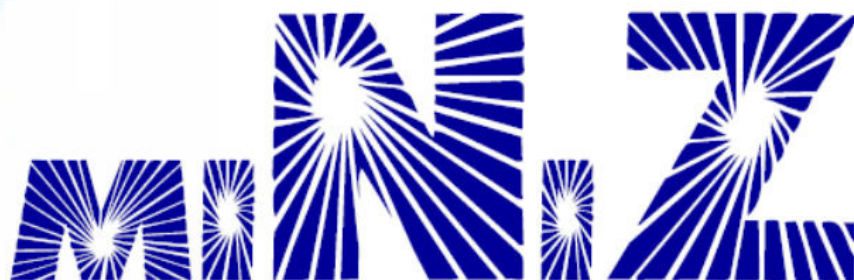


Issue 122 - Autumn 2019



[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



I was going to use this set as the cover bottles until I found the BA bottle – see later. My thanks to Ken Chin for finding these (and getting me a set). The bottles are 100ml, which I know will not suit everyone but you have to admit they are great. The picture of the set below is not very clear but I have embedded it at 2479x1296px so if you expand the pdf it is readable.



The cover bottle is GREAT. I would have loved to have bought it but at £290 at auction my wife would have killed me! I can tell you it is Wade, and obviously it contains The Balvenie 10yo single malt Scotch, but I cannot tell you when it was made or if it was made for a special occasion. I do know that it was made either for sale or as a gift on Concorde. If you know more let me know please. Excuse the very poor photo of this bottle from the top, it is the only one I could find – which seems to suggest that these are extremely rare.

Speaking of great bottles we start the next page with a Larsen Ship made for the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Larsen Cognac Collectors Club. This dates from 18<sup>th</sup> December 2018 and is one of 100 made. Bottles don't come much better than this!







The whatever-it-says Ouzo is a NZ import that I picked up at our favourite Petone deli, Ontrays. Unfortunately I got the last one and they are not getting any more.

In issue 121 we showed you 4 Czar's Vodka bottles



from Russia with football shirts on them. As you can see a 5<sup>th</sup> has turned up.



The set of 5x50ml McHenry bottles are new and from a Tasmanian distillery. Thanks to member Graham Ramsay from Brisbane for these.

Talking of bottles from Australia you will find an article later in miNiZ122 about Australian re-bottler Hand Picked Spirits. The bottle on the left is from another Aus re-bottling company oddly named Whisky Loot. This is a subscription service where they send you three different 60ml bottles weekly or monthly. Unfortunately this is the only bottle I have a picture of but all are in the same classy bottle. Pictures please for both miNiZ and Miniature Bottle Library.

The AGM was very poorly attended but thankfully all the committee members offered to re-stand. See the web site for a list and contact information.

As usual there are only articles written or contributed to by the usual suspects, with the exception of the Vok article by 2018 member from Australia Jo Malicki. If Jo can do it so can YOU!

I am looking forward to meeting or catching up with some of you at the Midwest Miniature Bottle Club Show in St. Louis (April 26-28). This is the 40<sup>th</sup> year and the 5 and 10 years are always the best shows. It may be too late for this year but if at all possible plan to go sometime – It will blow your mind the first time and you will want to keep going back.

*David Smith*

# G'DAY FROM OZ!

My name is Jo and I'm a 27yr old collector from across the Tasman. People ask how I got into collecting miniatures, but truth be told I was born into it. My father started collecting not long after he arrived in Australia from Poland in around 1983 and he has always been on the hunt for bottles to add to his collection. Unlike a lot of collectors I have come across that seem to 'specialise' their collections, dad was always happy to buy any bottle as long as it was a miniature, contained alcohol and was not already in his collection; I am very much the same.

It all started with a couple of small bottles that caught dad's eye at the local bottle shop (trust me I tried to work out what the original one was, but we couldn't find the photos to jolt dad's memory). Then he met mum and she quickly worked out what made him tick. In exchange for him teaching her how to drive (there's a 7 year age difference), mum bought him a bottle for each lesson. This became the first set within his collection, all be it a not yet complete set.



## Advokaat

50ml  
18%



## Cherry Advokaat

50ml  
18%



## Cherry Brandy

50ml  
25.8%



## Coffee Liqueur

50ml



## Crème de Cacao

50ml  
25.3%



## Crème de Menthe

50ml  
25.8%



## Curacao

50ml  
28.5%

One thing I have quickly discovered about trying to research especially older bottles, is that information can be quite tricky to find. When you have a company such as Vok, that has evolved from Jan Vok Liqueur Co (early 1930's) to Vok Beverages (est. 2002), finding original information seems harder again. I did though find a great little article written by Jim Crawford in Issue 101 Winter 2013, definitely worth having a look.



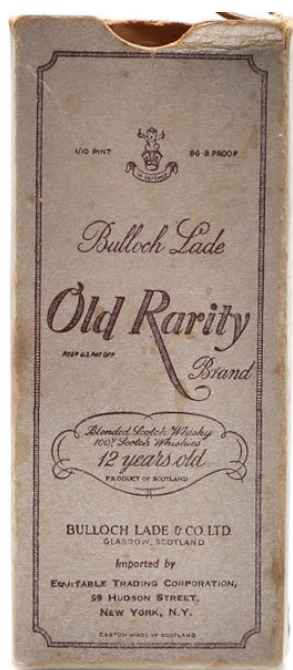


# AUCTION REPORT



I have a lot to show you this time, all of them from Whisky Auction, UK but not all are Scotch or even whiskies as you will see – and yes, that is exactly what I said last time! We will start with Scotches as they are just under half the sales I have to show you.

The star of the show, so to speak, was a club bottle. You will find a number of other club bottles in this issue but no other sold for £1550. The Macallan 27 Year Old was made for the 25th Anniversary of CEBL, the Spanish Miniature Bottle Club, and their meeting held at Camino De Santiago in 2018.



At the other end of the scale we have Bulloch Lade's Old Rarity 12 year old US Import. It dates from around 1930s or 40s and is in great condition but it only sold for £14. Another poor result were the two tubes from Jura. The One And All 20 Year Old & Tastival 2017 were Press Samples. I would have expected a lot more than £20.

On the next page we start with four Grants. The first Stand Fast is 1950's, it sold for £110, the second is 1930's and sold for £55. Both of these are exceptionally high values for blends. The pair of 3cl Premium 12yo and Rare and Old 18yo sold for £75 the pair. Finally on the first row we have a

1953 Glenfiddich bottled for the Off Licenses Association Annual Dinner 1961 - £775 for this.



Sticking with 1953 we have another best seller. The Glenfarclas The Coronation was bottled in 2013 for the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Note the very limited edition of just 20. Two of these sold at £330 each. The Springbank 1952 was bottled in the 1980's. This sold for £210. The Balvenie bottle is a Press Sample. Made in 1972, it was bottled in 2006 and sold in 2019 for £200. We come a bit more down to Earth with the Alice in Wonderland Drink Me 25yo Highland Malt by The Whisky Connoisseur - £12. And even more down to Earth was the Duncan Taylor The Big Smoke 40 Press Sample selling for just £6.

Starting the next page we have another cheap bottle. The Crawford's 3 Star spring cap bottle is 1960's it sold for only £6. The Craigellachie Sample Tasting Set sold £115. The Glengoyne 1971 single cask was bottled 1998 - £60 bought it.





Kininvie 1990 The First Drops Special Release #01 is another Press Sample - £85. The Black Watch is the poorest of this bunch at £12 – pity as this is a 1960's bottle in great condition. Finally for Scotch we have a trade Sample, Highland Park Wings Of The Eagle 16yo which sold for £70.





On the previous page we have the first of a number of Armagnac lots. The Chateau De Castex d'Armagnac set sold for £40 – rather poor I thought but then I'm a big fan of Armagnac, to drink not to collect.

The two sets to the right did not sell very well either. The Domaine De Papolle Tasting Selection are Press Samples, poor at £30. Tubes usually sell well but they say that it is the exception that makes the rule. Chateau Du Busca 1974 & 1991 Press Samples Stg16£25 bought the Chateau De Pellehaut Armagnac Tenareze



tasting selection of 6 tubes.



We have our final Armagnacs above. The Chateau De Castex d'Armagnac is undoubtedly the nicest looking of the Armagnac bottles. It is a 50yo, made in 1944 and bottled in 1994. £35 bought it. The pair of Chateau Du Busca are press samples distilled in 1974 & 1991 - £16. The Montal 1960 is the most common of all the Armagnacs I am showing you, £10 was probably a good price for this. The



final bottle is our first Cognac. This Hennessy dates from the 1950's and fetched more than I would have expected at £25. Starting this page with have a set of four cognac's from Jensen - £40 was not great but OK. The next bottle, an Otard 3 star bottled in the 1960's, is a US import in good condition. I'm sure the seller was disappointed at only £4. The Pierre Ferrand Selection Des Anges did not do much better at £7. The star of this final group (second row) was the La Fontaine De La Pouyade Grande Fine Champagne as this sold for £60.



The six rums were said to be 1960's, although I doubt that all are as some look a bit newer. A very poor £12 bought the six but it has to be said that most rums do not sell well.





Aguardente is rum in it's widest sense. The above three (note the third bottle says rum but look at the barrel) are all from Madeira. £14 seems a bit cheap. The two Gilbey's are lovely old bottles, 1960's in fact. £95 seems high but obviously more than one collector really wanted these minis. Our final rum is on the row below. Appleton Extra Light Jamaica Rum is said to be a 1940's mini. It has an Italian importer's label on the back. £18 seemed about right.



No2 in the January auction was this Karuizawa from 1984 which was bottled in 2018 for the Hong Kong Miniature Liquor Club. £1300 – whew!

On the next page we start with a Glenmore's Tom Hardy straight American Whisky from the 1950's - £30. Four Roses is an Italian import with a sigloi (seal). Siglio bottles always sell well and this bottle was no exception at £50. It always amazes me how much some of these Chartreuse sell for. This is a yellow from the 1950's and it took £45 to buy it. Finally we have the four Polish Polugar (bread wine) vodkas. The pair sold for a very disappointing £16.

That's it for miNiZ122 – more in miNiZ123 in 3 months.





# PACIFIC MINIATURES #2

## FRENCH PACIFICA

France administers over 120 Pacific Islands as part of two Territories, French Polynesia, which includes Tahiti, and New Caledonia. It considers both to be part of France, although independence movements do exist in both. New Caledonia is the northern most part of the largely submerged continent of Zealandia with New Zealand being the largest part above sea level.



The above 5 clip top bottles are 5 of 7 I know about from Maison Ridolfi who are based in Noumea, the capital of New Caledonia. The rest of the photos on this page are also from New Caledonia and may also be from Maison Ridolfi, although no manufacturer is shown on any of these bottles.







These also are unknown and may be from Maison Ridolfi. The bottle on the right is Iles des Pines Café. Although the Iles des Pines is in French Polynesia this is definitely a New Caledonia bottle.



Ava Tea Distillerie made all the remaining bottles on this page.....



.....and the first row on the next





Manutea made the two sets and on the left we have two bottles from the second set. The bottle on the right is Liqueur de Pamplemousse (grapefruit) from Tahiti but I do not know what company made it.

All the bottles on the next page are from Distillerie Tahiti, as is the bottle on the far right. This is the only plastic bottle I have seen from this company.







There are more of these  
that I know of and I  
assume plenty that I don't.  
Send me some pictures if  
you have any others.

*David Smith*



# THE FOUNDERS

## ASBACH URALT

Hugo Asbach was born in Cologne in 1868. His father was a carpenter but Hugo wanted to do something different so in 1892 he started distilling brandy in Rudesheim. He wanted to make his German brandy as good as cognac. He regularly visited Cognac to learn the techniques and his business thrived.

In 1905 he bought two small cognac houses, amalgamated them and renamed them Asbach & Co. He kept the two businesses separate and refused to call his German brandy Cognac. Many German distillers did not have his scruples and openly called their brandy Cognac. The 1919 Treaty of Versailles meant that Germans had to give up their French properties. They also had to stop calling their brandy Cognac. At least this last ruling did not affect Hugo.



## JUSTERINI AND BROOKS

Giacomo Justerini worked for his uncle at his successful distillery at Bologna. In 1749 he fell in love with an Italian soprano and followed her to London. She was not a success in London and Giacomo realised he would need employment if he was to keep the wolf from the door. With the help from George Johnson who financed the operation he purchased premises in Pall Mall and started making liqueurs, just as he had in Italy. This was still 1749.



One of his customers was Prince George who became king in 1760. That year the company received the first of its many Royal Warrants. Once he had received the Royal Warrant Giacomo sold the business for a large profit and returned to Italy.

Alfred Brooks bought the business in 1831 and renamed it Justerini and Brooks. Charles Dickens was one of his customers. The company started blending whisky towards the end of the 19th century. The famous J & B Rare



# JAMESON WHISKY

The image shows two bottles of Jameson's Irish Whiskey. The bottle on the left is a standard size, while the bottle on the right is a smaller, travel-sized version. Both bottles are made of green glass and have a red foil cap. The labels are gold with black text and a central crest. The text on the labels includes 'JAMESON'S', 'ESTABLISHED 1768', 'IRISH WHISKEY', 'DISTILLED, MATURED AND BLENDED IN IRELAND BY John Jameson & Co.', 'TRIPLE DISTILLED', and 'THE NEW GUEST DISTILLERY DUBLIN 7 IRELAND'. The bottom of the labels features a small crest and the text 'PRODUCT OF IRELAND'.

*Frank Wynn*



## FROM BILL BAKER





# REACH FOR THE SKY – PT.2

## AIRCRAFT OF THE R.A.F. #2



I have 48 Scotch minis to show you in this article, all from The Whisky Connoisseur and, of course, all with an RAF theme. Most of them will speak for themselves but I will jump in with a bit of text when needed.



One thing I found very frustrating when processing the Scotland section of Miniature Bottle Library is bottles like these with no makers name on the front. I assume that they do have the information on a back label but, frustratingly, no one seems to photograph the back.







I did not recognise some of the aircraft in the large set. The last three are actually gliders. The fourth bottle on the above row is one of a series but the others are all of foreign aircraft



and will feature in a later article.







*David Smith*

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## GOOD AUSTRALIAN SITE

When looking for something on-line I came across this Australian on-line shop selling minis. They have a good selection of minis, including the re-bottler, Hand Made Spirits shown on the next page. A selection of others on sale is shown. <https://www.mybottleshop.com.au/>





# HAND PICKED SPIRITS

On the last page I introduced you to the Australian on-line shop, <https://www.mybottleshop.com.au/> I found these minis from re-bottler Hand Picked Spirits on that site. These are for sale for delivery both throughout Australia and internationally via courier. One note of Caution, the feedback for this site is very poor online but good on Facebook. I am providing a good cross section of what is available as there were 78 different ones for sale when last I looked. I will eventually get all of them on Miniature Bottle Library but it is not a priority at present. They speak for themselves.







The above should be enough to give you a good idea of what is available. As well as familiar names there are a lot that I have not heard of and, I am fairly sure, a lot that are not available elsewhere in miniature.

Again, a word of caution. I am not recommending this site due to bad feedback from a few customers but if you want these bottles it may be worthwhile for you to take the chance.

*David Smith*



# ***HISTORICAL FIGURES #2N***

## ***GEORGE WASHINGTON***

George Washington is another historical figure that I am sure needs no introduction, but you are going to get one anyway.

George Washington was born in 1732 in the Colony of Virginia and died in the State of Virginia in 1799. He was appointed commander-in-chief of the Continental Army during the Revolutionary War and, obviously, he was a very successful commander. He was one of the Founding Fathers of the United States and was the nation's first President (1789–1797). The rest you can read about on-line.



The three busts are from Jacquins, USA. There are quite a number of label and capping variations of the cobalt blue busts but this is the only gold bust I know of. The jug is from Pick Kwick of the UK. It is one of a set of historical figures jugs. Anyone know who made the George Washington flask? Let me know if you do. The next is from Grenadier. I don't know for sure but I think it may be a sample bottle. The final bottle on this page is from McCormick.

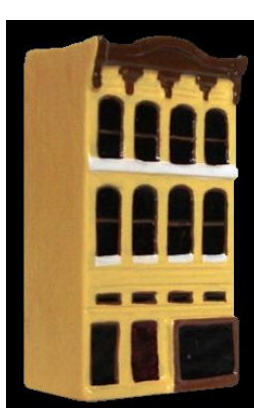
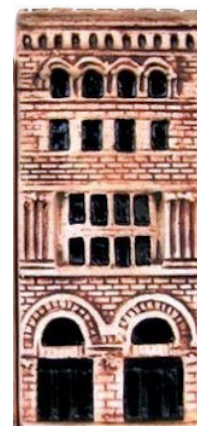
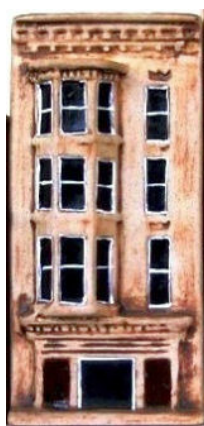






George Washington Vatted American Whiskey is a commemorative bottle combining American Whiskies from a number of well known US distilleries.

I tried to find more miniatures associated with George Washington and could only think of one other set (below). However I did come across the Beam Martha Washington flask, although it is not a miniature.



The above 10 commercial buildings are all on F Street in the historical downtown of Washington D.C. I managed to find a number of these on the actual street when last in Washington. They were made by Sotelo of Peru and contain Pisco. There are actually two sets of 10 from the same moulds, one bisque and one painted, with 5 of each shown above.

*David Smith*

## AS SEEN IN PALMY

Twice a year Zelda and I visit Palmerston North to stay with family. During our latest visit I picked up the following miniatures, all of which are glass.

The three Arran malts may have been around awhile but they were different from the ones I had. The 12 year old is cask strength at 52.9% and the other two at 46%.

The Glenfiddichs are the usual three sided bottles but a little bit more rounded than older examples. The 12yr old is their Signature blend, the 15yr old is Unique Solera Reserve and the 18yr old is Small Batch Reserve.



The gin craze is still going strong and the Malfy is the second Italian gin I have seen recently. The malty Blood Orange is one from a set of four according to their web site. The site also states that Italy invented gin when in the 11th century an Italian monk added Juniper to the base spirit. Over to you Dutch people!

The Martin Miller is different from the mini released a few years ago but still shows the Iceland-England connection. Martin Miller is now dead so it will be interesting to see if the line continues.

I do not know if any other Honduran minis have turned up in New Zealand but the Pirates Grog is a very nice bottle. The web site shows there is a set of three different rums and they come in an attractive case which looks like a pirates sea chest. Pity about the price of around NZ\$160.00 for the set of four.





If you are in the Manawatu visit Liquorland, Main Street, Palmerston North. It is not often we leave with less than six minis and there was some others we did not buy. They also have an amazing collection of full size bottles.

*Frank Wynn*

## FOUND IN AUSTRALIA

On a recent trip to Australia I found, and bought, the bottles shown here. There is a much bigger range available in Aus than here in NZ.



We start with 5 bottles from Austria – or are they? Actually yes they are but I noticed the URL, [www.prinz.cc](http://www.prinz.cc) I knew that dot cc was not Austria and so looked it up: Wikipedia states that .cc is the Internet country code top-level domain (ccTLD) for Cocos (Keeling) Islands, an Australian territory of 5.4 square miles (14 km<sup>2</sup>; 1,400 ha) and about 600 inhabitants. It further states that it has a varied assortment of

sites, few of them relating to those islands – I noticed!



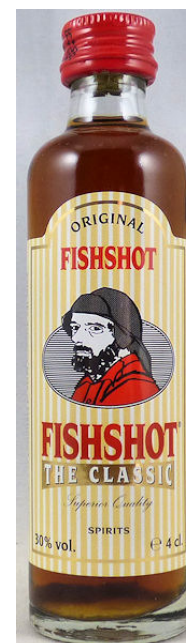


The two flagons are from another Austrian company, Seyringer. There are more than 60 of these shown on Miniature Bottle Library.  
<https://www.minibottlelibrary.com/mbi/index.html>

The Bailoni round face flagon is also Austrian and, again, part of a large set, of about 40 this time.



The next five are all from northern Europe. The first two are from Latvia, followed by Liviko from Estonia, a Russian vodka and finally Fishshot from Denmark.







The three The Duke Gins are from Germany. Note the refreshingly honest marketing statement on the third bottle!

The core of my collection is single malt Scotches, so I was especially pleased to find this Kilchoman Machir Bay bottle.



I found the cane toad holding the Bundaberg Rum in a junk (sorry, Antique) shop. I have never seen anything like this before but David Smith tells me they are not uncommon in junk shops in the US, especially in the south. They use Bullfrogs there rather than Cane Toads. *(the Aussies needed to find something to do with their 10's of millions of Cane Toads – editor)*

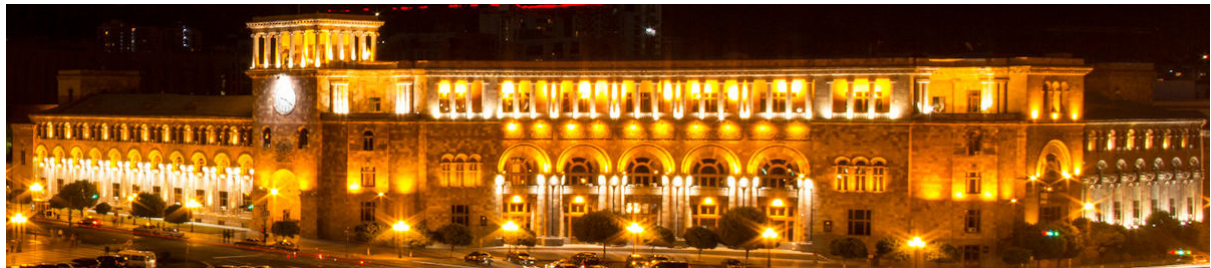
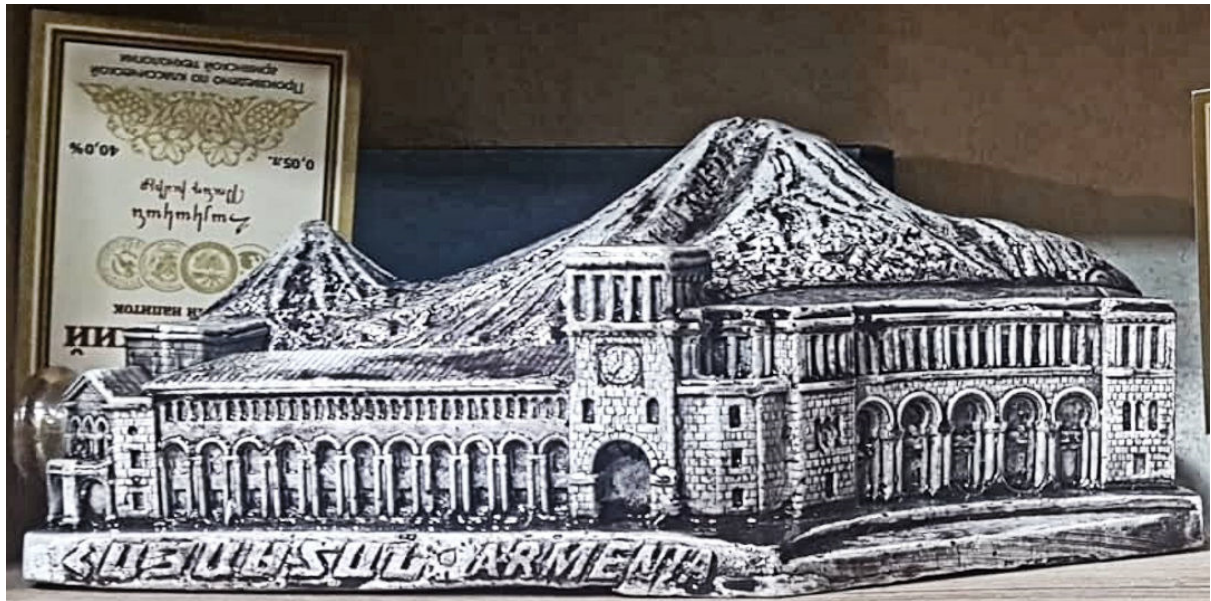
*Ken Chin*



# ARMENIAN COGNAC FACTORY

Eduard Arsenyan from Armenia posted these building pictures on Facebook. I am awaiting delivery! (Building bottles are my first love - in bottles that is, I'm not kinky!)

The first bottle is really too big for a 50ml miniature (which it is) but I had to have it as part of the set. It is of Government House in Republic Square, Yerevan.







The two on the last page and the two here are all churches in Armenia. Unfortunately, I have not been able to find out the names and locations of them.

The other bottles are all football related. The two ball and boot bottles differ only in colouring. I would have bought these also if the quality had been better – considerably better! The football is from the same company but appears to be much better quality. I got this photo from a Russian site.



*David Smith*



## DAVID'S BOTTLES

I have 19 bottles to show you in this edition, as usual, they largely speak for themselves. We will start with some gins. The first three are some particularly attractive new bottles from Italy, followed by a Tarquin's Cornish (England) gin and Jawbox from Northern Ireland.



(editor) David actually sent us a picture of two 50ml Fallen Angel Devil's Heads in a cardboard display box. The black bottle being a new one. But this was nearly 3 months ago and things have moved on. The black contains herbal liqueur but unfortunately I do

not know what the red contains, although a reasonable guess would be Firewater. The clear bottle contains the original Devil's Head Vodka. There are also three more clear heads containing Spiced Rum, Firewater and Herbal Liqueur.

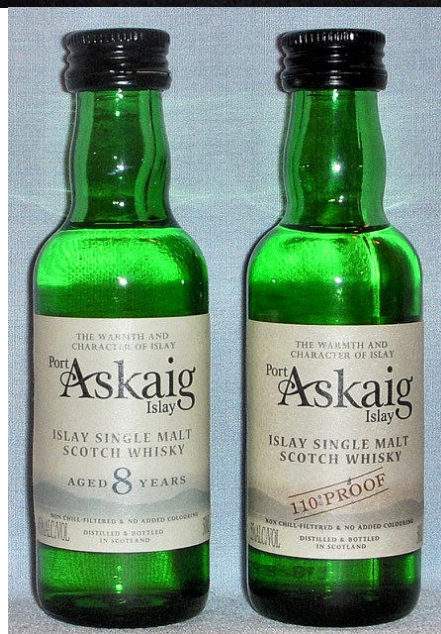
Starting on the next page we have two sets of three 5cl bottles from East London Liquor Co. The first is three gins, the middle one of which is repeated in the second



set. This also contains a rum and a vodka.



EAST LONDON LIQUOR CO.



EAST LONDON LIQUOR CO.

Port Askaig is from Islay but it was bottled by Elixir Distillers of London. Although not a distillery in it's own right this is genuine Islay single malt as individual casks are chosen from the island's distilleries.



As you can see the two pigs contain 9 year old Armenian Brandy from the Proshyan Brandy Factory. Armenia is making increasing numbers of 'fancy' bottles – see the article on the Armenian Cognac Company in this issue (editor).





Finally, two Mexicans, a Mezcal and a tequila.

*The 3 Sunsine vodkas are not from David but I spotted these nice Russian bottles on line and thought I would share them with you (editor)*



As usual, more next time.

*David Spaid*



## Date - Time - Place

Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> July, 12.30pm, Pot Luck Dinner @ Ken & Marlee Chin's, 29 Norton Park Avenue, Fairfield, Lower Hutt Phone: 04 938 1488

Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> September, 12.30pm, Pot Luck Lunch @ Ian Butcher's, 5 Sunburst Court, Paraparaumu Phone: 04 904 3157

Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> November, 12.30pm, Pot Luck @ Errol & Karen Brassett's, 39 Pembroke Street, Tawa, Wellington Phone: 04 232 6598

December lunch - TBA

Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> January 2020, 12.30pm, Annual Barbeque @ David & Rosie Smith's, 11 Trevor Terrace, Paremata Phone: 04 233 2997

**PLEASE, let the hosts know you are coming a few days beforehand.**

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 2020 AGM will be in February, date to be advised. 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.