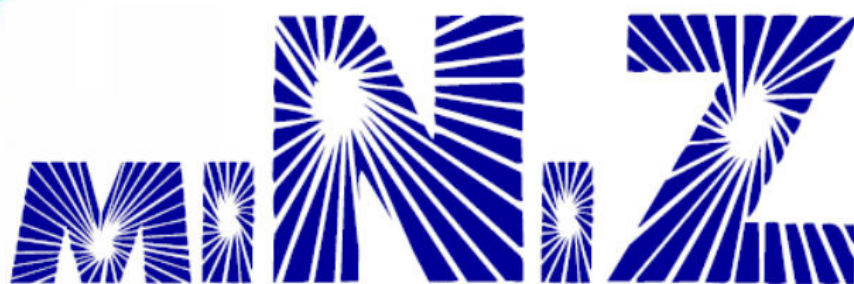


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[WWW.MINISNZ.COM](http://WWW.MINISNZ.COM)

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



**Australasia's International Miniature Bottle Club**



# NEW NEW ZEALAND, THIS & THAT

There are no bottles that have been made new in NZ in the last few months (that I know of – other than one Mamaku Blue bottle shown later) so our cover this time features two new Card bottles from China. The cover shows the two jokers and the four aces are shown here but this is a full pack so you will find the rest of them pictured later in this edition.



Years ago I bought a set of 6 Chinese Card bottles modelled on the pack of cards the US troops were issued with when they invaded Iraq for the second time. I was fearful that I was looking for another 52 (The pack the troops were issued with had 58 cards in total) but the Chinese seller assured me that there were only six. It would have been nice if there were 58 but horribly expensive! The bottles are made by a company called Elk.

There are some great bottles coming out of China, it is a pity it is not easier to buy them. All the Chinese sites that I have seen selling minis (other than collector sites) are purely in Chinese and do not respond to emails. I spent ages trying to buy one of several sets of Mahjong minis (see miNiZ 109) but got nowhere. If anyone does know of any commercial Chinese sites that will respond please let me know and I will pass the information on to all our members.



I have only received one article from any of you. With a 100+ membership this is not good enough. This is the reason this edition is late and that it is smaller than the last few editions. Everyone has something to contribute – so do so or miNiZ will continue to get smaller. My thanks to Frank Wynn for the one article and David Spaid and Frank Wynn who sent me some photos – the only members who did. Enough said.

Due to David Spaid having been indisposed, I only have a few photos from him to show you this time so I will incorporate them here, rather than the usual separate article. All are bottles that are new to the market in the last few months and all hail from Canada.





The Reunion flagons are from Reunion Distillery. The three bottles on the right are from Niagara Falls Distillery and are a gin, vodka and rye whisky. The unusually named Roots and Wings Distillery made the next four bottles. Wild Life Distillery made the gin and vodka with our final bottle, Endeavour gin, having been made by Old Bridge Distillery.



Finally, two bonus Chinese bottles I found on-line. Note that the bullet is 125ml – not a true mini but I would happily have it in my collection.

*David Smith*



# GOGREEK

These bottles of Ouzo seem to have been around for two or three years but there are increasing numbers of them. The 'labels' are shrink wrapped onto the bottles. They represent national costumes from various parts of Greece with the set at the bottom representing ancient Greek gods. You should be able to find them available for purchase on-line. Enjoy!



[www.gogreek.gr](http://www.gogreek.gr)



Cyclades Islands  
man & woman  
COSTUME



*David Smith*







# AUCTION REPORT



All the results I have to show you in this edition are from Whisky Auction, UK. I will start with some bottles that fetched ridiculous prices, both high and low.



The two matchbox bottles and the Grants sold for £100 – why? At the other end of the spectrum the pair of (full) Scotch jugs sold for only £3 for the pair. In the last week I saw an identical Sterlini in a NZ antique shop. They were asking \$90 and theirs was empty. The two Hennessy are South African Brandy, not Cognac, so the sale

price of £220 looks ludicrously high. The 23 year old Ron Zacapa Centenario hails from Guatemala. Rums do not usually fetch big money but at £180 this is an exception. Finally for this group is the Glenesk which sold for £90. If this was a Glenesk malt the price would be reasonable but note that this is a blend and it is rare for a blend to sell for this much.





The three Bols are South African bottled. The 3 sold for £16. The Caselli 1950's Rum Di Fantasia is from Italy. The price of £16 would have been a disappointment as most Italian Siglio (seal) bottles go for a lot more than this and the condition is exceptional. The pair of Excellia Tequila bottles are almost new and, although bottled in Mexico, were made for the French market. £18 seems reasonable. The pair of Old Fitzgerald Bourbons went for £95. There was an identical bottle to the one on the right which was also sold. This was not in quite as good condition but still sold for £75. The Westfalian German single malt whisky was a limited edition 2016 Christmas special. The sale price of £25 was probably a disappointment to the seller.



The Mortlach trade sample set is known as The Beast Is Coming. The Scotches are Rare Old, 18 Year Old & 25 Year Old. A very reasonable £105 bought the set. The cork and lead closure Old Orkney is a US import bottle - £130. The Annan 16yo is part of a large set from The Whisky Connoisseur called The Burns Collection. All the bottles in the set have made-up distillery names based on a word or line from a Burns poem. In most cases which actual distilleries these come from has been worked out by Scotch experts. Most of the set was sold individually with prices ranging from £18 to £45.



Three of the first four of this group are single malts from independent bottlers. The Glenkinchie 20 year old is from Spirit of Scotland. £25 bought it. The Glencadam 15 year old sold for £40. It was bottled by The Dram Good Whisky Company. Scapa 12

year old is distillery bottled. This sold for a disappointing £12. The star if this group is the Brora 19yo bottled by Holland Whisky Association in Amsterdam. The malt itself was supplied to HWA by Gordon & MacPhail, itself an independent bottler. It sold for £120. The Callanish 25yo is another bottle from The Whisky Connoisseur. This vatted malt went for a



mere £9. The last bottle, Old Angus Liqueur, is from Train & McIntyre and was imported into the US in the 1940's by National Distillers Products Corporation. Although a blend, I would have expected a sale price of more than the £12 it went for.



The pair of The Scottish Collection 1992 Edinburgh European Summit bottles are 10 & 15 year old blends - £4 the pair. The two Dufftown Festival bottles are both 8yo pure malts. They date from 1989 & 1990 and were bottled for R. & P. Scott. £2.50 was too cheap for these. The Whisky Exchange made the limited release (500) blend. £7 seems reasonable. Finally for this group we have two nice old cork & lead/foil cap bottles from John Wallace & Co. This pair are 1940's bottles and £75 the pair is reasonable, even if high for blends in general.



The pair of Kindness 13 & 14 year old straight malts sold for £9. The Gairloch flasks are English bottled – a bargain at £5 the pair. Most liqueurs either do not sell or sell cheaply but Chartreuse is one of the few exceptions. Both pairs sold for £50 each.

Send me some auction results for miNiZ119.

*David Smith*



# ANCHORS AWAY

I saw these three anchors on-line and immediately ignored them as being from Godet Cognac – not common but well known.



Thankfully I looked properly – the Canadian flag should have given them away! They are from Corby Distilleries but I do not know what they contain. For comparison here are the Godet Anchors.



*David Smith*





# FAKES!

Back in issue 91 (Spring 2010) I showed you some fake Absolut Vodka bottles, or rather fake labels as I believe the bottles do contain Absolut. Since then I have found many more. There are over 320 different ones on Miniature Bottle Library and I have no doubt there are more. I have a selection to show you here.



I cannot tell you anything about the top row, other than that the Rolling Stones features artwork from their most famous LP cover. Granada is one of a series of four minis (so far) done for the last four meetings of the Spanish mini bottle club. The Viet Nam is one of three made for the Vietnamese mini bottle club. World cup 2018



Russia was made, of course, for the Football World Cup. I suspect that At. Madrid is one of a series for Spanish footballs clubs but this is the only one I have seen so far.



I cannot tell you anything about the first two bottles above. The third is one of a series of colour gradient bottles in various combinations of pink, green and yellow. Ikea is a Japanese made label featuring the well known Ikea store.



There are a series of countries for which labels have been made. Obviously I had to show you the New Zealand one. Ferrari, together with Red Bull & McLaren (not shown) are for the Formula One racing teams. I suspect there are bottles for the other teams also. There are heaps of The Minions bottles but so far I have only found one Simpsons mini. Note that Bart is leaning on a Barcelona F.C. shield.

On the next page we have two multi-bottle photos. Unfortunately these images were too small to put the individual bottle pictures on MBL. In case you haven't worked it



out, the second photo is the national football teams logos – there must be more.





On the subject of fakes, I also came across this picture posted by a Russian collector.



I believe that the labels on these would fool most collectors (as would some but not all of the Absolut labels). The give-away is not that they are all in the same type of bottle. That is not at all uncommon, but the date, 02.06.10, on each bottle is a give-away. It is highly unlikely that this number of bottles, from maybe 14 different distilleries, would have gone down the bottling line on the same day.



Finally the three NZ Old Hokonui bottles shown are not the genuine article as they do not contain genuine Old Hokonui moonshine. They each contain Wilsons whisky and, in fact, two of them have the Wilsons name on (the other one says M.L.T - Matura Licensing Trust). There are a number of other Old Hokonui fakes out there, including a few 'home made' ones but there is only one version of genuine Old Hokonui in miniature.

Please contact me if you have photos of any more fakes.

*David Smith*



# WHERE DOES THE MALT GO?

Single Malts are the stars of the whisky world. However not all malts become Single malts. Some are blended with other malts to become Vatted Malts or Pure Malts as they are sometimes called. Some are sold in barrel to independent bottlers who age it and release it under their name rather than the distilleries, e.g. Allt-A-Bhainne. Many malts are blended with grain whiskies to become Blended Scotch, with almost 90% of whisky sold being blended.

The following list is of well known blends. Due to distillery closures and change of ownership some of the following examples will no longer apply. However we all have old bottles of whisky so it will still be applicable to them.

MALT	INCLUDED IN BLEND
An Cnoc	Haigs
Aberfeldy	Dewars
Ardmore	Teachers
Balmenach	Johnnie Walker & Crabbes
Balblair	Balantines
Benrinnes	Crawfords
Blair Athol	Bells
Braeval	Chivas Regal
Bunnahabhan	Black Bottle
Caperdonach	Chivas Regal
Cardhu	Johnnie Walker
Coleburn	Ushers
Convalmore	Buchannan's Blend & Black and White
Craggenmore	Old Parr
Dailuaine	Johnnie Walker
Dallas Dhu	Benmore
Dufftown	Bells
Glen Elgin	White Horse
Glen Grant	Chivas Regal
Glen Spey	Justerini and Brooks
Glenallachie	Mackinlay's
Glen Burgie	Ballantines
Glencadam	Cream of the Barley
Glendronach	Teachers
Glenesk	Vat 69
Glenglassaugh	The Famous Grouse & Cutty Sark
Glenlossie	Haigs
GlenRothes	Cutty Sark



Inchgower	Bells
Inerleven	Ballantines
Knockando	Justerini and Brooks
MaCDuff	Lawsons
Munnochmore	Haigs
Miltonduff	Ballantines
Talisker	Isle of Skye, Poit Dubh & Te Bheag
Macallan	The Famous Grouse
Tamdhu	The Famous Grouse
Teannich	Vat 69 & Haig's Dimple
Tomatin	Big T
Tormore	Long John & Ballantines

*Frank Wynn*

AA

## Mamaku Blue



I came across this company when they appeared on Country TV, although I believe they have been around for a number of years.

The three glass bottles are 19cm tall, 40ml and contain Blueberry, Gooseberry and Golden Kiwifruit liqueurs. The Golden Kiwifruit is their latest addition.

These can be obtained through the company website but I had a bit of difficulty and had to ring them up. They arrived well packaged the next day.

The bad news is the cost of \$11.50 each.

*Frank Wynn*



# DAVISON NEWMAN & CO

Many of you will have flasks of Glen Grant in your collection but you do have to look carefully to see who bottled them as there are at least six companies who did the bottling, and their labels were nearly identical. Firstly, of course, William Grant & Sons bottled miniatures themselves. You will find many of these minis bearing the Gordon and MacPhail name and some the names of two G&M subsidiaries, Grant Bonding and Moray Bonding. Peter Thomson, of Beneagles fame, also had a go, as did Robert Watson.



There are also almost identical bottles bottled by Davison, Newman & Co. of London. As far as I can find out there is no connection between this company and William Grant or Gordon & MacPhail. But Davison, Newman & Co do have a long and proud history as traders. At the time of

the American Revolution they were among the largest, if not the largest, wholesale grocery trader in the UK and colonies, and traded throughout the world. And, talking of the American Revolution, in 1774 16 chests of tea belonging to Davison Newman & Co were amongst those thrown into Boston Harbour during the Boston Tea Party which, of course, was the effective start of the Revolution. The company sought



£480 compensation from George III for the loss of the tea, and no, they were never paid.

Whitechapel Bell Foundry sent a replacement Liberty Bell and letter of apology for the cracked one to Philadelphia in 1776. Maybe the Boston City Council should compensate Davison Newman for the loss of their tea on the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2024.

So next time you see an old Scotch bottle, or any other bottle for that matter, with a bottler's name you have never heard of, look it up. There is a lot of history in our collections.

Famous Firsts Liberty Bell

*David Smith*



# Chinese Cards















Many thanks to Марат Зайнутдинов (Marat) of Russia for supplying these photos to Miniature Bottle Library.

## Date - Time - Place

Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> July, 6.30pm, Pot Luck Dinner @ Ken & Marlee Chin's, 29 Norton Park Avenue, Fairfield, Lower Hutt

Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> October, 12.30pm, Pot Luck Lunch @ Errol & Karen's, 39 Pembroke Street, Tawa

December lunch - TBA

Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> January 2019, 6.00pm, Annual Barbeque @ David & Rosie Smith's, 11 Trevor Terrace, Paremata

Currently only Wellington meetings are being scheduled, our members elsewhere are invited to organise a meeting. Let us know where and when well in advance and we will be happy the publicise it.

The 2019 AGM will be on the 17th February. There will be a barbecue lunch starting at 12.30 with the AGM about 2.30 @ Colin & Di Ryder's, 20 Prospect Terrace, Johnsonville, Wellington.

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**US\$1.2M FOR TWO BOTTLES!**

Le Clos, a Dubai Airport based retailer, has set a world record for the most expensive bottles of whisky ever sold, having sold two 60 year old 1926 bottles of The Macallan for US\$1.2 million. No these are not miniatures but I'm sure many of you Scotch collectors will be interested anyway.



The two extremely rare bottles of The Macallan feature labels commissioned from British artist Sir Peter Blake and Italian artist Valerio Adami. Each created a label especially for these bottles, making them highly sought after by art-lovers as well as whisky collectors.

These bottles originally retailed for £20,000, with the last known individual bottle sold by Christie's Auctions in 2007 for US\$75,000. These bottles were sold to a private collector for US\$600,000 each. Obviously someone with more money than sense. They are the most expensive single (750ml) bottles of whisky ever sold.

The whisky was aged for 60 years in ex-Sherry oak barrels before being bottled and released in 1986 & 1993. Of the 40 bottles produced, 12 were given to each of the artists – lucky them!

David Smith