

WHISKY:EDITION

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Glen Ord 10 Years (2011/2021) - van Wees

The Glen Ord 2011/2021 10 Years Old from van Wees represents a fascinating connection between the traditional Glen Ord distillery in the Scottish Highlands and the Dutch independent bottler van Wees. Glen Ord, located in Muir of Ord since 1838, is one of Scotland's most technically advanced distilleries, producing over 11 million litres of pure alcohol annually. The distillery, known for its precise distillation technique and the use of six stainless steel washbacks, supplies the raw material for this 10-years single malt.

TYPE	COUNTRY	REGION	DISTILLERY
Single Malt	Scotland	Highlands	Glen Ord
BOTTLER	AGE	ABV	PRICE/LITER
van Wees	10 Years	46% Vol.	70.00 €/l

TASTING NOTES

NOSE

The olfactory analysis immediately reveals the characteristic Glen Ord DNA: a distinctly cereal-based structure dominates, with oatmeal notes forming the primary aroma structure. These cereal components are created by Glen Ord's specific mashing process at a mash temperature of 63-65°C, which ensures optimal starch conversion with minimal tannin extraction. Secondary fruit esters present themselves in the form of unripe banana notes – a typical characteristic of relatively young Highland distillates matured in ex-bourbon casks. Traces of vanilla, attributable to lignin degradation in American oak, support the aroma profile, while subtle citrus and pineapple components indicate clean fermentation with controlled ester formation processes. Peach notes complete the fruit spectrum and are created by specific acetates that are favoured by Glen Ord's moderate distillation temperatures.

PALATE

The technical precision of Glen Ord's distillation process is evident on the palate: a remarkably mild texture with a malty-sweet base structure dominates the mouthfeel. The sweetness results from residual sugars and glycerine compounds, which are preserved by the gentle distillation in Glen Ord's copper pot stills. Lightly perfumed notes – probably terpenic compounds from the new make spirit – give the whisky a floral dimension without being intrusive. White toast character shows moderate cask integration: the American oak has imparted its primary vanillin and tannins without dominating. A subtle saltiness, possibly from coastal storage in the Highlands, balances the sweetness and enhances the pear fruitiness. The texture is remarkably smooth – an indicator of clean distillation without sulphur compounds or fusel oils. This "ironed" characteristic speaks for excellent technical control throughout the production chain.

FINISH

The finish is deliberately restrained – a technical decision that is typical for 46% ABV and 10 years of maturation. A barely perceptible finish with minimal wood tannins indicates first-fill American oak casks that have already released their most aggressive components to previous contents. Slight dryness and spicy notes develop gradually, revealing the beginnings of a complexity that would become more intense with longer storage. This subtle development is characteristic of mid-aged Highland distillates.

THOUGHTS

MARCEL

This Glen Ord 2011/2021 from van Wees is simply a joy – it brings the gentle sweetness and malty heart of the Highlands straight to the glass, without any fuss. For anyone looking for an uncomplicated, mild single malt, it's a charming companion, even if it remains a bit too tame for seasoned connoisseurs.

SASCHA

Technically precise and structurally balanced, this Glen Ord stands as a prime example of meticulous Highland distillation with clear cask integration. Its moderate complexity and subtle finish make it a solid, yet rather unexciting representative of its category.

RATINGS

MARCEL
76/100
Very good

SASCHA
76/100
Very good

VALUE FOR MONEY
3/5
Fair

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