



Extensive research was conducted over several years in order to carefully and accurately document the history Glen Garioch and its founders, the Manson brothers, from the 18th Century until today.

Passionate about photography and whisky, the author combined these two passions in this book by offering to the reader a richly illustrated work with over 90 photographs to reveal the hidden beauty of this small distillery and tasting notes to reflect the changing nature of the Glen Garioch Highland Single Malt Whisky over the last 50 years.

Discover the beauty and the undoubted quality of the distillery and its product and its history in this handcrafted book, while savouring a dram.

ISBN 978-3-033-04249-0



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Glen Garioch distillery: The Manson Distillery, A Hidden Gem in Aberdeenshire Patrick Brossard

Glen **GARIOCH: The Manson Distillery**

A Hidden Gem in Aberdeenshire

by Patrick Brossard



Foreword

Why a book about Glengarioch distillery?

About 100 distilleries produce malt whisky in Scotland, but I always had a soft spot for this traditional, old-fashioned distillery producing fine malt. Its location, in the middle of the old town of Oldmeldrum might not be as romantic as a distillery on the seashore, neither is it lost in a deep, green glen nor at the foot of a majestic mountain. With its grey granite stones, Glengarioch reflects an image of durability and solidity. Thus, one would not be surprised to learn that Glengarioch distillery is one of the oldest, if not the oldest standing malt distillery of Scotland. As often, the first impressions might be misleading and once you have crossed the door of the visitor centre and toured the distillery, your opinion might be positively altered.

My first intimate contact with the distillery took place in 2007 as part of the Autumn Speyside Whisky Festival, a whisky festival of human(e) size taking place at the heart of the Speyside. Most of the tours were booked out, but some places were still open for the Glengarioch distillery. I did not know much about Glengarioch, besides for some previous experience with the Glen Garioch whisky and a brief previous visit. The tour was memorable, it included a visit of the old floor maltings, the kiln and the old wooden malt weighter. The distillery might be compact, but its charm is undeniable and it caught me off guard.

Shortly after this visit, I started to investigate the malt whisky produced by this traditional distillery more seriously and my next encounter was with some old Glen Garioch distilled in the 1960s and 1970s by independent bottlers and I succumbed immediately to its sensual medium-peated flavours enlaced with fine and subtle aromatic notes, in two words: Dream Dram! Since then, I feel an irresistible attraction towards any Glen Garioch. The Glen Garioch is a multi-faceted liquid, with the whisky reflecting the changes that occurred during the twisted history of the distillery since its last change of ownership in 1970: from a medium peated whisky to a peat monster before a progressive evolution towards a fine non-peated malt.

Intrigued by the change in the whisky profile over time, I wanted to investigate further the reason for these changes and started to research Glengarioch in order to understand the relationship between possible changes in the production process and their impact on the product.

While reading the published books articles or other on-line available information about Glengarioch and its whisky, I discovered that much information was contradictory between different sources. This led me to more in-depth investigations, researching through newspapers archives, House of Commons papers (Customs & Excise records), as well as making contact

with whisky writers, local associations, distillery staff and its owner. Unfortunately, historical archives of the distillery are more than limited, probably lost during the changes in ownership.

However, by combining all sources of information, it is possible to have a rather comprehensive idea of the development of this beautiful distillery from its foundations in the 18th Century until its current state in 2013 The result is this work.

I hope that you will enjoy this book and that you may come to look at the Glengarioch distillery and its whisky in a different way.

I wish to sincerely thank all the people who helped with this work (and apologise to those that I might have forgotten): Alexander (Akkie) Manson, Misako Udo, Charles MacLean, Peter Myers, Christine Jones MacAfferty, Andrew Rankin, Kenny Grant, Evelyn Munro, Colin Cummings, Jane Cattanach, John Mullen, Andrew Rankin, Willie Dobbins, all the staff at Glengarioch distillery, Tom Jones for the proofreading as well as my wife for her patience and reviewing the book.

Patrick Brossard, Switzerland, September 2013

