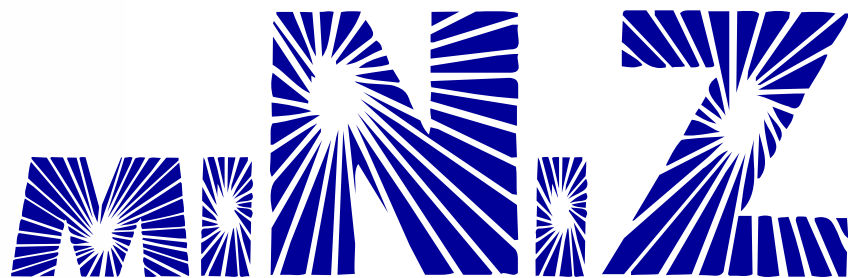
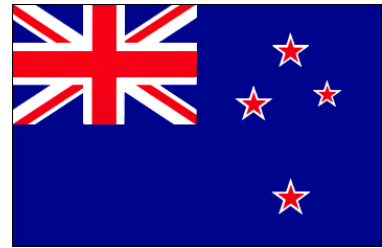


**Issue 112**

**Autumn 2016**



**THE NEWSLETTER OF NEW ZEALAND MINIATURE BOTTLE CLUB**



**Australasia's only Miniature Bottle Club - [www.minisnz.com](http://www.minisnz.com)**

# NEW NEW ZEALAND, THIS & THAT

Later in miNiZ you will see an article I have written on my recent trip to the UK & France. We flew China Southern Airlines (not bad at all) and I flicked through their in-flight magazine on the outward leg. In it I found an advert for three new NZ miniatures! These are three Georges Michel 100ml WIT tubes (refer miNiZ 108, 109 & 111) from <http://www.drinkintube.co.nz> One of them, the Pinot Noir, is our cover bottle this quarter. The Chardonnay is in the NZ version of the 'joint' wines article (which will be about NZ wines in miNiZ113) and the Sauvignon Blanc will be in the US version for the MMBC. The cost for all three was NZ\$34.10 delivered, not bad by today's standard. I purchased these on-line as soon as I reached the UK and they were waiting for me when I got back.



Whilst writing this article I decided to check the NZ Drink in Tube web site, just to make sure there were no more NZ bottles. It turns out there is one, Legend

Spirit of New Zealand in 40ml tube. This is best described as a Marc (a type of Brandy). It is only sold in a set of three, all the same, so I have not yet bought it. If anyone wants one please get back to me ASAP. Cost will be NZ\$17 each including delivery to me.

Late, yes this edition of miNiZ is late (it's mid-winter rather than autumn as I write this). You, well, almost all of you, have only yourselves to blame. I was very busy prior to going on holiday and a TOTAL LACK OF ARTICLES FROM YOU meant that I could not get a miNiZ out. I have still only received a small article from Frank Wynn, some auction results from Peter Bonkovich and some new bottles from David Spaid. My sincere thanks to the three of you. The rest of you know that this is not good enough. I am writing the rest of this edition myself – again. I want to get miNiZ 113 out in August to get us back on track – THAT MEANS, YES, YOU DO HAVE SOME WORK TO DO as I am not writing most of that issue as well. No participation, no miNiZ. Enough said.



Elsewhere I show you many new minis that I found on my trip to the UK & France. I did buy some second hand minis, including a dozen keyring bottles in France. Here are the three highlights. The McLech Beer Handles are very well known, especially the ones with fox hunting scenes on them. The Carnival is one of the rarest. The two toby jug bottles are from John Buccleugh of England. They are from the Pickwick Series, Mr. Pickwick (this always reminds me of David Maund) and Mr. Winkle. Prior to my buying these at a small antiques fair, MBL only had a black and white picture of Mr. Pickwick and none at all of Mr. Winkle. Does anyone know of any more in this series?



*David Smith*



# TOBY JUGS

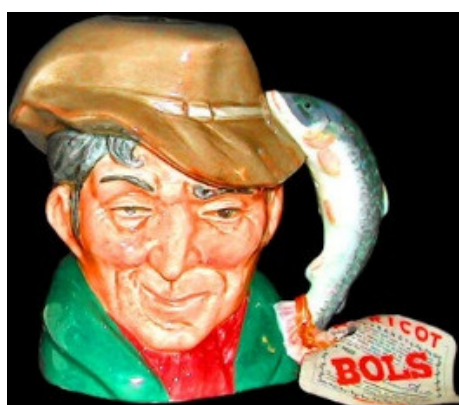
Showing you my two new Pickwick jugs got me to thinking about what others are out there. Most Toby Jugs come from the UK, hardly surprising if you think about it. We have shown jugs from Pick-Kwick in recent editions of miNiZ so I will ignore those and show you some you might not have seen and others I am certain you will have.



Cornish Mead is a relatively common jug. Most Cumbrae Supply bottles are quite common but not the Toby. The jug from Cheddar almost certainly contained Cider but we do not know who made it.



The red coated Toby is one of several from McLech, all of which are common. WLS made the somewhat harder to find Pirate jug. The next jug in this group would be in the very difficult to obtain category. It is from lanagra of Argentina. The Kummel jug is one of several from Manhattan of the USA.



The Winston Churchill toby contains Findhorn Scotch and is a favourite of mine. "The Fisherman" Toby by Bols is from a set of three. Finally we have the Toby jug with a bottle in it from Taplows, one of at least 10 Tobys they made.



*David Smith*



## AS SEEN ON EBAY #34

We really should re-name these articles as few of the bottles we show now actually come from Ebay. Most are now from the UK & German Whisky Auctions and other online sources, including NZ's own Trademe occasionally. Let's start with a couple of the latter.



The two buildings on the left are, of course, from Air New Zealand's Colonial Collection. Some of these have sold for very silly prices in the past (see the next bottle for REALLY very silly price!) but prices have now come back to at least close to realistic. NZ\$95 & NZ\$100 bought these two.

If anyone wants any of the 007 bottles we both have some for sale. I (David) have even got a full set of 5. You can have them at half what this one sold for, £180.00. Now, the Pound is not worth what it was a couple of weeks

ago but this is still about NZ\$330. It was sold by UK auction company, Vectis Auctions, in an auction for movie memorabilia. This was under the James Bond theme as many items for James Bond went under the hammer. Lot 180 stated: *"James Bond" - Gin Sling - this small 1960's bottle with "007" label, is unopened and in a generally Near Mint condition - see photo - extremely rare.* Let us know how many you want – price negotiable.



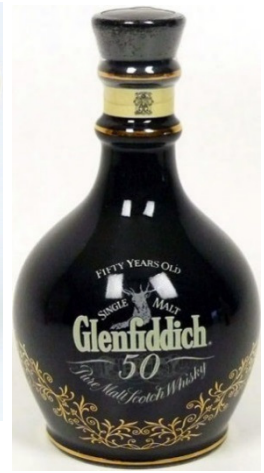
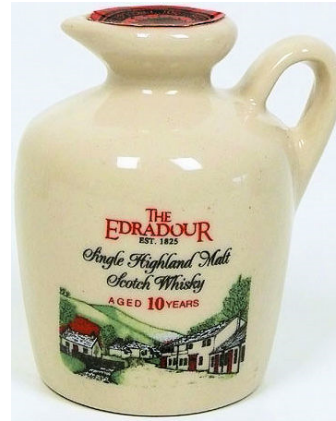
Now, two sets that were sold on Ebay earlier this year. Unfortunately I forgot to get the sale price of the first lot which was described as Presidents – I'm sure that that would have surprised Pope Jon XXIII.

Despite the Ebay ban on selling bottles with alcohol in them in most markets some great bottles do still turn up. The set of 6 Hoffman Aesops Fables mini decanters are samples. Unsurprisingly they sold for US\$788 after a number of bids. These are exact replicas of the full size decanters.





The rest of the bottles we have to show come from WhiskyAuction.com of Germany (Euro prices) and Whisky.Auction of the UK (Pound prices). The Edradour jug is 5cl at 40%. It sold for €34. The Glenfiddich 50 year old did somewhat better - €1,001



Old Orkney £1,000  
Glendronach €12  
Glenfarclas €46  
Auchentoshan €18



Glenfarclas  
Coronation £320

Laphroaig 75 proof  
£65, 80 proof £195

Laphroaig 20 Under  
Proof, 1940's, £700

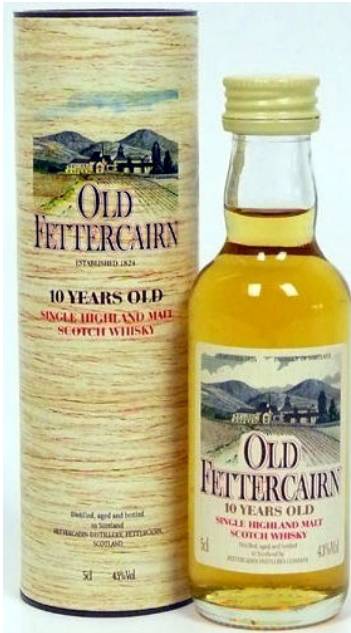


Old Pulteney 'Clipper Around The World' sold for £180

The Old Pulteney on the right sold in March for £200,  
then again in May for £370







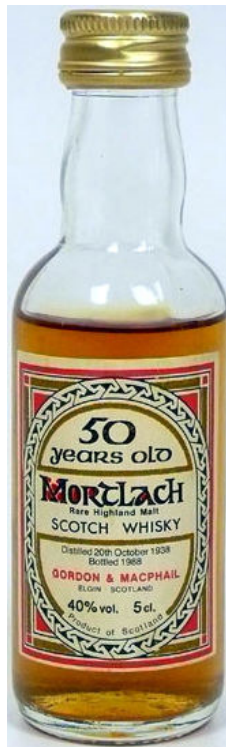
Old Fettercairn with tube €29



Tomintoul with tube €28



Macallan 1945 Fine & Rare 56 Years Old £900



The first two on the left are both bottled by Gordon & Mc Phail. The Vintage 1949, 40yo, sold for

£550, the 50 year old Mortlach for £130. The top seller we have for you this time is the Springbank Campbeltown 1919, Bottle No.5 which sold for a staggering £2,100 (about NZ\$3,900). It is nice to see a Scotch in a fancy bottle as most are very plain. The Midleton Very Rare 30th Anniversary, 2014 fetched £430. Last but not least, the Royal Brackla 60 years old sold for £105

There are no blended Scotches shown. Most of these are currently fetching poor prices – pity as many, especially older ones, have great labels.



*David Smith & Peter Bonkovich*



# A TRIP TO UK & FRANCE



I am not going to bore you with all the details as this was not a bottle hunting trip but we were away for two months and I did take some photos and buy some bottles. Please excuse some of the photos, they are slightly blurry as they were taken under fluorescent lights or through glass.



First stop St. Emilion where I found the two wines. There is no quantity shown but they are about 30ml. Next on to Cognac. We visited several distilleries but I was only able to take one photo of a new bottle, the Monnet VS from Hine. The two La Gauloise bottles were photographed through a closed shop window. I found two shops with minis in the Gorges du Tarn, the three Belcastel on the right and the Maison Malaval below.



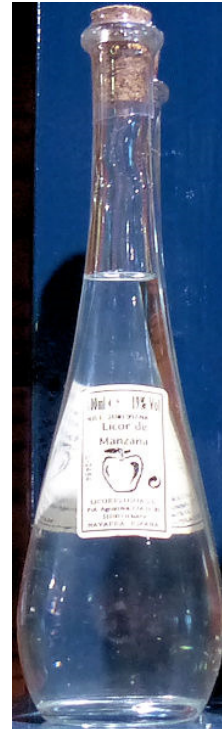




There were two shops in “La Cite,” the old town of Carcassonne, that were selling miniatures. The first was very helpful, the second as good as threw me out!







The minis on the right are from a shop in Bayonne. I found the 6 gins and Pacharan USUA below on a day trip to San Sabastian in Spain.



Back in the UK we visited Lindisfarne Mead on the Island of Lindisfarne and I photographed all their current range – see separate article later in this issue. I also photographed two minis from the local Alnwick Rum. The third mini shown is a variation which I found on Lindisfarne Mead's web site.



The Old Blacksmith's Shop at Gretna Green has long been a good place to buy



miniatures. It is still OK but sadly nowhere near as good as it used to be. It is also expensive. The Pointers Andy Murray (both sides shown) was the second cheapest ceramic decanter they had for sale, the Gretna Green being the cheapest (the others have been shown in miNiZ before).



The two Gretna Green Scotches are the old and the new – unfortunately I forget which is which! Laughfrog (a word play on Laphroaig) is a bottle for Rosie's frog collection. The barrel was made by Old St. Andrews.



On a visit to Lyme Regis I found a shop with 16 bottles from the southwest of England. The staff helpfully were happy for me to photograph them all for you (and MBL).







Finally, we visited a food fair and found yet more bottles from two Artisanal producers, the last 8 above.

*David Smith*



# THE LARGEST BRAND?

Ever wondered what are the biggest selling brands? My guess, across all classes, would have been Johnnie Walker Scotch – wrong!

Collecting miniature bottles does tend to skew your perception of the world of booze. Big names in miniatures may hardly register, or not register at all, on the scale of millions of litres sold (think Ski Country, McLech and many more).

I decided to do a bit of research, then got carried away. Here is what I have found out.

## Scotch Sales 2015 by volume (all brand variations)

Johnnie Walker (Diageo)	158.4 million litres
Ballantines (Pernod Ricard)	55.8 million litres
Chivas Regal (Pernod Ricard)	39.6 million litres
Grants (William Grant & Sons)	39.15 million litres
Famous Grouse (The Edrington Group)	30 something million litres
J&B (Diageo)	31.5 million litres
William Lawson (Bacardi)	28.0 million litres
William Peel (Marie Brizzard)	26.1 million litres
Dewars (Bacardi)	24.1 million litres
Label 5 (La Martiniquaise)	23.2 million litres



You will note that these are all blends, sales of which are steadily declining. However, from a producers' point of view this does not matter too much as sales of single and blended malts are increasing and these are higher in value. The USA is the biggest market by value but France is the largest by volume. The UK is #3 on both measures.

Single Malt Scotch sales are much harder to come by but these are believed to be the top three in 2015, all with sales of approximately 9 million litres, The Glenlivet (Pernod Ricard), Glenfiddich (William Grant & Sons) & The Macallan (The Edrington Group).



Taking whisky as a whole, two Indian brands, Officer's Choice (Allied Blenders) at 255 million litres and McDowell's No1 (United Spirits – Diageo) at 225 million litres far outsell any Scotch brand. In fact another 6 Indian whiskies (Royal Stag, Imperial Blue, Old Tavern, Original Choice, Haywards Fine and Bagpiper) outsell all but Johnnie Walker.



For comparison, the largest selling US Whiskey, Jack Daniels, sold 105 million litres and the largest selling Bourbon, Jim Beam, sold 67 million litres. Canadian Whisky, Crown Royal, sold 47.5 million litres and the largest selling Irish Whiskey, Jameson, sold 44 million litres. Surprisingly, the top Japanese whisky, Suntory, only sold 30 million litres although this was 50% more than Nikka.

## Vodka Sales 2015 by volume (all brand variations)

Sales volumes of vodka are changing extremely quickly, year on year, and it is unlikely that this list reflects the position in 2016, although the top two are so far ahead that they are undoubtedly still there.

Smirnoff (Diageo)	231 million litres
Absolut (Pernod Ricard)	99.0 million litres
Khortytza (Global Spirits)	65.7 million litres
Khilbniy Dar (Bayadera Group)	56.9 million litres





Zubrowka (Roust – formerly Russian Standard)	55.8 million litres
Pyat Ozer (Five Lakes)(Alcohol Siberia Group)	37.8 million litres
Svedka (Constellation Brands)	36.9 million litres
Krupnik (Belvedere)	39.0 million litres
Skyy (Campari)	39.0 million litres
Grey Goose (Bacardi)	39.0 million litres

Other well known names come in at 15<sup>th</sup> (Stolichnaya) & 17<sup>th</sup> (Finlandia), each with about 30 million litres sold. There are a raft of other vodkas, half of which I have never even heard of, that sell around 20 million litres annually.

## Gin Sales 2015 by volume (all brand variations)

The Philippines is by far the world's largest gin market, about 450 million litres are drunk per annum. That's 4.4 litres per person – by far the largest consumption of gin in any country! The USA and Spain are second and third by volume but not per person.

Ginebra San Miguel	183.6 million litres
Gordon's (Diageo)	39.6 million litres
Bombay Sapphire (Bacardi)	29.7 million litres
Beefeater (Pernod Ricard)	24.3 million litres
Seagram's (Pernod Ricard)	22.5 million litres
Tanqueray (Diageo)	21.6 million litres



## Cognac Sales 2015 by volume (all brand variations)

Hennessy (LMVH)	53.0 million litres
Martell (Pernod Ricard)	19.8 million litres
Rémy Martin (Rémy Cointreau)	17.1 million litres
Courvoisier (Beam Suntory)	11.7 million litres



The largest sales by volume of any type of Brandy belongs to Emperador of The Philippines with 275 million litres sold. Far behind at #2 is McDowell's from United Spirits (Diageo) of India – 92.7 million litres.

## Rum Sales 2015 by volume (all brand variations)

My guess for the top Rum would have been Bacardi, or maybe Captain Morgan – I was wrong.

McDowell's No1 (United Spirits – Diageo)	160 million litres
Bacardi	157 million litres
Tanduay	148 million litres
Captain Morgan (Diageo)	95.4 million litres
Havana Club (Pernod Ric. & Cuban Govt.)	36.0 million litres

Bacardi also produces a competing Havana Club Rum in Puerto Rico, which is sold only in the United States. This dates to the time of the Cuban revolution when the family owners of Havana Club relocated to Puerto Rico. They later sold the brand to Bacardi. The two companies have engaged in ongoing litigation about ownership of the brand. In January 2016, the U.S. government awarded the trademark for Havana Club to the Cuban government but this is expected to be disputed (again!) in US courts.





## Tequila Sales 2015 by volume (all brand variations)

Sauza (Beam Suntory)	33.3 million litres
Patron	19.8 million litres
El Jimador (Brown-Forman)	10.0 million litres



I might have guessed the first two but not #3. The Tequila industry is very fractionated but some serious money is now being spent by some of the biggest worldwide liquor companies. Diageo bought Don Julio in 2014 and last year announced a US\$400 million expansion. Diageo always wants to be in the top three!



There are other spirits out there that sell in large volumes but these are the major ones.

## Liqueur Sales 2015 by volume (all brand variations)

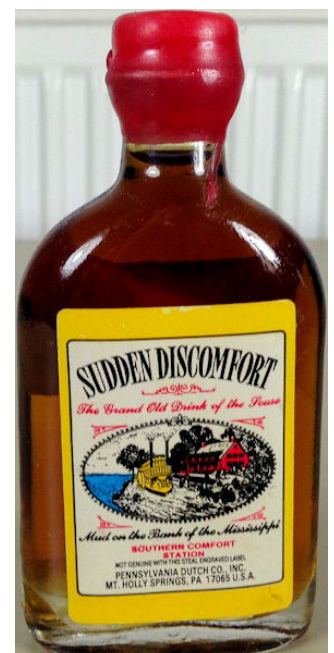
Baileys (Diageo)	55.8 million litres
Malibu (Pernod Ricard)	30.6 million litres
Southern Comfort (Sazerac)	15.3 million litres
Jack Daniels Tennessee Honey	13.5 million litres
Kahlua (Pernod Ricard)	13.5 million litres
Amarula (Distell Group)	12.6 million litres
Cointreau (Rémy Cointreau)	9.9 million litres



Most liqueurs are declining in sales but Jack Daniels Tennessee Honey has seen phenomenal growth, coming from nowhere to #4 in only 4 years – watch out Southern Comfort.



*David Smith*







The Island of Lindisfarne, also known as Holy Island, is off the northeast coast of England. Lindisfarne Island has a recorded history from the 6th century. It was an important centre of Celtic Christianity under Saints Aidan of Lindisfarne, Cuthbert, Eadfrith of Lindisfarne and Eadberht of Lindisfarne. After Viking invasions and the Norman conquest of England a priory was re-established. A small castle was built on the island in 1550. A causeway links the island to the mainland but this is not accessible around the time of high tides.

I will let the current range speak for themselves then go on to show you some of their older bottles.



Lindisfarne Mead (also known as St. Aidan's Winery) has been a friend to miniature bottle collectors for many years. This has mainly been with their ceramic jugs (filled with Mead and Glen Fiona Scotch), although there are a few other nice ceramics. The only older 'straight' I can find is the very poor photo shown on the right. I am sure there have been more – pictures please, PLEASE, for Miniature Bottle Library.







The barrel is extremely rare and, I suspect, one of the first ceramics issued by Lindisfarne. I have never seen it and this is the only picture I have seen. It contains Lindisfarne Liqueur. The same applies to the Monk, except this contains Mead. The Celtic Cross is the most sort after of the Lindisfarne Ceramics. This one I have seen, it is from my own collection. I suspect the speckled green colour represents Connemara marble. The cross also contains Lindisfarne Liqueur. The final two photos above are the Dagger (aka. Dirk or Sgian Dubh). The colour of these varies a lot and I have shown the two extremes. I bought one of these in Sydney in the 1980's, together with a number of other miniatures. Whilst in Sydney I got an urgent job to do in Fiji and left these minis with a 'friend,' Dan Powers, to look after for me. Unfortunately I never saw Dan or my bottles again! All the daggers I have seen contain Glen Fiona Scotch. The Sporrán is another ceramic that is variable in colour with at least



four significant variations known. I do not have this bottle myself and MBL has no back photos of these but I suspect all contain Glen Fiona Scotch.



The Golf Clubs contain 5cl of Glen Fiona Scotch at 40%. There are mid-brown and dark brown variants of the one on the left. Jenners is a Newcastle-upon-Tyne department store that used to be a good place to buy minis. The rear label makes it clear that this was made for them by Lindisfarne. There is also a Jenners jug. The 'standard' golf club is difficult to come by, the Jenners even more so.

Other than jugs, these are the only Lindisfarne ceramics I know of. If you have another, or a variation, please email a photo/photos to: [minibottlelibrary@gmail.com](mailto:minibottlelibrary@gmail.com)

A sampling of jugs follows. Some pictured on MBL contain Mead, others Glen Fiona Scotch. I suspect that many have contained both. Miniature Bottle library shows 134 different jugs, many of which we do not know the contents of (all information as to contents gratefully received!).



The 500 Years of Scotch Whisky jug also comes in blue & white. Harrods needs no introduction. At least 13 jugs were made for them, including the top colour variations as shown above. There is also a plain Harrods

black jug. The Slot Machine and the Nevada bottle were made for Silver State Specialties of the USA (member David Spaid and two partners). The Whisky Shop is another promotional jug.





Bonnie Prince Charlie and Queen Victoria are from a series of Historical Figures. There are at least 15 of these plus some neck length variations – see first two jugs. I believe the shorter neck jugs are the older ones and the longer neck represent a change of pottery. This same long neck jug has been used by Signatory. Royal Mile Whiskies of Edinburgh is another promotional jug.





Lindisfarne Mead have made at least three bottles for themselves. I really like the blue one. The Lindisfarne Castle jug is one of at least 30 well known Buildings and Bridges. Another 8 are shown on the last page. I suspect that there have been several series of these due to the variations.

The Next four jugs come under the broad heading of Transport. Again, there are many of these.



The Horses jug is from a set of four. There are numerous bird and animal bottles and I suspect that MBL is missing many of them. The stylised stag is one of three bottles like this (the others being a Salmon and an Osprey) and, again, I suspect these are part of a larger set.



Another stylised jug is the Golfers. Surely there are more golfers or more sports? The Beefeater is from a set of six clearly made to be sold in London. The Thistles & Shield of Scotland, and another jug with thistles, contains Scotch – what else! Finally The Lakes is a map of the English Lake District, one of at least 14 maps.

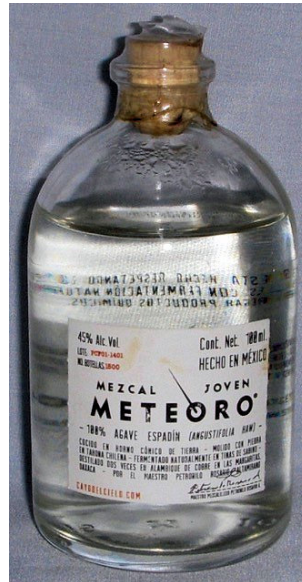
Again. Got Photos? Send Them!

*David Smith*



# DAVID'S BOTTLES

I will start this time with a number of bottles from Mexico, followed by a nice set of three from Cuba. As always I will let them, mainly, speak for themselves, although I should say that the Calera is a spinning top as this is not obvious.



Next we have 6 bottles from the USA. Loft & Bear is a small Los Angeles producer of Artisanal vodka. Stark Spirits are also a



small producer, this time from Pasadena, California. Currently only the Sunshine is for sale in liquor stores. The others will be



produced soon, along with a whiskey. This set was bottled for me whilst I was there. Next we head north to Canada for four bottles from Park of Banff and two new vodkas.



Crossing the Atlantic we come first to Ireland for the new Teeling set and then onto Scotland for the three Girvan tubes and The Glenlivet Alpha.

Pickering Gin is from England. There has been a large resurgence in the distilling of gins in England in the last few years. These are mainly being made by small artisanal producers and just about everything imaginable is being used in the flavourings.

On the next page we have a nice flask from Sweden, Spirit of Hven. No it is not 500ml. This is a misprint and it is actually 100ml. The Vodka is from the Czech Republic, as is the set of absinths.





