

TEN & TWO

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GLENORA DISTILLERY

Story by **TEN & TWO STAFF** *Photos by* **WALTER HODGES**



DANIEL MACLEAN looks like he was born to it. Whisky is what he does and has done for the past 18 years. Glenora Distillery is North America's first single malt whisky distillery and Daniel is the Master Distiller. Cape Breton's own. "I came here with no knowledge of whisky at all, and I never left. No need to. Never will. Whisky is what I've done and what I do."

Scottish traditions run deep on the Ceilidh Trail and in the hills of Glenville, Cape Breton. In '89, Bruce Jardine conceived the idea of a whiskey distillery, sourced the equipment in Scotland, got advice from the famous Bowmore distillery in Scotland, brought in a retired Scottish Master Distiller to teach them, and then they just went and did it. By 1990, they had a warehouse, a distillery on MacLellan's Brook, a nine room inn, a great restaurant and twenty barrels of whisky. Three years later they had the first single malt whisky in North America, and since then they've barely kept up with the orders for the apple and maple kissed child known as Glen Breton Rare.

(Previous page) The Glenora Distillery is the first single malt whisky distillery in North America. It sits near the town of Inverness on Cape Breton Island. At night, the exterior of the distillery glows in the Highlands. (Above) Boots worn by the master distiller in the aging warehouse. (Facing page) The whisky Cape Breton Rare is aged for ten years in barrels from the famous bourbon distillery Buffalo Trace.





Distilling in summer is much too hot so Daniel and a staff of six do maintenance; then, during the cooler months, they run the production side of things. They get about 110 tons of barley from a distributor in Saskatchewan, and to date they produce around 160 barrels of whisky a year using barrels secured from Buffalo Trace of Kentucky bourbon fame. Most of the product currently ships to Canada and a couple of outlets in the U.S. If you go to their website, you'll see they have a number of other brands as well.

Daniel and I sat in the courtyard

(Above) The distillery has incredible grounds that include an inn and a world class restaurant. (Facing page) Daniel Maclean has been the master distiller at Glenora for the past 18 years. He has no intention of going anywhere anytime soon. Whisky distilling is in his blood.

talking whisky and to hear him tell it, it's as though whisky and Cape Breton were made for one another. As though it had always been that way. A Celtic fiddler played a tune in the bar and the music filled the air around the distillery creating an ethereal sense of the distillery being in exactly the right place at exactly the right time. A little music and a dram of whisky can have that kind of effect. Glenora being no exception to the rule.

Glenora Distillery
www.glenoradistillery.com

Bruce Jardine conceived the idea. By 1990, they had a warehouse, a distillery on MacLellan's Brook, a nine room inn, a great restaurant and twenty barrels of the first single malt whisky in North America.





The distillery sits next to MacLellan's Brook, the endless critical source of the clear water used in the making of Glenora's single malt whisky.