

Glenfarclas 21 – A Fitting Tribute to the Bard



After moving to Montreal in 2010, I started going to the St. Andrew's Society Annual Burns Supper. It is held in the University Club, which has an amazing selection of Single Malts. I always have a hard time selecting the whisky I will be enjoying. The first time I went I enjoyed a 21 year old Mortlach (one of my wife's favourites) and when I told my wife, who was not with me, she was clearly jealous. I can't repeat her exact words...

The second year I thought I'd try a Glenfarclas. I had seen Glenfarclas all over Scotland, particularly in Speyside region where the distillery is located. I had always meant to try it, but always chose something else. On this evening, I opted for the 21 year old. The bartender had to hop on the counter to retrieve the bottle; now that's a top shelf whisky.

He poured me a dram which I could barely wait to sample. It was the colour somewhere between honey and caramel, always a good look for a single malt.

I sniffed the bouquet. I detected floral notes, possibly some heather or clover, and maybe a hint of vanilla. But the most interesting thing about the nose was, it smelled warm. Not like if bottle was stored in front of a heating register, but rather it smelled the way a warm hug feels. It embraced my olfactory senses heartily.

I took a sip to see what pleasures awaited my taste buds. There was a smokiness to it, but not like a heavily peated whisky. It was just the right amount. You could detect fruitiness and floral notes in the taste as well. There were hints of apple and clover and maybe a very subtle vanilla.

One sensation I particularly enjoyed was how on the finish, my tongue tingled. After every sip it was there teasing me, begging me for more.

When I looked up Glenfarclas 21, the World of Whisky website said "**Overall:** Very, very pleasant. Could teach Roger Moore a thing or two about smoothness."

And that is the adjective which best describes this wonderful water of life. Smooooooth.

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