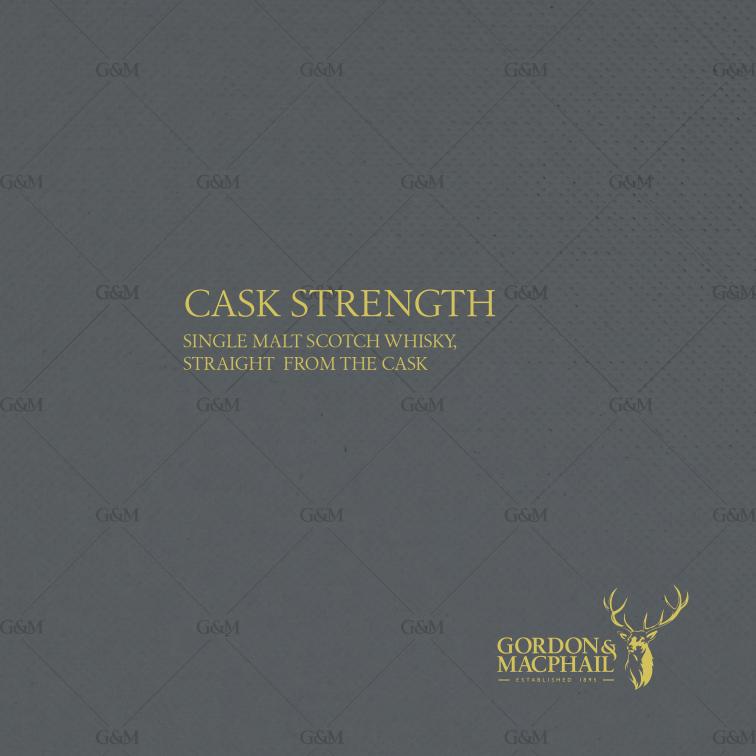
Over the past five decades, we have maintained our belief that every distillery has a personality of its own. The collection of whiskies in the 'Connoisseurs Choice' range is constantly evolving, aiming always to highlight the unique characteristics of the individual distilleries

The 'Connoisseurs Choice' collection brings together rare and sought after single malts from some of Scotland's longest established distilleries; we mature and bottle spirit from distilleries as diverse as Caol IIa on the island of Islay to Strathmill in Speyside.

The range also highlights the output of Scotland's newer distilleries, such as our releases from the Isle of Arran Distillery.









CASK STRENGTH

SINGLE MALT SCOTCH WHISKY, STRAIGHT FROM THE CASK

The 'Cask Strength' collection by Gordon & MacPhail captures single malt whisky direct from our skilfully coopered casks. Delivering a full spectrum of flavour compounds - from sweet vanilla and tropical fruit notes to rich toffee, dark chocolate, and spice tones - each whisky in this range demonstrates how the cask and spirit interact at natural cask strength.

During the extensive process of cask assessment, we regularly draw samples from our maturing stocks of whisky. We assess each with the knowledge handed down through four generations of the Urquhart family.

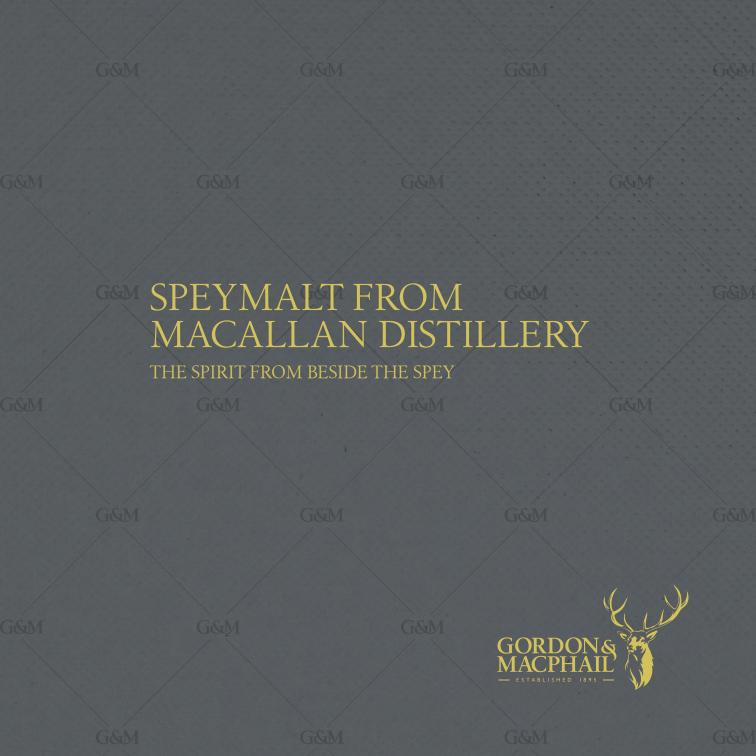
Built up over these generations, each sample is tasted at natural cask strength and our evaluation determines the ultimate fate of the cask: liberate a vibrant vintage for bottling; or leave it to continue maturing, gaining even more complexity.

Each bottling in the 'Cask Strength' range has a unique ABV, which is ultimately determined by the casks themselves. Once bottled, it allows you to enjoy the whisky as a perfect cask strength expression, or with a touch of water, releasing even more layers of detail and personality.

This is single malt Scotch whisky, straight from the cask.









SPEYMALT FROM MACALLAN DISTILLERY THE SPIRIT FROM BESIDE THE SPEY

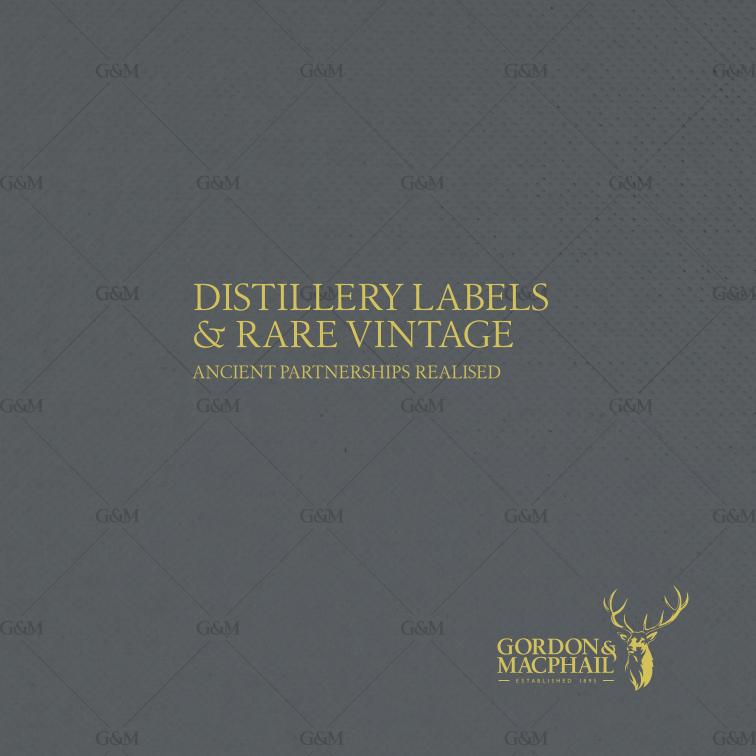
Gordon & MacPhail has been the purveyor of fine goods across three centuries and over many years we have built up and nurtured special relationships with local producers. Amongst these are a number of local whisky producers in the Speyside region from whom we purchase new-make spirit to be matured in our own oak casks. However, there is only one distillery for whom we reserve the title 'Speymalt'.

Established in 1824 and situated overlooking the fishing beats on the River Spey, the Macallan Distillery produces a wonderfully complex spirit which we then carefully mature in quality oak casks ordered specifically for the 'Speymalt' range.

Each bottling carries the vintage of distillation and the year of bottling, capturing an exceptionally mature single malt whisky.









DISTILLERY LABELS & RARE VINTAGE

ANCIENT PARTNERSHIPS REALISED

Building and nurturing long lasting relationships has always been key to curating our collection of single malt whiskies. It's our relationships from the Sherry bodegas in Jerez, Spain, and the American oak cooperages in Kentucky – where we source casks of the finest quality – to those who distil the Scottish malt spirit – which we fill into our casks – that has helped shape our foundations and continue to develop the future of Gordon & MacPhail.

The result of the mutual support and friendship with some of Scotland's single malt producers means that Gordon & MacPhail has traditionally matured and bottled whisky from a collection of distilleries, releasing them with a 'house' label, unique to each distillery.

From the Orkney distillery of Scapa, through to Speyside classics such as Strathisla, Longmorn, and Glen Grant, our 'Distillery Labels' series showcases individual producers with whom Gordon & MacPhail has been working, sometimes for over a century. It was these trusted relationships which allowed us to be amongst the first companies to capture examples of the unique styles and individual production from a variety of Scotland's single malt distilleries, bringing them to the consumer:

The 'Distillery Labels' range dovetails into the 'Rare Vintage' collection, home to our exceptionally rare single malts also featuring the original historic distillery labels. The 'Rare Vintage' range starts with whiskies aged between twenty-one and forty-nine years old, housed in a green frame box. Those whiskies fifty years and over, either carrying an age statement or vintage, are treated to a sophisticated presentation box and a hand signed certificate detailing the distillery of origin, product information, and tasting notes.









closed its doors in 1985

RARE OLD

WHISKY FROM FORGOTTEN STILLS; A BYGONE ERA BOTTLED

The 'Rare Old' range by Gordon & MacPhail captures lost gems from a bygone era of single malt Scotch whisky production. This is a reflective collection of expertly matured whiskies - many of which are from distilleries long forgotten, now permanently joining the angels.

Some of these distilleries have been mothballed, others closed completely. Our 'Rare Old' range captures the legacy left by these now departed grand old men of whisky. Often 'Victims of Circumstance,' these whiskies have been silently maturing, slowly finding their own unique voice, and today, they have come to represent some of the finest ever expressions distilled in Scotland.

The 'Rare Old' range includes the bold flavours of the Highland distillery Brora and the beautifully subtle smokiness of the now legendary Islay distillery, Port Ellen; both distilleries permanently closed in the latter part of the twentieth century. In contrast to these highly complex flavours are the unusually triple-distilled, delicate floral fruitiness of the Rosebank Distillery from the Lowlands, and the multi-layered richness of Dufftown's Convalmore Distillery, which finally

A snapshot in time, each release from the 'Rare Old' range serves as a reminder of Scotland's rich distilling heritage, showcasing whisky from forgotten stills. A bygone era bottled.









FROM

ONGMORN DISTIL

Single Malt Scotch We

A RARE AND USIVE BOTTLING CASK MATURED

TT 27/03/1964

1964

ECTOR: Andrad Gc legebour BOTTLENO

CASK No. 1534

SERVET BILL SHERRY HOGSHEAD

PRIVATE COLLECTION

THE TRUE FAMILY SPIRIT

Hidden within the Gordon & MacPhail liquid archives are casks from specific Scottish distilleries and vintages that, either when individually selected and bottled at natural strength or combined together as a parcel of casks, represent a release of exceptional quality.

Specifically chosen by the directors of Gordon & MacPhail, including third and fourth generations of the Urquhart family, using the knowledge of spirit selection and cask maturation passed down across three centuries, casks are selected for their extreme quality and personality.

Through 'Private Collection', individual casks have been selected by our directors, bottled, and released with their cask number, vintage, and natural strength detailed on the label. It is also the home to some of our more unusual cask maturation methods. Here, some of the best loved distilleries are introduced to a wide variety of different finishes, including casks from world class wineries, which give an additional layer of rich fruitiness and unrivalled depth.

This diverse collection of incredible quality reflects the family spirit of Gordon & MacPhail: we only bottle our whiskies when we know they are ready.





PRIVATE COLLECTION

A FAMILY HISTORY DISTILLED

Four single cask, single malts from Gordon & MacPhail's 'Private Collection' range were bottled and released in 2014 to celebrate the steady transition of the family-owned business to the fourth generation.

Each of the four unique and historic bottlings is drawn from individual casks matured as part of Gordon & MacPhail's private collection and selected by members of the third and fourth generations of the Urquhart family.

Containing extremely rare whisky, filled exclusively into Gordon & MacPhail's own casks during the middle of the last century, the 'Private Collection' represents some of the finest examples of single malt Scotch from the Speyside distilleries of Glenlivet, Linkwood, Mortlach, and Strathisla. Matured for a combined total of 243 years, it highlights Gordon & MacPhail's dedication to top quality maturation and cask curation.

Beautifully designed, individually numbered glass decanters boast an engraved silver-plated neck collar and stopper, these come housed in a stunning wooden presentation box: the combination of wood, metal, glass, and whisky coming together in perfect balance.

The Gordon & MacPhail 'Private Collection' is truly a family history distilled.





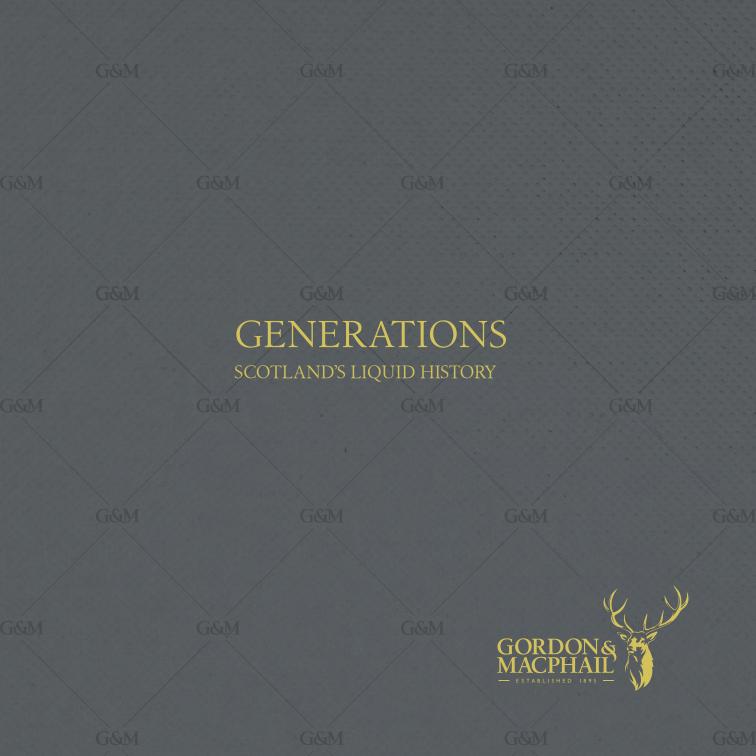














GENERATIONS SCOTLAND'S LIQUID HISTORY

The 'Generations' range from Gordon & MacPhail showcases the longest matured Scotch whisky ever to be bottled. This coming together of spirit selection and quality cask curation, matched with decades of knowledge and expertise, has resulted in a collection of whiskies which captures the finest moments of Scotland's liquid history: each and every one maturing under the direction and ownership of four generations of the Urquhart family.

Our first three releases from the 'Generations' range comprised two single casks from the Mortlach Distillery and one single cask from Glenlivet, all bottled as single casks, both distilleries representing the rich, diverse heritage of whisky making in the Speyside region.

The first 'Generations' was a 70 year old Mortlach, filled into one of our own casks on 15th October 1938 under the watchful eye of John Urquhart, the first of the four generations of the family to forge the future at Gordon & MacPhail. Seventy years later, this monumental whisky had reached perfection and was released at the historic surroundings of Edinburgh Castle on the 70th day of 2010.

The second release in this peerless range came in the form of cask 339 from Glenlivet Distillery - one of fifteen, first fill Sherry butts ordered to be filled on 3rd February 1940 by John Urquhart. Initially left to mature at the distillery, the cask was moved forty years later to Gordon & MacPhail's own bonded warehouses in Elgin, where it slumbered away for a further thirty years before being bottled, at 70 years old, and released in 2011 at Edinburgh Castle. A second bottling from the same cask was released in 2012 and launched in Vancouver.

Our 'Generations' range is reserved for our most exclusive single malt whiskies. The latest release is another outstanding single cask from Speyside's Mortlach Distillery, this time aged for 75 years and launched at the Royal Opera House in London, once again demonstrating the unrivalled complexity and wisdom unique to this range.









GENERATIONS MORTLACH 75 YEARS OLD BY GORDON & MACPHAIL

TASTING NOTE BY CHARLES MACLEAN

Appearance:

Mid-amber, with rubious lights.

Aroma (Nat. Str.):

Fresh and clean; very slight nose prickle: still lively. A highly perfumed, floral top note – lily of the valley, barber's shop, scented hand cream, soft leather lady's dress handbag – with a fruity complex in the middle (dried figs, pomegranate, ripe pear. Peach juice); creamy vanilla (Crème Anglaise), even vanilla fudge, and a faint trace of coffee in the background.

Aroma (@30% Vol):

Water reduces the floral notes with scented oil (bath oil? Teak oil?), increases the soft leather note and dries out the aroma somewhat (warm sanded hardwood).

Taste (Nat. Str.):

Sweet to start, but not as sweet as expected; considerable fresh acidity and slightly mouth drying. Bitter almonds. A most unusual trace of hemp ropes and very faded creosote, lending a slight smokiness. A medium-length finish, leaving an attractive aftertaste of sandalwood.

Taste (@30% Vol):

Lightly sweet; slightly oily texture; mouth drying; then slightly bitter finish. Some spice across the tongue. Warming, even at this lower strength.

Comment:

A most unusual taste – never before encountered. Smooth and highly sophisticated – elegant as a grande dame – the Ingrid Bergman of malts!



WRITTEN BY

Neil Ridley & Joel Harrison

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George House Boroughbriggs Road Elgin, Moray, Scotland IV30 1JY T | +44 (0)1343 545111 F | +44 (0)1343 540155

E | info@gordonandmacphail.com W | www.gordonandmacphail.com







