



TASTING BRIEF

NOVEMBER 21, 2025



For much of Scottish history, whisky making thrived outside the law, as high taxes pushed farmers and small producers to operate hidden stills deep in the hills and glens. Excisemen often patrolled the countryside looking for the telltale sight of thin trails of smoke rising from concealed bothies, but enforcement rarely kept pace with the scale of illicit distilling. When the 1823 Excise Act finally made legal distillation viable, many of these secret operations stepped into the light—and that’s exactly the world Glengoyne emerged from.



THE DISTILLERY

Nestled in a secluded glen that once sheltered clandestine stills, Glengoyne's 1833 founding wasn't so much a beginning as the moment an already well-established whisky tradition finally appeared on the books.

Glengoyne Distillery, is often described as "the most beautiful distillery in Scotland," tucked right on the Highland Line—so close, in fact, that its warehouses sit in the Lowlands while its stills sit in the Highlands. That unique geography technically makes Glengoyne both a Highland and Lowland whisky at the same time. From its earliest days as the Burnfoot Distillery, Glengoyne built its identity around one unusual tradition: no peat, ever. In the 1800s this was borderline rebellious, since peat-smoked barley was the norm across most Scottish distilleries. Glengoyne instead dried its barley with warm air, setting the stage for the clean, fruit-forward style it's famous for today.

Glengoyne later became known for the slow, stubborn tradition of having the slowest still run in Scotland, taking nearly twice as long as many distilleries to coax spirit off the stills. This slow distillation, combined with meticulous wood sourcing (especially European oak sherry casks), shapes Glengoyne's signature style: elegant, rich, and layered. Today, Glengoyne steadfastly maintains natural color in every whisky, letting time, oak, and patience do all the storytelling.



12 YEAR

Region Highland

ABV 43%

Price \$59.99

Cask First-fill sherry, refill sherry, and first-fill bourbon

A gateway into Glengoyne's slow-distilled, unpeated Highland character, the 12 Year Old showcases the house style at its freshest. Matured in a thoughtful balance of sherry and bourbon casks, it highlights Glengoyne's commitment to natural color and long fermentation. This is the everyday Glengoyne: bright, approachable, and unmistakably clean.

Distillery Tasting Notes

Nose Toffee apples, a hint of lemon zest, and toasted barley, with subtle scents of acacia honey, nectarine, and coconut oil.

Taste Rich sweetness of over-ripe grapes and honey, complemented by a complex warmth of vanilla, coconut milk, cinnamon spice, and ginger.

Finish Long, oily, and well-balanced, leaving a lingering impression of coffee and soft oak





15 YEAR

Region Highland

ABV 43%

Price \$89.99

Cask Sherry, and first-fill
bourbon

The 15 Year Old represents Glengoyne's evolution into deeper complexity. With more time in both sherry and bourbon casks, it balances vibrancy with maturity. This expression is known for its layered, pastry-like elegance and refined spice, capturing the harmony of Glengoyne's careful cask management.

Distillery Tasting Notes

Nose Apple pie, caramel, warm baking spices, toasted nuts, dried apricot.

Taste Balanced honey, vanilla custard, oak spice, dried fruit, smooth malt.

Finish Medium-long, warming spice, nutty sherry notes, polished oak.





21 YEAR

Region Highland

ABV 43%

Price \$239.99

Cask First-fill European oak sherry casks

One of Glengoyne's crown jewels, the 21 Year Old is matured exclusively in first-fill European oak sherry casks—a hallmark of the distillery's slow craft ethos. Rich, indulgent, and deeply sherried, it reflects Glengoyne's dedication to time as an ingredient. This is the distillery at its most luxurious and contemplative.

Distillery Tasting Notes

Nose Christmas cake, dark dried fruits, cocoa, leather, rich sherry sweetness.

Taste Figs, plums, treacle, dark chocolate, polished oak, deep spice.

Finish Long, elegant, sherry-saturated; dark chocolate and aged oak linger.





GLENGOYNE

CASK STRENGTH BATCH 11

Region Highland

ABV 60.5%

Price \$99.99

Cask First-fill sherry, refill sherry, and first-fill bourbon

For those who want Glengoyne at full power, the Cask Strength releases capture the spirit straight from the barrel. Batch 11 continues the tradition with a bold combination of sherry and bourbon casks, bottled without chill filtration or dilution. It presents Glengoyne in its purest, richest, most dynamic form—each batch a snapshot of the warehouses and their natural variation.

Distillery Tasting Notes

Nose Intense dried fruit, caramel, vanilla, warm baking spice, and malty sweetness, with alcohol heat that quickly settles.

Taste Explosive sherry richness, red fruits, toffee, peppery spice, and bold oak. Thick, oily texture—opens beautifully with a few drops of water.

Finish Long, powerful, spice-forward with deep sherry notes and lingering sweetness.

