



Gordon & MacPhail

CONNOISSEURS CHOICE RANGE

This is a brand of unusual single malt whiskies, distinguished by their labels, which indicate the region from which they come. Many of these whiskies are only available under the Connoisseurs Choice range.

BENRINNES 1974 43%

Region: Speyside.
Nr Aberlour.
Founded: 1820.
Water Source: Scurran & Rowntree Burns.
Owner: Diageo.
Status: Operational.

Notes:

Benrinnis is the predominant peak among the mountains overlooking the heart of Speyside. The early history of the distillery indicate that it was very much run as part of a farm, with various outhouse being converted. It was rebuilt as a distillery when the buildings were destroyed during floods in 1829. The distillery has enjoyed almost continual production with only short breaks for the war years. As a malt it is highly prized by blenders and it's one of the handful of whiskies rated as 1st Class.

Although from the outside the distillery has the appearance of other distilleries rebuilt around the 1960s, it incorporates some unique features of whisky making. In 1964 a Saladin Box malting system replaced the floor maltings and was used for the following 20 years. Benrinnis uses a form of triple-distillation. This method produces a spirit of around 76% volume, several degrees more than it can be achieved by double distillation. The stills are grouped in threes not pairs. Until 1966 there was just one set of stills, when the capacity was then doubled by installing a second set. Benrinnis also offers the opportunity to see worm-tubs, the traditional pipe-spirals immersed in cold water, to condense the vapours produced by the stills.



TASTING NOTE

Colour: Light gold.

Without water

Nose: Sweet, candied fruits, citrus peel and sherry aromas. Spices - hints of cloves and cinnamon. Touch of charred oak.

Palate: Rich, spicy with fruity notes - Christmas pudding. Reminiscent of rum and raisin toffees. A drying smoky note.

With water

Nose: Fruit aromas with dry grass, leafy aromas. A sweet malt/cereal note present. A slight waxy note present.

Palate: Rich, sherrywood flavours. Burnt fruits and eucalyptus notes. A delicate smokiness emerges.

Body: Light.

Finish: Sherry wood.

Cask Type: Refill sherry hogsheads.

Whisky Style: Despite its age, the whisky shows a fresh, clean character with typical Speyside character.

OTHER BOTTLINGS AVAILABLE

CC Distilled 1991 43%