

FEINTS & FORESHOTS

Outrage at proposed abandonment of ageing laws

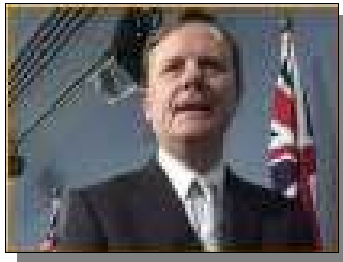
MWSOA gets political as Fed Govt to reconsider maturation laws

In response to proposed changes to the Federal Government's laws on maturation requirements for brandy, whisky and rum, MWSOA boss, Mr Craig Daniels, described the idea as, "as a mind-blowingly bad idea", stating, "that any change to these requirements would cause irreparable damage to the nascent and emerging Australian Malt whisky industry".

Australia was alerted to the proposed changes by Victorian distiller, Mr David Baker, who described the changes as, "Incomprehensible and unfathomable". He went onto to say that potential export markets may have second thoughts about Australian whiskies if they do not meet world standards.

Speaking from his distillery in the Dandenong Foothills of Melbourne, Mr Baker also said that he has been inundated with letters and offers of support for a large cross section of society including many members of the MWSOA.

Changes to the old 1906 Spirits Act has been proposed by The Treasury, whose expressed view is that "the maturation requirements



Mr Costello "leave our whiskies alone!"

should be repealed from the Spirits Act as they appear to have no continuing relevance to the effective management of Australia's modern alcohol taxation regime".

Currently a minimum period of 2 years maturation in wood is required before the spirit may be sold as any of these products. In Scotland the period is 3 years.

See inside for the full text of the MWSOA's and members responses to the proposed changes.

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SLEEPS TO GO

Whisky declared a cancer beater?

**A glass of whisky a
day could stave off cancer.**

New research shows a wee dram contains large quantities of a powerful antioxidant that kills cancer cells - bigger amounts than those in red wine.

Spirits expert Dr Jim Swan, scientific advisor to the global whisky industry, said: "There has been much in the news about the health benefits of antioxidants in red wine.

"By contrast, very little has been said about malt whisky distillery science. But research has shown that there are even greater health benefits to people who drink single malt whiskies."



A health drink?

He explained single malt whiskies have more 'ellagic acid' than red wine. Ellagic acid is a highly effective free radical scavenger that actually 'absorbs' or 'eats up' rogue cells that occur in our bodies during eating.

Dr Swan said: "The free radicals can break down the DNA structure of our existing cells, which then leads to the risk of the body making replacement rogue cancer cells.

"So, whether you indulge in the odd tittle, or you are a serious connoisseur, whisky can protect you from cancer



MALT WHISKY SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA
INCORPORATED

**Australia's 2nd Malt Whisky Convention
Sydney 20-21 August 2005**

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Musings From The Chair

It's Official: The MWSOA declares the repeal of the maturation requirement for whisky as a mind-blowingly bad idea.

Dear Ms Langford



I am writing in response to an invitation issued for comment on the proposal to amend maturation requirements

for Brandy, Rum and Whisky.

I am unsure as to scope of the changes proposed, however if they extend to reducing or removing the current wood maturation standards, particularly for Australian whisky then I would like to express my complete and absolute opposition to such a move as I believe it would cause irreparable damage to the nascent and emerging Australian Malt whisky industry.

Of considerable concern is the Statement, "The Treasury is proposing that the maturation requirements should be repealed as they have appear to have no continuing relevance to the effective management of Australia's modern alcohol taxation regime."

While I'm not in a position to comment on the "effective management of Australia's modern alcohol taxation regime", I feel I am qualified to comment on the impact on the local malt whisky

Feints & Foreshots...The vaguely official organ of the Malt Whisky Society of Australia, the editor is The Big G, contact: graham@theoddwhiskycow.com.au, and all errors & omissions are expected. Apologies to all authors of the news articles...but we do love your work!

industry.

There are two main areas where repeal of the requirement for a specified period of wood maturation would have deleterious results for local industry; namely

Oak wood maturation is integral to the Flavour Profile of spirits described and sold as Whisky, and Australia would become a dumping ground for immature spirits from around the world.

Wood Maturation

Both the fact and duration of wood maturation contributes significantly to the flavour profile of anything described as whisky. New make spirit without wood maturation does not have a flavour profile consistent with being described as whisky.

There is a huge body of research from both the Scotch and Japanese Whisky industries that provides compelling evidence that up to 60% of the quality, character and flavour of spirits sold as whisky is largely determined by the cask in which it is matured.

Three extracts from relevant research papers are offered in support;

"Ageing new distillates in oak yields mature whisky. This process, central to whisky character development, gives consumer appeal. Maturing can be considered replacement of pungent, soapy, sour and harsh notes in new distillates with smooth, matured and mellowness attributes." (Lee K-YM, Paterson A & Piggott, 2001. Origins and flavour in whiskies and a revised flavour wheel: a review. J. Inst. Brewing 107: 287-312.)

"The most important contributor, however, is undoubtedly the oak container in which maturation takes place. During the time that the spirit spends in this container, major changes occur in its chemical composition. The pungent, feinty aromas of the new distillate transform into the typical mellow characteristics of a mature whisky." (Conner J, Reid K & Jack F, 2003. "Maturation and blending", Chapter 7 in: Russell I (ed.) "Whisky - technology, production and marketing". Academic Press, London.)

"Freshly distilled whiskies

usually have pungent, unpleasant odours and a sharp taste. Thus storage in oak casks for some years is needed to modify their aroma to a pleasant and agreeable one. Maturation, which may be defined as the improvement of sensory quality during storage, is the important final phase in whisky manufacturing to produce a product of good quality." (Nishimura K & Matsuyama R, 1989. "Maturation and maturation chemistry", Chapter 8 in: Piggott JR, Sharp R & Duncan REB (eds.) "Science and technology of whiskies". Longman, Harlow.)

Australia as dumping ground for immature spirits

There is a historical precedent for this as there is already a discrepancy between the legislated maturation period in the UK (minimum three years in oak casks) for Scotch whisky and in Australia for Australian whisky (minimum two years in oak casks).

In the 1970's and 1980's British Plain Spirits (BPS) of more than 2 years maturation in oak but less than three years was imported into Australia and sold as whisky (but not Scotch whisky) as it met the Australian definition. This led to a significant decline in the quality of spirits marketed as whisky in Australia and had long term negative impacts on the reputation of 'Australian' whisky.

Repeal of the legislative requirement for a specified period of wood maturation for a spirit to be called 'whisky' would encourage the wholesale dumping of immature and inferior spirits from other producer nations such as India as well as the UK if stock levels rise unsustainably there.

While the Treasury may believe that repeal of the maturation requirement may not contribute to the "effective management of Australia's modern alcohol taxation regime", there are at least two other compelling reasons why the wood maturation requirement for spirits sold as 'whisky' in Australia should not be repealed.

Yours sincerely

Craig Daniels

Chairperson, MWSOA

Happy birthday Mr Walker 200 and still walking strong!



Johnnie Walker, the world's no.1 whisky brand, is 200 years old this month.

John Walker was born on July 25, 1805 at Todriggs Farm, near Kilmarnock, Scotland.

As a young man of 15, he established a small grocery business in Kilmarnock, where he used his specialist tea blending skills to create the original recipe for what is now the world's leading deluxe Scotch whisky -- Johnnie Walker.

In honour of his birthday, Diageo has decided to launch two exclusive whiskies. The first is aptly named '1805'. This limited edition whisky is housed in a hand made Victorian style writing case.

The second is a cask strength blend of Blue Label to celebrate John Walker's pioneering spirit.

Commenting on the new blends, Ben Anderson, global category director said: "Johnnie Walker has always been about inspiring others to reach for their dreams, to follow their own personal progress".

Eat, drink & be Murree

Pakistan joins the whisky trail.

A distillery in Pakistan is canvassing suggestions for a name for the Islamic country's first 18-year-old single malt whisky.

Staff at the Murree brewery and distillery in Rawalpindi insist the spirit will be "very smooth and very palatable".

Its attributes, however, will not be appreciated by the vast majority of the country's population, around 97% of whom are Muslim and forbidden by the Koran to consume alcohol. Punishments for drinking in Pakistan include whipping.

*Murree
Master
Distiller
singing the
praises of
Murree
18yo*



But that has not stopped the firm - whose motto is "Eat, drink and be Murree" - doing a healthy trade since 1861. "We already produce malts that are three, eight and 12 years old, and are confident that this will be something quite extraordinary," said Murree's quality manager, Fakher Mahmood. "As for a name, we have circulated a number of proposals but nothing has been decided."

Jean MacFarlane in Delhi.

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Whisky bores galore

By Tim Luckhurst

I used to enjoy whisky. Since surrendering the pleasure of cigarettes I have closed each working day with a large glass. I thought nothing could spoil this moment. But recently my drink has been upset by friends clamouring to discuss my choice. Each has been bitten by the malt bug. The symptoms are antisocial.

Murmuring in hushed awe, they hold their tiny measures of single malt up to the light and adopt tones of grave pomposity. Advertising campaigns have achieved an impact that they should not have on adults. My friends seem to believe that malts are handcrafted by mystical brotherhoods of elves according to principles set out in ancient runes. They imagine a Gaelic-speaking maiden with silken skin has lovingly stirred every drop.

My pleasure in a shot of blended whisky is looked down upon. Blends are stigmatised as cheap and proletarian. My friends give me bottles of malt and serve the stuff, instead of brandy, as a modish digestif. They drone on about it like embarrassing wine bores.

My misery is well founded. Research by the Scotch Whisky Industry Review reveals that one in ten bottles of whisky sold in Britain is now a malt. Twenty years ago the figure was barely one in forty. A drink that has provided consistent pleasure since Gladstone's Spirit Act encouraged high-quality mass production is being transformed into an expensive luxury.

This is wrong. Of course, there are delicious malts. A few are made in ravishing settings. But malt is not an improvement on blended whisky. It is one of its ingredients. A whisky blender combines malt and grain whiskies to create a whole greater than the sum of its parts. Adept practitioners marry as many as 50 separate whiskies. They compare their craft to conducting an orchestra. Sensible consumers express gratitude by drinking the results, not pontificating about it like those sad twits who imagine their cigar was rolled on the thigh of a Cuban virgin.

The industry has done well to persuade the gullible to worship malt. But much of it is the equivalent of beaujolais nouveau — an expensive waste prized by fools. Blends are where consistent excellence can be found.

So, my friends, when you have finished talking about malt, taste a blend. You may find yourself too busy enjoying it to talk nonsense.

The Times.

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Tasting notes please?

Dear Ed,

Any ideas as to what this malt would be like? Should I use it on my Xmas pud?

Cheers,
K

Has anybody tried this potential beauty?

Ed



Another call for help!

Dear Ed,

I am trying to find a logo to have embroidered onto a shirt.

The motif is a either several strands of barley or a sheaf of barley.

At the moment all I can find is a sheaf and it looks so bulky as to resemble a mushroom.

Are you aware where I can get a design which can be saved to disk for scanning into an embroidery pattern.

See you in August.

Bryan

All suggestions to F&F, hopefully for Bryan, we'll have a logo for you before the Convention.

Ed

Members Have Their Say!

Proposed maturation changes rebuke.

Dear Anita Langford

As a member of the Malt Whisky Society of Australia I wish to implore you to consider carefully the amendments the Government is proposing to take on the proposal to abolish maturation times for spirits. My background is in coffee and our family business has been established now for over 25 years. Over this time we have seen many changes to our industry not the least being the contesting of the GST whereby imported coffee was to be exempted from this tax, a move which would have had serious consequences to our industry had it not been addressed.

I cannot express this more earnestly, for if we are not careful in our decision process Australia's burgeoning whisky industry faces the possibility of becoming a third world entity in it's striving to develop a sophisticated spirit industry. The threat of opening the flood gates to products of suspect quality will be likened to physically crushing any entrepreneurial achievements now or yet to be developed.

As a whisky enthusiast and want to be distiller, please take great care when debating this crucial decision.

Yours Sincerely

Peter Brawn

A question of taste

Dear Ed,

Here's a question I've been pondering for quite some time.

Do Aussie whisky tasters taste differently to Europeans or Americans or for that matter to Asians whisky tasters?

Billy

Maybe I'll pass this to Dr Paul?

Ed

Malt Whisky Convention Gala Dinner Sneak Preview

A sneak preview of what's for dinner on the Sunday night—Ed

Menu

Whisky Cured Gravlax with
Horseradish Cream
(Leek and Potato Soup)

Berry's Best Orkney

14 y/o, 43% a/v

Veal Cutlet with Potato Rösti
Mushroom Sauce and Honey

Glazed Carrots

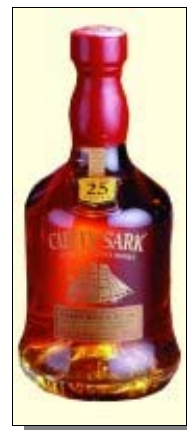
(Vegetable Bisteya
with Yoghurt Dip)

Cutty Sark 25 y/o, 45.7% a/v

Steamed Chocolate Pudding
Whisky Sauce

Glenrothes 1973 (bottled 2000)

43% a/v



Beware the camel spits



The prudent drammer should not do three things: Drinking Loch Dhu for experiment even if

he is saved from it; spreading the secret to the envious relatives even if he is saved from it, and travelling by sea even if there is riches in it.

Now bugger orf!

You can reply to the camel at
theoddcamel@gmail.com

Ask The Good Doctor?



*Dr Paul,
Got delivered a
Caperdonich 36yo
CS around 59.7%
and a 29yo Glen
Grant finished in
sherry at around
57.3%.*

*Had the Grant
before but the Caperdonich was a nice
surprise.*

*Question: How is it that the Glen
Grant on reduced alc/vol but finished
in sherry leaves me with a small
headache in the morning after a
relatively small quantity and the
Caperdonich, after drinking more
copious quantities does not?*

Regards Bob

Bob, the question is a complicated one and there's no easy answer.

It seems that we're not talking about a hangover in classical terms as the amount of alcohol (ethanol) consumed isn't high enough. So we can rule out ethanol poisoning!

Dehydration is another cause, Bob may have just had a bad day and not consumed enough fluids. Obviously, if you drink too much ethanol, your body tries to get rid of the poison and ends up excreting a lot of water and hence the headache through dehydration.

Impurities in the form of toxins are the other issue. They cause the dehydration as above but also other mild poisoning effects of which a headache is a common symptom. Some people are more susceptible than others to some toxins – Graham and I have a mate who is very intolerant to the sulphur used as a sanitiser in many wines and beers (inhalation of sodium metabisulphite is known to induce bronchoconstriction by release of sulphur dioxide, especially in asthmatics). Other alcohols such as methanol can be nasty and a high concentration of any of the common 'conveners' in scotch (that's the flavour part of the distillate) can knock you about.

In summary, it could be that the cut was poor for this particular whisky, so there's a carryover of either methanol from the heads or heavier organic components from the tails, the oxidised sherry component in the Glen Grant is not suiting Bob, or the sherry barrels were in poor condition and

have been heavily sulphured.

But in real summary – who knows? Better give the bottle to me for further 'analysis' !!!



I know the feeling Bob!

Distillery Focus

North British Distillery

Edinburgh has had a long relationship with whisky, but today, only one Distillery remains in Scotland's Capital: North British affectionately known as "NB".

The ties with whisky and Edinburgh are strong in 1505. The Guild of Surgeon Barbers in Edinburgh was given a monopoly on the production of Aqua vitae – which shows how highly it was thought of as a medicine at this time. We tend to think of the illicit distiller as being confined to a remote glen in the highlands of Scotland but this is far from the case. It is reported that in 1777 there were over 400 illicit distilleries in Edinburgh, which far out numbers the amount of legal distilleries of which there were around 15. Edinburgh was also home to many of the large whisky companies with many such as Macdonald & Muir, Pattisons and JG Thomson having bonded warehouses in the busy port of Leith.

Edinburgh was at the heart of whisky's formative years and it was in Edinburgh that Andrew Usher created the first commercial blend – Old Vatted Glenlivet. This was a revolutionary step and changed the face of whisky forever. Using malts and grain whiskies – whiskies were now produced that were mellow than the harsh highland malts and therefore made them more palatable to a large audience – specifically the English market.

In 1885 The North British Distillery Company Ltd was established by a group of independent blenders including Andrew Usher, who was made chairman. The company had been formed to allow the blenders to have a reliable source of grain whisky for their blends as, at this time,

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supplies of grain whisky would vary radically in price and quality making it difficult for the blenders to produce a consistent product.

The distillery began production in September 1887 at a considerable cost of £142,000. When the distillery opened, it had a capacity of 114,000 litres of spirit a week - today the distillery produces over 60 million litres of spirit a year. The distillery not only produces Grain whisky but also Grain Neutral Spirit – the basic constituent for the production of all white spirits such as Gin and Vodka – and premixed bottles such as Bacardi breezers etc.

The distillery also does well out of its by-products, Carbon Dioxide and Animal feed. The residue from mashing and distilling is converted into dark grain pellets and sold. The carbon dioxide that is created in the fermentation is also captured – liquefied and sold to the food and nuclear industries. At one time, the processing of by-products was shared with the nearby Caledonian distillery with Caledonian processing the CO2 and their spent wash then being processed at NB.

NB has always been at the forefront of modern technology and is today one of the most modern distillation plants in the world – however the principals of distillation remain largely unchanged since Aneas Coffey's original designs for the Patent still in 1830.

In 1948 the distillery installed the first mechanical maltings when they installed Saladin box maltings for the production of the green malt required for production. NB uses only maize and a high proportion of green malt in the production of its grain whisky, which is believed to produce an oilier spirit and adds to the final character of North British Grain Whisky.

NB remained an independent company until Lothian Distillers was formed in 1993. The distillery is now jointly owned by Diageo and The Edrington Group and contributes to many well-known blends such as The Famous Grouse, Bell's and Johnnie Walker.

Courtesy of Duncan Taylor

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Supporter Snippets

Aberlour Gold

There were gold medals for both Aberlour 10 Year Old and Aberlour 12 Year Old Double Cask Matured at the 2005 International Spirits Challenge



Gordon & MacPhail wins Commons contract



Elgin based whisky specialist Gordon & MacPhail has won a contract to supply blended whisky to the House of Commons.

The contract completes a "rare set" for the 110-year-old company, which already supplies Scotch whisky to the Scottish Parliament, National Assembly for Wales and the European Parliament.

Duncan Taylor's Invergordon Wins Scottish Field Merchants Challenge Award



The popularity of our Invergordon 1965 bottling has been recognised with this outstanding grain whisky being named Scottish Field Merchants Challenge overall winner 2005. The Invergordon out-scored over 100 whiskies from all over Scotland to claim the ultimate prize in what was a very competitive field.

It came first in its class by winning the over £50.00 price bracket before scooping the overall prize. This is the first time that a grain whisky has won a prize in this competition and it is also the first time that a whisky from an Independent Bottler has been victorious.

Australian Malt Whisky Awards 2005: "I want it all ... and I want it now"

This is an edited highlight of an extensive report prepared by Dr Paul Rasmussen on behalf of the MWSOA Awards Committee.

For a copy of the full report please go to www.mwsoa.org.au or drop the editor a line and he'll send one out to you.

72 whiskies, 12 classes, 15 judges, 12 gold medals ... all in a days work.

To expand the scope of the 2005 Australian Malt Whisky Awards, whisky blends were admitted as submissions and made up three of a total of twelve classes. The inclusion of blends and single malts was made on the basis that many consumers are as interested in blends as they are single malts. Blends are sometime also regarded as lesser products than single malts (which may or may not be a fair judgement) and in the context of this competition should have become obvious, since all whiskies were tasted blind.

Through the support of whisky importers, distributors and producers 72 commercially-available whiskies were submitted to the 2005 competition. This formidable line-up was grouped into twelve classes to ensure that similar products would be tasted in the same class, particularly important to avoid putting lighter styles up against more potent peated whiskies.

For each of the organisations that submitted whisky I trust that the results provide a useful independent benchmark for the submitted product and a means of justifying the quality of the product where it has been regarded highly by the judges.

With a substantial number of submissions, numerous judges were needed and the logistics of completing the judging in one day became somewhat more complicated. Without the diligent support staff, Amanda Parker, Lara Winsor and Matthew Rosenberg, each with experience in the hospitality trade, the 360 pours would never have reached the judges tables.

Without an engine room of people to clean, polish, label, pour, and serve this event could not have ever been competently delivered. Many thanks from myself and the judges.

Conclusions...

Have tastes changed in two years?

It appears to me that tastes may well have shifted a little. The prevalence of cask strength and peated whiskies in the gold medal winners suggests that simply producing an older refined whisky may not be enough anymore.

I personally have a soft spot for the more delicate and restrained whiskies but the trend seems to be toward a "no holds barred" full-frontal flavour assault. Whisky enthusiasts may be particularly interested in the way those changes are reflected in the tasters appreciation of the wood. I think it has changed significantly.

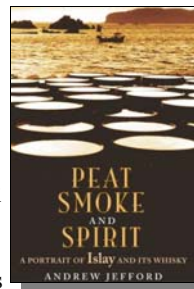
Maybe Freddie Mercury's refrain "I want it all ... and I want it now," might sum up the change in palate satisfaction from 2003 to now.

The ultimate justification of the trend is likely to be in the marketplace, and what better evidence of the trend than the new cask strength and heavily peated whisky products.

Dr. Paul Rasmussen.

New In Print

Peat, Smoke and Spirit
By Andrew Jefford
Published by
Headline Book
Publishing



If there is going to be one book you need to read in 2005, it has to be Jefford's latest on Islay.

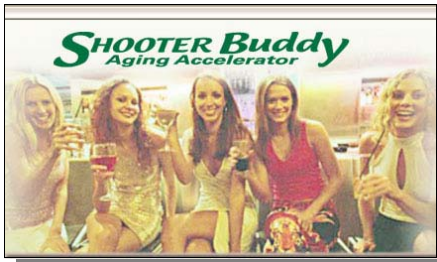
Both travelogue and technical manual, this book excels at portraying what Islay Island life is really like while getting down to the nitty gritty of distillation, Islay style.

And along the way it dispels some pretty popular myths in the nicest possible way.

This is one of the few texts currently in print that can truly answer the vexed question of, "where does the flavour come from?" without being carried away with the so called "dark arts".

And it's from a wine writer!

The Back Page



Shooter Buddy applies modern science to the traditional art of aging liquor and wine. Inventor Ken Flick, owner of Omega Research and Development, Inc., discovered that exposing beverages to a powerful magnetic field duplicates 10 years of aging in

as little as 10 seconds.

How Shooter Buddy Works

The Earth's magnetic field helps create the great taste of fresh fruits. During the long growing season, fruit is held in a relatively constant position in relation to the Earth's magnetic field, aligning the liquid particles much like tiny compass needles. This natural balance gives fresh picked fruit its smooth, natural flavor.

The delicate magnetic alignment of the liquid particles is destroyed during the crushing, straining, pasteurizing, fermenting, and distilling used to manufacture liquid beverages, and much of the smooth natural taste is lost. The traditional slow aging process of wine and distilled spirits allows the particles to once again become aligned by the earth's magnetic field, but this process takes years, and dramatically increases the cost of the finished product.

The Shooter Buddy quickly realigns the particles in your beverage by surrounding them with extremely powerful Neodymium (ne-o-dim-e-um) magnets. These are the strongest magnets currently known to man. They're made from a combination of rare earth elements that create an extremely powerful replica of the Earth's magnetic field.

In as little as ten seconds, Shooter Buddy restores the natural balance destroyed in the production process, recaptures the fresh taste of nature, and duplicates the smooth mellow flavor generated by years of traditional slow aging.



Includes free shipping and a 60 day money back guarantee !

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How much did you spend on that bottle?

Whisky bottle bought for £32,000

A businessman paid £32,000 for a rare Dalmore 62 Single Highland Malt Scotch Whisky, at the Pennyhill Park Hotel, Bagshot, Surrey, on 24 May.

Only 12 of the bottles were ever produced in 1943, and one was sold at auction in 2002 for just under £26,000.

The Surrey hotel said the man bought the whisky and drank almost all of it in one night with some friends.

Pennyhill Park acquired it from The Whisky Exchange for £31,000, meaning its sale made the hotel a net profit of £700.

Mr Broadhead said it was bought to add to the hotel's range of fine spirits and he had never expected it to be sold.

And that works out at £1,033 per nip, if you really want to know.



Whisky tasting record back home

David Robertson said the record was back where it belonged. The world record title for the largest whisky tasting has returned home to Scotland. The record of 1,210 tasters, set in Sweden in 2001, was smashed at the Royal Highland Show in Edinburgh as 1,661 people enjoyed a dram. About 100 bottles were used as visitors sampled malts produced by Jon, Mark and Robbo's Easy Drinking Whisky Company. Brothers Jon and Mark Geary and friend David Robertson set up the company to remove the mystique surrounding whisky. We had whisky drinkers

and first-timers and beat the record by a good 30%.

David Robertson from the Easy Drinking Whisky Company said, "When we spotted the world record was set in Sweden we thought 'what a bloody cheek, let's bring it back to Scotland where it belongs', and so we did.. We had whisky drinkers and first-timers. They all had a go, getting through about 100 bottles and a hell of a lot of glasses and, crucially, setting the new world record."

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Taste Panel: with Paul Rasmussen

The MWSOA tastes before you buy,



Benriach 12 (40%) - \$100 - \$150

Nose: gentle, orange, cinnamon, spearmint, ice cream, confectionary, sugary, gets richer, melon.

Palate: middle palate nicely sour and crisp, acid drop, little oily, woody, dry, hint of metal/aspirin.

Score: 79/100

Benriach 16 (43%) - \$100 - \$150

Nose: leafy, sappy, pastry, dough, menthol, spirit, confectionary, bready

Palate: aggressive, lots of spirit up front, white chocolate, clean, warm, menthol, pyrethrin, nutty, woody.

Score: 78/100

Benriach Curiositas Peated (46%) - \$100 - \$150

Nose: peat, seaweedy, fishy, salt & vinegar, spirit, stewed fruit, rhubarb

Palate: spirit, smoke, whisky sour, oily, glycerol, dry, metal/aspirin in finish

Score: 84/100

We thought Benriach was closed down by Pernod Ricard because it had too much capacity but apparently the distillery has been bought by an independent conglomerate and they are trying to build it up again. Benriach whiskies won three gold medals at the International Spirits challenge 2005. The 12 is nicely sweet and sour, the 16 more leafy, aggressive and full, and the Curiositas is one of the few Speyside peated whiskies that actually works.



Ian Macleod "As we get it" 8 (57.9%) - \$150 - \$200

Nose: booming smoke and peat, very high phenol, bacon, smoked almonds, metallic, salt & vinegar chips, oily, gets rounder, fruitier, fatter (some sherrywood)

Palate: rush of smoke and spirit, stewed fruit, dry, peppery, sweetness, saltiness and smoke well integrated and persist through the palate into a long finish

Score: 87/100

A belter of an Islay. I immediately thought Bowmore but never saw peat like this from that Distillery. If I were guessing, I would be thinking possibly heavily peated Caol Isla, Springbank or Bruichladdich. Really great and screamed drink me, drink me out of the glass.

MWSOA Members Offer....

Please contact Ken Bromfield on 02 8338 0229 for your MWSOA member special price and to arrange all purchases.

Until the next edition,
Good dramming, *Paul*



Dr Paul, pleased with the tasting results



The Great Whisky Exposition

Meet the distillers, talk to the trade & sample over 60 of the best malt whiskies & premium blends available in Australia

\$50 entry 1pm 'till 4pm

The Avillion Hotel, Pitt St Sydney

Book at www.ticketmaster7.com

More info www.mwsoa.org.au

Sydney August 21 2005