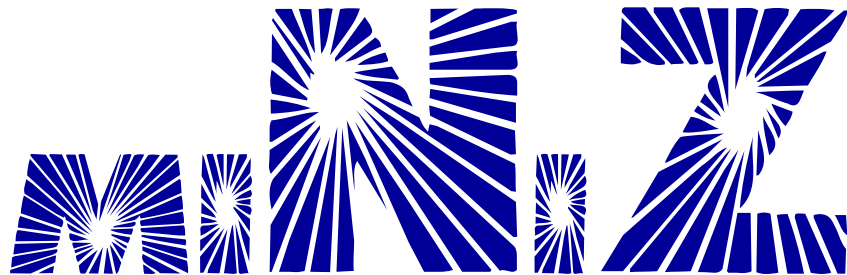
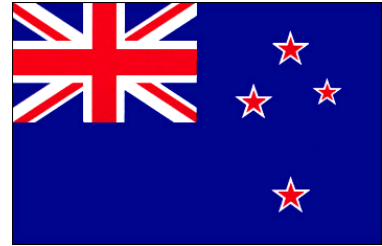


Issue 108

Autumn 2015



THE NEWSLETTER OF NEW ZEALAND MINIATURE BOTTLE CLUB



Australasia's only Miniature Bottle Club - www.minisnz.com

NEW NEW ZEALAND, THIS & THAT

See the Matakana Moonshine article for the cover bottles and more from that company.



We start with two previously unknown Hokonui jugs found by Peter Bonkovich in Dunedin. He bought these for \$1.50 each! Nice jugs but I am not sure how genuine they are, especially the first one. The second jug certainly has a genuine label. The Hokonui Moonshine Rally 95 was a southland motorcycle rally celebrating the tradition of illegal distillation in the hills of Southland & Otago. There was a plastic bottle issued for this (unfortunately we do not have a photograph and, ironically, it was made by legal distiller, Wilsons) and this could be a label off one of those or the jug could have also been made at the time.

Also from Peter is the photo of the Remy Martin VSOP Cognac mini with a NZ importer's label (Hancock Wines and Spirits).

The photo of the four miniatures on the right was sent to us by Erica Mulder. These are from Villa Italia Ltd., Kerikeri and all bear the trade name Sovrano. In order they are Caffelisir Coffee Liqueur, Limoncello Cream Lemon Liqueur, Vodka & Limoncello Lemon Liqueur. They are soon to make Orangello Liqueur also.



Seva sent us the photo of the Ironbark miniatures on the left (vodka, moonshine, gin & chai spirit). These are from a new Australian distillery, <http://ironbarkdistillery.com.au/> He also tells us of another new Australian distillery that sell miniatures, <http://www.reddirdistillery.com.au/> There are quite a number of new Australian distilleries springing up and most do seem to be making miniatures, although often at a very hefty price.

Brandy, Raspberry Brandy, Strawberry Brandy & Pear Williams Brandy. All are 40%, 40ml. The NZ Miniatures list in on the club web site, <http://www.minisnz.com/nzbottles.html> and contains links to photographs of most of the bottles. Note that it is currently not 100% up-to-date but I will get around



to updating it at some point later this year.

The football scandal just broke a few days ago (as I write this) and the FIFA Under 20 World Cup starts in Auckland later today, so it is topical to show you a new bottle depicting the World Cup (Jules Remy Trophy). This is from Peru and is filled with Old Times Scotch. As far as I am aware the only other depiction of this in miniature are two bottles made by McLech which contain Kindness Scotch.



We may as well stick with football. Last year I had a bit of a slip-up in my bottle room and broke the Beneagles England bottle shown below (Scotland bounced without damage!).

These are as rare as hens' teeth among collectors and I never expected to replace it. The three turned up at the Midwest Show this year and, of course, I grabbed them with both hands.



I found the 5 Hawaiian Tikis for sale on one of the Kolektado sites. They are the first ceramics I know about made by Hungarian company Merripit, who are well known for their great blown glass bottles. There are some of the latter for sale there too.



All contain 50ml at 40%. The blue is filled with Jack Daniels, the grey is filled with Jim Beam, the next 3 are Scotch, Grants (green), Johnnie Walker (mid-brown) and Balantines (dark brown).



For no better reason than I had a space to fill! Some matchbox Scotches from Cumbrae Supply.

David Smith

HAVE YOU GOT THE WITS?



I have recently acquired several hundred photos of tube bottles to add to Miniature Bottle Library. W.I.T. (Wine in Tube), is a contract bottler with a factory in Bordeaux, France. As you can see they fill in three sizes, 5cl, 6cl & 10cl. They used to also fill 4cl tubes so you may come across some of these also.

I used to think that WIT was the tube maker until someone put me right at the Midwest Show this year. Because of this, most of the existing WIT tubes on MBL are listed with the distiller in their country of origin, rather than as WIT, under France. It is probably less confusing this way so I will continue with what I have already started. However, WIT have now started bottling their own range of spirits, as well as a range of French wines, which they sell through their own web site, <http://www.witfrance.com/en/> as well as through overseas agents. This includes <http://drinkintube.co.nz/> - which, confusingly, is hosted in Japan!



Above are shown some of WIT's own spirit brands.

A few 'gems' from the NZ site include:



Grands Cognacs XO – Vieux Millelimes

\$ 182.16

In this luxurious tasting box you will discover the finest symphony that Oak barrels and time can compose. The Perraud Estate is proud to make you discover all the authenticity of its terroir and its craftsmanship. Through those two liquid treasures you will discover the Cognac appellation region.

2 x 60 ml XO M 20 years old Grand Cognac
1 x 60 ml XO 10 years old Grand Cognac

Out of stock



Club Degustation – Whisky & Gin

\$ 102.35

This unusual and appealing gift box will open your senses to the unique characteristics of "Bonnie Scotland" with a selection of four of its finest whiskies (two single malts and two blends) and one stunning gin. Take a taste trip through the Scottish Highlands and let this taste box evoke all the wonderful smells of the heather on the hillsides, the peat and the salty sea spray. All the warmth of Scotland is here, its people and its rugged land of mists and mystery.

1 x 100 ml The Balvenie (12 yrs Special 43° Edition Whisky)
1 x 100 ml Glenfiddich (15 yrs Distillery Edition Whisky)
1 x 100 ml Grant's Sherry Cask (Single Malt Whisky)
1 x 100 ml The Black Grouse (Whisky)
1 x 100 ml Hendrick's (Premium Gin)



The Cognacs seem horribly expensive, the Club Degustation set not too bad. The tower of 48 classy French wines can be bought for NZ\$537.63 (plus postage? – it was not clear). At \$11.20 each this is not too bad either but there is a problem, every bottle/set I looked at was shown as 'out of stock.'

I'll bring you some examples of their contract bottled spirits in miNiZ109 and by then they should all be on Miniature Bottle Library.

David Smith

MATAKANA MOONSHINE

Peter Bonkovich has once again come up trumps with some new NZ bottles for us. He found the bottles on the cover in a bottle store in Tirau and subsequently contacted the company.

Apparently, Matakana are having no trouble getting their larger bottles into stores but few want to stock miniatures. You may not find these very easily but Peter has it covered for you – and at a discount. Contact him at peter_bonkovich@actrix.co.nz

The presentation box is only normally sold directly by the company if you visit them personally. However, Peter can get these for you also. Note that all are plastic at present but the company wants to use glass sometime in the future.

A bit of history from Matakana (a.k.a. The Bush Limited) in their own words.....

Matakana Moonshine. was born of two blokes, one named Chris, who during the last century has variously flipped burgers, bagged sugar, hired out VHS Videos (hmm), broken air speed records (seriously), and made curtains. Falling on hard times Chris who could no longer afford his nightly dose of Bourbon, went bush and distilled Moonshine...as ya do. Chris, the inventor, is today our Chief Distillation Officer (CDO) busying himself with all matters production, whilst impressing the ladies with his dancing...



The other half of "the bush" is Mark (nick-name Hobie). Cutting his teeth sweeping factory floors and blowing up fishbowls (those things explode big-time man!), Hobie then proceeded to flog stuff. Amongst a vast array of other stuff, he's sold baths, security doors, tea cups, tiles, motor scooters, picnic hampers, dunnies, and machines that can stimulate...say no more! Hobie also found time to bum around the world picking up some foreign language skills along the way. Mark, our Hawker in Chief (hic) is such an avid fan of this pristine, pure, natural New Zealand range of spirits, that he's determined to share the love world-wide!

Apparently the vodka recently picked up a silver medal (tell everyone it's platinum guys, the colour is roughly the same) for the vodka and a bronze for the gin (you're admitting to being third? A failure in NZ surely!) at the recent San Francisco World Spirits Competition. Seriously, two medals out of two entries in a completion with 1400 entries ain't too bad. (Anything is better than the gin I tasted in Florida – see the account of our trip to the Midwest Show and the Deep South).

The guys obviously do not think much of their other two offerings, Matakana Moonshine Amber Lightning Premium Southern Style Whiskey & Matakana Moonshine Southern Style Whiskey with Honey as they were not entered in any category in San Francisco (said with foot firmly in my mouth and tongue in cheek, honest guys). Having just been in Kentucky sampling Bourbons I will be interested to try these.

We wish them well.

David Smith

SEPPELTS PARA PORT

It may surprise some of you to know that one of the world's most expensive Ports comes not from Portugal but from Australia. I recently came across the Seppeltsfield web site <http://www.seppeltsfield.com.au/> Seppelts Port was sold off by Seppelts (Fosters Group) in 2007 and today trades under the Seppeltsfield name, the long standing name of the winery. As well as 750ml bottles Seppelts make a range of 350ml and 100ml bottles, which they sell in a presentation box. Most years are available back to 1882 – at a price! A 100ml 1882 miniature will set you back A\$2150. The photos are all of 100ml bottles.



The 1912 is
A\$500 and the
1985 is A\$400

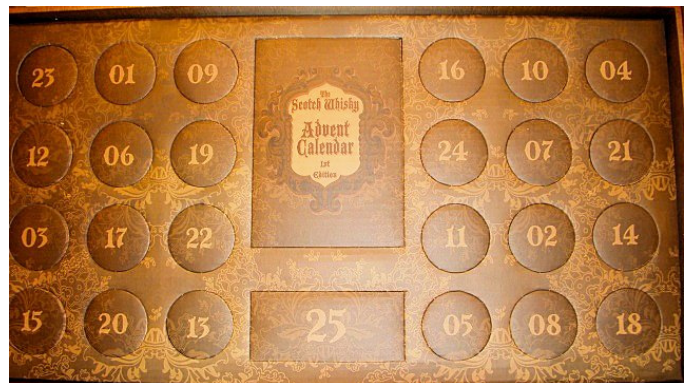
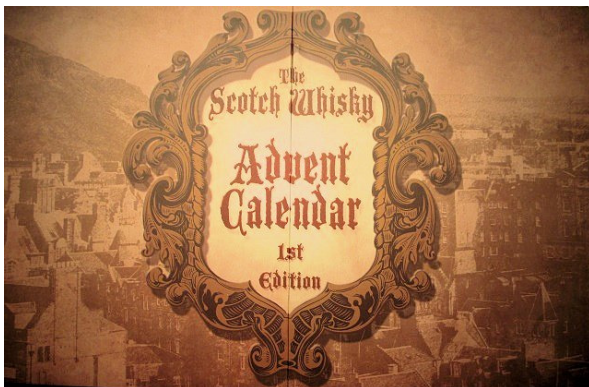


Above is Seppelts Para Tawny Anthology Set 1915, 1925, 1935, 1945, 1955, 1965 – price not disclosed. On the right is Seppelts WWI set (1914-15-16-17-18) A\$5000 per set, a limited edition of 100

David Smith

DAVID'S BOTTLES

Despite this edition of miNiZ being late it is still a bit early for an Advent calendar but I'm going to show it to you anyway. For all our readers who are Buddhists, Muslims, Hindus, Zoastrians or assorted flavours of non-believers I should explain that an Advent calendar is a special calendar used to count or celebrate the days in anticipation of Christmas. The Advent calendar was first used by German Lutherans in the 19th century but is now ubiquitous among adherents of many Christian denominations. Consecutive doors are opened every day leading up to Christmas and, typically, each window will reveal a biblical picture or verse, which, of course, is not good enough for miniature bottle collectors. This calendar reveals a new miniature bottle of Scotch each day – pictures below. The single photo is the Christmas Day bottle.





Skull bottles are very popular at the moment. I showed you two from Spain in the last edition, here is a set of 8 skulls from Spain, 4 Vodkas, 2 Absinthes, a Scotch and a Tequila.





The final photo on the last page shows three Querido Viejo Tequilas, Blanco, Reposado and Anejo. On the left are two more Tequila, these ones from DeLeon. They are a Blanco and a Reposado. At time of writing they have not made an Anejo.

1886 Vodka is from Estonia. The four Esme Vodkas were made in France in 2014 but for sale in the USA. Ocean Organic Vodka in the ball shaped bottle is from Hawaii.



On the right are three new English Gins.



On the far left is a new version of Pravda Vodka from Poland, followed by Bear Vodka from the Russian Federation.

The final bottle, Moskovskaya, was made in 2014 especially for the miniature bottle show in Moscow.

David Spaid

SOUTHERN MAN – FOR SALE

petemoffat@hotmail.com

Hi I'm Peter Moffatt, a.k.a. Southern Man, and no, I'm not for sale but part of my collection is. I used to be a club member when I lived in Wellington. I decided to offer these sets to club members first and have discussed prices with David Smith & Peter Bonkovich to make sure they are realistic. All sets are in original packaging and all seals are intact. All prices plus postage.



AS SEEN ON EBAY #31

The odd bottle photo in this article has been supplied by Peter Bonkovich with the Australian bottle photos supplied by Neil Atkinson, you can blame me for the rest. As Seen on Ebay never has been completely correct as we have always included bottles from other auction sources including Trademe and WhiskyAuction <http://www.whiskyauction.com/> (Germany). Many of the bottles in this article are from a new auction site, Whisky.Auction, <https://whisky.auction/> This is based in the UK and has a name that is bound to cause confusion due to it's similarity to the well established (1997) German site. I hate to think of the legal complications! I understand that the late David Maund's collection will be sold on this site.

We will start with some crazily priced Australian bottles. Bottles with a Bundaberg connection always fetch good money in Australia but for some reason even wines seem to sell for many times more than they would here or anywhere else I know of. These three wines twice failed to sell when offered at a minimum bid of A\$29.95 but sold when offered at A\$19.95



The two Frangos liqueur bottles (Royal Rum & Apricot Brandy) sold for A\$380.75 after 11 bids. At today's exchange rate that's NZ\$410 or US\$291!

The pistol is actually 8 fl.oz. but I have seen this, or ones like it, in many collections. This is

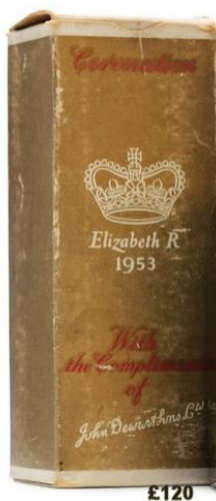
empty but was filled with Bundaberg Royal Liqueur. This had a minimum bid of A\$500 and after 16 bids sold for A\$1025

The final Australian bottle we have to show you was sold on Ebay but in this case Ebay Spain not Ebay Australia. After 21 bids this Sullivan's Cove single malt in a wooden box sold for €102.50



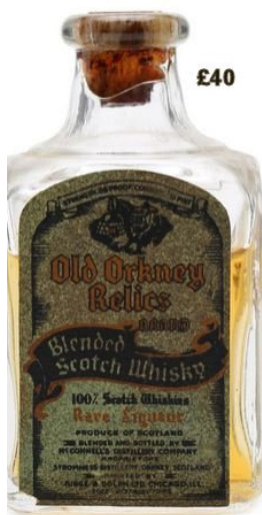
Lastly on this page we have the Schweppes miniature soda siphon. This was sold on Trademe for \$230 – probably a bargain.

The next 20 bottles (18 lots) were all sold on Whisk.Auction. I will mainly let them speak for themselves.





£35



£40



£40



£50



£12

The Hennessy Na-Geanna whisky was sold on Ebay France - €40.50 bought it. Hands up those of you who knew Hennessy made whisky? Our final two whiskies were sold on Ebay Australia. Johnnie Walker gold sold for A\$33.50. That seems OK but A\$40.98 for a plastic Jack Daniels? Some collectors are just plain crazy.



The next bottles were all sold on Ebay France.



€780
Yes, €780!



€130



€58



€29.50



The final bottle is actually a perfume made to look like a Guinness. It is about 65mm tall. This one sold for £12.50 I have had one of these for years – probably the only perfume in my collection.



***** David Smith

TWO FOLLOW ONS FROM MINIZ ISSUE 107



If you thought you had seen these before you would be both right and wrong. In miNiZ107 we showed you the Macallan Angel's Share. David Spaid has sent us this photo of two variations. Left is 10yo Oak expression while right is 10yo Sherry wood expression. Each is £25 and available only at the Macallan distillery shop.

Another Old Collection was an article in miNiZ107. Bill Baker writes: I have a business friend who's favorite restaurant in Vegas is the one you mentioned in the Newsletter #107. I believe it is called Batista's. From the looks of the website <http://battistaslasvegas.com/> it is the same place you went with Rosie. However I can tell you that my buddy ate there just a month or two back and it is still going strong.

LAUREL & HARDY

MBC had the Laurel & Hardy bottles made in the 1970's. They are not at all common but most of you will have seen them at some point. What you will not have seen are the two sample Laurel & Hardy in Car bottles, the all black and the blue bisque finish. The glazed cream Laurel & Hardy in Car was the production bottle. I prefer the blue bisque version – what do you think?



There were a total of 4 Laurel or Hardy standing bottles plus a label variation of the two glazed ones (the two on the left below) and one more sample that we know of – the final bottle below.



David Smith

We Welcome New Members

It is always good to welcome new members but especially so when they are from countries we have not previously had any members from, Colombia & China.

Jose Fernando Escobar	Colombia.	Email: joferescobar@gmail.com
Zhuang Xinyuan	China.	Email: zxy7861@163.com
Brian DeAthe	Canada.	Email: bdeathe0423@rogers.com

Brian was formerly a member. He has now seen the error of his ways and re-joined.



Big Al's is in Manteo, Roanoke Island, N. Carolina. It was after 2.00pm and we still had not had lunch when we saw this place. It is amazing what you come across by accident. This retro American Diner has a very fine collection of Coca Cola memorabilia. Apparently the collection was the property of a long standing employee who left it to them when she retired. Not many miniatures (I offered to sell them some miniature Cokes) but very well worth a look.



D
A
V
I
D

S
M
I
T
H



WHERE HAVE ALL THE BOTTLES GONE?

This article is about our trip to the Midwest Miniature Bottle Show in April, then onto Kentucky and points Deep South. The title will be explained later.

It was somewhat of a last minute decision to go to St. Louis this year. We were going to do a different holiday later in the year but Rosie badly injured her ankle and that holiday would have involved a lot of walking. We therefore devised a trip starting at the show and having a trip that was more driving and less walking.

I arrived in St. Louis on Wednesday evening (29 hours house to hotel!), in time to do some shopping and get over the worst of the jetlag before other collectors started arriving Thursday Evening / Friday. I say I as Rosie had something she could not get out of on the Friday and so did not travel (and arrive – dateline crossed) until Saturday.

Unfortunately the show was fairly poorly attended this year and a number of sellers who had booked tables did not turn up. That is not to say that it was not an enjoyable weekend. One advantage of fewer people is that you do get to finish (or even start) conversations. I caught up with old friends and got to know better a number of collectors who were previously only acquaintances.

The Friday night was, as usual, a buffet dinner and club auction. The dinner was a better spread than most other years but the auction was a bit of a flop with a lot of the bottles being bought back by the seller. There were some good bottles in the auction but, due to, at best, only half the crowd of some years, prices were poor.

Saturday morning saw me helping, dealer, Harry Goetz set up as usual. A number of the tables, Harry's three included, felt a bit more empty than usual and many of the offerings were uninspiring. Having said that there



The Auction - Yes this is a bottle!



Harry Goetz and his tables

was some good stuff there and some sellers did OK. I know that member Seva and his mother (they run two tables together each year) were satisfied with what they sold. I bought 36 bottles this year but 24 were one set. I have done worse than this on one other occasion but generally I buy more (usually I am spoiled for choice and have to 'prioritise' my purchases lest 'she who must be obeyed' objects!). Saturday night saw the two of us dining with four ~~Spades~~ Spads and Harry at the same restaurant as last year. This time we managed to be in the same room (see miNiZ105)!

Sunday morning is often the time for real bargains but this time a number of dealers had already left, apparently deciding that there were not enough buyers to justify staying a second day. Collectors were openly talking about the demise of the show but let me put the numbers in context. In the 1980's I attended a number of the California Shows (Los Angeles / San Francisco). These were very enjoyable affairs but none of these had an attendance as large as St. Louis this year. It is noticeable that the 'anniversary' shows (20th, 25th, 30th, 35th) are always better attended and this was not one of those. Last year's show was the 35th and Harry Goetz turned up having just bought (literally on the way to the show) one of the finest collections of ceramic/fancy glass bottles in the US, so it is not realistic to compare the two years. The main problem with the show is the same problem with the hobby in general, collectors are simply getting older. Some have passed away, some are in poor health and some simply are at the stage in life where they do not want to make the journey every year. On a brighter note, there are an increasing number of (mainly younger!) collectors in China, S.E. Asia and Eastern Europe. The challenge is to get them to attend the show.



General view of the show



Former Still House now the Visitor Center & Shop

they charge \$25 for a tour of a barrel warehouse, you don't go near the distillery. I don't know whether you get the glass following a tasting as, at that price, we didn't bother.

We visited, in order, Jim Beam, Woodford Reserve, Wild Turkey, Barton's 1792 & Four Roses. There were plenty of others we could have visited. All had miniatures for sale, although I did not buy any as I do not collect Bourbon (unless ceramic).

The first four distillery photos above are all from Jim Beam. Jim Beam used to conduct a very poor tour that did not take visitors into the distillery. They built

From St. Louis we headed east to Kentucky for three days of distillery visits. Most of the Kentucky distilleries do tours, most are \$10 and most give you the tasting glass after having had anything from two to eight tastes of different products. Makers Mark is an exception to this. The tour is great (I have done it three times but not on this trip) but they are in a dry (prohibition) county so they cannot give you a taste of their highly regarded Bourbon. Avoid Heaven Hill as



Myself in front of a few of the extensive collection of Beam decanters



Small Batch still



Rosie photographing her bottle as it goes down the bottling line

the new visitor centre and started doing proper tours a couple of years ago. It is now well worth a visit. Rosie bought a bottle of Knob Creek 120 proof Single Barrel Reserve. She got to select and wash the bottle (in bourbon), put it onto the bottling line, watch it being filled and labelled and then seal it with her thumb print.

Woodford Reserve distillery is a real gem, the tour is a good one and the Bourbon ain't too bad also.



The delightful Woodford Reserve Distillery



Barrel Filling



Pot Stills - unusual for Bourbon

The Kentucky countryside and settings for many of the distilleries is really lovely. The winding lanes reminded us of England but you are reminded where you are when you turn a corner and come across a big black ageing warehouse.



30,000 Gallon Fermenter at Wild Turkey



Continuous Still at Wild Turkey

Next stop, Wild Turkey. Again a good tour

Barton's, for reasons I cannot explain, was a distillery we were not going to visit. However we were nearby and had some time to spare. We are glad we did.



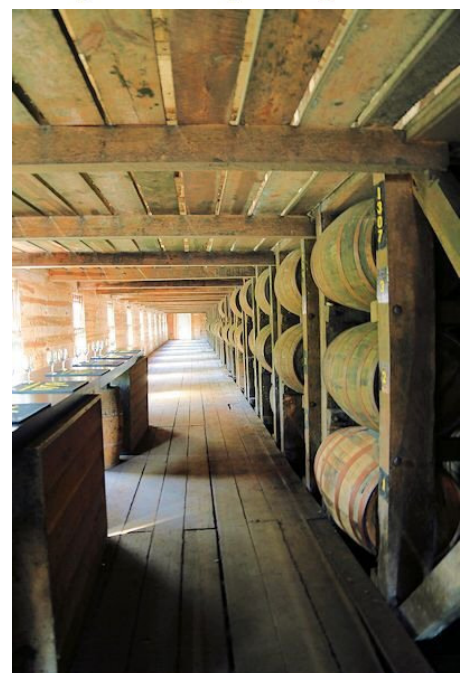
Typical Kentucky barrel ageing warehouse at Barton 1796 Distillery



Wild Turkey had a lovely tasting room



Three Millionth Barrel



Warehouse interior view, most are 7 stories high

Our final Kentucky distillery was Four Roses. This is, as you can see, a delightful building. Unfortunately we were too late for a tour but they took pity on Rosie and she got to taste several bourbons (I declined due to driving). They even gave her two tasting glasses as she was so complimentary of their Bourbons. Rosie has now decided that having tasted 'the good stuff' she prefers Bourbon to Scotch.

Leaving Kentucky we headed for the coast (Virginia Beach) then drove down the outer Banks of North Carolina, eventually arriving in Charlenton, a delightful city. Heading further south we bypassed Savannah (another delightful city but it is not long since we had been there) and ended up at or southernmost point, Orlando. Neither of us are into rollercoasters and the like but we did enjoy a very full-on day at the Kennedy Space Centre.



Four Roses Distillery



Tasting at Four Roses



Starting our journey back north we had a couple of days in St. Augustine, the oldest city in North America. It is well worth a visit but the St. Augustine Distillery isn't! The one saving grace is that the visit is free. They make Vodka, Gin and Bourbon. I thought it unusual at the end of the tour when they gave us two cocktails, one each made with their Vodka and Gin. You couldn't taste the spirit in either. At the end we were given the opportunity to taste the Gin – YUK!



St. Augustine Pot Stills



Small Barrel Ageing

Their Bourbon is not yet old enough to release so we did not get to try this. They are aging in both 'full size' and smaller barrels. The smaller barrels age faster so some of the Bourbon will be ready next year. There is some hope that this will be drinkable and possibly good as the former Master Distiller at Maker's Mark is acting as a consultant.

From St. Augustine we carried on north, eventually ending up at St. Louis again for our flights home.

Whenever we could we stopped at antique malls as both of us are collectors and it is a good excuse for a break in the driving. Rosie got lots of Frogs but there were very few

miniature bottles to be seen. About half of those we saw were Wild Turkey (usually over-priced) with a sprinkling of a few other common bottles. I only picked up four more bottles from the probably dozens of antique malls we visited over the five weeks. I was lucky enough to pick up one of the Wild Turkey Habitat bottles at the show and, amazingly, I picked up the other one it pairs up to at an antique mall.



Where have all the bottles gone? With Ebay USA no longer allowing you to sell minis that contain alcohol, straight or ceramic, I had expected to see lots, hundreds, of minis in the antique malls. In reality there are probably less now than when I travelled in the US in 1999/2000.

So, **Where Have All The Minis Gone?**

David Smith

DATE, TIME & PLACE

Sunday 5th July 2015, 12.30pm Pot Luck Lunch, Ian Butcher's, 5 Sunburst Court, Paraparaumu
Telephone: 04 904 3157 E-Mail: [lan](mailto:lan@paraparaumu.co.nz)

Saturday 15th August 2015, 6.00pm Pot Luck Dinner, Ken Chin's, 29 Norton Park Avenue, Fairfield, Lower Hutt
Telephone: 04 938 1488 E-Mail: [Ken](mailto:ken@kenchin.co.nz)

Sunday 18th October 2015, 12.30pm Pot Luck Lunch, Colin Ryder's, 20 Prospect Terrace, Johnsonville
Telephone: 04 478 4391 E-Mail: [Colin](mailto:colin@colinryder.co.nz)

December 2015. Christmas Meal. Venue and Date TBA

Sunday 10th January 2016, 6.00pm Barbecue at David & Rosie's, 11 Trevor Terrace, Paremata
Telephone: 04 233 2997 E-Mail: [David](mailto:david@davidrosies.co.nz)

February 2016 AGM Weekend - Date, City & Venue TBA

Other meeting dates and venues for 2016 will be decided at the AGM

Four new vehicles from Peru, all filled with Royal Highness Scotch



1963 Corvette Stingray, 1932 Ford Coupe Hot Rod, 1907 Ford Locomobile Type E, 1907 Ford Model T Delivery Truck