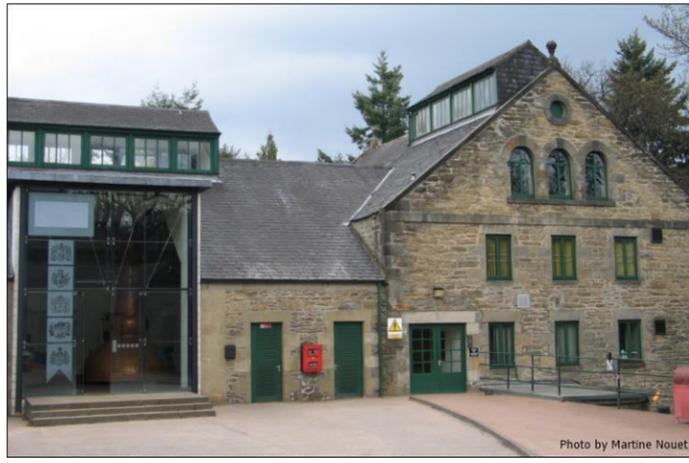
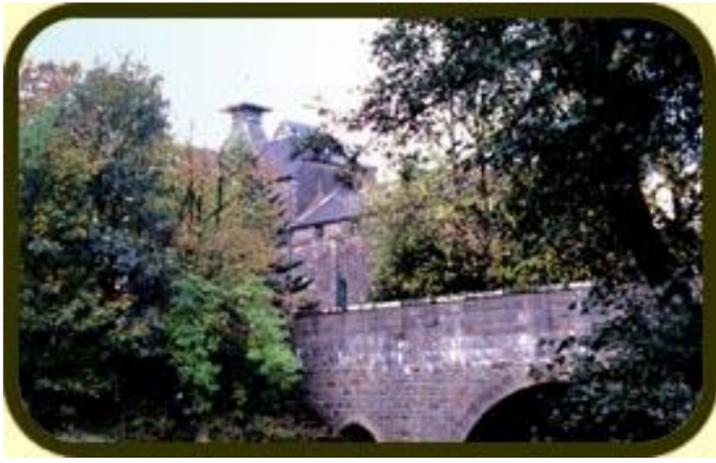


Glen Keith Distillery



Name:	Glen Keith (Pronounced: just like you write it)
Region:	Speyside (Strathisla)
Neighbors:	Aultmore, Strathmill, Strathisla, Glentauchers
Founded:	1959 (finished in 1960)
Status:	Re-opened in 2013 (had been mothballed 1999)
Water source:	On Balloch Hill
Equipment:	3 Wash stills, 3 Spirit stills
Production capacity:	6,000,000 liters per annum
Ownership:	Pernod Ricard > Chivas Bros (since 2001)

The Glen Keith distillery was built in 1957-1960 on the site of a corn mill by Chivas Brothers, who also owned the nearby Strathisla distillery. It was one of the first new malt distilleries to be built in Scotland since the late-Victorian whisky boom. Glen Keith (a.k.a. Glenkeith) originally had 3 stills because the distillery was designed for triple distillation. This 'Lowland' set-up was very unusual for a Speyside distillery...

The number of stills was increased to five in 1970, when they switched to double distillation. The new stills were a novelty; they were the first gas-fired stills in Scotland. The Glen Keith distillery was mothballed in 1999 and sold to Pernod Ricard in 2001. Sadly, the new owners didn't maintain the original distillery equipment in the decade that followed. That made it look like Glen Keith distillery was now silent for good - various pieces of distillery equipment require regular maintenance and cleaning to remain in working order. The Glen Keith distillery buildings themselves remained in tip-top shape though...

Glen Keith was a malt whisky distillery, but Chivas Brothers also used it as a laboratory for experiments with 'innovations' in production and processing. When Chivas opened Glen Keith distillery in 1959, its output was destined for blending purposes. The Glen Keith malt whisky was used in Chivas Regal, Passport and 100 pipers blended whisky.

For 10 years the distillery switched between triple and double distillation. In the 1980's they switched to double distillation completely. In 1971 the stills at Glen Keith were the first gas-fired stills to be installed in Scotland. Three years later, steam coils were installed.

The Glen Keith 1983 single malt whisky was replaced by a 10yo bottling a few years later, but it would seem that Chivas stopped releasing official bottlings a few years later. At times, a peated malt whisky was produced at Glen Keith. Martine Nouet asked Chivas' production manager Alan Winchester about it and he told her that the peatiness of the spirit came from the water and not from the malted barley as usual. The peat was burnt, after which the peat smoke was passed through the water. The dark, peaty water was then used in the production process. This variety was sold under the names Glenisla and Craigduff. Signatory Vintage has also bottled a peated version of Glen Keith which was made in the traditional way, with peated malted barley

NEWSFLASH: After being mothballed in 1999, the Glen Keith distillery was 'officially' reopened in on June 14, 2013 - although some say that malt whisky production had actually started again a little earlier in April. Compared to the 'old' Glen Keith distillery, the production capacity has almost doubled to 6,000,000 liters of pure alcohol per year.

Trivia about Glen Keith

- 1) The famous and picturesque Strathisla distillery is located just a few hundred yards from Glen Keith distillery.
- 2) Glen Keith was the first distillery to experiment with automatic mashing in the 1980's.
- 3) The Saladin boxes at Glen Keith were closed in 1976 - although they could still be used.
- 4) Glen Keith is located on the bank of the small river Isla, at the back of Strathisla. The location next to a river was chosen because the distillery used to be a meal mill. The last owners were the Angus Milling Company.