



# Fettercairn

## Fact Sheet

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# Fettercairn Story

One of the main attractions of Laurencekirk, the village nearest to Fettercairn, is a huge, ostentatious red sandstone archway spanning the road that commemorates the visit to the village of Queen Victoria and Prince Albert in 1861. Fettercairn has similarly grand pretensions. It was founded in 1825 by the local landowner Sir Alexander Ramsay, who then sold his estate, distillery and all, in 1830 to Sir John Gladstone, father of four-time British Prime Minister William Ewart Gladstone.

However, the Gladstone family were hands-off owners (fun though it is to imagine 'The People's William' getting to grips with distillation). Allowing the distillery to be run by tenants, they retained ownership until 1923. A short period (mostly in mothballs) under the control of Ross & Coulter ended when Fettercairn was sold to Associated Scottish Distilleries (ASD, the Scotch arm of National Distillers of America which, at its height, owned Bruichladdich, Glenury Royal, Glen Esk, Glenlochy, Benromach and Strathdee).

When ASD ceased trading in 1954, its estate was split up and Fettercairn ended up in private hands. Its new owner, Tom Scott Sutherland, had the distillery until 1971, when it was bought by Tomintoul-Glenlivet; from there it joined Whyte & Mackay.

"Whyte & Mackay take whisky distilleries and develop them in order to create new age expressions and enhance the brand awareness. Prices have been driven up by with the increased expression releases"

*Elite Wine & Whisky*

Although mainly a contributor to the firm's blends, it has long been bottled as a single malt. A more concerted effort started in 2009 when a range of aged variants and a pair of no-age bottlings, Fior and Fasque (the name of the Fettercairn estate), was released.

In 2018 Fettercairn was relaunched by Whyte & Mackay with a new range of single malts aged between 12 and 50 years old.

Fettercairn has a traditional distillery set-up with an open-topped mash tun (producing cloudy wort), wooden washbacks and small stills. There are even soap grinders on the sides of the wash stills. These would have been used to add non-perfumed soap as a surfactant to stop the stills boiling over.

The single malt is aged mostly in first-fill American oak – some new wood is also in the mix – to add a balancing sweetness, with some older expressions finished in fortified wine casks.

## Fettercairn Facts

- Capacity - 2.2 Million Litres Per Annum
- Malt Specification - Some heavily peated produced - 55ppm
- Stills - 4 lampglass stills
- Condenser Type - Shell and tube
- Heat Source - Steam
- Washbacks - Eight washbacks made of wood
- Mash Tun Type - Traditional
- Water Source - Spring



The  
Story

## RATE OF RETURN

**A Fettercairn 1966 50 Year Old Bottle, sold in June 2020 for £11,000 at auction**

For the liquid they produce about 2.2 million litres per year with a minimum 48 hour fermentation time. Everything points to a firm, quite heavy, nutty style. This was accentuated between 1995 and 2009, when the condensers were made of stainless steel. This added a slightly burnt, pot ale character to the new make. However, a quirky cooling ring attached to the top of the swan neck, which sprays cold water down the sides of the still, aids reflux and helps the spirit lean toward a lighter style.

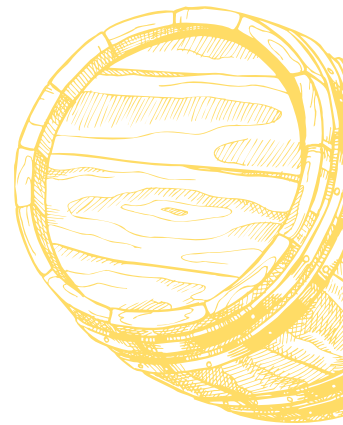
The nose of the 22 year old bottle has banana, citrus fruit and plum, combined with raisin, fig and ginger bread. Spiced pear, caramelised orange and coffee on the palate, tempered by liquorice that then makes way to morello cherry, plum and treacle in the finish.

Due to the heritage of this distillery, if you were to hold your cask for 16 years, rather than 12, the return will be considerably more.

Fettercairn whisky is relatively rare whisky and hence it has great potential due to the scarcity of casks being available for investment.

# Cask Storage

- 100% INDIVIDUAL OWNERSHIP
- STORED IN SECURE, HMRC APPROVED BONDED WAREHOUSES
- FULLY INSURED FOR FIRE, THEFT AND DAMAGE
- EXEMPT FROM CGT (CAPITAL GAINS TAX)




**£210**

**FETTERCAIRN 22 YEAR OLD SINGLE MALT -**  
70CL / 47%



**£38.95**

**FETTERCAIRN 12 YEAR OLD SINGLE MALT -**  
70CL / 40%



**£11,000**

**FETTERCAIRN 1966 50 YEAR OLD -**  
70CL / 47.9%



REGION  
*Highland*

PRODUCTION TYPE  
*Single malt*

DISTILLERY STATUS  
*Working*

HIGHLANDS

# Types of casks

THERE ARE NUMEROUS TYPES OF CASKS THAT WHISKY CAN BE MATURED IN,

## BOURBON

Bourbon barrels go through toasting and charring prior to Bourbon being added, they are made of American White Oak. Bourbon barrels are the most common cask used for Scotch whisky due to supply and demand. By law bourbon must be aged in new casks, meaning that after their first use they are generally surplus to requirements.

## SHERRY

Sherry casks are a speciality and are very popular yet very expensive (up to 10 times the cost of a bourbon barrel usually). The sherry industry avoids using new oak, and most of the casks used in Solera are at least ten years old. Sherry casks are flavoured with wine prior to being used for Sherry. Sherry gets its flavour through an array of ageing methods. For example, oloroso has contact with air, which contributes to the fruity and nutty flavours, while fino is protected from the air by a layer of yeast, also known as flor, and this keeps the sherry light and crisp.

## HOGSHEAD

Hogsheads are typically also made from American white oak, and indeed are often built from staves originally taken from bourbon barrels. What makes Hogsheads different is the large size meaning that there is less interaction with the wood than in smaller casks, allowing a slightly longer period for maturation.

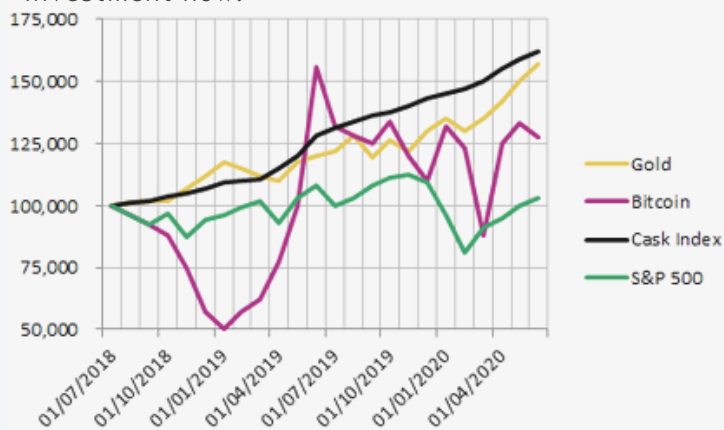
## DOUBLE OAK

Two different types of oak barrel are used for Double Oak casks. The first is a regular Bourbon barrel that's toasted and charred in the normal manner. The second barrel is more heavily toasted and lightly charred more than the first. This allows more of the cask wood sugars to caramelise, giving the Whisky hints of vanilla and sweet notes.

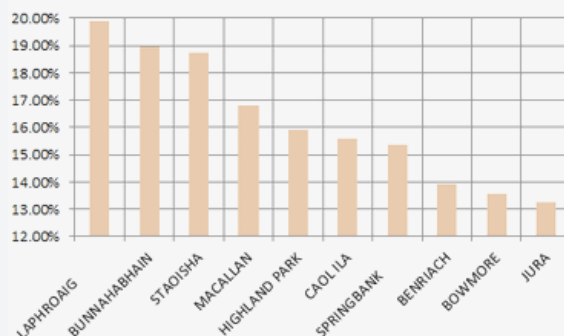
## WHISKY MARKET OVERVIEW

Whisky is now produced the world over and demand is significantly out-stripping supply. It has become a £4.2 billion in Scotland and worth multiple billions globally. There is no doubt the whisky revolution is here to stay and for that reason is an excellent opportunity to invest in.

Although there are around 20 million casks of whisky aging in warehouses in Scotland alone most of these will go towards blended whisky, which is why owning a cask of single malt is a great investment now.



## TOP TEN DISTILLERIES AVERAGE ANNUAL CAPITAL GROWTH



Scotch Whisky accounts for 79% of all spirits exported from the UK. In 2017, UK companies added £449 million to the value of the spirits export from the UK. Almost 80% of this growth was the result of an additional £359 million of Scotch Whisky.

Average annual growth of distilleries in 2020 were noted to all be positive; thus demonstrating vast potential of the asset.