

THE NEWSLETTER OF NEW ZEALAND MINIATURE BOTTLE CLUB





Australasia's International Miniature Bottle Club



NEW NEW ZEALAND, THIS & THAT

Last time I wrote: "As far as I am aware there have been no new NZ bottles in the last three months." Well, that has certainly changed in this edition as I have 35, yes 35, new NZ minis to show you, plus 5 import labels.

The cover photo shows two out of a current set of 7 x 100ml whiskies from The New Zealand Whisky Collection, <u>https://www.thenzwhisky.com</u>, the other 5 are below. My thanks to Graham Ramsey for alerting me to these. All are expensive as you will see below.

Wilson's is **the very last cask** of the original Wilson's Matured Blend, released as a mature 21 year old, 42.7%, whisky. Distilled back in the day (1970's – 1990's) at the Wilson's Distillery in Dunedin, later matured and bottled in Oamaru - this iconic whisky has been hugely popular among many generations of kiwis. It is a masterblend of 70% malted and 30% un-malted barley, this beautiful whisky with a deep golden colour has rich flavours of dried yellow fruits and creamy cereals with notes of honey - leaving long lingering oily fruit characters on the palate. Elegant yet full of flavour, this is a truly special 100ml release and retails at \$39.00.

High Wheeler 21 year old, 43%, is a masterblend of 70% single malt, and 30% premium grain whisky made from un-malted barley in the Dunedin distillery. This smooth, well balanced single grain whisky is used as a base for other New Zealand Whisky Collection whiskies. It retails at \$33.00.





Oamaruvian comes in two versions,100 proof (50%) 18 year old and cask strength 16 year old. Both are single grain and both started off with 6 years in ex-bourbon American oak barrels. They were then decanted into French Oak barrels that had held NZ red wine, before being bottled. The 100 proof costs \$45 and the cask strength \$29.

South Island Single Malt 25 year old was made from 100% malted New Zealand Barley in the Willowbank distillery, Dunedin. This delicate, mildly peated whisky with notes of fresh golden fruits and sea salt spray has been ageing in ex-bourbon American Oak barrels. It is bottled at 40%. Retail price is now \$59, down from \$79.

Finally we have Dunedin Doublewood which is a 16 year old at 40% and is only available in a triple set with High Wheeler and Oamaruvian 100 proof at \$115. I am guessing that the young (4.5 yo) Dunedin Doublecask is their substitute for this as the labels are very similar. It is not likely to be anywhere nearly as good though at 4.5 rather than 16 years old. It retails for \$25.

Also from The New Zealand Whisky Collection is "Art of the Cut" New-Make Spirit 45% 100ml (see next page). This is a single malt spirit but not a whisky as it is less than three years old. It retails for \$19.





other is Original Vodka. Both are 100ml, 40%.

They were made by Welove Group Ltd but this company went into liquidation in March last year so I have no idea if they are still being made. The MeMax web site is still up, <u>https://www.memax.co.nz</u>, and they do mail

order so you may be able to buy some. If not, try your local Black Bull. They cost NZ\$7 each, a real bargain with the prices we have been seeing lately.

In miNiZ131 I wrote an article on Advent Minis and this included the fact that Reefton Distilling Co. made one with 8 new bottles. I had the names of those and showed you the previously reported Little Biddy Gin. I got the names right but the gin is different. I have now managed to obtain the 9 bottles and here they are.



The cover of miNiZ130 showed the first gin & vodka bottles (jars?) from The Vicar's Son Gin. They have now changed the bottles and made nice new labels. There are 13 different ones and these can be ordered from their web site, <u>https://vicarsson.co.nz</u>. As you can see on the next page there are 8 new Gins (1st photo), 4 new Vodkas (2nd photo) and a Whiskey (3rd photo) – at \$35! Yes, Whiskey with an E, unusual for New Zealand.





The situation in Ukraine is appalling and I have sent a message of support from NZMBC to the Ukrainian Miniature Bottle Club. By coincidence I bought a Ukrainian miniature in February, the Strong pistol (somehow very appropriate) shown below. This came from Euro Liquor, <u>https://www.euroliquor.co.nz</u> I also bought the Samvel II Sword from there (100ml but looks larger) which is an Armenian bottle and two Belaco CCCP/USSR Russian vodkas from there and these have a NZ importer's label on them. The web site shows the 0.1 litre bottle as having a gold cap but the one with the red cap turned up. Another variation to get I suppose.

I was on the Euro Liquor site as a member, Dmitry, asked me if I

could send a number of the 50ml bottles to him if he ordered them and had them sent to me. I was happy to help a fellow collector/member but the day after I sent them Russia invaded Ukraine. He still has not received them! By coincidence, also in February, I was contacted by a Swedish Absolut collector who was put onto me by member John Thiesen from Denmark. He wanted some NZ import Absolut minis and some Absolut cans only sold in Australia and NZ. I again helped





but then discovered that the Absolut Vodka import label was different from previous ones. I







bought one for myself from Glengarry. The cans cost a small fortune to post but Absolut collectors are fanatics. Finally, another NZ import, Drumshanbo Gunpowder Irish Gin. I have seen this in several bottle stores.



In case you are wondering why we now have a QR code on the cover (you could have shot it and found out) it takes you to the club web site.

The Midwest Miniature Bottle Club (MMBC) is a particularly important club in that it hosts the biggest show\convention\sale worldwide in St Louis each year. This is usually in April but this year is in June, so it is not to late to book. This attracts, in a normal year, collectors from anything from 10 to 20+ countries. Like ourselves the MMBC is a true international club, in fact the current president (Rotem, also a member here) lives in Israel.

The MMBC newsletter is somewhat similar to miNiZ and editor, Ron Gabbard, <u>gabspa@msn.com</u> has the same problems I do, he struggles to get articles. Ron always gives us a plug and appeals for articles for miNiZ, and often writes some himself. Thank you Ron.

Now, check out the MMBC website <u>http://www.midwestmbc.com/</u> and join if you like the look of it. It's not free but then few worthwhile things are (NZMBC is one of the exceptions that proves the rule). The members only area has access to back copies of all their newsletters going back decades. Membership enquiries to: petegabbard@msn.com (just keeping it in the family!). Then write them an article and send to Ron.

Please send your articles/snippets/photos for miNiZ133 to me by the first week in July please and I will try to get 133 out on time. Send to <u>minizv@gmail.com</u>

David Smith



ARDBEG SAMPLES SPECIAL

It is not often that so many sample bottles are auctioned, much less that all the bottles are from the same distillery. These all came from the London based Whisky Auction that ended in April.



8 Year Old For Discussion Trade Sample 10cl £50



19 Year Old Traigh Bhan - Batch 2 Trade Sample 10cl $\pounds 22$



19 Year Old Traigh Bhan - Batch 3 Trade Sample 10cl $\pounds45$



aid Tasting Sam

19 Year Old Traigh Bhan Trade Sample 10cl £26 without box £24



Arrrrrrdbeg! Committee Release 2020 - Trade Sample 10cl £28



Blaaack Committee 20th Anniversary 2020 - Trade Sample 10cl £35



Drum Trade Sample 10cl £22



Fermutation - Trade Sample 10cl £55



Grooves Trade Sample 10cl £35



Kelpie Committee Edition -Press Sample 10cl £55



Perpetuum Trade Sample 10cl £35



Scorch Ardbeg Day Edition -Trade Sample 10cl £45



Scorch Committee Edition 2021 Release - Trade Sample 10cl £24

David Smith

LA ALAZANA A PATAGONIAN SINGLE MALT WHISKY FROM ARGENTINA

The current production of miniature bottles in Argentina is extremely low. Fortunately however, every year we are surprised with new pieces launched on the market. They are not normally mass produced or distributed and are usually manufactured for special events, such as fairs or exhibitions, or they are locally and regionally distributed. The specimens presented in this article do not constitute an exception to this fact, and hence, they become very rare pieces. In addition, they are enhanced by the spirit they contain. They are miniature bottles of single malt whisky produced entirely in Argentine Patagonia; specifically, from the Las Golondrinas area, nearby Puelo Lake, Cushamen department, Chubut province (Figure 1). SOUTH AMERICA Description Desc



La Alazana distillery was founded in 2011 by Néstor Serenelli and family. Interestingly, Ian Buxton in this book "101 Craft and world whiskies to try before you die" (2nd edition, 2019) tells us that Lila Serenelli studied for a masters degree at the International Centre for Brewing and Distilling at Edinburgh's Heriot Watt University and the couple then toured around Scotland to learn more, though the distillery's robust-looking copper pot stills were built locally to their design.

As seen in the figures 2 and 3, on their beautiful farm, they carry on the entire whisky production process, from barley



planting and harvesting to the finished distilled product. As informed on his webpage, https://www.laalazanawhisky.com,

they are proud pioneers in growing barley varieties for whisky and malting in their distillery. These varieties contribute to the distinctive character of totally being a Patagonian expression. The local peat is burned under the barley in the malting process to obtain the different smoked notes. An additional regional influence in the production process is the spring water of unmatched purity from the Andes Mountains. The double distillation renders a fine and elegant spirit specially matured in American and French oak casks of exbourbon, sherry, cognac, and wine. The Piltriqutrón hill valley's microclimate ensures a long and smooth maturation giving a Patagonian singularity to this whisky.

The single malt La Alazana Patatonian whisky is produced in different types bottled in classic clear glass bottles and nicely presented in boxes (Figures 4 and 5).



The miniatures are only made for the Jauja ice cream house headquartered at El Bolsón (Río Negro province). It also has branches in different Patagonian tourist centers, mainly Esquel and Bariloche cities. They come in a nice presentation box containing two miniature





bottles, plus several chocolate bonbons, another outstanding regional product (Figure 6). As depicted in figure 7, having two labels located in the front and the back, two miniatures varieties are known up to now. They are bottled in different square clear glass bottles and topped with aluminum caps. A general view and close up of the labels, the figure 8 depicts the oldest known piece. It belongs to the Juan Barragán collection who acquired in 2017 on behalf of the Whisky Club from Buenos Aires city. It contains 30 ml, and the label is simply designed; on a black background only it shows the trademark, the content, and the webpage address. Like the borders, they are written with a white tone.

Continued on page 13

BOTTLES FROM ROMANIA

Due to David Smith's call and my desire to show you ten mini bottles from Romania, which I hope are new for you, I have decided to submit my first small contribution to the issue 132 of miNiZ Newsletter.

I am a retired engineer and I live in Lasi, the capital of the Moldova region, Romania (not to be confused with the Republic of Moldova next door!). Two years ago I started collecting miniatures, but only of whisky/whiskey. My collection is modest so far, with only about one hundred mini bottles. Because Romania became a whisky producer only recently, my collection includes only miniatures from Europe, the United States and Japan. However, I hope that I will soon have some miniatures from Romania as well, because in 2017 the first batch of Romanian whisky was distilled, which, for the time being, is in the process of maturing.



1. Vinars VS, 50ml, 40% alc. 2. Vinars VSOP, 50ml, 40% alc.

3. Vinars XO, 50ml, 40% alc.

Today I want to present you some of the Romanian spirit miniatures of the Alexandrion Distillery. Alexandrion Group is the largest producer and distributor of spirits and wines in Romania.

First, four miniatures of Brancoveanu vinars (1-4). The "Vinars" is equivalent to Cognac (for the French) or Brandy (for the English), but due to the law of controlled designations of origin, these names cannot be used in Romania. The aging of the wine distillate is done in Romanian oak barrels from the Carpathian Mountains.



4. Vinars XO, 50ml, 40% alc.

Vinarsul Brâncoveanu was created in honour of the 25 years of peace in Wallachia during the reign of voivode Constantin Brâncoveanu (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Constantin Brancoveanu) (1688 - 1714), a reign in which the country experienced a long period of cultural flourishing and development of spiritual life. All three miniatures are 50ml, with 40% alcohol content. The first bottle has the notation VS, the second VSOP, and the third and fourth XO. For those who don't know: the letter V (Very) indicates the distillate has been aged for at least 1 year; the letters VS (Very Special) mean the distillate has been aged for

at least 3 years; the letters VSOP (Very Superior Old Pale) indicate an age of at least 5 years; the letters XO (Extra Old) show an aging of more than 7 years.

Another range of fine spirits (wine distillates) is called Alexandrion (5-8). Alexandrion is a fine, balanced, perfect blend of aged wine distillates, completed with a secret bouquet of natural extracts, with delicate reminiscences of Mediterranean aromas and oak wood. *Alexandrion* is part of the premium range of the Alexandrion Group products. The number of stars (3, 5, 7) corresponds to the notations VS, VSOP, XO. Alexandrion Group also produces the Alexander vodka miniatures (9, 10).





8. Quantity: 0.1L

Lastly, I present you my latest purchase for my miniature whisky collection, which was bought in Romania for 100 RON (USD 22.97, NZD 33.88) (11)



5. Type: Brandy; Color: Gold; 5 stars; Alcohol concentration: 37.5%; Quantity: 0.05L





6. Type: Brandy; Color: Copper; 7 stars; Alcohol concentration: 40%; Quantity: 0.05L



10. Volume (CL) 5; Vol. Alc. 28%; Category: Vodka Alexander Lemon, with natural lemon juice

9. Volume (CL) 5; Vol. Alc. 40%; Category: Vodka Alexander

The package contains:

1 miniature bottle Glenfiddich Select Cask 0.05L, 40% alc.;

1 miniature bottle Glenfiddich Reserve Cask 0.05L, 40% alc.;

1 miniature bottle Glenfiddich Vintage Cask 0.05L, 40% alc.

Horia-Day Mitroiu



11. Glenfiddich Cask Collection 3 x 0.05L

LA ALANAZANA continued from page 10

Furthermore, another variety was more recently produced and it is still available in the year 2020/2021 (Figure 9). It was bottled in a slightly smaller bottle of about 20 or 25 ml content; the label displays different tones in the background and different fonts. However, it maintains the same legend regarding the trademark and content. The labels on the back tell consumers the information regarding the distillery and other legal requirements.



Finally, I would like to express my deep gratitude to Lilia Serenelli and Frank Wynn for their kindness and cooperation, and Juan Barragán for sharing with me the good news about the rarities presented and some of the pictures that illustrate this article.

Hugo G. Nami

AUSTRALIAN BOTTLES

Australian member Graham Ramsay is great at finding new Australian bottles and is a prolific poster of photos of them on-line. He always sends the links

to me for both miNiZ and Miniature Bottle Library. The photos speak for themselves.



Contact me on Facebook if you need any more information.

Graham Ramsay

KNOW YOUR FELLOW COLLECTOR

Hi, I am Wayne and I live in Cheektowaga, New York. I started collecting miniature liquor bottles in 1977, when a friend gave me four Rutherford & Co. "Spirit of Scotland" ceramic books as a thank you for helping him build a garden tool shed. After that I collected a few bottles, but nothing serious. A year or two later my wife and son gave me over a hundred bottles for Christmas and that got the juices flowing.



After talking about it for some time, my son and I, along with two other collectors went to a Midwest Bottle Club show in Chicago. I came home with enough bottles to fill half a pool table. I was hooked! My collection has grown from those four bottles that a friend gave me to approximately 4300 bottles.

Miniature liquor bottle collecting has allowed me to make a lot of friends across this country, Canada and several other countries, most of whom I would never have known if it wasn't for bottle collecting. Since becoming hooked, I have been to most of the bottle shows held by MMBC in Chicago and now in St. Louis and also by the Del-Val Club (now disbanded) in Skippack and Philadelphia. I helped to start WESTNY (now disbanded) and played a part in organizing the two bottle shows that we held.

To keep track of my bottles, I have been forced to improve my computer and photography skills. I have developed a series of spreadsheets to keep my bottles organized, and to keep me from buying duplicates, and a photo file containing a separate picture of each bottle. Many of the pictures include not only the front of the bottle, but the back, and the box or tube that the bottle came in.

As all of my bottles are on display, I have had to build display cases to house them, thus improving my carpentry skills.

My collection includes Blended Whiskies, both Rye and Bourbon Whiskies, Canadian Whiskies, foreign whiskies, Scotch and Malt Scotch, Icewine, Tequilas, Calvados, Cognac, Cream Liquor, Gin, Rum, Vodka, Sloe Gin, Liquors and some figurals. I still add to most of the categories, but mostly concentrate on whiskies, Vodkas and Tequilas. My blown glass bottles are the bottles in my collection that I treasure the most .

To me miniature bottle collecting is more than a hobby, it encompasses computer skills, photography, and personal relationships. When I travel it adds to the trip because of the thrill of the hunt for new bottles at each destination. Miniature bottle collecting to me is a passion. I go out of my way to follow this passion. An example of my passion is a trip I took to Mount Vernon, Virginia to buy a bottle that is only sold there. That trip was almost a 900 miles, but I bought 17 of those bottles, 16 of which went to fellow collectors.

Wayne Full



For this issue I have chosen something from my collection that many bottle collectors haven't heard of and never though of collecting, even if they heard of it. Living close to the Niagara Peninsula of Ontario, Canada, provides me with access to Icewine Miniatures produced there.

Icewine originated in Germany about 1794, where grapes were left on the vines until the first deep frost, and then the freeze/thaw cycles occurred and concentrated both the sugars and the flavors of the grapes. The process has been refined and now Icewines are highly prized drinks that are created in Germany, Austria, the U.S. and Canada with the Niagara region of Ontario, Canada currently the respected producer of Icewines.

My collection presently consists of 46 different miniature bottles of Icewine, from 23 wineries and includes 9 verities' of grapes. Most of my bottles come from the Niagara region of Ontario, Canada, but I do have some from the Quebec, Western New York area and British Columbia. Icewines generally come in glass bottles and range from 8.5% to 17% in alcoholic content.

Although I believe that most bottles make a fine addition to any collection these certainly do to mine.

The following pictures only represent a small portion of my Icewines. Jackman's Maple Ice, Joseph's Vidal Icewine, Jost Icewine, Kittling Ridge Icewine & Brandy, Kittling Vidal Ridge Icewine, Legends Vidal Icewine, Magnotta Vidal Icewine, Magnotta Cabernet Franc Icewine, Pelee Vidal Icewine, Palatine Hills Vidal Icewine, Pillitteri Cabernet Sauvinagnon Icewine, Schonmake Vidal Icewine, Sumac Ridge Vidal Icewine, Glac'e Noir Pinot Noir Icewine and Willow Heights Vidal Icewine.





RUM : RON : PT.2

BACARDI. This industry giant is based in Puerto Rico. However they were founded in Cuba during 1862 by a Spanish immigrant named Don Facundo Bacardi Masso. Unlike many other spirit



producers the prohibition era in America was good for Bacardi. They had a slogan "Come to Cuba and Bathe in Bacardi". The Americans came over in their thousands for a drink. When the communist movement started to grow it was supported by Bacardi. However that support stopped in 1960 when the government seized their properties and assets. The company had seen this coming and previously opened distilleries in Mexico and Puerto Rico. They had also transferred ownership of their copyright, trademarks and formulas to the Bahamas. The move to Puerto Rico had an additional benefit in that they got tax credits for exports to USA. Bacardi also make their rums in a number of other countries now.



The company logo is a bat and has been the same since the company was founded. The fruit bats had been living in the initial distillery since it was built. In Spain they represent family unity, good health and good fortune. The

founder's wife suggested they use it as their logo. It is nothing to do with what the founder thought of his wife.

Bacardi is generally seen as an entry level drink. The company are trying to remove that

tag and have introduced Bacardi Ocho Gran Reserva. The youngest component is 8 years old and some are 16 years of age. It has gone down well with the experts.







early years until John Sobers bought it in 1747 and stabilised the company (sorry about the pun). He

number of different owners in the

Mount Gay distillery was established in Barbados in 1703. This makes it the oldest

commercial rum distillery in the world. There were a

brought in Sir John Gay Alleyne as manager and he revolutionised the company. He brought in new crop strains and improved both yields and the production process. So well respected was Sir Alleyne that upon his death in 1801 the company was named after him. No sugar is added to the rum making it drier than many of it's competitors. Remy Cointreau have owned the company since 1989.



Miniatures of **Negrita** rum maybe harder to find than previously in these culturally

sensitive times. Many English speaking countries, especially the UK and America, find the label offensive (there are much more offensive rum labels – by modern standards – than these Frank – hint for another article – Editor). Despite the lack of sales in these counties the company sells over 1 million cases annually. The biggest markets are France, Spain, Finland and many African countries. Negrita is actually a term of endearment in Central and South America.

Bardinet started experimenting with cane sugar alcohol in 1857 for their liqueurs. They used

rums from Martinique and Reunion which were French colonies. The lady with the bandana appeared in the 1880's and became known as La Negrita. The brand is still owned by Bardinet.

I do not know how much they sell in Cambodia but apparently it is given to women after they have given birth to re-energise them.

There is not much you can say after that so we will leave it until miNiZ133.



Frank Wynn

HISTORICAL FIGURES #13N LORD NELSON

Lord Nelson as he was and is popularly known, is correctly named Vice-Admiral Horatio Nelson, 1st Viscount Nelson, 1st Duke of Bronte and is widely regarded as one of the greatest naval commanders in history.

Nelson was clearly an 'over-achiever.' He joined the Royal Navy in his teens and obtained his own command at the age of 20, in 1778. What were you doing at 20? After the American War of Independence he was 'laid-off' for a time before being brought back into the navy for service during the French Revolutionary Wars, where he again acquitted himself admirably (pun



intended!). Nelson lost most of the sight in his right eye whilst helping to capture Corsica, after which he recuperated then was assigned to diplomatic duties with the Italian states.

> In 1797 he was back at sea, again fighting the French, and this time lost his right arm and was again sent back to England to recuperate. A glutton for punishment, the following year he was back at sea where, as a vice-admiral, he won a decisive



victory over the French at the Battle of the Nile.

In 1801, Nelson was dispatched to the Baltic Sea and defeated Denmark at the Battle of Copenhagen. He commanded the blockade of the French and Spanish fleets at Toulon and, after their escape, chased them to the West Indies and back but failed to bring them to battle. After a brief return to England, he took command of HMS Victory and took over the

Cádiz blockade. On 21 October 1805 the Franco-Spanish fleet came out of port and Nelson's fleet engaged them at the Battle of Trafalgar. The battle became one of Britain's greatest naval victories but Nelson was fatally wounded by a French sharpshooter. His body was brought back to England, where he was accorded a state funeral.

Nelson's death at Trafalgar secured his position as one of Britain's most heroic figures. His signal just prior to the commencement of the battle, *"England expects that every man will do his duty,"* is regularly quoted and paraphrased. Numerous monuments,



including Nelson's Column in Trafalgar Square, London, the Nelson Monument in Edinburgh, and the city of Nelson in New Zealand have been created in his memory. (The flask is from McLech of England).

From the top of the last page we have Lord Nelson's Rum Liqueur from England, two versions of Lord Nelson Scotch, Gin Nelson (showing eye patch and missing arm) and two Admiral Nelson Rums from Hans J. Mahnke of Germany.

Below we have 11 bottles from The Whisky Connoisseur, three commemorating the battle of the Nile, three commemorating the battle of Trafalgar and five commemorating the famous signal prior to the battle of Trafalgar.





David Smith















TWO FOR THE BIRDS



French winery, Domaine Laroche, is selling some of their wines in a wooden box that doubles up as a nesting box for birds, using the cork from the bottle as a perch. A simple but great idea.

By drinking 130 bottles of wine you could save a bird



On the same theme Ian Butcher came up with this picture that is an even better idea (you get to drink more wine).



Also found by Ian is this miniature History of Coca Cola set. I'm sure there is no Coke in modern Coke, including these mini Cokes but if there was, a few would send you Cuckoo.



TO WALK TO SCHOOL UPHILL BOTH WAYS IN THE SNOW

Date - Time - Place

Sunday 19th June 2022, Pot Luck 12.30pm, Errol Brassett's, 39 Pembroke Street, Tawa.04 232 6598Sunday 21st August, Pot Luck 12.30pm, Ruth Wilkinson's, 9 Marine Parade, Paraparaumu.04 904 3157Sunday 16th October, Pot Luck 12.30pm, David & Rosie Smith's, 73 Otaki Gorge Road, Hautere 027 275 7712

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

The 2023 AGM will be on Sunday the 19th February. There will be a barbecue lunch starting at 12.30 with the AGM about 2.30 @ Di Ryder's, 20 Prospect Terrace, Johnsonville, Wellington.

ALL MEETINGS SUBJECT TO POSSIBLE FUTURE PANDEMIC REGULATIONS