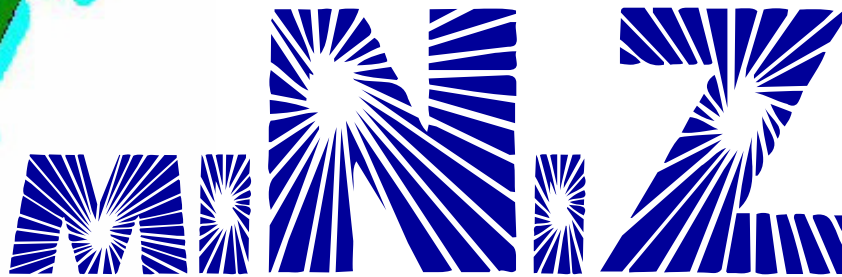
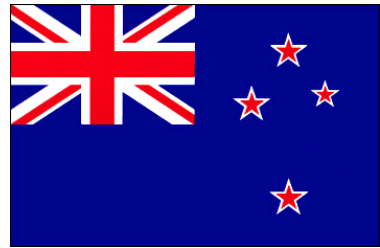


**Issue 116**

**Spring 2017**



**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

Firstly let me apologise for miNiZ116 being late. I had intended getting this out in October but I have had a complete lack of motivation. This is largely due to some health problems but also the lack of articles from members. My thanks to those (few!) of you who have sent me articles and/or material to write articles. I really do need more input from members to keep miNiZ going, and to a reasonable standard.

Our cover bottles are two new NZ ones from Jumping Goat, a company I had not heard of before. Erica Mulder email me and said "do you have jumping goats?" I asked if it was some new disease! The back of these bottles is shown on the right.

Also found by Erica are the set of six Karven miniatures as shown below. Again, this is a new company to me. Erica has also been in touch with yet another new company, Broken Heart Gin, who should have their miniature or miniatures out by the end of the month.



The bottles on the next three photos were all found by club president, Colin Ryder. On this page we have a 100ml bottle, Down Under Batch 10 Honey Bourbon.



Starting the next page is a set of three Barlovska liqueurs from yet another new company.





If you think you have seen the NZ Whisky set before, you probably haven't. The previous set had a South Island 21yo, Cyril's '02 and New Zealand Doublewood 15yo.

All the above are for sale somewhere in NZ at present. Not for sale here, but for sale in the UK, is the New Zealand Whisky Collection 25yo Single Malt Whisky from The Perfect Measure. This is a 3cl re-bottling by TPM, a subsidiary of The Whisky Exchange. See later in miNiZ for contact details.



Club meetings in Wellington are every two months and, most times, consist of a pot luck lunch. The pie was made for Ian Butcher by Cookies in Paraparaumu and Ian lent them some of his bottles to copy. The bottles are: Hotel California (in the middle); Passport Scotch (below left); Cooperstown Baseball (upper right but lost its shape); Sikkim corn whisky (upper Left); A Wee Tootie Whisky (lower right – also lost its shape)(you should have said this was a Luxardo Banana Ian, we would have believed you!) and 4 generic minis (2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> rows). The pie was really good, by the way.



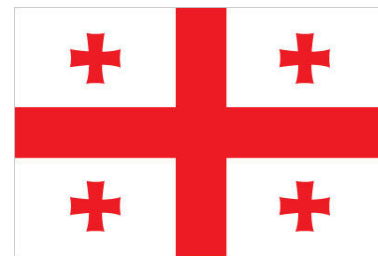
Again, please let me reiterate, the club is a cooperative and the club newsletter, miNiZ (what you are reading) relies on members to do their bit and supply articles, photos and snippets of information that would be of interest to other members. Not sure if you can contribute? Send the information and I, as editor, will decide. Rarely do I not publish, in one form or another, information/photos sent by a member.

That's it for now. It is good to have been able to show you 16 New New Zealand minis.

*David Smith*



# (I've Still Got) Georgia on My Mind



In miNiz115 I showed you a representative sample of glass minis from Georgia. As promised, this time I have some great ceramics to show you, many of which are currently available there.



We start off with a chess piece from an unknown Georgian company. Anyone know who made it? The Grey jug is also unknown as I don't read Georgian, although I can work out it is from the capital, Tbilisi.



Kvevri, also known as qvevri, are large earthenware vessels, similar in shape to a lemon, used for the fermentation, storage and ageing of traditional Georgian wine. These date back over 2000 years. The one above has the maker shown as Kvevri on MBL so this may be incorrect. Saperavi is the grape used, not the maker. On the left there is another kvevri from Iberia. This contains Chacha – the spirit, not the dance, although drink enough of it and you may find yourself doing the latter. Chacha is made by fermenting the left-over grape skins and pulp, then distilling, rather like Grappa in Italy and Marc in France. Much of



the production in Georgia is in backyard stills. Most of the bottles in this article contain commercially produced Chacha.

The ring bottle and bottle on the right are from Saperavi. There are more of each of these shown on Miniature Bottle Library.

I do not know what company made the Jug but it is one of five on MBL each with a different coloured label showing different fruits.



Duruji Ceramic made our next four bottles. This appears to be a pottery who have branched out into filling some bottles themselves – with Chacha, what else?





The rest of the bottles I have to show you are from Orbi Alko, and all contain Chacha. I will let the bottle, jug and flasks speak for themselves but can say there are many more of each. I am not sure whether the bottle, below/right, is meant to be a money bag or a leather drinking flask.







The first 5 figures are all military, there are many variations of these. I take it the next three are a shepherd, a lute and an orchardist.



The final figure, on the left, is Joseph Stalin, that paragon of virtue who ran the Soviet Union for decades!

We will finish with a BANG!

*David Smith*



# BENRIACH, GLENDRONACH & GLENGLOSSAUGH

There has always been great rivalry between the All Blacks and the Springboks. However there are a couple of South Africans that New Zealand mini bottle collectors should congratulate. They are Geoff Bell and Wayne Keiswetter who purchased three Speyside distilleries. Over the past year or so there has been over a dozen miniatures available in New Zealand from the three, and that does not include label variations.

The BenRiach distillery was built in 1898 by John Duff but it closed in 1900. It was reopened in 1965 by Glenlivet Distillers who on sold it to Seagram's in 1977. It was added to their Chivas Bros. subsidiary in 2001, prior to the Seagram empire being broken up (basically between Diageo & Pernod Ricard). Pernod Ricard acquired Chivas Bros. and it's distilleries in 2001 then promptly mothballed the distillery in 2002.

The South Africans, together with Scotsman Billy Walker, bought the distillery from Pernod Ricard in 2004. They have produced numerous whiskies including 10, 12, 16 and 20 years plus various bottlings which sometimes have no specific ages, such as Heart of Speyside.

The GlenDronach Distillery was built in 1826 by a group of local farmers including James Allardice. He was also known as James Allardice hence one of the recent bottlings. They were encouraged by the Fifth Duke of Gordon who



helped legalise whisky distilling in

the Highlands in 1823. In 1960 it was bought by William Teacher and Sons to provide a base for their well known brand. The distillery closed in 1996 but was reopened in 2001 by Allied Distillers (which went the way of Seagram's and is now split between Pernod Ricard & Beam Suntory). In 2008 the three partners, via The Benriach Distillery Company Ltd, purchased GlenDronach. As with





BenRiach, the distillery has numerous aged and named whiskies.

The 12yr old GlenDronach bottles show what a change of ownership can do to presentation.

Construction of the Glenglassaugh distillery began in 1873 on Craig Mills farm and was finished in 1875. It was built by the Glenglassaugh Distillery Company, which was owned by local wine & spirit merchant James Moir and four partners. The distillery changed hands several times before being closed in 1908.



It was re-opened in 1960 and between then and 1986 when it was mothballed again, it supplied the base malts for blends such as Famous Grouse and Cutty Sark. It was re-opened yet again in 2008 under new owners who sold it to our three happy partners in 2013.

In April 2016 the three distilleries were purchased by Brown-Forman for £285 million.

"We feel immensely privileged

to have been custodians of this business for the last 12 years, and to be associated with these wonderful brands and great distilleries," said Billy Walker, managing director of The BenRiach Distillery Company Limited. "Our team have energized these distilleries and engaged creatively and successfully with the premium end of the market. We are very confident that Brown-Forman will take The GlenDronach, BenRiach, and Glenglassaugh brands to the next level, fulfil their full potential, and prove to be worthy custodians of these historic distilleries."



The good news is that all three distilleries have numerous malts that have yet to appear in miniature. And we can see 'Bourbon Cask Matured' whisky on the horizon with Brown Forman now owning them.

*Frank Wynn & David Smith*



# NEW SPANISH BOTTLES



I have been sending photos of my bottles for some time now to add to Miniature Bottle Library, <http://www.minibottlelibrary.com/mbl/index.html>. I am happy to share them with club members also.

Currently in Spain there are a very impressive number of new gins and a number of other new minis.



Akori is produced in both Mallorca and Barcelona, Law is from Ibiza. The others are from mainland Spain. Tann's is on sale in the USA.





Axelvar is Spanish bottled Swedish vodka. The four Rushkinoff Vodkas are from the large Spanish liquor company, Antonio Nadal.

La Mocita is an Anis Dulce in a typical Spanish anise bottle. Aqualanca is another Anis but this one is from France.



Sorry about the sideways bottle, I am out of space. The 11 rums speak for themselves. The final bottle is Embrujo Spanish Whisky in a bottle produced for this year's Spanish

Mini Bottle Club (CECBL) annual meeting in Granada. Next year our meeting will take place in Santiago de Compostela in the North West of Spain on the last weekend of September.

*Luis Campos*



# Mezcal Mitología (Mythology)

These bottles appeared on Facebook and I think they all contain Mezcal from a company called Mitologia. I'm just a little unsure about the skulls.



*David Smith*



# **BOTTLE HUNTING IN THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST**

Ron Gabbard



**1st generation  
Vodka**



**New Bottle Vs.  
Old vodka**

Sometimes we discover distilleries in a very interesting way, Seva a collector from the other side of the country, will call and say there is a distillery that has minis can you go pick some up for me. This has happened more times than I can count. Stillwagon Distillery was one of those distilleries. A little over a year ago after seva's call, my brother and another local collector made the 6 hour drive to Stillwagon distillery to pick up their Persian reed Vodka and 9 different rums that they had. The bottles were taken to the show , and the limited number that were purchased were all sold. The distiller said he was working on a whiskey that may be available in a few months. Several calls were made in the months after the show and the whiskey was not ever ready. Then I planned a trip down to that area for a weekend getaway. I called and discovered that the Whiskey was ready and he could make me the minis I wanted. I ordered some whiskeys since they had not ever been to the show (and I know of no collectors that have it) and also got a few Vodkas (didn't get as many since they had been at the show the previous year ) I also got 2 sets of the rums one for me (I had sold the set I had got last year at the show, figuring I would be able to replace it when the whiskey was done) and one for the show.



**First set of rums, Wicked Rum, Gold Rum, Feijoi Rum, Falernum, Rum, Spiced Rum, Black Spiced Rum, Pineapple Rum, Mocha Rum**



Upon arriving and picking up the bottles I discovered a few things. He changed the bottle and labels on all the bottles to make them more closely resemble the larger bottles, (wish I would have known sooner, I would have gotten more Vodkas) he had a new Rum (and another one that he is just waiting for the label to be approved) and he no longer sells the minis (well he was selling 4 packs at Christmas time, but he no longer does that and does not keep any stocked at the distillery, he only makes minis if they are special ordered and to give to his distributor to pass out as samples). In fact he told me if I need to order any more Minis in the future to give him some lead time as he will have to purchase more bottles. The distillery is actually pretty small (it is in a building next to his house in rural southwestern Oregon) but he does operate 2 separate tasting rooms in a couple of the nearby towns. And although the Whiskey and Vodka are both 80 proof the Rums are all over the place, ranging from the Wicked Rum at 155 Proof (77.5% alc) to the Cranberry Rum at 84 Proof (42% alc) with the majority of the rums running between 90 proof and 110 proof. I am hoping to get his newest rum, Coconut Rum, on my next trip to Southwest Oregon. (I'll be getting a big bottle even if I have to wait to get it in a mini). It's quite a trip down to the distillery (although it is a very pretty drive along the Oregon Coast) but these are very nice bottles (and the Rum is pretty good too) so it makes the trip worthwhile. It's also nice that I get to bring bottles to the St. Louis show that no one has seen before and most collectors would not be able to add to their collections if I didn't go and get them.



**Whiskey  
Run Single  
Malt Whis-  
key**



**Persian  
Reed Vodka**

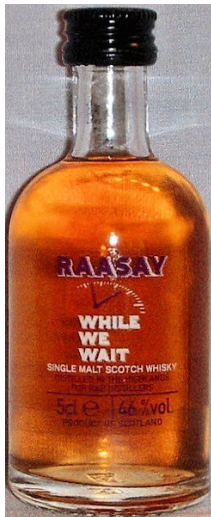


**Rum, Feijoa Rum, Mocha Rum, Black Spiced Rum, Spiced Rum, Gold Rum,**

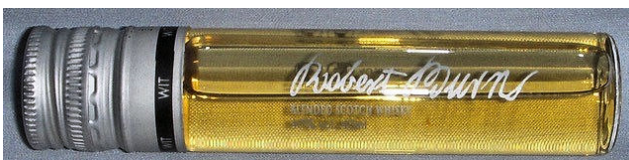


# DAVID'S BOTTLES

As with previous miNiZ, I again have some great new minis to show you, over 70 this time, starting with some Scotches & 5 Scottish gins.



Colonsay is the first gin. This is from a Scottish island which boasts 135 inhabitants. It's 100ml but I really like the label. Kirkjuvagr is from Orkney and Makar from Glasgow. Strathearn looks like it is a barrel aged gin and Old Raj is from the well known Caddenheads.



Chivas Royal Salute has a totally different label and the bottle is different too. It now has a Lion's

Head instead of the previous Knight on Horseback. There are only these three colours. David Smith reported seeing two others on-line, purple and black, but these are the result of bad photography! The blown glass is the Wild Haggis from Stylish. The Isle of Raasay Distillery opened in Summer 2017 as the island's first legal distillation facility. Robert Burns is a new Tube Scotch. Highland Park 18 a sample only for the US included as a gift if you buy a Highland Park 750ml 12 year old.





Finally for Scotch we have three new flasks from The Whisky Shop.



We will stick with whisky, or in this case, whiskey, by crossing the Irish Sea. Scotch is in the middle of a boom and Irish whiskey in an even bigger one, although starting from a much smaller base. I will let the bottles speak for themselves. Potcheen is the Irish equivalent of Moonshine.







I now have some more tubes for you but I am not yet finished with whisky.



The first photos shows tubes from three Australian whisky distilleries, Lark, Hellyers Road & Sullivan's Cove. The second is of four tubes from Kavalan of Taiwan. Below we have a set of six American whiskies from Heaven Hill.



The final two tubes are from England, The English Whisky (obviously) and Pinky Pink Gin. We will stick with England for the next few bottles. On the left is Yerburch's (trust me, that is an E) crowdfunded artisan gin, brought to life with the help of 300 like-minded souls (their words not mine). Printing the name in a plain script might improve the marketing. Starting off the next page is a great set of five gins from City of London Distillery. Fallen Angel (the Devil) is a vodka is another bottle from London (isn't this a great bottle? I want



one – editor). I was expecting the Austrian Empire Navy Rum to be from Austria or maybe Germany. It is actually made in London by the Albert Michler Distillery. Dead Man's Fingers describes itself as a 'rum with spirit.' Koko Gin is in a nice frosted bottle, Bath Gin was made for The Canary Gin Bar in Bath. Finally for England we have three bottles from



Southwestern Distillery of Cornwall. Note Unfortunately I do not know which is the new. Southwestern Distillery also make it?

the change of bottle. old and which the Cornish Pastis – get







Bulbash is a vodka from Belarus then we go next door to Vekta vodka from the Ukraine. The three heads contain Tequila from you know where. Two rums are on the left, Pirates Grog from Honduras and Gold of Mauritius from Flaviar of Mauritius.



Finally, six from the USA. The Chaplin Hills Collection of mini flagons is from Olde Towne Distillery of Kentucky. There appears to be five of these but I don't have pictures of the others. Surland Mountain vodka & gin are from New Jersey and Bluecoat Gin is from Philadelphia Distilling.

More next time.....

*David Spaid*





# AUCTION REPORT



Most of what I have to show you are from the UK Whisky Auction but we will start with two 'sales' on Trademe, the NZ answer to Ebay.

Erica Mulder saw the NZ whisky set for sale: "Wilson's Whisky 'DISCOVER THE SPIRIT OF NEW ZEALAND' 3 Pack Display of Miniatures" Excellent Condition Bottles are now empty. Start price \$100.00. Buy Now \$110.00. Not surprisingly it didn't sell. It was then relisted; Start price \$75.00, no surprise, once again it didn't sell. By the way, this set was originally purchased, full, from our website for much less!"

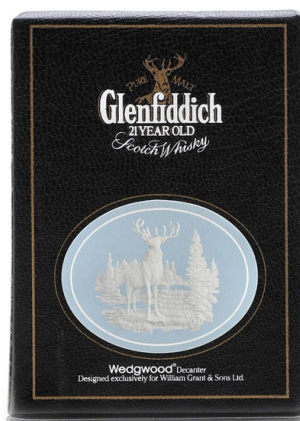


What always amazes me is idiots like that pay for a listing and often keep paying again and again for a re-listing. Talking of idiots, Frank Wynn (no, he's not the idiot!) emailed me the URL of this listing of three NZ mini beers. The starting bid was high (NZ\$60) but I don't have two of them and so put in a bid. I was winning the bid when Trademe, or rather some idiot in Trademe, deleted the listing as Trademe has a no alcohol policy. These beers are only 15ml and do not contain alcohol!



I will start the UK sales with a few ceramics, prices of which were up and down on what I would have expected.

Tomatin Barrel £145 – Pussers Flask & Jug £10 the pair – Welsh Whisky Rugby Ball & Old St. Andrews Golf Ball £2 for the pair! The Glenfiddich Wedgewood flask £270







The set of five Briottet Liqueurs from France £12 – Three Mahon Xoriguer Gin flagons from Spain £2 – Two St. Michael (Marks & Spencer) Brandies £2.50 – Four Borges Madeira Wines, Malmsey 1920, Sercial 1915, Verdelho 1915, Boal 1925 £25 – Abercrombie's Prairie Dog (a savoury blend of dry sherry, peppers, pure vegetable juices, oyster extract, herbs and spices – sounds bloody awful!). Unsurprisingly this failed to sell, twice.



It was a real 'mixed bag' when it came to the Scotches. I'm no expert on Scotch but some appeared high and some low. The 'OO' Old Orkney from Gordon & MacPhail is a good example. This is an older bottle, in good condition and with a box, that sold for a mere £2.50. It probably cost more than that years ago and you would struggle to find new Scotch miniatures in Scotland that you could buy for £2.50. Maybe collectors have a down on



Orkney as the only other £2.50 blended Scotch mini I have to show you is also a G&M Orkney bottle.



White Horse 8yo Old Bottled 1930's, US import £55 – White Horse 1955 £35 – White Horse 1950's US import £40 – Vat 69 1950's £6 – The six 'watch' bottles sold for £6, no not £6 each, 6 for the 5! The single malts did somewhat better, well, most did.



A 12yo Bowmore with tube for £3 anyone? Or maybe you would prefer a 1989 15yo Bowmore bottled by Hart Brothers? A couple of collectors would have been very happy to get these so cheap.

Starting on the next page we have another Hart Brothers bottle, or actually twelve identical bottles sold separately. This is not normally a good idea with collectables but this time it paid off. Sales per bottle were 2x£75, 4x£70, 3x£65 & 3x£60. The Rosebank minis from Signatory sold for £18 each – cheap for single cask malts. The Dalaruan 12yo vatted malt from Eaglesome fetched just £2.50. The set of six Springbank Millennium Edition came







complete with the original box - £625. Our final bottles on the last page all sold well also. The older Bowmore (Sherrif's Bowmore Distillery) £105, Bowmore 1964 sample £380, Macallan 30yo for 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the UK Mini Bottle Club £170 (the highest price I have ever seen for a mini club bottle). The top price this time goes to the Tamdhu 50yo single cask malt with pouch £1150.



Now back down to earth with the Aberlour 9yo £6. Our final bottle is a Last Drop Cognac. Last Drop bottles, new, are generally horribly expensive so £40 for this one does not seem too bad (for the buyer, not the seller). With my Miniature Bottle Library hat on I have had trouble finding photos of Last Drop bottles bigger than a postage stamp. Do you have any? If so please photograph them and email me [minizv@gmail.com](mailto:minizv@gmail.com)

*David Smith*

## A Few Aussies

Graham Ramsay posted the seven new Wildbrumby bottles on Facebook. Brumby is the Australian term for a wild horse.



If you do have photos of bottles you have recently acquired please email me a copy for both miNiZ and Miniature Bottle Library [minizv@gmail.com](mailto:minizv@gmail.com)

I found the three bottles on the left online. The only other (Old) Sydney Town bottle I have seen I showed you way back in miNiZ65 (see it on the club web site). Old Sydney Town was a historic theme park that ran from 1975 to 2003.

*David Smith*



# EXPENSIVE FAKE

The story of a Chinese tourist paying over £7,700 for a dram of '1878 Macallan' Single Malt Scotch has taken an alarming twist after it was pointed out the bottle was likely one of a run of famous fakes uncovered in the early 2000s.



**The photo shows the Chinese tourist with the hotel's manager.**

The unnamed man made the news earlier this year when he had paid 9,999 Swiss Francs for a single 20ml dram of the 1878 Macallan at the Hotel Waldhaus am See in Saint Moritz, Switzerland.

The story seems to highlight the current heights (or stupidity depending on one's point of view) of the craze for rare Scotch, including miniatures, and what people are prepared to do for it.

Now it seems the story also represents the other, more unfortunate, side of rare Scotch – fakes. As reported on [Scotchwhisky.com](http://Scotchwhisky.com), a number of whisky experts and enthusiasts have pointed out that the bottle is very likely from a run of infamous knock-offs that were produced in Italy some years ago as the Scotch mania began to gather momentum. The possible provenance of the bottle was brought up on one site called Whiskyfun, run by the experienced collector Serge Valentin.

A number of remarkably similar bottles were bought by The Macallan Distillery in the early 2000s to bolster its old library stock but subsequent tests revealed the whiskies to be fake with the spirit inside probably no older than 10 years or so.

Among the notable 'tells' that the bottle might not be all it claims to be is the condition of the label which is too new for such a rarity and the cork, which doesn't look like one that has actually spent over 100 years in a bottle.

Another crucial detail is that the label claims that the Speyside malt is guaranteed by "Roderick Kemp, proprietor, Macallan and Talisker Distilleries Ltd." Kemp was a giant of the Scotch distilling industry in the mid to





late 19<sup>th</sup> century and owned both The Macallan and Talisker Distilleries but, importantly, *never* at the same time.

The manager of the hotel, Sandro Bernasconi, whose father built a large Scotch collection that is the basis of the hotel's famous whisky bar, has expressed dismay at the news and promised to send the whisky for verification and refund the buyer of the dram if the bottle did prove to be counterfeit.

Scotch whisky consultancy firm Rare Whisky 101 subsequently carried out a number of scientific and forensic tests on the bottle and its liquid and have concluded it is indeed a fake.

A sample sent to the University of Oxford's Research Laboratory for Archaeology and The History of Art suggested, with a 95% probability, that the liquid had been made between 1970 to 1972, whilst further tests carried out by Tatlock and Thomson showed the spirit was likely a blend of 60% malt and 40% grain whisky.

Rare Whisky 101 co-founder, David Robertson, commented: "The Waldhaus team have done exactly the right thing by trying to authenticate this whisky. Over the past year, we have been invited by numerous bottle owners and auction houses to assess suspicious bottles. Indeed, we've noticed an increasing number of old, rare archive or antique bottles coming to market at auction, and it's difficult to know how prevalent this problem is.

"We would implore that others in the market do what they can to identify any rogue bottles. The more intelligence we can provide, the greater the chance we have to defeat the fakers and fraudsters who seek to dupe the unsuspecting rare whisky consumer. We're also working closely with The Macallan brand owner, Edrington, as they start to take a leadership position on fake whisky."

Bernasconi added: "When it comes to selling our customers some of the world's rarest and oldest whiskies, we felt it was our duty to ensure that our stock is 100% authentic and the real deal. That's why we called in Rare Whisky 101. The result has been a big shock to the system, and we are delighted to have repaid our customer in full as a gesture of goodwill."

Fake bottles of spirits and wine turn up on a regular basis. And doubtless there are thousands, unsuspected, in collections. A newsletter I get daily reports fakes on a regular basis and just this morning one of the stories was: "Police in Shanghai have arrested 13 people after discovering 14,000 bottles of fake Penfolds destined to be sold through Alibaba's Taobao – China's version of eBay – as well as pubs and karaoke bars."

Mini Bottle Collectors, especially those who's collections are at the top end of the market with Scotches, Pre-pro Bourbons and Cognac, should be very wary. We already know for certain of a number of fake ceramic bottles (including the Vlahof 1960 Rome Olympic bottles which are worth more than the originals) and doubtless there are fake straights out there.

*David Smith*



# Tasting Sample Bottles

I have recently added two very large sets of 3cl Tasting Sample miniatures to Miniature Bottle Library. Both companies are re-bottlers. They take one or more either current or old bottles and split the contents into 3cl bottles. In theory this is 250 samples per bottle, although 240 would be a more realistic average allowing for a bit of wastage and some evaporation in older bottles.

## MASTER of MALT

Drinks by The Dram is from Master of Malt, although the set includes a lot more than Scotch. Note that early bottles were labelled Master of Malt and some, also earlier bottles, Atom Supplies. I have identified 979 bottles, although MBL does not have pictures of many of these. I know that there are a lot more bottles than those identified as many have been 'retired.' Prices range from £3.64 to £210 for The Last Drop 50 year old Double Matured Malt Scotch. Unfortunately I do not have a photo of this but a representative sample of these bottles are shown.







The Perfect Measure is part of The Whisky Exchange. Prices range from £3.75 to £269 – no I have not missed out a

decimal point! That's equivalent to £67,250 per 750ml bottle – shots anyone? The horrendously priced bottle is Karuizawa 1983 Japanese whisky. 25 year old Macallan is only the third dearest at £110 for your one small gulp, or a lot of sniffs and very small sips. Both are shown on the right. A representative sample of other bottles is shown below. I have identified 608 of these bottles and there are probably a few more 'retired' bottles.





<https://www.thewhiskyexchange.com/c/803/samples>

Do you know of any other sites selling miniature sample bottles? If so please email me at [minizv@gmail.com](mailto:minizv@gmail.com)

David Smith

## THREE SCOTCH DISTILLERIES TO RE-OPEN

David Smith



# ~~~FOUND ON-LINE~~~

I have a HEAP of interesting photos to show you but as this is the last article and miNiz116 is already larger than intended, I will keep to three pages and reserve some for miNiz117.

The set of four books on the right are from somewhere ex-the Soviet Union. Maybe Armenia or maybe Russia.

The books below were said to come from China, and indeed may do, or maybe not. On the back (top row) there is writing in French with a clear over-sticker in Chinese so maybe they were just sold in China? The problem with this theory is that I cannot find Chateau Esoor online, which leads me to think they are actually Chinese, pretending to be French. Does anyone know any more about either of these book sets?



In 2001 F. Loeb Design created a high-end mini-bottle for Remy Martin which was Officially certified for being ready for use in space. The Cognac is frozen to -12 degrees Centigrade (about 10 Fahrenheit), then filtered with the same filters used to recycle the water on space shuttles. Fatty substances are removed from the Cognac, concentrating the aroma even more. It is to be drunk ice-chilled,



and comes in a flexible plastic flask with a drinking straw. There is even a valve to stop the liquid trickling out at zero gravity. Naturally, it is even protected against external radiation! At least a couple of these have sold, US\$600 & €700

Back down to Earth and to Russia. I am sure most, if not all, of you will be familiar with the minis in Russian pottery from Ochakovskaya (vodka filled), Global Whisky & Spirits (Scotch filled) & Krasnoyarsk Distillery (vodka filled). These have always had painting variations but a poster on Facebook recently showed that there were also size differences and other mould variations.



Fancy a can of Bells? Someone in the company needs shooting! Pure Scot is a blend from Bladnoch with an Australian importers label. Has this been sold elsewhere? The six The Lost Distillery Company bottles aim to recreate the



tastes of long closed distilleries. 12 & 17yo Kingdom blended Scotch was blended and bottled in Scotland by Cochrane Blair but only sold in South Korea. Does anyone know if Windsor 17yo Scotch is also Korea only but is it bottled in Scotland or Korea?



Hog Master & Red Hog are from a South African company, Supreme Beverages. They make more of these, does anyone have any photos?

The three bottles on the right were shown on Facebook but I forgot to note who posted them. They are made by Hoochery Distillery in Western Australia.



I have no idea what is in the Chinese bottle. Can anyone tell me? Miniature Bottle Library has hundreds of Chinese bottles we cannot identify. Can anyone help?

Finally Collagin (The Elixir of Youth) is my type of herbal medicine. It is 'Distilled with Collagen' and claims to fight ageing. So, if I drink 10 a night do I get younger?



*David Smith*



# Christmas Baubles

I have shown you the Pickering's Gin Baubles from Summerhill Distillery in a previous miNiZ. These sold out in just 82 seconds last year so they have made a lot more this year. As I write this, this year's baubles can still be ordered on-line for £30.00 for a set of six, each containing 5cl of Pickering's Gin.



<https://baubles.pickeringsgin.com/products/baubles>

There are at least two more distilleries making baubles this year.



The Angel's share angels have been shown a number of times in miNiZ but new this year are a set of four Christmas Baubles, at £48 a set. These each contains 5cl of Scotch from Douglas Laing. Unfortunately these are sold out for this Christmas. You can also have the baubles custom made with Scotch of your choice from £10 each. Note these are for sale in the UK and Europe only.

<https://www.angelsshareglass.com>





Elsewhere in this edition of miNiZ you will find an article on The Perfect Measure sample bottles from The Whisky Exchange, even a New Zealand one. These are also packaged in Baubles and Christmas Crackers.



The gold cracker set contains six 3cl single malts: Tomintoul 10 Year Old, Tamdhu 10 Year Old, Aberfeldy 12 Year Old, Bowmore 12 Year Old, The Deveron 12 Year Old & Tamnavulin Double Cask. The red crackers contain 3cl of various spirits: Mahiki Coconut Rum Liqueur, Old Pulteney Stroma Malt Whisky Liqueur, Saliza Amaretto Veneziano Liqueur, Whitley Neill Gin, Copper Dog Blended Malt Whisky & Spytail Black Ginger Rum. Each set is £49.95. <https://www.thewhiskyexchange.com/c/803/samples>

There are 13 Baubles shown on the site, some of which contain sample bottles not available for purchase other than in the bauble. Sets of three are £27.95 and singles £9.95



Drinks by the Dram are part of Master of Malt. For a number of years they have made both Advent Callenders and Christmas Crackers. There are 25 Advent calendars for 2017, although 4 are



already sold out. There are only 4 Crackers sets, although you can buy these individually also. Each Calendar day and each Cracker contains a 3cl sample bottle.



For details as to what drinks are in the above sets, prices, and details of other sets, have a look at the website: <https://www.masterofmalt.com/gift-ideas/>

Just in time to show you, I found the Morrison's Supermarkets Gin Advent Calendar. This showcases 24 50ml gin bottles including Ophir, Greenall's, Portobello Road, Masons,



Beefeater, Tanqueray, Brecon, Boodles, two each from Edinburgh Gin, Sipsmith & Whitley Neill and ten more. <https://groceries.morrisons.com/webshop/product/Gin-Advent-Calendar/394543011?from=search&tags=%7C105651&param=advent&parentContainer=SEARCHadvent> £60 for the set but they were out of stock when I last looked.



Easter Bunnies next time?  
Maybe.

*David Smith*

## SNIPPETS

**Crystal Clear Barrel Aged Whisky or Cognac anyone?** The University of Manchester has developed a method of filtering aged spirits through a graphene water filter. "Officially" they did not taste the resulting clear spirits but reported they smelt, and should taste, the same.

**A Glasgow couple made £830 selling a whisky miniature.** The couple had collected odd bottles here and there over the years and, having a tidy up, were going to throw them away. Before doing so they decided to check with a local auctioneer to see if they were worth anything. "They had quite a few interesting bottles," auctioneer Laurie Black told Glasgow Live, "but the Laphroaig immediately stood out." This was a 20 under proof mini dating from the 1960's. The collection sold for over £2,000 at auction.

## Date, Time & Place

The next 'meeting' is our Christmas lunch. Sometime in December but not yet booked. Contact Colin Ryder (contact details on back of miNiZ115) if you might want to come.

January 13<sup>th</sup> @12.30 is the Club annual barbecue (+ meeting) @ David & Rosie Smith's, 11 Trevor Terrace, Paremata, Wellington. BYO everything.

Not strictly a club activity but Rosie & I are also doing a barbecue for New Year. From 6pm on 31<sup>st</sup> December. Most food & drink provided but a desert would be appreciated. This is a general invitation to all club members and their families who are in Wellington (or want to come to Wellington) on New Year's Eve. We would appreciate you letting us know if you are going to come: [minizv@gmail.com](mailto:minizv@gmail.com)

Club membership continues to increase since we became free – tell your friends.