

ESTABLISHED 1898

THE BenRiach

DISTILLERY COMPANY LTD



UNLOCK THE SECRETS

BENRIACH COMES STRAIGHT FROM THE HEART

BenRiach lies in the heart of Speyside. Everyone at the distillery has a passion for making fine single malt whisky - none more so than the distillery workers... They put their all into creating it, ensuring that every single drop of BenRiach comes FROM THE HEART!

Philip Thompson:

"The enthusiasm is infectious at BenRiach. Seeing first hand the many different styles of whisky in the warehouses, it's hard to be anything but enthusiastic - there truly is something for every taste. It's a real one off in the Speyside region!"

Lindsay Cormie:

"I enjoy working at BenRiach because it's such an ambitious and forward thinking company. The work entailed is both interesting and pleasurable, just like the wide range of malt whiskies we produce."

Callum Purcel:

"Tradition; a byword at The BenRiach Distillery, but to me it's more than just a word. It's about working at the distillery where my father worked before me and also the excitement of working with the whisky he patiently crafted. The most amazing thing about being part of the BenRiach team, is having the chance to confirm to the world, that my father quietly regarded BenRiach as the true secret spirit of Speyside."



"Most books will tell you the 3 ingredients of malt whisky; water, barley and yeast, but here at BenRiach we have an abundance of 3 less talked about ingredients; dedication, pride and passion".

Stewart Buchanan, Distillery Manager

Distillery Facts: In 2009, The BenRiach Distillery Company received the Global Icons of Whisky 'Whisky Distiller of the Year' award

A WARMING WELCOME FROM THE BENRIACH DISTILLERY

FOR DISCERNING INDIVIDUALS

It's not often a long kept secret is revealed in the world of Single Malt Scotch Whisky - but here is a true discovery! Since 1898, the BenRiach distillery has very quietly been producing quality Single Malt Scotch Whisky, which has only ever been enjoyed in very small quantities, by a few discerning individuals who have been fortunate enough to come across a bottle.

Today, BenRiach continues to produce its very special Single Malt Whiskies, as an Independent Distiller.



UNIQUE AMONGST MANY

The BenRiach Distillery is located in the 'Heart of Speyside', between the village of Rothes and the town of Elgin, in the North-East of Scotland. The Spey Valley, in which the BenRiach Distillery was built by John Duff in 1898, is home to many of Scotland's great whiskies, but BenRiach has its own uniqueness borne from the particular methods and skills of the men who craft the whisky, the ingredients they use, the distinctive copper stills and high quality barrels selected for maturation.

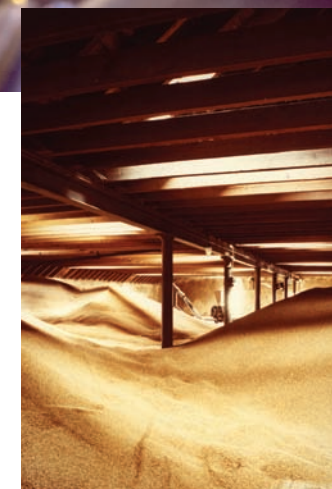
"I am often asked what makes BenRiach special. There is no one thing, but the starting point has to be reputation and legacy. Then you must take the astonishing skills of the men who craft the whisky, the ingredients we use, the copper stills, the high-quality casks, our rich and varied inventory and our broad range of peated and non-peated expressions. To these you must add independence, enthusiasm, creativity and a real passion for whisky craftsmanship. As a result you get what I call a "heavenly explosion" - a sensational, unique, complex tour de force. Delicate, smooth, yet full-flavoured. That's the inspired combination that unlocks BenRiach's secrets for true lovers of whisky."

Master Distiller, Billy Walker

Distillery Facts: The whisky at BenRiach is matured in the finest quality American oak casks and European wine barrels



Many of the BenRiach Single Malts sold on the market today were produced from barley malted in the distillery's traditional floor maltings, which produced both styles of malted barley - non-peated and peated.



Distillery Facts: The BenRiach Distillery has 4 stills: 2 wash stills and 2 spirit stills



The skill, knowledge and experience that has gone into the making of BenRiach, is testimony to the many years stretching back to the 19th century during which the distillery built its reputation. Few distilleries in Scotland hold such a history and few today can have quite such an exciting future.

Distillery Facts: BenRiach's capacity is 2.6 million litres of alcohol per annum

YOU WILL FIND THAT SOME SECRETS ARE TO BE FOUND IN THE PAST

HISTORY, HERITAGE AND LOCATION

The story of BenRiach, (in Gaelic, 'the Hill of the Red Deer'), is typical of the great Speyside distilleries. Built in 1898, the distillery was sited amongst the rolling barley fields that rise to the foothills of the Grampian mountains. The barley used in crafting the whisky was grown around the distillery and the water was, and still is, drawn from the Burnside Springs through the rock that lies deep below the distillery.

The barley harvested from the fields surrounding the distillery would be spread across the floors of the malting house to germinate. Peat, cut from the hills, fired the kiln and produced the heat required to control the germination process and the distinctive, peat scented smoke would be seen curling upwards from the malting chimneys throughout the year.

The distillery manager would oversee the slow and deliberate crafting process of the BenRiach whisky - managing the transformation from malted barley to wash, to distilled spirit and into high quality oak casks, in which the whisky would then mature. This was the beginning of the BenRiach story.

BUILDING ON A STRONG PAST

Deep in the musty darkness of the long, low traditional warehouses at the BenRiach Distillery, row upon row of oak casks rest, slowly maturing. This is an uninterrupted inventory of fine Speyside Single Malt, dating back to 1966. The casks contain the highest quality whisky and many reveal 'expressions' which have taken the industry experts by surprise due to their complexity and subtleness. Some are no less than outstanding examples of the art of whisky production.



Distillery Facts: At BenRiach our whisky is matured in traditional, low - roofed dunnage warehouses

INFLUENCE FROM THE PAST IS ONE SECRET TO BENRIACH'S PRESENT

1898 | The BenRiach Distillery is established by the Grant Family, on the same site as the Longmorn Distillery, built by John Duff.

The 1890s represented a real boom period in distillery development, as 33 new distilleries were built - 21 of which were located in Speyside. The timing proves to be unfortunate, with the completion of BenRiach preceding the 'Pattison Crash' by just a few months. The whisky business moves into a period of recession.

1900 | Widespread distillery closures follow the Pattison Crash and BenRiach is mothballed after just 2 years of production. BenRiach remains closed until 1965; however, the floor maltings remain in constant production during this period, providing malted barley for the fully operational Longmorn Distillery next door.

1965 | The whisky industry enters another boom period, and during the 60s and 70s, 12 new distilleries are built. This is a result of growing demand for blended Scotch Whisky in the US and BenRiach is re-opened by Glenlivet Distillers Ltd, having been upgraded internally. The period features and original character of the building are maintained and production re-commences.

1972 | In addition to the regular, non-peated distillation, production of peated malt whisky commences at BenRiach, in response to a need for a small quantity of peated malts in selected Chivas blends. Since being taken over in 2004, the BenRiach Distillery continues to distil both peated and non-peated styles.

1978 | Glenlivet Distillers Ltd is purchased by Seagrams.

1985 | Seagrams step production up at BenRiach and the distillery expands from 2 stills to 4.



UNDERSTANDING THIS INFLUENCE IS THE KEY TO BENRIACH'S FUTURE

1994 | BenRiach is released for the first time as a single malt brand in its own right.

The whisky is bottled at 10 years old and is included as part of Seagram's 'Heritage Collection' along with Strathisla, Glenkeith and Longmorn.

Annual bottling is limited to a few hundred cases and the original BenRiach 10YO, characterised by its understated pale-blue label, is somewhat of a rarity and particularly difficult to get hold of.

2001 | Seagrams are acquired by French firm Pernod Ricard, creating the 3rd largest spirits firm in the world after Diageo and Allied Domecq.

4 distilleries in the Pernod Ricard group move to rotational production, distilling for just 3 months of the year; BenRiach, Alt A'Bhainne, Braeval and Caperdonich.

2002 | All 4 distilleries are subsequently mothballed in August of 2002.

2004 | On April 29th 2004, the acquisition of The BenRiach Distillery by an independent consortium is completed and production re-convenes almost immediately, meaning the inventory is effectively uninterrupted.

On the 7th of August 2004 the first bottling of BenRiach, under the new owners, takes place. BenRiach 'Heart of Speyside' 12, 16 and 20 years old and the peated 10 year old are all bottled for the first time.

On the 20th of September 2004 the first distillation under the new owners is filled to cask. 96 'green' (i.e. first-fill bourbon) barrels are filled, numbered 1 to 96, and are immediately transferred to the BenRiach warehouses for maturation, not to see the light of day for at least 12 years.



CLASSIC SPEYSIDE COLLECTION

Of all the BenRiach expressions, these 4 malts form the distillery's core range and best capture the smooth, complex, full flavoured character traditionally associated with the Speyside region. All have a smooth, elegant full taste and aroma that captures fruity floral notes, with fascinating overtones of honey, vanilla, spices, toffee and apples.



HEART OF SPEYSIDE

NOSE Fresh heather, fruit, honey, nuts and oak wood.

COLOUR Amber gold.

TASTE This expression cleverly captures fruit, honey, heather and spice notes, against a backdrop of mellow oak wood, in a fresh and lively combination.

AGED 12 YEARS

NOSE Honey, vanilla, floral, fruity with well balanced wood overtones.

COLOUR Mid-amber, hints of gold.

TASTE Rounded, medium to full bodied, rich honey, vanilla with hints of cream, spice and chocolate.

AGED 16 YEARS

NOSE Honey, vanilla, floral and creamy notes.

COLOUR Mid-amber, hints of gold.

TASTE Very full bodied, rich honey, vanilla with hints of cream, spices, toffee, apples and light sherry overtones.

AGED 20 YEARS

NOSE Spicy, nutty, honey, vanilla, floral, fruity with well balanced wood overtones.

COLOUR Mid-amber, hints of gold.

TASTE Very full bodied, rich honey, vanilla with hints of apples, spice, chocolate and nuts.



PEDRO XIMINEZ FINISH

AGED 15 YEARS

NOSE Honey, sultanas, dark chocolate with a flood of Pedro Ximinez Sherry.

COLOUR Gold.

TASTE Cream and honey, infused with papaya, rose hips, eucalyptus and dark chocolate, all interwoven with rich Pedro Ximinez Sherry and oak wood.



WOOD FINISH EXPRESSIONS

Originally matured in the traditional style in American oak barrels, these whiskies are then 'finished', respectively, in either Sherry, Sauternes, Dark Rum, Madeira or Port casks. During the additional period of maturation the whiskies interact with the oak wood and derive a number of additional flavours and aromas specific to the 'finishing' cask.



SAUTERNES FINISH

AGED 16 YEARS

NOSE Sultanas, figs, butterscotch.

COLOUR Rich gold.

TASTE Rich sweet sauternes notes married with tropical fruits, melons, toffee, sultanas and butterscotch.



DARK RUM FINISH

AGED 15 YEARS

NOSE Fantastic interaction between toffee, spices, cinnamon and sultana, with a rich backdrop of rum.

COLOUR Light gold.

TASTE Toffee, cinnamon, apricots, rose hips and chocolate, with an avalanche of rum and sultanas in the finish.



MADEIRA FINISH

AGED 15 YEARS

NOSE Vanilla and spices with watermelon and peaches, with a rich backdrop of madeira and oak wood.

COLOUR Gold.

TASTE An avalanche of butterscotch, hazelnuts, peaches and spices, with a rich madeira finish.



TAWNY PORT FINISH

AGED 15 YEARS

NOSE Crème brûlée, honey, cinnamon and coconut in harmony with rich port notes and oak wood.

COLOUR Copper

TASTE Butterscotch, herbs, cinnamon, peaches and sultanas, infused with rich port and oak wood notes.

PEATED BENRIACH

Curiositas, Birnie Moss and Authenticus use a heavily peated malted barley as the cereal varietal to produce a unique, fresh, peated expression; this is particularly unusual for a Speyside malt, indeed BenRiach 'Curiositas', 'Birnie Moss' and 'Authenticus' are some of the few Speyside malts distilled from peated malted barley commercially available.



CURIOSITAS

AGED 10 YEARS

NOSE An explosion of aromatic peat reek, with fragrant hints of honey, fruit and mellow oak.

COLOUR Rich amber.

TASTE An avalanche of peat, followed by an extravagant and complex mix of fruit, heather, nuts, oak wood and spices.



BIRNIE MOSS

NOSE Rich peaty notes in wonderful balance with vanilla and oak wood.

COLOUR Golden.

TASTE An avalanche of rich, sweet Speyside peat, in combination with vanilla and tropical fruits.

Peated BenRiach is actually a return to the original Speyside character and flavour of malts typical of the nineteenth century. During this period the abundance of peat in the Speyside region combined with the limited reach of the railways at that time meant that peat represented a more economic and accessible fuel than coal.

With the development of the railroads, in particular the completion of the 'Strathspey' line in 1867, the opportunity emerged for the Speyside distilleries to compete more aggressively with their Lowland and Campbeltown counterparts for the supply of single malt to the large blending firms from Glasgow and Edinburgh.

Further in the 1960's, the US emerged as a huge market for blended Scotch, but were looking for a softer, less 'aggressive' style of whisky. The majority of Speyside distilleries switched to distillation from un-peated barley, to create a style more suited to blending, and this is the style typical of the region today.

However, since 1972, the BenRiach Distillery has been producing a proportion of peated malt whisky in addition to the regular, non-peated production.

AUTHENTICUS

AGED 21 YEARS

NOSE An explosion of smoke and peat, in combination with teasing hints of honey, apples and spices.

COLOUR Rich golden.

TASTE Rich peat, in perfect harmony with honey, chocolate, raisins and oak-wood, followed by a cascade of spices rolling over the palate.



THE BenRiach

MADEIRA FINISH

AGED 13 YEARS

NOSE Rich peat reek with vanilla, cocoa, spices and tropical fruits.

COLOUR Lively straw gold.

TASTE An avalanche of butterscotch, hazelnuts, peaches and spices, with a rich madeira finish.



UNLOCK THE SECRETS 

PEATED BENRIACH - FINISHES

BenRiach 'Maderensis Fumosus' is part of a range of four heavily peated BenRiach's, originally matured in American oak and then finished either in Madeira, Sherry, Port or Dark Rum wood.

In the case of 'Maderensis Fumosus', the whisky has been finished in madeira wine barrels, and the name, which is Latin, literally translates to 'Smoky Madeira'.

This maintains the tradition of giving our peated expressions Latin names, which started with Curiositas (10 years old) and Authenticus (21 years old), which has become somewhat of a signature for BenRiach.

Bottled at 46% (92 proof), at natural colour and non chill filtered, all of our 'Fumosus' expressions are available on a strictly limited basis.



HERODOTUS FUMOSUS
PEDRO XIMINEZ FINISH
AGED 12 YEARS

NOSE Sweet peat and smoke, clean citrus and vanilla notes with a rich backdrop of Pedro Ximinez Sherry.

COLOUR Golden.

TASTE Sweet peat and smoky kippers, bog myrtle, lavender and sultanas, with a sublime Pedro Ximinez Sherry finish.

IMPORTANTICUS FUMOSUS
TAWNY PORT FINISH
AGED 12 YEARS

NOSE A big experience with peat, seaweed, vanilla and herbs complementing the rich Tawny Port presence.

COLOUR Copper.

TASTE Wonderful sweet peat, bog myrtle and seaweed, with hints of vanilla, citrus and wild flowers, with a rich infusion of Port.

ARUMATICUS FUMOSUS
DARK RUM FINISH
AGED 12 YEARS

NOSE Peat reek and smokies, moor herbs and heather, followed by a cascade of rum and sultanas.

COLOUR Light gold.

TASTE Peat, eucalyptus, smokies, wild flowers and vanilla, with a huge infusion of sultanas and rum.

THE BenRiach

BENRIACH AGED 40 YEARS

NOSE Rich honeydew melon, orchard fruits with a hint of spice and sophisticated oak-wood notes.

COLOUR Rich amber gold.

TASTE Classical Speyside with elegant orchard fruits in combination with honey, hazelnut, orange and dark chocolate, with a finale of light smoke and rich oak-wood notes.



UNLOCK THE SECRETS



SUPER PREMIUM AND LIMITED RELEASE

Within the warehouses at BenRiach we store an impressive inventory of over 20,000 casks, some of which date as far back as 1966. Our master distiller carefully selects the most exceptional of these for our Super Premium Range and Limited Release Single Cask Vintage bottlings.



THE BENRIACH AGED 25 YEARS

NOSE
Rich honey, spices, apples and peat, in combination with superb oak-wood notes.

COLOUR
Rich golden.

TASTE
A rich cocktail of honey, Oloroso sherry, cocoa and apples, supported by a fascinating presence of citrus, sweet peat and wonderful wood notes.



THE BENRIACH AGED 30 YEARS

NOSE
A fantasia of spices, cinnamon, raisins, Demerara sugar and sherry, with dark chocolate and rich oak notes.

COLOUR
Rich golden.

TASTE
Very full-bodied - an avalanche of Oloroso sherry, spices and raisins, laced with Demerara sugar, orange and dark chocolate, with amazingly rich wood notes.

WHAT THE EXPERTS SAY...



CURIOSITAS

Silver Medal, International Wine and Spirits Competition 2009

Jim Murray: 95.5/100.

Martine Nouet: *'Incredibly phenolic... A Speyside? The most lshayish of all the Speysides I have ever tasted... 7 1/2 out of 10.'*



SHERRY WOOD FINISH

Classic (96-100) / Highest Recommendation Wine Enthusiast Magazine December 2008



AGED 16 YEARS

Gold Medal, International Wine and Spirits Competition 2006

Jim Murray: *'Overall score: 93/100. Nose: 23/25. Playful smoke gives a phenolic haze to the striking malt and mounting oak; Taste: 24/25, sensational mouth-arrival: the degree of barley sweetness is perfect as the soft oils and harmony between smoke and spice; Finish: 23/25, starchy vanilla at the death with the oak making some form of controlled impact: 23/25, just one of those whiskies that makes you contemplate the bottle in awe.'*



AGED 20 YEARS

Gold Medal, International Spirits Challenge 2005

Dave Broom: *'Mature ... Has weight behind: big, lush fruitiness ... Well integrated flavours ... Long, elegant and soft. 8 1/2 out of 10.'*



Quotes taken from:
 Jim Murray, 'Jim Murray's Whisky Bible 2008 and 2010 editions', published by Dram Good Books, Ltd.
 Dave Broom, 'Hidden Gems', Whisky Magazine Issue 4, [Feb 2005], Paragraph Publishing
 Martine Nouet, 'Hidden Gems', Whisky Magazine Issue 4, [Feb 2005], Paragraph Publishing
 Wine Enthusiast, December 4th, 2008





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