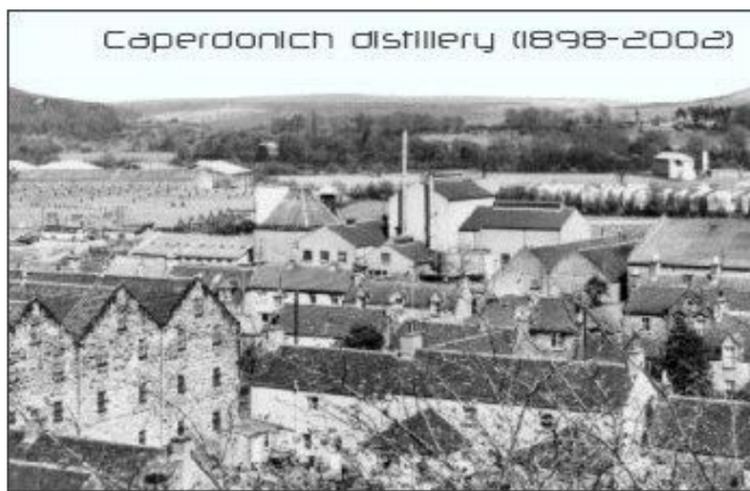


Caperdonich Distillery



Name:	Caperdonich (Pronounced: CAP-per-DON-nik)
Region:	Speyside (Rothes)
Neighbors:	Glen Grant, Glenrothes, Glen Spey
Founded:	1897 or 1898
Status:	Mothballed (in 2002)
Water source:	Caperdonich Burn
Equipment:	2 Wash stills, 2 Spirit stills
Production capacity:	None
Ownership:	Pernod Ricard > Chivas Group (since 1989)

Caperdonich distillery started its life in 1898 under the (relatively uninspiring) name 'Glen Grant #2'. Caperdonich distillery was founded by J. & J. Grant, the people that also built the 'original' Glen Grant distillery in 1840. This brand new whisky distillery (which was built at the height of the whisky boom of the late 19th century) was conveniently located just across the street from Glen Grant in Rothes.

Both 'sister' distilleries are located at the northern end of Moraytown Village in Rothes, but only one of them operated continuously until the present day. Caperdonich closed its doors again in 1902, a mere four years after the distillery was opened. This 'false start' in the Scotch whisky world was caused by the after-effects of the Pattison Crisis that caused panic in Scotland around the turn of the century. In a way, it was not unlike the credit crisis of 2008...

After the Caperdonich distillery was closed in 1902, much of the distillery equipment was transferred to the nearby Glen Grant distillery to be used as spares. When it came to the copper pot stills, this was easy enough – the size and shape of the stills at Caperdonich was virtually identical to that of the stills at Glen Grant. In fact, the owners of the distillery also used the same water source and malted barley supplier as Glen Grant in an effort to mimic the quality and style of the popular Glen Grant malt whisky.

Nevertheless, during the early years Caperdonich didn't manage to become as popular as Glen Grant – hence the closure in 1902. But that wasn't the only reason – Caperdonich was one of the distilleries hit hardest by the effects of the collapse of the whisky empire of the Pattison brothers from Leith. The Pattison crisis was the start of a general downturn in the whisky industry; during this period the number of operating distilleries in Scotland dropped from 191 at the end of the 19th century to 132 in 1908.

In 1965, after having been silent for nearly 65 years, Caperdonich was rebuilt by new owners (the Glenlivet & Glen Grant Distillers Ltd.). It wasn't long before the distillery was producing whisky again; in its first year Caperdonich produced 350,000 gallons of spirit. In 1967, the Caperdonich distillery was expanded by the installation of two extra stills; two brand new steam heated pot stills. Furthermore a modern tun room was added. The installation of the latest technology made it possible for the distillery to be operated by a staff of only two people. A third of the required malted barley was produced at Glen Grant distillery; the rest was brought in from other sources.

In 1977 Seagram from Canada acquired Caperdonich distillery – before selling it on to Pernod Ricard in 2001. Pernod Ricard closed the distillery one year later in 2002.

Trivia about Caperdonich

- 1) Caperdonich was a key component in some Chivas Regal blends – just like the Strathisla malt whisky.
- 2) The famous 'whisky pipe' which was placed above the street to carry spirit between Caperdonich and Glen Grant was responsible for an odd variety of the so-called 'angels share'. Locals took advantage of the easy access to this famous pipe, drilled holes in it and took spirit for their own. According to Lawrence Graham the legendary pipe was installed on the insistence of the British Customs & Excise.