

**THE**

VOL. XV no. 6

No. 90 1989

# **MINIATURE BOTTLE COLLECTOR**



# MINI BOTTLE INTERNATIONAL



## AUCTION MAGAZINE

A Magazine for miniature liquor bottle collectors featuring interesting articles in every issue, combined with a miniature liquor bottle MAIL AUCTION featuring hundreds of bottles from all over the world, including Whiskeys, Rums, Vodkas, Cognacs, Liqueurs, etc.... Figurals and even some large bottles.

Published every two months by the MINI BOTTLE INTERNATIONAL MUSEUM of Southboro, Massachusetts.

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COLLECTABLES YOU MAY FIND

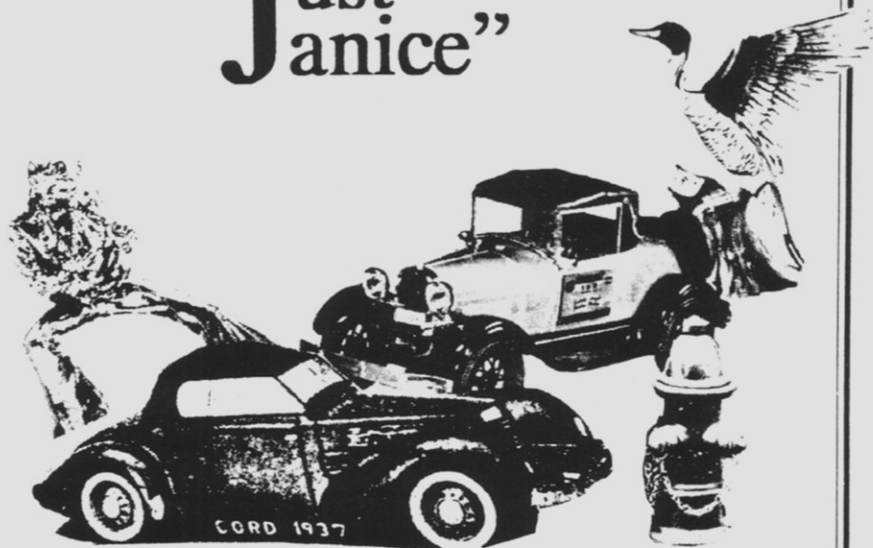
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# Let's Talk

The key to it all is advertising, just letting people know we exist. The key to what? The answer is successful collecting. It's now 1989 and miniature bottle collecting sails along much as it did twenty years ago and even fifty years ago. Collectors come and collectors go. Some are accumulators, others collect with varied interests in the glass, the labels, or what have you. The third group are the speculators who are quite adamant about those twenty year old glass bottles being worth a minimum of ten dollars each! But collecting continues on. Why are we not similar to coin and stamp collectors whose ranks bulge with new collectors? The key to it all is letting others know you exist, in short, the above-mentioned advertising.

I said collecting is about the same as it was fifty years ago. The majority of collectors don't know there were clubs and much activity back then. They don't because the people then made the same mistakes we've all continued to make. They didn't reach out, they didn't support the hobby. The unfortunate part is that my editorial is reaching those who are already converted. You already support clubs, publications, and buy and swap. So how do we reach the thousands who collect and aren't involved. The answer is, through YOU.

This has turned into a sermon but rightfully so. Millions of people collect things which are much stranger than mini liquor bottles. Talk up your hobby, let others know you collect. You may just find someone whose father or mother collected some fifty years back and they care nothing about the bottles. Now who benefits?

If you're not part of the solution, you're part of the problem.

--DMS--

THE

Vol. XV No. 6  
No. 90 1989

# MINIATURE BOTTLE COLLECTOR

Editor/Publisher DAVID M. SPAID

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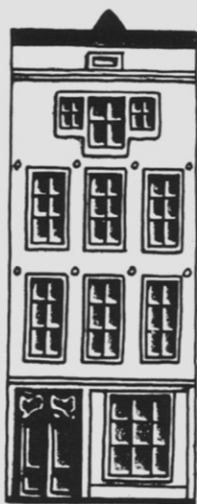
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## Our Cover

It's been a very long time indeed since we've featured a beer here on the cover for you. So, we decided to present six... of course, they all have to be the same. This is the new six pack of Corona Mexican Beer (Cerveza, por favor) which just recently became available. This was done with the blessings (and paid royalties) of Corona and is proving to be as popular as the beer itself!

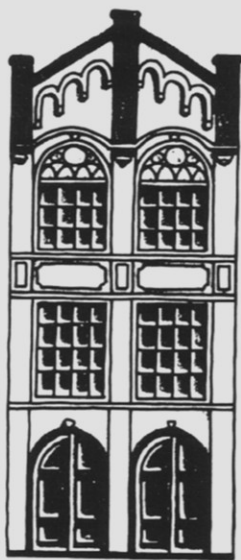
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# The Kaiser's Canal



De Keizersgracht  
N<sup>o</sup> 100

Dwelling-house of about 1625. The house was built by Pieter Simonsz van de Schellingh. Since the beginning of the 18th century in possession of the remonstrant community. In the year 1820 the house was renovated and got its present appearance. Gable with real cornice and two-winged door on the left side with double decoration-window. Formerly the house had been used as sacristy-habitation.



De Keizersgracht  
N<sup>o</sup> 102

The remonstrant church at the Keizersgracht 102 is a rather unobtrusive building for the passersby, because the visible part on the canal is not wider than a normal dwelling-house. The size of the inside church cannot be estimated from the canal. Built initially as a refuge-church it could be reached only via corridors ending at the canal and closed by a door, which looked like a normal front-door. Only in the 19th century has the present hall been built in No. 102.



De Keizersgracht  
N<sup>o</sup> 104

Dwelling-house erected in the year 1632 by the carpenter Lambert Massa. In 1642 Claes Harmensz Roothoet became its owner. It is said that a hatter first dwelled here. In 1742 the house was inhabited by Joh. van Dribergen, a professor of the Remonstrants.

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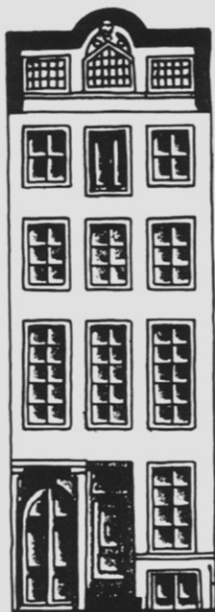


## De Keizersgracht No. 106

For the regents of the remonstrants community this merchant-house was rebuilt in approx. 1760. The old house was property of Mr. Roothoet in 1642.

## De Keizersgracht No. 108

This merchant-house was built in 1738 for the remonstrant community and has not been reconstructed greatly since then. The real estate for this house was bought in 1615 by Cornelis Joosten.



## De Keizersgracht No. 110

It was the merchant Hendrik Taddel, who renovated this house in 1754. With a neck-gable, the building is in the style of Louis XV (rococo). In 1772 it came into the possession of the remonstrants community. The real estate had been bought in 1615 by Aris Jacobsz Slipende Aep and built by the glass-painter Jan Jacobsz. The house is named "The castle of London".



Royal  
Goedewaagen  
"Blue Delft"  
Holland  
Painted by hand

## The miniature collection by Royal Goedewaagen.

The hobby of collecting "Historical things" acquires more and more fan-  
ciers.

In the Miniature collection of "Historical buildings" the ROYAL FACTORIES GOEDEWAAGEN, Gouda/Netherlands, present to the connoisseur an edition, which is unique.

Hands of artists formed in carefully detailed work the buildings No. 100 to 110 of the famous "Keizersgracht" in Amsterdam, and with perfect traditional artisan work, there has been created with every replica a collector's object of lasting value.

This unusual edition, which consists at the moment of six replicas, will be expanded permanently. Ask for new models in your speciality-shop - and look for the trade-mark, which is your guarantee of buying the original GOEDEWAAGEN historical building series.

# SAMPLES

by David M. Spaid



Previously we've shown you some examples of what was never meant to be and we've dug up some more of them for you to ogle. This is a variety of all different types. Some of these you'll probably be glad were never made; however, possibly some others you, as I, would like to have in your collection. All of these are from the late 1970's.

Only one of these pieces ever saw the light of day and then only in a large

750 ml size. This is the Whiskey Pete's Casino. The bottle is a perfect representation of the casino logo which is seen on everything at Whiskey Pete's. Depending on whether you're going north or south, Whiskey Pete's is the first or last thing you see in Nevada on your way between Las Vegas and Los Angeles. It's a super bottle but in the miniature size, only three are in existence...one in Japan and the other two here in the U.S.

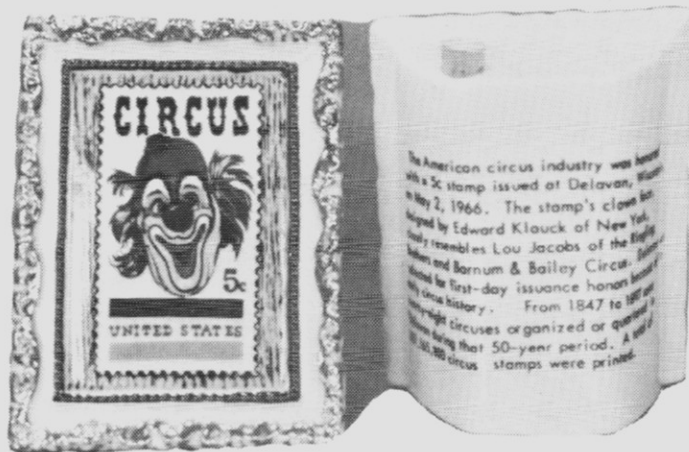


Remember the movie Heaven Can Wait with Warren Beatty? This was the one about the guy who died ahead of his time and came back in someone else's body. Remember what Warren Beatty looks like? Well, this was to be a miniature bust of Warren Beatty from the movie. See, he's even got his little wings. Grenadier ordered this sample as they had a tie-in with Paramount Pictures at the time. The only problem was it doesn't look anything like Warren Beatty. As a bottle of some guy with wings on his back, it was an absolutely stunning winner of a bottle! Great workmanship, beautiful detail, but not one little iota like Beatty.



Famous Firsts wanted a mini version of their large roulette wheel. This was it. The bottle was extremely well crafted in that the stopper could be spun just like a real wheel. Another winner, but no taker. Famous Firsts was in a tailspin from which it never recovered and issued no more bottles.

Remember the five plate bottles produced about ten years ago. That was an attempt to link up both bottle and plate collecting. Let's just say it was a noble attempt. So, how about a bottle which would link stamp and bottle collecting. A sure winner you say. I personally think the bottle pictured would have been but it never made it past the sample stage. This one would probably have gone to Raintree as there was a third tie-in with the circus and clowns. How could it have missed?



Finally we come to the bears. Well, somebody must have thought they were cute...but not cute enough. At the height of figural collecting, no one wanted another bear, they wanted another bird. And, shortly thereafter, the whiskey companies did give the collectors the bird!



# Glass!



Let's take a look at some of the golden oldies from across our northern border. The 1920's were definitely a golden decade for whiskey producers in Canada. Very little whiskey was distilled for home consumption; most all went south to the U.S. to feed the cravings of those mired in Prohibition. Elliott Ness may have tried to stop it from coming in, but he was only partially successful.

The U.D.L. Special shown here was part of a cache of bottles found in a closed casino in Reno, Nevada, back in the mid-1970's. Note that it carries no U.S. strip stamp. These were all

brought in illegally and abandoned to a back basement decades ago. Glenmore and Coon Hollow were unearthed at the same time.

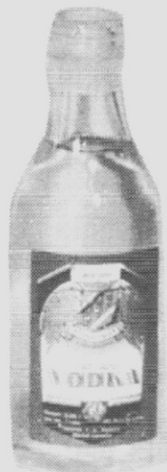
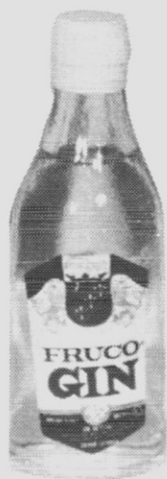
It's easy to speculate how many thousands and thousands of these must have been made. The other U.D.L. also has a 1939 Maryland stamp. There were ten years worth of these, and they were not sold only in Maryland. The same case may be made for the Corboy's.

The labels aren't great, the bottles themselves not that difficult to obtain, but they're history, and of a kind which makes any collection more interesting.

# MINI WORLD

by

IVAN UHLIK



Early in October 1988 there was a big collectors' show in Prague, Czechoslovakia. The bottle show was just part of the bigger show which was organized by the Club of the Curiosities Collectors KSK Prague in the Central Cultural House of the Railway Workers in the downtown of Prague. There were presented many collectable items as autogrammes, beer cans, labels, post cards, cigarette boxes, etc. And, many thousands of visitors were in attendance.

I met with a Czech friend who brought me pictures of the new miniatures from Slovakia. Here then are two photos and information about the products.

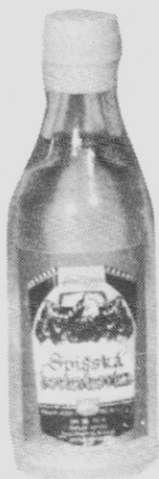
The production program of the Fruconac n.p. Levoča for 1989:

1. Slopak Brandy 40%
2. Fruconac Original Brandy 40%
- \*3. Fragopolis Brandy Blend 42%
4. Inland Rum 40%
5. Fine Vodka 40%
- \*6. Vodka Triumph 40%
- \*7. Ceresnovica Cherry Brandy 38%
- \*8. Milinovica Raspberry Brandy 40%
- \*9. Spisska Borievkovicova Juniper 40%
10. Fruco-Gin 45%
11. Luna Lemon Liqueur 35%
12. Darkovka Herb Liqueur 38%

The production program of the Slovlik  
n. p. Trenčín for 1989:

- \*1. Consumer's Vodka 40%
- \*2. Borovická Juniper Brandy 40%
- \*3. Diplomat Grape Brandy 40%
- \*4. Zazvorovka Ginger Spirit 35%
- 5. Old Herold Brandy 42%

All the bottles are round, clear glass  
and 50ml capacity, stopped with a white  
Levoča or transparent Trenčín plastic  
cap. The mark "\*" says that it's a new  
product or a new label. --I. U. --



# SCOTCH

by

MIKE BARBAKOFF



Laphroaig (pronounced "la froygh") is probably the most famous of the malt whiskies to come from the small island of Islay off the West Coast of Scotland. It is located about a mile east of Port Ellen and is right down on the seashore.

The Islay whiskies are much sought after by the blenders of good whiskies as they have a most distinctive nose and taste. In 1887, Alfred Barnard wrote of Laphroaig. . . "The whisky is of exceptional character being largely sought after for blending purposes and is a thick and pungent spirit of a peculiar 'peat reek' flavour." Today the flavour of Laphroaig is mellow than in days of yore, but many still refer to it as medicinal, like seaweed and iodine, but these are not the aficionados that have succumbed to the sublime pleasures of the Islay single malts. It was suggested in The Making of Scotch Whisky by Moss and Hume that during

prohibition in the States when liquor was only available legally by prescription that the medicinal flavour helped sales. To me Laphroaig and the Islays are some of the finest whiskies to come from Scotland. The labels on Laphroaig describe the whisky as "the most richly flavoured of all Scottish whiskies." This, to the lover of Lagavulin, might seem a bit of an overstatement, but it must number amongst the top 10 malts for many many connoisseurs.

Originally built in 1820, the distillery was expanded in 1882 and 1923 to its current total of six stills, all reputed to be based upon the original pattern. The founder, Donald Johnston, distinguished himself by falling into his own burnt ale vat in 1847 and dying. In 1954 the distillery was inherited by Miss Bessie Johnston who became the only female distiller in Scotland. Laphroaig is now owned by Long John International.

The miniatures' history must be characterised by some of the least exciting labels you could hope to find, and yet for the enthusiast for small label variations, quite a selection can be found:

Figure 1 shows the earliest known Laphroaig miniature labelling at a strength of 20 under proof. An identical labelling in a cork topped bottle is reputed to also exist (anyone have one?). The whisky then became available in



tall round clear bottles at 10 years old and 75 proof (Sykes). Figures 2 and 3 show two variants; one of which is an 80 proof overprinted label at 75 proof. No evidence of an 80 proof bottling currently exists (anyone have one?). Figures 4 to 9 show the range of labels printed black on white at the basic strengths of 40%, 43% and 90 U.S. proof. The Italian import has the importer's details on the front label. The French import shows 10 Ans D'Age.



Figures 10 and 11 show the two flask versions that have been available, one being the U.S. import. The latest variation to appear (figures 12 & 13) show the 10 of the age in a block form. Terribly exciting, don't you think? For the sake of completion it should also be noted that the 1957 distillation of Laphroaig has been bottled in miniature by Gordon & Macphail in their excellent Connoisseur's Choice series. Three minor label variations exist of this mini.

Happy Hunting. --M. B. --





# SMALL TALK

Yes, it's a little old bald man holding a peach. So what else do you want to know? There isn't much to tell except that this comes from China (the real China, not the Republic of China) and contains (it's been rumored) a potent liqueur. What's delightful about this character is that he's obviously oblivious to it all and he's just happy to be around. The bottle itself is a combination of both bisque and high glaze finishes. And, finally, this may just be the first actual figural miniature liquor to come from China!



# Whiskey Heritage

by

GEORGE JINKENS

## the g.r.r.eatest

A special for you this time. Both of these bottles are from what I call the cigarette label bottles. Most of you already know of the Old Camel bottle and probably most of you have seen the Old Chesterfield. Well, take a look at these two beauties.

Pall Mall Reserve Blended Whiskey may be even less seen in collections than Old Camel. Both, in fact, were produced by Crown Spirits Company of Chicago.

The other bottle as you can plainly see is Old Gold. This 90 proof straight was bottled for the Old Gold Distilling Co., Inc. also of Chicago. This one is absolutely mint.

More next time. --G. J.--

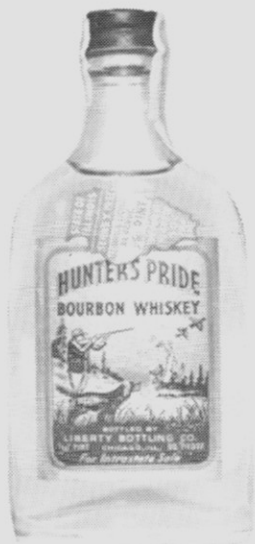


delight in  
simple  
things



# melo's minis

by Mike Olson



In this article I would like to feature three bottles with great looking foil labels, plus take another look at the "Boxer" bottles. I have always liked foil labels, especially when they are in good condition. The three I have chosen to show are certainly in excellent condition. The "Boxer" bottles were originally shown by the late Don Wodicka, but since they have been showing up in the mail auctions and I am lucky enough to have all five, I will show them again.

Bottle number one is a real gem. It is Blended Dillinger Whiskey Distilled and Blended by Ruffsdale Distilling Co. Ruffsdale Pa. Braddock Pa. formerly Dillinger Distilling Co. It is 90 proof.

contains 12 1/2% Rye distilled Spring 1913 and 12 1/2% Rye distilled Fall 1934 with 75% neutral spirits, has a gold foil label printed in red and black and was made about 1935. Next we have another great looking bottle in Hunters Pride Bourbon Whiskey Bottled by Liberty Bottling Co. Chicago ILL. It is 90 proof, has a gold label printed in red and black, was made For Intra-state Sale and has a 1937 Illinois tax stamp. The last of these is Golden Harvest Straight Whiskey Bottled by Canadian American Spirits Corp. Jersey City N. J. It is 90 proof, Pennsylvania Straight Whiskey, has a gold label printed in red and black and was made about 1936.

The first "Boxer" bottle is John L. Straight Rye Whiskey Bottled by Oldetyme Distillers Inc. Jersey City, New Jersey. It is 90 proof, 2 years old, was distilled in Penna., has a blue label printed in red, white and gold and was made about 1937. The next is John L. Straight Bourbon Whiskey also from Oldetyme. It is 90 proof, 2 1/2 years old, was distilled in Kentucky, has a red label printed in gold and white and is from the same time period. As an interesting side note, all the John L. Ryes I have ever seen have Pennsylvania tax stamps and all the John L. Bourbons have Ohio tax stamps!





Moving along, we come to Dempsey's Special Brand Blended Whiskey Bottled by McKesson & Robbins Inc. Aladdin Pa. It is 90 proof, 2 years old, has a black label printed in red, gold and yellow and has a 1937 Florida tax stamp. This is followed by Jack Dempsey's Blended Whiskey Blended and Bottled by Jack Dempsey Co. (Baltimore Pure Rye) Dundalk Maryland, It is 86.8 proof, 3 years old, has a tan label printed in red, black and copper and was made in 1940. The last of these is Joe Louis Kentucky Straight Bourbon Whiskey Bottled in Kentucky by The Joe Louis Distilling Co. Lawrenceburg Kentucky. It is 86 proof, 4 years old, has a white label printed in red, black and gold and was made in

1952. This bottle is a good example of some of the lesser known brands produced between 1945 and 1955. Bottles from this time period seem to be somewhat scarce.

Finally, it was always considered that the Joe Louis was the hardest of these bottles to find, but a quantity of these turned up in one collection last year. This makes me wonder how many more good bottles are still out there in dormant collections and where the hell can I find them?

As always, if anyone would like any further information on any bottle pictured, please feel free to contact me at 309 Knopp Valley Drive, Winona MN 55987.

Until next time. . . . MELO

# WHAT'S NEW

## Old, Odd, or Unusual

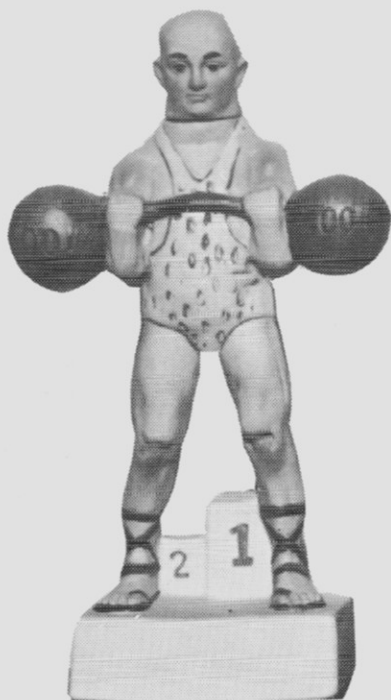
by  
TONY NATELLI

(Ed. note: It's been much too long since we've seen Tony Natelli's articles on bottles. This situation is herewith corrected.)

**KOALAS** - Like the pandas, koalas are among everybody's favorite animals. This native of Australia has been depicted at least three times by distilleries in miniature form. Shown here are Lionstone, Collector's Art, and Ski Country. The Lionstone was part of their first Safari Series, the Collector's Art from a scarce set of five animals and five birds, and the Ski Country version alas was never released. Although, as the picture shows, it's a rather nice bottle.



LIONSTONE CIRCUS SET - The released version was very popular. But unknown to collectors, a magnificent set, produced by Goto of Japan, was never put into production. Pictured here are five of the nine: Burmese Girl, Strongman, Fat Lady, Snake Charmer and Fire Eater. These really are out of this world! Unfortunately, nothing is known of the other four which were the Barker, Giant with Midget, Tattooed Lady, and Sword Swallower.







# "SPECIAL" COGNACS

(Ed. note: The following article originally appeared in the September 1988 edition of *Business Traveler*. The article is by Terence F. Murphy and covers a lot of territory in a small amount of space.)

Cognac is fast becoming the world's status drink. Worldwide annual sales have jumped from 120 million bottles a year to more than 160 million bottles per annum in just five years. This at a time when brown spirits - whiskeys, bourbons, scotches - are on the wane.

Why all the fuss?

Even as consumption drops in France, Americans and Orientals have latched onto Cognac for its upscale image. Cognac has developed an aura of prestige, savoir faire and luxury: and at \$20 for a respectable bottle, it's an affordable indulgence.

Described by aficionados as the essence of France, Cognac is, in fact, simply premium brandy. Cognac is so designated because it's brandy twice distilled from grapes grown in the Cognac region of France and blended, bottled and sold under strict regional control. Maurice R. Hennessy, of the Cognac house which bears his family name, speaks volumes about the product and its producers and devotees when he explains, "All Cognac is brandy; but not all brandy is Cognac."

The spirit was born of necessity by crafty Cognac wine merchants who, in the 17th century, needed to cut the bulk of their product and produce a beverage that would weather ocean-going transport to market in drinkable form. They produced a brandy of such distinction, according to today's Cognac houses,

that it became known by the name of its region of origin. Thus was Cognac created for moderns to savor straight up for its heady "nose" and woody "feel" - a complex sensory experience that connoisseurs describe not so much for its taste as its "smell-taste".

It's unlikely that the Cognac's medieval winemakers envisioned a day when their rather undistinguished vintages would engender such rarified consideration. Cognac winemakers distilled their thin vintages in onion-shaped Byzantine pot stills. This simple coil still - the alembic - was left behind in Cognac by alchemists among invading Arabs who had futilely pursued the medieval goal of distilling gold.

Sometime in the 17th century, one of the region's wine makers was struck with the idea of twice distilling his wine, transforming the milky-white first distillation (a8 percent alcohol) into a crystal-clear liquid known as eau-de-vie. Thus was born the raw component (70 percent alcohol) that forms the base of Cognac. The region's 200 producers continue to use the traditional pot stills, which distinguishes them from common brandy-makers who employ more efficient continuous-process stills. (Such makers are also not bound by the strictures of the Bureau National Interprofessionnel de Cognac. They also, heaven forbid, make brandy from fruits other than the Saint-Emilion grape!)

Today, the creation of the four legally defined qualities of Cognac progresses much as it did 400 years ago. Once double distillation is complete, the resulting eau-de-vie is aged in the casks fashioned without nails or glue from oak shanks aged outdoors for four

to six years. By law, Cognac barrel makers must cut their shanks from 70 to 150 year old oaks found in the Limousin and Tronçais forests in Cognac.

New eau-de-vie is placed in new barrels. Aged for a minimum of two years (though generally longer), it draws tannin from the oak, which imparts color and taste, as it's oxidized by air entering through the oak's pores. Evaporation claims 20 percent of the liquid during this stage.

By this time, the eau-de-vie is under the watchful nose of the master blender. He determines which vintages will be blended when and with what other sub-regional batches and vintages, thus maintaining a consistent "house style" from year to year.

By combining brandies of different regions and ages, each house releases Cognac that will satisfy four quality levels as defined by the BNIC.

Basic Cognac bears the label designation, VS or 3-Star. BNIC requires 3-Star be comprised of brandies aged a minimum of two years. Generally, VS is a blend of brandies aged an average of five to nine years.

High quality Cognac is labelled VSOP. Its components must be aged a minimum of four years, though the major houses add enough very old eau-de-vie to make the average age of this class about 12 years. XO, VVSOP, Vielle Reserve, Grand Reserve, Napoleon, Royal and Vieux are label designations for the oldest Cognacs. These bottles contain a significant percentage of very old eau-de-vies, some aged as long as 20, 30, 40 years or more.

A fourth BNIC classification, Fine Champagne Cognac, refers not to the age of its component eau-de-vies, but to sub-regions from which they come. Such a bottle is a blend of brandies distilled entirely from grapes grown in Cognac's two highest quality sub-regions.

Buying a good Cognac, therefore, is a relatively uncomplicated matter. The four largest brands of Cognac, in descending order of worldwide market share, are Hennessy (21 percent), Martell (19 percent), Remy Martin (15 percent), and Courvoisier (14 percent).

A bottle of VS should run about \$20; VSOP, about \$30. The third category can hit very high prices. Japanese bus-

inessmen are known to exchange \$300 bottles as gifts. A Hennessy XO, for instance, will run about \$75 in the United States.

Purists suggest Cognac be enjoyed after dinner, straight up in a traditional snifter warmed by the hand. This gentle warming allows the Cognac's bouquet to be released, overwhelming the lucky imbiber with the connoisseur's "taste-smell". The major producers, however, encourage its enjoyment anytime in tall chilled cocktails. The Japanese seem to favor it mixed with water and drink it as an accompaniment to dinner.





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