

**Gordon & MacPhail
(distilled at Strathisla)**

1963, 40%

Some of these old G&M Strathisla whiskies are quite lovely, and this is one of them. It's gently sherried, soothingly oily in texture, and complex, with notes of maple syrup, candied fruit, plum, roasted nuts, polished leather, and old oak, along with some damp earth, coffee bean, cinnamon, mint, and subtle, teasing kiln smoke. It's soft, rounded, and still holds up nicely for a 44 year old whisky. If you like old, sherried Speysiders that aren't overly oaked or sherried, you'll like this one. If only it was bottled at 43% or 46% (or at natural cask strength, if it was less than 43%). It would give the whisky a little more backbone, and I might have bumped my rating up to the mid-90s.

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