

# The Good Life Journal

October 2007 \* Vol 8 \*

Mc Beth On Whisky Club Newsletter

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Join hector for a tasting!

## BEST OF MOMENTS

Well when they hold 2 world cups simultaneously you know great sport moments are going to happen and wow were there plenty a very big well done to the organisers of The 20/20 World Cup it was world class. The best moment had to be the six sixes by Yuvraj Singh from India not to mention Zimbabwe defeating Australia. Then in Rugby Argentina defeat France , Tonga beat Samoa and Fiji oust Wales. And if that is not enough both Australia and The mighty All Blacks are knocked out in the quarters, but the moment of the Month must be **South Africa 36 England 0.**

## FEATURED PERSONALITY

This months featured personality is the lesser known Septimis Fox whom invented the spirit safe which was made compulsory by the excise act of 1824. After its initial testing that had been conducted by Port Ellen distillery it was installed in all distilleries. It is the large secure brass and glass box you see at the distilleries when you visit. It is used to determine the cut of the whisky without the stillman actually having any direct contact with the spirit itself. So here is to you Septimus for your part in this fascinating World of whisky.

## STRANGE BUT TRUE

America has 30% of the worlds airports.  
India has only .7% of te Worlds airports.  
315 Entries in the Webster's 1996 Dictionary were misspelled.  
Scotch whisky outsells its nearest rival by four times.  
Over 1 million people visit Scotch distilleries Annually.  
Only 10 % of Scotch is sold in Scotland

### Festivals, Birthday anniversaries and more.

As a youngster I remember the month of October as being Dairy month in SA not sure if it still is. It was also the month that either just included or just missed the shortest and quite frankly dumbest school holiday of the year. I celebrated my dads Birthday on the 1<sup>st</sup> and my own on the 7<sup>th</sup> and Kruger's day on the 10<sup>th</sup>. Growing up and as a Student I realised it was the Munich beer festival and later still it would be whisky live Glasgow and the big build up to Whiskylive Cape Town. I also got married on the 1<sup>st</sup> some eight years ago so October is a festive month and always has been, I know this year is going to no different. So if you need an excuse to get out there and have a dram or two you are certainly spoilt for choice. We are also lucky enough that every 4 years or so we get to watch Rugby world Cup. It is when the Currie Cup final is hosted although lately with province not performing that well it is becoming a sad state of affairs. I think what I am trying to say is that October is the greatest busiest month worth celebrating without all the commercial overpricing, that maybe easter and Christmas are subjected to. What it means to you is that its time to get out and have some fun rid yourself of those winter blues and get going with a new added zest and if that is not enough then just go out trick or treating. However you enjoy October I look forward to seeing you Till then 'Slainte Mhath' Hector Andrew Mc Beth



## FEATURED DISTILLERY

**Name: The Glenlivet**  
**Region: Speyside**  
**Established: 1824**  
**Owners: Pernod Ricard**  
**No of Stills: 4 Wash 4 Spirit**  
**Grain: Oat**  
**Water Source: Josie's Well**  
**Expressions: 12 with 2 wood finishes 18 & 21 as well as a limited Cellar Edition**  
**Wood: Ex Bourbon and French Oak**  
**Peat : less than 3 PPM**

The Glenlivet Distillery is situated right beside the *Livet River* in Speyside, twenty kilometres north of the town Tomintoul. Officially Glenlivet was founded in 1824 when George Smith was the first distillery in the area to receive its licence. In those days there were close to 200 illicit distilleries in the vicinity of Glenlivet. After the Excise Act was passed in 1823 the local government came down hard on the illicit distilleries and by 1834 only The Glenlivet Distillery remained in the area. Needless to say Smith's neighbours felt that Smith had sold out to the government and he received many threats from his former friends. The Laird of Aberlour actually presented him with a gift of two pistols for protection which he allegedly brought with him wherever he went. The eradication of the competition was of course very good for The Glenlivet and as a result they were able to increase their production volume continuously. In the early 1830s production at Glenlivet exceeded 2000 litres of whisky per week. After several attempts to increase production sufficiently Smith finally leased further land from the Duke of Gordon at Minmore and built a new distillery a few hundred meters from the original one. Some of the original buildings are still in use at The Glenlivet. In the beginning of the 1860s Glenlivet started a partnership with Andrew P Usher (one of the first commercial blenders). Usher became an agent for The Glenlivet and introduced the idea of exporting their whisky. The export venture was very successful and the distillery was hard pushed to try and meet the increased demand. George Smith died in 1871 and the distiller was passed on to his son John Gordon.

John understood the power of marketing and the importance of the name 'The Glenlivet' and therefore applied for the exclusive right to use the name. He was successful in this attempt and it was ruled that other distilleries who wished to use the word 'Glenlivet' in their marketing had to put a hyphen between their own name and 'Glenlivet'. From that day there has only been one distillery with the name 'THE Glenlivet'. This fortunate marketing strategy soon allowed Glenlivet to install two additional stills in order to meet the ever increasing demand.

In 1921 the company was bought by Bill Smith Grant who ran it successfully for over 50 years. In 1978 The Glenlivet was acquired by Seagram's who are currently owned by Pernod Ricard.

The water is soft yet rich in minerals and is taken from *Josie's Well* which lies close by. Glenlivet used to malt their barley themselves but have bought their malt since 1966. The malt is delivered slightly peated from the Pauls of Buckie malting company. The stainless steel mash tun holds 12 tons. The eight washbacks are made from Oregon pine and each hold 60 000 litres. The distillery has four wash stills with a capacity of 15 000 litres each. The four spirit stills are steam heated and hold 10 000 litres each. All stills are lantern-shaped with long, narrow necks. The whisky is stored on site in ten warehouses with a capacity of 65 000 casks each. Bottling is done in Newbridge outside of Edinburgh. A staggering four million bottles are produced every year which makes The Glenlivet the third best-selling malt whisky in the world.



Tour Entire Scotland

## Glenfarclas launches The Family Casks

Speyside, September 2007 – Family owned Glenfarclas Distillery formally launched The Family Casks, an exclusive collection of 43 vintage dated Single Cask Highland Malt Scotch Whiskies, at the Caledonian Club, London. The Glenfarclas Distillery, with over 52000 casks currently maturing in its traditional dunnage warehouses, is in the enviable position of having stock in cask from every year from 1952 to the current day. The Family Casks is a collection of the best single casks from the distillery's warehouses, bottled at cask strength and at natural colour. The collection comprises 43 different bottlings, with one for each year from 1952 to 1994. The Family Casks are unique there is no other known collection of old and rare whiskies that covers 43 consecutive years from the same distillery. Glenfarclas is renowned for producing Single Malt in a traditional Speyside style with a heavy sherry influence. Sherry casks are well represented within the collection. As John L.S. Grant, Chairman and 5th generation of the family that own and manage Glenfarclas, explained, 'Good wood is vital in maturation, and the resulting richness and sweetness from sherry casks is delightful'. Unlike mainstream bottlings, which are normally offered at a reduced strength of 40% vol., The Family Casks have been bottled at cask strength. During maturation the strength of the whisky reduces slowly, thanks to 'the angel's share'. Cask strength is the natural strength after maturation, hence each bottle in the collection is presented at a different strength, varying from 46.0% vol. for Cask 4913 from 1961 to 65.1% vol. for Cask 1316 from 1968. Glenfarclas was the first to market a cask strength whisky, with the Glenfarclas '105' at 60% vol. in 1968. The Family Casks have also been bottled at natural colour, with the bespoke clear flint bottle, and oak gift box, designed to highlight the variety of colours within the collection. Accompanying each bottle is a booklet with a history of the distillery, written by John L.S. Grant, and tasting notes prepared by George S. Grant, Brand Ambassador, and the 6th generation of the family. At the remarkable tasting guests were first introduced, by John L.S. Grant, to a selection from the range, with one dram from each of the five decades represented. As Mr Grant explained 'By tasting a selection of whiskies from The Family Casks, one is able to explore not only the differences between the casks, but the distillery, and my family's history'. After the formal tasting guests were invited to sample a selection of the other 38 whiskies from the collection. Not surprisingly, many of those younger than 56 chose to sample Glenfarclas distilled during the year of their birth. Glenfarclas, which was named Distiller of the Year in 2006 by Whisky Magazine, focus on Single Highland Malt Scotch Whisky, with a core range which includes the 10 Years Old, 15 Years Old, 21 Years Old, 25 Years Old, 30 Years Old and the '105' Cask strength. The Family Casks is the first new release of Glenfarclas in the UK, since the 50 Years Old in 2005. Prices for The Family Casks vary from £80 for the 1994 to £1145 for the 1952 at the distillery's visitor centre.

**Article Courtesy of Glenfarclas**

## Whisky bottle sells for £29,400

A bottle of whisky has sold for almost £30,000 at auction in Glasgow. The Bowmore single malt whisky, believed to have been bottled on Islay about 1850, sold to an anonymous bidder at McTear's auctioneers. It is the oldest bottle of Bowmore known to be in existence and fetched £29,400 for its former owner. The recommended price was £20,000. Morrison Bowmore Distillers Ltd lost out in its attempt to return the bottle to its "true spiritual home". The hand blown pale green glass bottle and original cardboard carton in which it has been stored had been in good condition until one week before the sale. The delicate driven cork had dropped from the neck of the bottle into the whisky itself, leaving this extremely rare bottle requiring some renovation for the purchaser. Glen Moore, Bowmore brand director, said: "We'd known about the sale of the Mutter bottle for some time and had our heart set on bringing it back to its true spiritual home. "We bid beyond the value limit we had set ourselves but unfortunately the winning bidder went beyond that. "There are some serious whisky collectors around the world."

**Article Courtesy of BBC News**

## Chavez calls time on whisky boom

Venezuelans are to face a limit on the amount of luxury goods they can import, says President Hugo Chavez. He singled out the high consumption of whisky as an example of the way consumerism was harming society. In 2006, Venezuelans drank 106m bottles of Scotch whisky - almost four per person, and nearly 10% of UK exports. Mr Chavez said he was ashamed of this "excessive" consumption and would curb importers' access to dollars for purchasing whisky and other luxuries. Rum idea? Despite the president's brand of socialism, consumption of luxury goods is on the increase, the BBC's James Ingham reports from Caracas. A strong economy, an overvalued currency and high inflation are leading to conspicuous spending and high demand for goods seen as status symbols. Speaking on his weekly television and radio show, Mr Chavez said he would limit the amount of dollars available to importers, who have to apply to the government to change local currency at official rates. This measure is unlikely to affect Mr Chavez's support base, generally the poorest people in the country, who more often drink beer and rum, our correspondent says. His better-off, whisky-drinking opponents, however, are likely to be angered by the move, he adds.

**Article Courtesy of BBC News**

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# The Good Life Journal

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## Diary of Events August & September 2007

September 27 Club Tasting : Johannesburg Wanderers Club Illovo : Contact Andre @ 011 788 5010

October 10 Club Tasting :FBG Green market Square Contact Anthony: @ 021 426 1651

October 18 Club Tasting :FBG Green market Square Contact Anthony: @ 021 426 1651

October 24 Whisky and Sushi: Wine Sense Mandela Rhodes: Contact Kate @ 021 422 0695

**October 31<sup>st</sup> to November 2<sup>nd</sup> Whiskylive Festival Cape Town CTICC**

**November 7<sup>th</sup> - 9<sup>th</sup> Whiskylive Festival Johannesburg SICC**

### Featured Whisky

This month I feature some quirky drams and another rare gem. **Glen Keith** only stopped triple distillation as late as 1970. A very picturesque distillery built at the foot of the ruins of Milton Castle It is rather modern distillery, pioneering the use of computers in the sixties. Its malt is a contributor to both Chivas regal and 100 pipers blends. The spirit itself is fragrant and spicy amongst hints of smoke, on the palate it is medium bodied loads of nuts and fruit leading to ginger spice subduing to a sherry finish. **Tomintoul** only built in 1965 is a modern distillery that nestles in the beautifully wooded valley of Avonside near the highest village in all of Scotland Tomintoul. A light and grassy nose of malt and oak with an effortless light palate and medium sweetness that ebbs with citrus floral spices and hints of sherry. A elegant dram indeed. **Springbank**, a Campbleton distillery is a rare sight today, in 1828 however when Springbank was built the area was one of the largest regions for whisky production, especially illicit distilling. Archibald Mitchel was the then illicit operator of Springbank, his family still own the distillery today making it the oldest independently owned distillery. Another unique feature is the fact that they are the only distillery that still run 100% floor malting's, as well as bottle on premises. It is indeed a very interesting visit to Springbank they produce 3 single malts from the same distillery. Springbank is a partly triple distilled malt ( the feints fore shots and low wines are distilled intermediately with a portion of the next batches low wines before being placed in the wash still). Longmorn is a highly peated double distillate and Hazelburn is an unpeated triple distillate. Springbank is aromatic and fresh with peat honey and spice, on the palate it offers a sweet malt becoming astringent dry and smoky with loads of spice in the finish. **Arran** distillery on The Isle of Arran is the youngest distillery in Scotland only just turning 12 years old. The distillery is run by 1 person and is a good look at a working distillery and is highly regarded as one of the best spirits of recent time, being awarded distillery of the year 2007 as well as best scottish drink producer of the year 2007. They make a special whisky liqueur simply known as Arran gold which was voted best whisky liqueur by whiskymag this year. The Arran Sherry Cask limited Edition has a fresh intense full cream sherry nose laced with oak dryness, the palate is intensely sweet rich and full almond nuts natural butterscotch with rich vanilla and a long spicy finale between layers of mocha demerera sugar. **Port Ellen** distillery was closed in 1983 and currently trades as a malting plant on the Isle of Islay. Historically it was the first distillery to have a spirit safe installed the excise act of 1824 insisted on a spirit safe the Port Ellen site was used as a test site. With Diageo owning Port Ellen,Lagavulin and Caol ila it was decided in 1983 that they would close Port Ellen down , it has become very collectable and is still considered to be one of the best Islay Malts. The featured Provenance Port Ellen 23 Years Old has a sublime nose of candied apple and chocolate to rich sherried calvados. The palate is clean and mellow with rich oak drowning a hint of smoke and peat lightly astringent with spicy finish. The final whisky this month is from the **Chieftains Choice Cigar Malt** 11 years old this was bottled exclusively for the South African market and is a pure gem of a malt I highly recommend the Hoyo De monterrey Epicure No 2 with this one. This months themed pairing is a look at The Royal Ancient game of Golf and Scotch malt interestingly the earliest record of a game of golf was only 38 years earlier than that of Whisky. the first in 1494. A good game of Golf is usually followed a by a visit to the famous 19<sup>th</sup> hole where you can take your time and settle any debts you may have incurred through your round as well as relax to your favorite dram. Hope to see you in this month or on the Course Till then Slainthe Mhath.

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