

The Good Life Journal

April 2007 * Vol 2 *

Mc Beth On Whisky Private Club Newsletter

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BEST OF MOMENTS

This months moments are both sporting moments and feature Johnnie Walker. The Johnnie Walker Classic (Golf Tournament) was won by a bloke named Haig, to which Don Paul added "should bring a dimple of a smile." Moment 2 was the classic six sixes off six balls by our very own Herchelle Gibbs a cool \$1 million US is to be given to his charity of choice courtesy of Johnnie Walker. Now thats worth dramming to.

FEATURED PERSONALITY

Gordon Mitchell of Arran is one of the few if not the only Distillery manager to have commissioned 2 malt distilleries in the last 25 Years. Previously involved with Cooley's distillery in Ireland. He is the sole operator of this fantastic little distillery and recently became one of only 3 Master Distillers to be awarded with a Double Gold Medal for his Gold blend. I salute you Mr Mitchell and announce that he will be retiring in May ,he will be truly missed.

STRANGE BUT TRUE

Dolphins sleep with one eye open.

There are more plastic flamingos in the US than real ones

The fear of Vegetables is called Lachanophobia

Rice paper has no rice in it.

More money is spent on gardening than any other hobby.

WHISKY has to be aged in Scotland, in Oak for a

minimum of 3 years before you can call it scotch whisky.

New Distilleries

Wow how fast time flies, I remember thinking I should do my Newsletter weekly, now I barely feel I have time to do it monthly. I have found a new respect for Newspapers. Another thing new is Distilleries as the Eastern markets open up mostly China Russia and hopefully India soon. Volumes required are on the up and so Diageo has announced a 100 Million investment including a revamp of Cameron Brigg as well as a new Speyside Distillery. Bruichladdich has announced it is opening Port Charlotte,Blackwood which is now overdue has made another change back to its original site, Ladybank looks to be on Schedule and the boys from Arran have announced they are opening a Distillery in the Lake District, yes that is in England finally the old enemy is to start working for a change.

Speaking of Arran this month they are the featured Distillery this youngster has truly come of age believe it or not, but later this year we can look forward to their first ever 12 Year Old Expression. My hope is that with all this new expansion that Diageo finally reopens both Rosebank and Port Ellen.

Thank you for the feed back from last month it is appreciated and I will soon be having a Q & A section where you can ask questions and I will try feature them in the newsletter with my answers. That will be in May. Till then 'Slainte Mhathe' Hector Andrew Mc Beth



FEATURED DISTILLERY

Name: Isle Of Arran
Region: Highlands (Islands) Scotland
Established: 1995
Owners: Isle Of Arran Distillers Ltd.
No of Stills: 1 Wash 1 Spirit
Grain: Optic & Chariot
Water Source: Loch Na Davie
Expressions: Arran Malt, Arran Non Chill Filtered, Arran 10 Years Old and many Wood Finishes
Wood: Mostly Ex Bourbon and an extensive wood finish program.



History of Scotland's Newest Malt Whisky Distillery

A dynamic new force in the scotch whisky industry, Isle of Arran Distillers is one of the few remaining independent distilleries in Scotland. We are based at Lochranza on the Isle of Arran, one of the most beautiful and famous in Scotland which lies off the West Coast between Ayrshire and Kintyre. Our company was set up by Harold Currie, who was previously Managing Director of Chivas (Seagram's) and House of Campbell (Pernod Ricard).

Arran is a unique island known as 'Scotland in Miniature', for it has all of the scenery of Scotland, with mountains and lowlands, glens, lochs and royal castles (including one at Lochranza). Early in the 19th century there were more than 50 whisky distilleries on Arran, most of them illegal and carefully hidden from the eyes of the tax men. The malt was acclaimed at the time as the best in Scotland, only rivaled by those from the 'Glen of Livet'. In 1995 we opened a new distillery on Arran, in one of the most beautiful locations in Scotland. We use only the traditional methods of distilling, with wooden wash backs and copper stills designed to our exact specification.

The location offers perfect water for whisky production, cleansed by granite and softened by peat as it comes down from the mountain above. The atmosphere of sea breezes and clear mountain air together with the warm flow of the Gulf Stream matures the Arran Malt to perfection in earth floored warehouses. We are now developing sales of our brands, across the world in Europe, Asia and the Americas. Arran is a unique island, and our products are similarly unique. We use no peat in the production process and no caramel for artificial coloring - unlike most other whisky companies. As a result our products are rightly described as *'the true spirit of nature'*.

Production commenced at 14.29 on Thursday 29th June 1995 and during the official opening ceremony on August 17th two golden eagles, who live on the mountain behind the Distillery, provided a fly past as a 'thank you' for halting building work for several weeks to allow them to hatch their chicks. On a warm summer's day they can still be found, floating high on the thermal currents, before dropping like a stone hunting their quarry.

Following a tour of the Distillery, guests can now enjoy a relaxing dram of our Single Island Malt in our delightful tasting bar. Our philosophy is to produce a range of whiskies of the very finest quality and the rapid growth of our business over the last few years seems to suggest that we are well on our way to achieving our goal.



Arran Wins Distiller Of The Year 2007

Call it whatever you like but coincidentally this months featured distillery has just won Distiller of the Year too.

Master Gordon to retire from distillery

Master distiller Gordon Mitchell is retiring in May.

Gordon truly is a master of his craft and will be missed at the distillery.

Robin Bell, visitor centre manager, said: 'If it wasn't for his talent we wouldn't have the whisky we have.

'Because of him we have won many awards for our whisky and we are regarded very highly by whisky fans around the world.'

Before he came to Lochranza in 1995 Gordon was master distiller at Cooley Distillery in Southern Ireland, where he made Connemara Whiskey.

Gold

It was for this blend that he was awarded the coveted 'Double Gold'.

He is one of only three master distillers to be blessed with this honor, which is awarded when a gold award is not considered high enough to match the standard of the whisky. Following on from their recent success in being voted Distillery of the Year, Arran has just entered three new markets.

Dropping into the Banner office whilst on the Island this week, Managing Director Douglas Davidson said: 'We have just received our first orders from Bulgaria, Cyprus Duty Free and United Arab Emirates duty free sector.

The company is already in Charles De Gaulle duty free in Paris, Kaistrup duty free in Copenhagen, all London airports and Bristol, Glasgow and Edinburgh.'

Isle of Arran Distillers are currently researching the growing whisky markets of Mexico and India. Mr Davidson said: 'We don't have a huge marketing budget so we are not over stretching ourselves.

'We entered the Chinese market last year with a first delivery of over 13,000 bottles.'

Explaining the extensive traveling involved he said: 'You can't export sitting behind a desk in Scotland.'

He added that the company will gradually be moving away from the blended whisky market.

'We will always keep the Lochranza and Robert Burns blends, but malts are our game.'

Article Courtesy of Arran Banner

Drinks giant Diageo said yesterday that eight of its spirit brands were among the top 20 premium spirits in the world. Smirnoff was the number one premium spirit in the world in 2006, with estimated volume sales of nearly 23million nine-litre equivalent cases.

Seven other Diageo brands were listed in the top 20, including: Johnnie Walker, Captain Morgan, Baileys, Jose Cuervo, J &B, Gordon's Gin and Crown Royal. Johnnie Walker led the whisky category and claimed the number three spot overall.

Article Courtesy of Press & Journal

Port Charlotte Distillery on Islay Confirmed

Bruichladdich Distillery has now officially announced its plans to create the new distillery at Port Charlotte. The distillery will be built, subject to planning permission, on the site of the Lochindaal Distillery that ceased production in 1929. The new name will be Port Charlotte Distillery, one of the original names of the 1829

enterprise. The Distillery was also known as Rhinns Distillery and Lochindaal Distillery. Mark Reynier, Bruichladdich CEO says: 'It's a logical expansion for us. We have a wide distilling repertoire through three peating levels and technique, four barley varieties and eleven origins.' This exciting development will allow us to further diversify our distilling talents and add capacity.

'A small private player such as ourselves has to be different in this industry. Premium distilling by artisans, innovation and variety are key issues for us.' Much of the major plant and equipment for the new Port Charlotte distillery was 'acquired' by Bruichladdich as early as 2003. 'It was Jim McEwans's idea,' says Reynier.

'Dumbarton's Inverleven Distillery was to be demolished, so Jim said: 'Why not bring it to Islay?' Duncan McGillivray put a team of ten men together and dismantled the entire distillery plant bolt by bolt and shipped it to Islay on a barge. It has been in storage ever since, although we have used some bits for spares.' We hope to build Port Charlotte as an entirely green distillery with a zero carbon footprint. We will be using all the latest environmentally sustainable concepts and it will be quite an engineering challenge to see if it really is possible. A second planning application will be made shortly for a new building on the Clynes Garage site that will contain shop, offices and a tasting/ceilidh room. The site will be appropriately landscaped. Bruichladdich expect to cut the 'First Turf' for the new distillery during their Feis Ile Open Day on Sunday 27th May.

Article Courtesy of Islay Info

Diageo pumps £100m into Scotch whisky operation

Up to 200 new jobs are to be created when drinks giant Diageo rolls out a £100m investment programme to expand its Scotch whisky operations north of the border. The multi-million pound programme is set to boost the group's malt and grain distilling capacity in Scotland with £80m of spending, with a further £20m being ploughed into new packaging and warehousing facilities. Diageo, which employs more than 4,000 people in Scotland, operates 27 malt distilleries and two grain distilleries. It says it will build a new malt distillery in the north of the country, with the preferred location being Roseisle on Speyside, while the Cameron bridge grain distillery in Fife will be expanded. Planning consents for the Roseisle site are being sought, with construction expected to begin this year. It is hoped the distillery will open in 2009 with the first mature spirit available from 2012. Packaging and warehousing capacity will also be increased across the country.

Bryan Donaghey, managing director of Diageo Scotland, said the investment illustrated the group's commitment to the region. "While this is our largest single investment in Scotland for almost 20 years, Diageo has been committing significant sums to [the country] on a continuing basis. "This investment is essential to underpin our long-term strategy for the development of our business here," he added.

Article Courtesy of The Publican

The Good Life Journal

Featured Whiskies March 2007

1 Old Malt Cask Rosebank 16 Years Old

Nose Delicate soft floral notes and honey

Palate Soft fruity oak to coffee and brown sugar

Finish Long sweet and oaky

2 Tyrconnel NAS

Nose Oranges Cedar clean malt and oak

Palate Big sweet bakers mix hints of coconut and vanilla

Finish Long malty vanilla with a buzz in the mouth

3 Old Malt Cask Glenturret 15 Years Old

Nose Rich honey and malt

Palate Intense mouth layers of rich oak and musty floral heather

Finish Long spicy finale

4 Murray Mc David Mortlach 1993

Nose Bourbon Nougat Strawberry loads of grenadine then nutty sweet malt

Palate Velvety peach rich demerera sugar oak and chocolate syrup.

Finish Strong with lingering sherry

5 Murray Mc David Highland Park 1989

Nose Heather cream peat cereal flowers sea mist and mint toffee

Palate Deep rich with oak and fruit in balance

Finish Ripe fruits brown sugar and peppered peat and smoke

6 Premier Barrel Blair Athol 11 Years Old

Nose Clean soft sherry and fruit

Palate Sweet barley and Spicy coffee notes along layers of spice and soft fruits

Finish Toffee treacle and sherry

7 Yamazaki 12 Years Old

Nose Dried fruit and honey

Palate Delicate to spicy with a syrupy honey and cherry pip.

Finish Perfumed woody and dry

8 Old Malt Cask Longmorn 18 Years Old

Nose Citrus barley sugar and malt

Palate Green grass clippings rich structure with oak balance

Finish Long and chewy

9 Mc Clellands Sherry 12 Years Old

Nose Sherry floral notes of lavender, juniper and gingerbread

Palate Barley Sugar pear drops sweet honey and a spicy pepper

Finish Unforgettable and completely satisfying

10 The Six Isles

Nose Clean and light with precise phenolic notes citrus and vanilla all restrained

Palate Immediate smoke and a balancing sweetness that runs the length of the palate

Finish Medium dry and phenolic

11 Old Malt Cask Ardbeg 14 Years Old

Nose Smoke sea air Peat and tar

Palate Oily and Phenolic with peppery notes

Finish Long lingering smoky and seductive

12 Auchentoshan 18 Years Old Limited Edition

Nose Zesty aromas of lemon tangerine with spiced gingerbread sweetness

Palate Sweet raisins turn nutty and creamy

Finish Long and oh so smooth

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

NAME: _____

ID NO: _____

MOBILE: _____

WORK: _____

HOME: _____

EMAIL: _____

CREDIT CARD DETAILS

HOLDER: _____

NUMBER: _____

CCV: _____

EXPIRES: _____

PURCHASE ONLINE @
www.whiskyshop.co.za or
Fax to 086 6709622

TASTING EVENTS

DATE : 3 April 2007

TASTING: 6 Single Malts

VENUE: Royal Cape Yacht Club

COST: R 150.00 Non Members

R 75.00 Members

TIME: 6pm

Book On line

www.whiskyshop.co.za

Or Contact Bridgette

021 421 1354

DATE : 24 April 2007

TASTING: 6 Single Malts

VENUE: Royal Cape Yacht Club

COST: R 150.00 Non Members

R 75.00 Members

TIME: 6pm

Book On line

www.whiskyshop.co.za

Or Contact Bridgette

021 421 1354

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