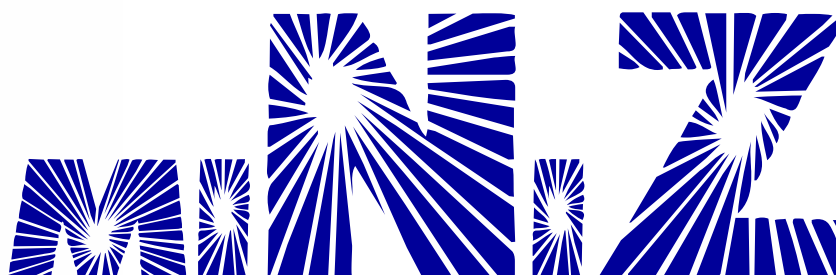
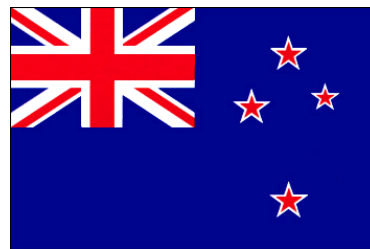


Issue 110

Spring 2015



THE NEWSLETTER OF NEW ZEALAND MINIATURE BOTTLE CLUB



NEW NEW ZEALAND, THIS & THAT

Our very special cover bottles this quarter were found by Erica Mulder. Blue Duck Rare Vodka is inspired by the extremely rare and endangered Blue Duck, *hymenolaimus malacorhynchos*. It is unique to New Zealand and is confined to white-water rivers in the country's remote mountain regions. Its Maori name is *whio whio* after the distinctive whistling call of the male. Black Robin Rare Gin is inspired by the extremely rare and endangered black robin *petroica traversi*. It is found only on the remote Chatham Islands of New Zealand. Maori named it *toutouwai* and in 1980 there were only five black robins left, only one female. Thanks to a herculean effort, a unique programme involving the last breeding pair, and a lot of luck, the extinction of the species was averted. The whole process was documented by Natural History New Zealand. If you want to see how the world's rarest bird was saved go to <http://www.nzonscreen.com/title/the-black-robin-a-chatham-island-story-1989> - it is well worth seeing and has become a 'must watch' for conservationists world-wide. A percentage of profits from both these bottles is donated to the Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society of New Zealand for the preservation of these birds for future generations.

Erica also found the St. Remy Napoleon Brandy, a NZ import.



The five NZ bottles on the left were unknown to me when I spotted them on a Slovakian web site! (see also More Sachets #2). Bliss cream liqueur was made by Lion Liquor Retail but I do not know when. The four Gourmet Collection are from a shop in Blenheim.



Jim Crawford sent us the photos of the tube bottle from Morocco. How many of you even knew Morocco made minis? It is a US import so our US members should be able to source this.



I also found this set of three Absinthe bottles, with spoon, on the Slovakian web site referred to above. I thought, "I've seen those bottles before." Indeed I had, there are four French whiskies in the same bottles in David Spaid's article later in this edition.

On the next page we have a photo of two birds. These were sent to me by Seva and he is trying to track down who made them. He thinks that they are probably from somewhere in South America and the writing on them is certainly Spanish. They were made for a XXIII Anniversary dinner in 1978 for an Association of some sort. Any ideas?



The Skull is filled with 5cl of Noble Vodka from Whisky & Spirit Merchants of Germany. We have brought you plenty of bottles from this company before under it's previous name, Global Whisky & Spirits (notably in issue 104). There are 5 of these, each with different coloured eyes. There were 92 'different' figurals for sale by W&SM but we have seen most of these before, the only difference being the contents. Four that are new to me are the glass Barrel (there are 22 different whiskies in these), the Horse Shoe with Money Jar, The Money Bag and the Cognac Jugs (there are 7 boxed singles of these and 7 boxed sets of three). All are HORRIBLY EXPENSIVE!

Ron Gabbard alerted me to Outer Space vodka (in the NWMBC newsletter) but he gave no details and the 50ml mini photo was tiny. I managed to track down a better photo, but, other than that they are made in the USA, I cannot tell you



anything else about them. David Spaid has one for me – a must have I thought.



Every year, in October, KLM release their latest canal house. KLM is 96 years old so we are now up to #96. This is a replica of the Hamel House in Gorinchem.



Frank Wynn found us another new NZ bottle. The Vaione Pacific Gin is made by a Kiwi of Pacific Island heritage. It originated as a home distillation project (New Zealand is one of the few countries that allows home distilling). It has now grown into a business with export orders. It has additional citrus to give it a Pacific Island flavour.

Finally, our overseas members are probably wondering why the extra 5 flags on the cover. New Zealanders vote on which one of these we most prefer in November and the winning design is put up against the current flag next year. I especially like one design but it looks as though the current flag will remain.



David Smith

WHAT'S IN A NAME #4

CADENHEADS

Although I was born and raised in Edinburgh I had never heard of Cadenhead's until I came to New Zealand. My oldest sister used to send me miniatures which was quite big of her as she was teetotal and the only thing she knew of alcohol was the effect it had on my dad and myself. However she did know about Cadenhead's as the family lived just off the Royal Mile before I was born.

Cadenhead's was established in Aberdeen in 1842 and are now based in Campbeltown with shops in London and Edinburgh. They are Scotland's oldest independent bottlers though for the last fifty years they have shared the same ownership as Springbank Distillery. They purchase casks of whisky, age them and then bottle them under their own label. They have issued a huge number of whiskies but in small quantities.



At first it seemed a bit unusual to keep receiving bottles that all had similar labels. They were green bottles with white writing on black labels. Then I realised it was the only way I would find examples of long closed distilleries such as St. Magdalene and Glen Lochy. The manager had taken pity on my sister and sold her some of the less common examples. The label designers did lighten up a bit as shown on the Strathisla-Glenlivet bottle.

Now and again they burst into colour (too much sampling) and produced bottles such as Hielenman which is a classic Scottish image. As mentioned above Cadenhead's originated in Aberdeen. The Putachieside bottle commemorates the suburb in which they started. For the early examples of this bottle the label stretched almost completely round the bottle. A

fire in the distillery damaged the plates for the label and so later bottlings have the standard sized label.

As well as a couple of examples mentioned above the company did produce a few of their own whiskies. Moidart came out in the late 1970's but is no longer produced. Their own bottlings seem to have nicer labels. The latest bottlings of their aged whiskies are the opposite of the earlier ones in that they have black writing on white labels.



I had hoped to write a more in depth article but I received no help from the company. In mid-August 2014 I sent them an e-mail asking four questions. Two weeks later I received no reply so I rang the shop in Campbeltown to whom I had sent the e-mail. They said the person who dealt with e-mails was not available and they could not answer my queries. They did give me the name of someone at Springbank distillery who could help so I sent him an e-mail. Two weeks later no reply so I rang the distillery to find out the man was on maternity leave (I wish they had that when our six children were born). In early October still



no reply so I reverted to snail mail and wrote to the distillery and also sent them some money for miniatures. A month later I rang the distillery again. They remembered getting the letter but could not trace who was dealing with it. They offered to ring back but with the time difference I said no thinking if they rang at 2am my wife would tell them of a different orifice to sample their whisky.

In mid-December I rang the distillery again and a person said my letter had just reached their desk that day and they would send me some miniatures (they arrived a month later). He could not answer any of my queries and could only say that they issue between 10 and 15 new miniatures each year.

Despite their lack of help I suppose we should be grateful for the hundreds of miniatures they have produced in the past which include gins and rums.

My sister must have enjoyed purchasing the miniatures as one day she went to a bonded warehouse in Leith, smiled nicely at the manager and came out with half a dozen bottles including a couple of ceramics. She ended up working in a brewery but is still teetotal.



Frank Wynn

NEW TO NEW ZEALAND

The Hijas De Villa Tequila is produced by Licores Veracrus to commemorate their 55th anniversary. The company is better known for their bottles in the shape of guns and rifles. They also produce Mocambo Rum.

The Caorunn Gin (pronounced Ka-roon) is a premium Scottish gin produced by Balmenach Distillery in the Highlands. At first glance it is round but it is actually five sided.



The Fireball Cinnamon Whisky is a Canadian bottle produced by Sazerac after they bought the rights from Seagrams in the late 1980's. It originally formed part of the Dr. McGillicuddy range. It is becoming a very popular drink in America.



The Ultimat is a Polish Vodka and comes in a cobalt blue bottle. It looks bigger than your average mini but is only 50ml.

Frank Wynn

MORE SACHETS #2

You can think of this article as a follow up to my article, Miniature Bottles?!? in miNiZ94 and More Sachets from Errol Brassett in miNiZ95. Since writing the two articles a few more sachets have been added to Miniature Bottle Library, making 130 in all. I will soon be adding about another 140. These extras came about in a rather unusual way – read on.

It all started with me (with my MBL hat on) finding a bottle from Palestine on a Slovakian web site whilst looking for something else. This was not the old Palestine British Mandate (now largely Israel) but the new Palestine proto-state. Jim Crawford runs the definitive site, <http://jimbottles.com/>, showing bottles from most countries and territories in the world, together with a list of countries Jim knows have made bottles but that he does not have a bottle from. Palestine, as I suspected, was not represented. I therefore emailed him a copy of the photo. Needless to say neither of us can read Arabic but Jim knows someone who does. It turned out that it contains Sweet Almond Oil so it does not fit in with Jim's collection or the criteria of MBL. So, no country added for either of us.



However, as well as a list of countries Jim is looking for bottles from, there is also a few photos of bottles from countries that Jim is looking for and that provide proof that they do/have produced bottles. Among them was the sachet on the left from Sierra Leone. MBL has no bottles from Sierra Leone so I copied the photo, then decided to see whether I could find a photo of the full sachet, and one good enough to show the maker.

The good thing about the internet is that any search throws up links that are only tangentially related to what you are search for, which lead you to other links etc etc. I found Double Punch, it is indeed from Sierra Leone, from a company called M. R. Distilleries. I also found photos of two other of their products, Flash & Tyson (all now on MBL). Following other links I found another company from Sierra Leone, Shankerdas & Sons (R. K. Distilleries), trading as Pegapak, and they had 11 photos of sachets they make on their web site. The sachets below are from this company.



As well as throwing up this other company from Sierra Leone links also led to companies from all over Africa and India (and a few further afield), some of which I knew about but many of which I didn't. More about this later but first a few bits of interesting information about these sachets. They vary from 25ml (common) to 100ml and can sell as cheaply as a few cents each. Some are made by respected multinationals, such as Diageo (through local African subsidiaries), and some by respectable local companies. Some are made by back-street operators and some of the sachets that some of these operators make are blatant knock-offs. The knock-offs sometimes contain alcohol of very dubious origin, including mythyl alcohol (which can kill you or send you blind!). I hate to think what some of these sachets taste like as even the best contain cheap spirit.



The problem with these sachets is that, due to their easy availability and cheapness, they are attractive to both children and drunks. For this reason, and the adulteration of some sachets, the Malawi government has recently banned them. However, Malawi has porous borders and the police are playing a game of 'Whack-a-Mole' with both smugglers and illegal retailers. There are certainly hundreds, possibly thousands, of brands of these sachets across Africa. If other countries follow

the lead of Malawi they are likely to get much less common, so if you want any start looking now before it is too late.

And so on to some of the others I found. We have already started with West Africa so next we go to Ghana. 1 Ghana Industries made Striker Gin and Mafia Whisky in these 50ml sachets. These are commonly found in Ivory Coast (next door, so to speak). Chelsea Dry Gin is from UDV Nigeria, part of Diageo. Sticking with Nigeria we have two sachets from Nigeria Distilleries, a 3cl Regal Dry Gin and a 6cl Seaman Schnapps. Both are also made in the other size.



Next stop, Cameroon, where I have identified three makers. Safrel makes Djaraba Rhum Café. This is 5cl – love the lions. Lions are obviously big in Cameroon as shown by our next sachet, Lion d'Or Whisky, another 5cl sachet. Fermencam made this and I have also identified another sachet they made of King Arthur Gin. Our final Cameroon sachet is Megore Sambuca, 50ml.



Next we will go to East Africa, working north to south, starting with Uganda. Judging by the number of photos I have found, Uganda appears to have a lot of companies making sachets, all of the ones I have found being 100ml. Empire Cane Spirit is from Blue Nile Distilleries (I love that name), Beckham Gin is one of a large assortment of sachets I have found from Boss Beverages & Coffee Spirit is from Premier Distilleries. Finally we have Chief Waragi (waragi is a local type of gin) from Chief Distilleries.





Kenya Cane is from East African Breweries of, er... Kenya. This is another Diageo subsidiary. I have no idea how much this contains as the photo is too small. Kenya's southern neighbour is Tanzania, another country which seems to sell a lot of sachets, although I have only identified one company, Tanzania Distillers, who fill sachets in Tanzania but I'm sure there are more. Konyagi is a type of local rum. Shown are 100ml & 50ml sachets.



Champion & Black Punch were both made in Malawi but so far I have not found out by what company.

I could do a whole article on sachets from South Africa but I will spare you that and just bring you photos of a



few that are new to me. Above are four Velour Cream sachets from 47South. On the right is a 50ml sachet of Old Faithful Scotch from Milestone Beverages. They make at least seven different spirit sachets. Noble Spirits only manage to make six, again, all 50ml.



Portashots operate in both South Africa and the USA, where they pack spirits from South Africa. The Gold Rum shown is an earlier version for the US market, packed in South Africa, as shown by the number on the box at centre right. West Coast Beverages (also known as WC Beverages – great name, more of these later) make a range of 9 sachets, some 50ml and some 30ml. The Odenden

Rhum shown is said to be 50ml but appears to say 30ml so I suspect that both sizes are made for the full range. I have also identified another company

called Westside Distillers who make a range of at least six sachets under the Best brand but I don't have any good photos.



The same comments as for Westside also apply to an Indian company, Jupiter Distillery, who make a range of 5 spirits. Their website shows the artwork for the sachets but not the sachets themselves. My favourite Indian sachet company (on more than one level) is Dum Beverages. They make a range of five sachets, all in both 50 & 90ml sizes. Shown are

Laila Gin and Strong Lion Café Rhum Whisky. Finally from India we have Bob's Apple Vodka. I cannot find anything about this. I suspect there are many, many more Indian sachets.

Our next sachet is the only one I have found from the Philippines and it is from the well known San Miguel company. 30ml of gin in this one.



Who said New Zealand wasn't third world? Our next sachets are from here. They started being made earlier this year but I am not sure if they are still being made as the website has gone. Needless to say they are/were very controversial as it makes it super easy to smuggle booze into dry venues. Registered names were Cheeky and Sneaky but I cannot find any evidence that Sneaky has ever been made. All are 25ml. The range comprises Vanilla Vodka, Apple Sours and Bourbon & Cola. All are 25ml at 20%. The first picture shows the original sachet of Vanilla Vodka that was later replaced by the one in the second photo.



Continuing east we cross the Pacific to Paraguay, where Sachets del Paraguay make a range of at least three sachets under the brands Drinkev and Stark. Sorry but the only photos I can find are very small. The Stark is 50ml so I assume the Drinkev sachets are 25 or 30ml.

The final stop on our journey is the US of A and back to the US packed Portashots.



Finally, we saw above sachets from WC Beverages & Dum Beverages, how about this one from Germany. This has been on MBL for some time but has not been shown before in miNiZ.



All these and many more will be on Miniature Bottle library by the time you read this. <http://www.minibottlelibrary.com/mb/alpha/themes/sachet.html>

David Smith

DAVID'S BOTTLES

In September we took a trip to Europe. No trip is complete without buying a few miniatures.



A visit to Maison du Whisky in Paris proved fruitful. The set of four square bottles are French Whiskies from Haute Glaces. The set of 5 Kavalan whisky miniatures and the boxed pair are currently the complete range, both big and small, made by this Taiwanese company. Note the €31 price on the box of the two Soloist minis.



One of the reasons for our Europe Trip was a visit to the Spanish miniature bottle club (CECBL) show. On Friday September 25th, the club members took a bus trip to two distilleries outside Barcelona, Torres and Mascaro. Note



the back labels (middle photo above) commemorating the club's visit. Each of the distilleries and the restaurant (see below) did this.



Later in the afternoon we were all taken to a restaurant for lunch. The smaller bottle with the red wax closure is from the restaurant, which had never before bottled a miniature of their own wine. Both the front and back labels are shown. The picture on the label is of the grandfather of the two sisters who currently own and operate the restaurant.

The last two bottles were produced by the club. Each year the club has a bottle or two produced for its members. This pair is number ten of 90 pairs produced by Daniel Douju Cognac. This is not a case of the club buying bottles and putting on the label themselves; these bottles came from the distillery.



I bought a number of non-club bottles at the show in Barcelona. The set of four Vince n' Theo are from Royal Dirkzwager Distilleries, the people in Holland who produce the Van Gogh bottles. The two Havana Club Rums in the leather holder are from Cuba. The first Chivas (on the next



page) is a special edition sold only in Japan. It was made with water from Mizunara. The remaining two are sold only at one distillery in Scotland. Polugar single malt rye describes itself as 'The Legendary Russian Breadwine' Nice bottle and something different. (I found another two versions of these, Classic Rye &

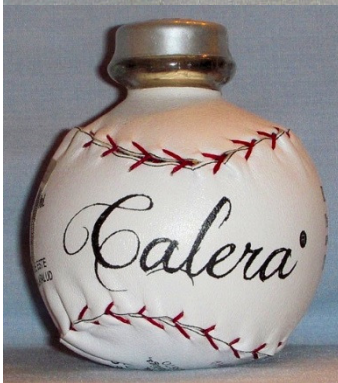
Wheat, on an Australian web site and so added them to David's article – editor)

Back home now, well, nearby anyway. The set of four are from Calera, a prolific distillery



when it comes to miniatures. Calera also made the leather baseball. Unfortunately, at 180ml, this is not a true mini.

The next Tequila is Don Ramon Silver. Another nice Tequila bottle, I wish spirit makers outside Mexico would take note. I have saved the best Tequila for last. El Globo Reposado Tequila is a



100ml bottle – a GREAT bottle I'm sure you will agree.

On the left is the third version of 'The Day of the Dead' that I bought recently in Mexico. Finally we have three new Cognac tubes that have just been sent to me. They are Domaine de Guillon d'Aze Armagnacs, VSOP, XO and Hors d'Age. As always, more to come in the next miNiZ.

David Spaid

TAMBORINE MOUNTAIN DISTILLERY



Tamborine Mountain Distillery is situated in the Tamborine Mountains, south of Brisbane and west of the Gold Coast in Australia. They make a range of mainly fruit based liqueurs but with a few spirits (I can recommend the Wild Citrus Vodka made with Lemon Wattle leaves). As well as 'standard' bottles they also bottle in a range of hand painted bottles and a few blown glass bottles of Italian or Hungarian origin. More importantly for us they also make miniatures.



Above is a tasting sampler set. These are 10ml tubes with 9 per set for A\$35. They do sell mail order but within Australia only but note that they do not have any miniatures on their web site so you will have to email them. Visit the web site at <http://tamborinemountaindistillery.com> I identified 11 of these in total but there are probably more as I could not get a straight answer on this from the owner/distiller and the otherwise very helpful lady behind the counter had only been there for four days. They randomly fill these sets. Shown above are Australian Herb Liqueur, Karumba!, Absinthe, Wattle Toffee Liqueur, Choc 'n Chilli Liqueur, Chai Liqueur, Wild Citrus Vodka, a second Karumba! (just noticed that – blast!) and Honey Dew Melon Liqueur. On it's own is Choc Mint Liqueur. The two I know about that are not shown are Licoricho Liqueur and Passionfruit Liqueur.

Over the page you will see the only two 50ml miniature they make, a Wattle Toffee Liqueur at 20% and an Australian Herb Liqueur at 35%. This is followed by Bitters, their only 100ml bottle, at 50%.



Finally, we have three 60ml Test Tubes and, again, I could not get a straight answer from the owner/distiller as to whether these were the only three drinks they bottle or had bottled in test tubes – I suspect not. These are traditional test tubes with rounded bases so excuse bits of my friend's fingers in the shots but it was the only way I could get decent pics. Shown are Wattle Toffee, Poteen and Australian Herb Liqueur.

David Smith

MUSLIM BOTTLES الإسلامية

The Morocco bottle from Jim Crawford (page 2) and the 'Palestinian' bottle (page 6) got me thinking about bottles from the, supposedly non-drinking, Muslim world. I may bring you some bottles made for Arab or other Muslim country airlines at a later date as all of these I have found are bottled in non-Muslim countries. Today I will start in the west and work eastwards.



Logically we should be starting with Mauritania, Western Sahara then Morocco. We know of no bottles from the first two and the only Morocco bottle is on page2. Rhum Chikita and Liminana Crystal Anis are from Tunisia. The next five bottles, the first four of which were made by Boukha, are from Algeria. The red label bottle is Zottos d'Habitant Rhum from Egypt. All these bottles show a French influence in both type of spirit and spelling.



We have not ignored the Muslim countries running across Africa to the south of the ones above, they just don't make bottles as far as we are aware. Arriving at the Middle East we come to the heart of the Muslim world. Jordan,

Lebanon & Turkey have lots of bottle so we will save those for future articles. The only other country that has made bottles, as far as we are aware, is Iran. The five bottles above are all from Iran, the first four being made for Iran Air. All contain vodka.



North of Iran we have two countries that do not appear to have made bottles, Tajikistan and Afghanistan, and three that have, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan & Kyrgyzstan. The first bottle on the left is from Turkmenistan and the other three are Uzbek. Note the CCCP (USSR) on the second bottle. All these three countries were part of the former Soviet Union.

The set of six bottles is from Kyrgyzstan, a country that seems to



have made quite a number of bottles.

More Muslim bottles in a future miNiZ.

David Smith

ARDBEG SCOTCH – OUT OF THIS WORLD

This is one “miniature” that none of you are going to get hold of. A vial of Ardbeg un-matured malt whisky with particles of charred oak from the Ardbeg Distillery was ferried to the International Space Station aboard a Soyuz capsule in 2011. The experiment was to uncover the differences, if any, of space-aged whisky compared to its earth-based counterpart.

Scientists’ key consideration was to see what the effect of a close-to-zero gravity environment might have on the whisky following 1,045 days in earth orbit. An identical control sample was kept at the distillery on Islay for scientists to compare with.

As reported by the BBC, Ardbeg’s director of distilling, Bill Lumsden, has said the experiment could revolutionise whisky making. He said: “This is one small step for man but one giant leap for whisky. The team hope to uncover how flavours develop in different gravitational conditions. We hope to shine new light on the effect of gravity on the maturation process but who knows where it will lead us? It could be to infinity and beyond.”

The whisky returned to earth earlier this year, landing in Kazakhstan.

Ardbeg released it’s findings in September. The distillery said the two samples had a “dramatically different flavour profile” which it said were “as remarkable as they were unexpected”

The distillery’s tasting notes for each sample were as follows:

Earth sample: “Aroma – Very woody, hints of cedar wood, sweet smoke and aged balsamic vinegar. Hints of raisins, treacle toffee, vanilla and burnt oranges. Very reminiscent of an aged Ardbeg style.

“Taste – Dry palate, woody/balsamic flavours, sweet smoke and clove oil. A distant fruitiness (prunes/dates), some charcoal and antiseptic notes. The aftertaste is long, lingering and typically Ardbeg, with flavours of gentle smoke, briar wood, tar and some sweet, creamy fudge.”

Space sample: “Aroma – Intense and rounded, with notes of antiseptic smoke, rubber, smoked fish and a curious, perfumed note , like cassis or violet. Powerful woody notes, hints of graphite and some vanilla. This then leads into very earthy/soil notes, a savoury, beefy aroma, and then hints of rum & raisin flavoured ice cream.

“Taste – A very focussed flavour profile, with smoked fruits (prunes, raisins, sugared plums and cherries), earthy peat smoke, peppermint, aniseed, cinnamon and smoked bacon or hickory-smoked ham. The aftertaste is pungent, intense and long, with hints of wood, antiseptic lozenges and rubbery smoke.”

So, would a smaller gravity, say on the moon or Mars, be different again? Time will tell no doubt.



David Smith

WINES #2 – FRANCE

As promised, the second in a series on miniature wines. A similar article, with different photographs, will again appear in the MMBC newsletter. France is one of the few countries that has produced a large quantity of table wines, as opposed to fortified wines. Having said that we are going to begin with some Wine Aperitifs.



I grew up (in the UK) with Dubonnet adverts on the TV – (faux French accent required) “Do ave a Dubonnet” The company is now owned by Cusenier, a very well known name to mini bottle collectors. Actually, all four of the Wine Aperitifs shown are now owned by Cusenier, itself owned by drinks giant, Pernod Ricard. Both Dubonnet and Ambassadeur are sold worldwide. The Byrel name seems to have disappeared but Byrrh is still sold and still has the Violet Freres name on the label. It appears to be a much more limited distribution though.

There appears to be more wines from the Appellation of Banyuls than any other. Banyuls is a French appellation for a fortified apéritif or dessert wine made from old vines cultivated in terraces on the slopes of the eastern portion of the



Pyrenees. The production process, known in France as mutage, is similar to that used to make Port, although Banyul wines usually have about 20% less alcohol.



Probably the best known range of French export wines, known because of the volume not the quality, is from J. P. Chenet. Shown is a 1995 Blanc-de-Blanc. This is a dry wine made only from Chardonnay grapes and it is unusual for French table

wines in that it is a blend from different regions designed to produce consistency year to year.

Frontignan Coopérative is one of many, many wine producing cooperatives throughout France. It is situated on the Mediterranean coast and is famous for it's Muscat wine.



The largest set on French wines I have found in Miniature are from Wine Lussac Saint Emilion. Three examples are shown on the left, Chateau de Lagardere (1989), Chateau de Lagardere (1988) and Chateau Bellevue Poitou (1983).



A rag-tag of French wines are next. First up is a 1988 Beaujolais from Eric Panay, followed by a Chirolles et Cie Bourgogne. I know nothing about Vabe nor about the next bottle, a Chateau Melin, as there are lots of Chateau Melins in France. The 1989 Brouilly is from DRSA, another French Cooperative.



The final wine on the left is the oldest and one from my own collection. It is a Saint Emilion and is only about 20ml (the others are about 30-50ml)

and came in a wire crate with 5 other French bottles. I suspect that it dates from the early 1950's.

Finally, no article on French wine would be complete without some micros bottled by Alpa in Italy but with authentic French labels. I'm out of room so will let them speak for themselves.

David Smith



AS SEEN ON EBAY #32

Only a small article this time with the first two lots coming from Neil Atkinson, the next seven from Peter Bonkovich and the final lot from myself.



Gumtree is the Australian equivalent of Trademe in NZ or Ebay in much of the rest of the world. The 12 Continental liqueurs sold for A\$46. A bit on the cheap side, smaller lots or individual bottles would probably have sold for more. Talking of individual bottles, the Bundaberg rum sold for A\$132.49 – astronomical by anything other than Australian standards.

We have another three high priced bottles next, all sold in the UK. The Macallan Distillers Choice sold for £255, note the small bit of Japanese on the label. The White Horse dates from 1929. It sold for a whopping £315. Coming down a little bit the Laphroaig 10yo, 70 proof sold for £205. All were sold by Whisky Auction (UK).



Whisky Auction (Germany) sold the next four. The Glendronach distillery was made by Mini Bottles UK (David Maund) and is usually filled with Teachers Scotch (Teachers own Glendronach). It

sold for €69. The boxed Highland Park 40yo fetched an incredible €245 or, I should say I thought that was incredible until I saw the price of the next bottle. The 18yo Glenfiddich sold for €801! Coming down to earth (somewhat)





we have the brown, 21yo, Royal Salute. Whereas the Red, Blue & Green have been sold all over the world, I understand that this has only been sold in NZ & Japan. I have probably sent 15 or 290 of these overseas at about \$15 each. This one sold for €111 – am I generous or just plain stupid? Incidentally, this is not the rarest Royal Salute as the white was only sold in Taiwan.

I thought that I had in some way featured the cabinet with 8 miniatures before but cannot find it so forgive me if I am repeating myself. This is the Macallan Sir Peter Blake Collection (to all our NZ members: no, not

that Sir Peter Blake, this one is a Brit and a well known artist). All 8 miniatures are 5cl Single Malt Scotch Whisky. Not a sale price but the asking price on Ebay is €18,000 – that's NZ\$29,367 or NZ\$3670 per bottle at the exchange rate on the day I am writing this! Anyone fancy buying me a Christmas present?

David Smith

DATE, TIME & PLACE

Saturday 12th December 2015. Christmas Lunch. Vary casual, 12 Noon at Groundup Café at Pauatahanui. No booking required (or indeed possible). See you there.

Sunday 10th January 2016, 6.00pm Barbecue at David & Rosie's, 11 Trevor Terrace, Paremata
Telephone: 04 233 2997 E-Mail: David

Friday 26th - Sunday 28st February 2016 AGM Weekend in Christchurch

Note Change of Date

This weekend will be the 5th anniversary of the most major of the Christchurch earthquakes. Please, let's have a good turnout – **Christchurch is back.** All but one of our 'out of town' members missed the earthquake by a day or two in 2011. We cannot promise another earthquake but we can promise a good weekend.

Dinner on the Saturday evening at the (rebuilt) Richmond Club. The AGM will follow a BBQ which will start at 12.30pm Sunday at Eric and Cheryl Sutton's home, 3c Michigan Place, Westhaven, Christchurch. Let us know please if you are coming and members can arrange to meet up Friday evening and during Saturday. Email the club at minisnz@gmail.com



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