The Artist #15 range, The Dark Side of the Moon, explores sherry cask maturation through six single casks distilled between 1989 and 2015. Ranging from Oloroso to Pedro Ximénez, it highlights the Andalusian influence on whisky. Its title, a nod to a 1970s classic, also echoes a series of Glen Grant whiskies bottled by Velier in the 1990's, a symbolic starting point for this new collection. This series continues the tradition of sherry cask ageing, a practice that dates back to the 18th century, when distilleries reused casks imported from Andalusia. Even today, some producers maintain direct ties with Spanish bodegas. Featuring single malts from Speyside (Benrinnes, Linkwood, Mortlach, and an unnamed distillery) and the Highlands (Ben Nevis, Ardmore), the series is illustrated by South African artist Sthenjwa Luthuli. One of his works adorns the label of The Dark Side of the «M» bottling and belongs to the private collection of Luca Gargano. Inspired by Zulu culture, Luthuli reinvents traditional motifs and objects through a contemporary aesthetic. He hand-carves, polishes, and paints wooden panels into hypnotic compositions that verge on abstraction and optical art.

BENRINNES 1997 - OVER 25 YEARS



Emotional Connection - Sthenjwa Luthuli

PRODUCTION

Distillation	1997
Bottling	2025
Cask Number	9746
Age	27 years old
Cask Type	Sherry Hogshead
ABV	52,3 %
Number of bottles	221

Selected for the Artist #15 range, this single cask takes us to the Benrinnes distillery in the heart of Speyside. Between 1826, the year the distillery was founded under the name Lune of Rurhrie, and 1896, when it was in large part destroyed by fire, Benrinnes faced many trials and tribulations, from flooding in 1829 to several episodes of bankruptcy (1834, 1864) and reconstruction in 1835 just a few kilometres from its original location. After being completely rebuilt in 1956, Benrinnes became famous for its use of partial triple distillation between 1966 and 2009. This bottling is seeped in deep and mature tertiary flavours and aromas and has maintained its natural malt character.

TASTING NOTES

Profile: refined, full. Date, curry, apricot.

Nose: refined, complex. Opening on medicinal (iodine tincture), spice (saffron, curry), honey (heather, lime blossom) and tertiary notes of prune, fig and date, the nose is elegant and deep. Allowed to breathe, aromas of mushroom, lichen and grilled chestnut delicately fill the air.

Palate: dense, elegant. Dark chocolate, tobacco and prune form a rich and noble first sequence. A multitude of fruits (mango, persimmon, orange, apricot) then add to a rich and juicy second stage. A lovely powdered and liquorice bitterness (turmeric, cocoa) is also present.

Finish: full and delicate. At first, a hint of camphor brings remarkable energy to delicious tropical tones (plantain banana), resin (pine sap) and oil (pipe tobacco). On the retro-nasal olfaction, malted barley grains roll across the palate in a last moment of sophistication.

Peat: no