

Issue 63

Summer 2002/3



MINIIZ

THE NEWSLETTER OF PORT NICHOLSON MINIATURE BOTTLE CLUB



Australasia's only Miniature Bottle Club

Cover, New New Zealand and Editorial



There are not as many new NZ bottles to show you this time but they are still being turned out, which must be good.

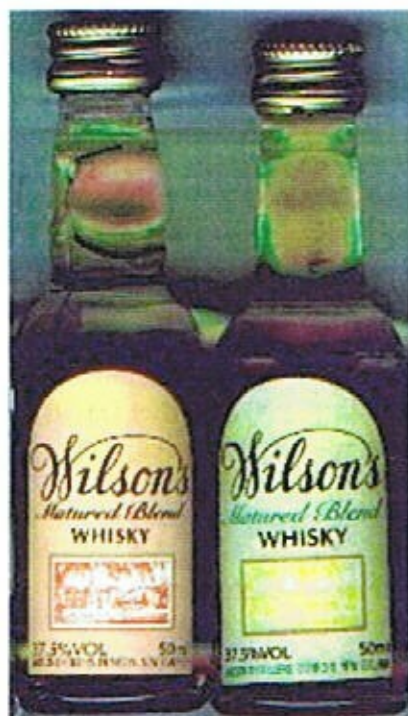


Above and on the cover we have a set of 5 new bottles from Southern Grain Spirits NZ Ltd. These come in a boxed set of 5 and there is also a set of three with only the Napoleon Brandy, Gracey's Gin and Shepherd's Whisky. My thanks once again to Erica Mulder for bringing us these.

From Frank Wynn comes one new and one known but very rare Old Hokonui. Presumably both were made by Wilson Distillers of Dunedin, although only one says so. They are in identical round plastic bottles with black on white labels. The one on the right has been noted before. The one on the left is identical, other than the bottom line which says "M.L.T. Gore". M.L.T. stands for Maitauru Licensing Trust.



Whilst on the subject of Wilson Distillers, Erica has turned up another anomaly. On the next page is shown two versions of Wilsons matured Blend Whisky. The one on the right has been on the NZ Miniatures list for several years but Erica has only just picked this one up. She had the one on the left but as both say the same and both are



37.5%, 50ml, from a description alone it was not obvious that they were not the same. The easiest distinguishing feature is that the one on the right has the words 'Matured Blend' and the bottom line in green.

St Bathans Gold 1999 Miners' Blend Southern Highlands Malt Whisky, 37.5% 50ml., was bottled on the premises by Vulcan Hotel, St. Bathans. A picture of the hotel is on the label which is pale yellow with gold and black writing.



Bellamys Finest Blend Whisky, 40% 50ml, and Brandy, 37.2% 50ml, were bottled in New Zealand exclusively for Bellamys Restaurant, Parliament Buildings, Wellington, New Zealand. The Whisky label has a yellow background and the Brandy a pink one and both have red and black writing.



Staying with the government we have RNZN (Royal New Zealand Navy) Engineer Room Branch Reunion, Christchurch 2002, Jamaican Rum, 37% 50ml. This is a pretty blue label with a red surround, darker blue writing and gold propeller and star.



Next we have Sex on the Beach. There have been two previous versions of this in 'shot glass' type bottles but as you can see this is a standard round plastic bottle. The label features a nice blue sea scene with white and yellow writing.

On the next page we have three new bottles, a Bourbon, a Jamaican Rum and a London Gin, made in Kaiapoi for Kaiapoi, or was that Kaipoi? The middle of the label states Kaiapoi, which is the correct spelling of the town name, but above on each of these labels it says Kaiapoi Market Day, Christmas 2002. I presume that this is not a misprint and that one of our Christchurch members will enlighten us as to why the spelling difference in due course. The labels are all dark purple with a yellow sun.



A small correction to three new bottles shown in the last miNiZ. The Titirangi Fringe of Heaven miniatures can't be credited to Southern Grain, they are Distilled and Bottled for The General Store, Auckland.

Whilst on the subject of corrections I have kept forgetting to pass on some corrections and further information on bottles shown in miNiZ 60 that David Spaid sent to me. David writes "The USSR bottles were made by a very famous Russian company and are still being produced but as figurines only and with Russia on the bottom instead of USSR. The mini Scotch decanter for Manchester United was one of a large set (each picturing a player) which came

in a very fancy box. Originally they couldn't give them away, now avid collectors in the UK want the entire set. The Cherrybank Bell was the last mini bell that was actually created. The rest of them are bells that were made years ago and just stockpiled by Bells. When they want to make a little rarity for someone's retirement or some other event, they just do a new decal. Cherrybank is now closed. The MBC brand name wasn't used by me until the Bruce Lee bottles. The Savemost Man was one of the early ones made by Joe Kaufenberg. Schildt Bum isn't a bum. It was part of a Lewis and Clark set and Gary Schildt was the artist whose name appeared on the bottles. The Mohawks were not made by Uhl. The Mohawks were from the 1950's, not the 1930's. Mohawk was a little Detroit company which made the ceramics with both alcoholic and non-alcoholic contents; the latter so they could be sold in the Detroit area. The Hacienda MBC piece was one of a series done for Las Vegas hotels. There was a Dunes Sultan, a Tropicana Fountain, an MGM with a lion's head on it, Aladdin's lamp, and Sahara (can't remember what it was – [editor] not surprising David, it looks a bit like a flame, I will show it in issue 64). The Ezra Brooks Owl was never sold in stores. It was sold empty to club members...for much more than \$10.50". Many thanks for this David. Other members should feel free to correct or add to articles too.

In miNiZ 61 we showed you a Warner Brothers mock-up bottle and asked you what character it was. The answer is Snagglepus.

Now for a Special Offer. We have had very good feedback on the colour pages but cannot afford to do all pages in colour. Would you like a full colour miNiZ? I do one for myself each time and am happy to do the same for other members if you pay for it (I own the colour laser we use). It would cost you an extra NZ\$5 (US\$2.50) per issue. If you want to do this send me NZ\$20 or US\$10 (cash only if US\$) and your next 4 issues will be 100% colour. As I will not be making anything out of this the only conditions are that when the 4 issues are done you send me another NZ\$20 if you wish the colour to continue – I will not be invoicing you. And that your club membership remains current.

Look out for a competition in the next miNiZ, our first for ages and one that anyone can enter.

Finally, a moan from me. Other than pictures of bottles, for which I am eternally grateful, miNiZ 60 and 62 have been written entirely by myself and Jim Crawford was the only other contributor to miNiZ 61 and 63. I know that I am not the only one in the club who can write, nor am I the only one with interesting bottles. In fact the majority of the bottles in the last two issues have come from the Ebay auction site on the Internet. If you have Internet access you will find that there are heaps of sites now showing mini bottles. A look through a few of these should be enough to inspire you to write an article – particularly as pictures are there for the taking! Enough said.

David Smith

I've Been Junk Shop Shoppin - Again



Just as a little filler, to the left you will see a Sterling Silver hip flask, King of Scots Rare Extra Old Scotch. I picked this up for only \$30 (US\$15) in a junk shop a few weeks ago. It is still full.

On a trip to Invercagill in December I had a few minutes to spare before going to the airport – I put them to good use. The beer lighter is in mint condition, even though it is from the 50's or early 60's. It is a replica of a Lager Bier bottle made by Cerveceria Centro Americana S.A., Guatemala. I paid \$30



The pirate is from the Cornish Mead Company, Cornwall, UK. I have another one of these, obviously from the same mould, but that has a completely dark brown glaze. This one is light brown with a red hat and green highlights on the cuffs. I believe that this was a really good buy at \$10

It just goes to show that it pays to keep your eyes open.

David Smith



HOLLAND



Over the years, there have been a lot of great looking miniature bottles that came from Holland. I think the best of the best of these mini bottles are the frosted bottles, with the see-through window, which Van Gogh Distillers put out between 1999 and mid 2002.

The first of these was the *Van Gogh Gin* mini issued in 1999. The left most bottle in the first picture shows this classic miniature. While there were a few other minis with a frosted bottle and a see-through window, this was one of the first that was readily available and somewhat easy to find. If you were really lucky, you may have found this classy Gin in a special demo pack also shown in the picture. The demo package had a curved piece of reflective plastic behind the bottle that reflected the images on the side & back of the bottle. The resulting illusion made it look like the scene of the village was quite a bit bigger than it really was.

In 2001, we saw the *Vincent Van Gogh* *Vodka* appear with its three Van Gogh pictures including his self-portrait. This is the left most mini shown in the second picture. This mini, like the Van Gogh Gin, was readily available for most collectors. Then in early 2002 Vincent introduced 2 new flavored Vodkas with different Van Gogh paintings. They were *Vincent Van Gogh Citron Flavored Vodka*, and *Vincent Van Gogh Oranje Flavored Vodka*. While you could find these, they were a little harder to get. Both of these are shown in the second picture. In mid 2002 *Vincent Van Gogh Wild Apple Flavored Vodka*, & *Vincent Van Gogh Dutch Chocolate Flavored Vodka* were introduced. Both of these are shown in the second picture. The Wild apple could be found with some effort, but the Chocolate was a lot harder to get.

Also in mid 2002, Vincent made a very limited production run of miniature *Vincent Van Gogh Vanilla Flavored Vodka*, & *Vincent Van Gogh Raspberry Flavored Vodka*. These last 2 minis are shown in the 3rd picture. Look closely, because you most likely will not be fortunate enough to find either of these. They were made especially as Salesman Samples, and due to the very limited production, there were not many given out. Unfortunately, all of these minis have become very difficult, if not impossible, to find today.

While all of these miniature bottles are Frosted glass, there were 15 additional plastic minis, with paper labels, issued in November 2002. These plastic minis were part of a special



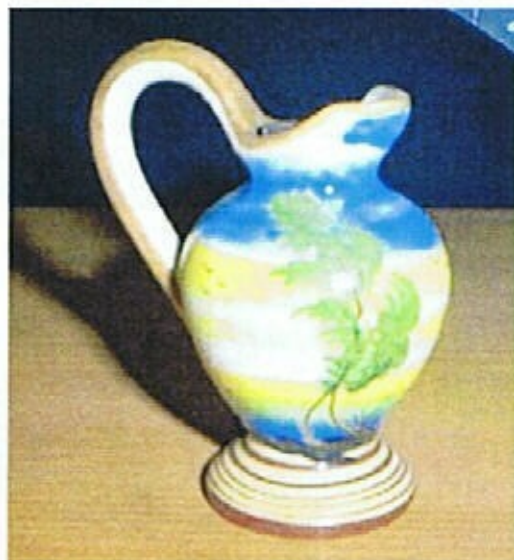
Christmas Holiday Promotional set Vincent put out called the "Van Gogh Kaleidoscope Party Pack". I will save this special pack for another article.



Jim Crawford

I just had to bring you the second and third photos in full colour. The first bottle shown is positively dull compared to the other seven (still a great bottle though by any other standards) - Editor

AS SEEN ON EBAY #4



We start off this month with a jug from Luxardo. It is 95mm (3.75") tall and holds Cherry Luxardo. It is nicely decorated with trees and birds and has all it's labels. It sold for £3

The twin handled vase on the right is from Antica of Italy, a company who I have never heard of before. It is 95mm (3.75") high. It was sold full and with it's label for £4.99



The three Lionstone miniature classic old car decanters were made in 1978. They were all for sale separately. They are, from left to right, the 1928 Mercedes, 1931 Stutz Bearcat, and 1936 Jaguar. They were sold, empty but otherwise perfect, for US\$24.99 for the Merc, and US\$24.99 for the Stutz. The Jag failed to sell but one earlier in the month sold for US\$19.50



The Scotsman Scotch Whisky miniature is plain brown. It was sold, empty, for US\$42.80

The bottle to the right with the dancers is in the shape of a book. Other than that it contains Scotch Whisky I cannot tell you anything about it. It sold for US\$29.51

On the next page we have three of a kind – almost. The three Bulldogs are from Hoffman and were made in 1986. The mini is the one that was on sale. It is 159mm (6.25") long x 114mm (4.5")



high. It is labeled and has a leather like studded collar. It is empty but I understand that these were never filled. It sold for US\$84.60

This Jack Daniels bottle is encased in plastic and



commemorates Jack Daniels selling 5 million cases in 1996. It sold for US\$87 – wow!

For a change we have a book that was for sale, A Guide To Miniature Bottles by Cembura & Avery, was Published in 1972. I have had this book a number of years. It has 44 loose leaf pages in a 5 x 8 inch format and is in three sections: 1). Giveaways; 2). Rynbende Distilleries and British Isles; 3). Luxardo, Garnier, and Miscellaneous. There are many colored pictures. It sold for US\$16.51



The bottle shaped corkscrew at the right is about 100 years old. The brass label reads "W.B. FOSHAY BOTTLING WORKS PENN VAN, N.Y. FINE SODAS ETC." The bottom of the bottle is marked "Williamson Co. Man'fr's Newark N.J." It's approximately 70mm (2.75") in height when closed. There is some loss of the nickel plating on the bottle otherwise it's in excellent condition. I collect these and did get a bid in but it went for US\$153.79 – way over what I would pay.

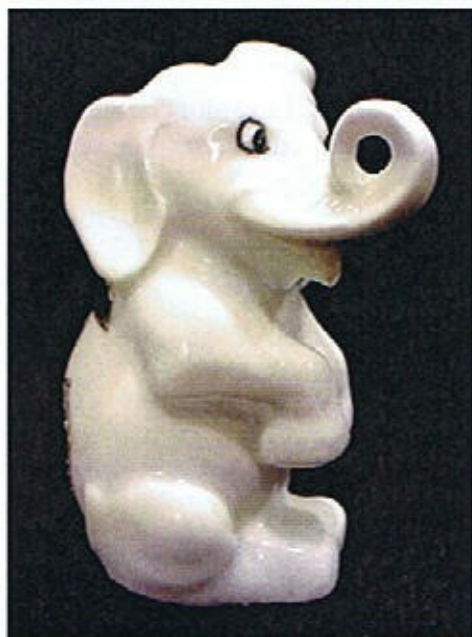


His Masters Breath, on the next page, is the first 'giveaway' that we have featured for some time. It is 101mm (4") high, multi coloured and still has it's stopper. On the back it has the number 3344. It sold for US\$43.99

Below the giveaway we have a miniature ceramic Ardo Italian decanter from the 1950s. It is about 150mm (6") high and is made to be displayed either standing or laying flat as a small dish (ashtray?). The white glazed dancer is displayed against a blue-green forest background. Made in Italy is imprinted on back. It contained 1oz of Cherry Wine but is now empty. It sold for US\$23.68 – a high price I would have thought.



On the left we have another bulldog, this time from Rynbende of Holland. It is 114mm (4.5") long and glazed in brown tones. It sold for a cheap US\$20.50



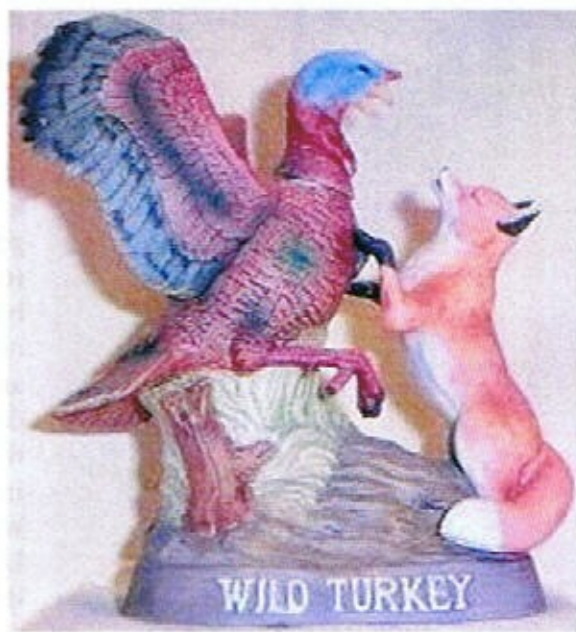
The little Elephant from Garnier of France has long been a favorite of mine. It stands a mere 83mm (3.25") high. This one is empty but has all it's labels. It sold for US\$29.33



The next bottle is a real gem. The teapot is in Delft blue and white. The bottle contained Anis, but this has evaporated, and was made by marques De Zujar of Argentina. It is about 100mm (4") high. It sold for a very cheap US\$12.01

Other than that it is pale brown & gold and contains Rum, I cannot tell you anything about the pistol. Great mini though. It sold for a cheap US\$7





We start this page with yet another dog. This one is of indeterminate breed. It was made by Cazanove of France and did contain Cherry Brandy but again it has evaporated. It sold for US\$15

The "Wild Turkey" Turkey and Fox mini decanter (#7) was made by Austin Nichols. It is 140mm (5.5") high and was sold empty, although otherwise in perfect condition and complete with labels. It sold for US\$68.96

"Hoffman" made these three 'wild life' series decanters in 1978. On the front of each of them the sign reads "Game Preserve No Hunting." All are 140mm (5.5") tall and again all were sold empty.

The Wolf and Raccoon sold for a cheap US\$9.99. The Owl and Chipmunk sold for US\$19.50 and the Fox and Eagle also went cheap, US\$9.99





Each of this set of "Hoffman" Swinging Band Mini Decanters have a base that plays tunes. They sold for a very cheap US\$49.99 for all six.

On the right is a replica of a Northwest Indian totem pole. It stands 159mm (6.25") high and was made by "Jon Sol" who were a major dealer in the 70's and early 80's. In it's early days the club used to buy minis from "Jon Sol," including this one which we bought on special for US\$5 each. It sold this time for US\$11.50

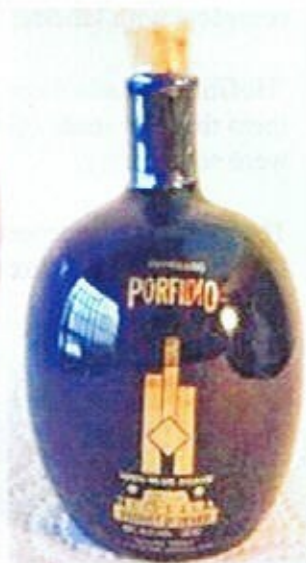


On the left we have a small "Forcol" jug from Argentina. It stands about

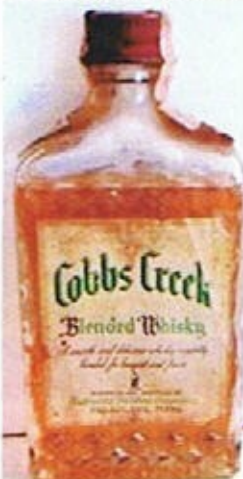
102mm (4") high and contains Cognac. I thought that I knew all the "Forcol" bottles but this one is new to me. It sold for US\$14.99



On the right we have front and back views of a very smart dark blue 50ml tequila ceramic from "Porfiidio." The writing is in gold. This is a limited edition bottle made to resemble the heart of the Blue Agave



where the nectar is extracted from in order to produce the Tequila. It sold for US\$52



To the left is a 90 proof, 1/10 pint Cobb's Creek green label Blended Whiskey. This is the rarer of the Red label and Green label Cobb's Creek. It is spelled Whisky on the label, instead of with the "e", usually used for American Whiskies. The sides of bottle are embossed. The labels unfortunately are very aged and damaged, as is the red screw cap and neck seal and there is only a partial Florida tax stamp. There is 20% evaporation of contents. It was sold by well known dealer, Butch Jones for US\$9



Above we have 15 bottles from Germany, all of which contain apple with wheat brandy. There are 2 Boskop 20%, 40ml, Cottbuser Apfel 20%, 40ml, Mecklenburger Apfelkorn 21%, 40ml, Niehoff Apfel 20%, 40ml, Odemaerker Apfel 20%, 40ml, Fider Apfel Bauer 21%, 40ml, Rusch Apfel 25%, 40ml, 2 Apfel Schluck 25%, 40ml, Nordbrand Apfel 18%, 20ml, Ravensberger Apfel 25%, 40ml, Heide Apfel 25%, 40ml, Tiefflieger (Special label for an airline restaurant) 21%, 20ml, Aeppel Schluck 21%, 20ml.

They failed to sell the first time but did sell for US\$15 the second time that they were put up for sale.



Next we have 13 US beer bottles. 3 Pabst,



Valley Forge, Schucker, Ballantines, Blatz, Falstaff, Burger, Tavern Pale, Jax and Rupert. These were put up as one lot and failed to sell for a minimum bid of US\$49.95



Above we have 13 and 10 "Lindisfarne" mead jugs. Lindisfarne Mead is a product of the Lindisfarne Liqueur Company situated on the Holy Island of Lindisfarne off the Northumbrian Coast, England. I believe that the pictures speak for themselves. The 13 and 10 sold for US\$121.38 each.

Next we have three mini Dick Ellis animated character decanters made especially for "Jim Beam" conventions. Surprisingly all three failed to sell, although the vendor restricted bids to US only. On the left of the photo on the right is the Happy Little Guy, made by the



"Wade" pottery. 1,000 were made for the Jim Beam International Association in 1998. The bottle is in perfect condition, although empty. It failed to sell for a minimum bid of US\$19.99 In the middle is the Canoneer Fox. Only 175 were made for the Jim Beam International

Association in 2002 for the convention in Philadelphia. The bottle is in great condition, although empty. It failed to sell for a minimum bid of US\$24.99. On the right is the Black Bear. Again, only 175 were made in 2002 for the Jim Beam convention. The bottle is in great condition, although empty. It failed to sell for a minimum bid of US\$24.99.



To the right we have the latest in the KLM Canal House Series. This house was added to the series on October 7th 2002. I bought it for US\$31.27 only 35 days later.

This house, the original of which is shown on the left, is currently used as a museum, Museum van Loon and is situated at Keizersgracht 672 in Amsterdam.



The Sprite can was made by "Midwest of Canon Falls" in 2000. It is one of a series of ceramic pill boxes issued in the shape of "Coca Cola" and "Miller" products (plus lots of non-mini bottle/can themes). It is only 44mm (1.75") high. I bought it for a good price, US\$6.99.



Next we have four bottles from Kontinental that were released in 1978. The Saddle Maker is about 203mm (8") high and sold for US\$27.50, the Gunsmith is 171mm (6.75") high and failed to sell for a minimum US\$9.99 bid, the Prospector and Burro is 184mm (7.25") high and sold for US\$24.09, the Newspaper Editor is also 184mm high and also failed to sell for a minimum bid of US\$9.99.





It is a long time since we showed you a "Collector's Art" mini. This one is the Blue Jay. It stands 152mm (6") tall. The bottom of the base is imprinted with '1972 Collector's Art Limited Series, Blue Jay. Distributed by Bud Haskins Enterprises, Kansas City Missouri 64134. No. 0962 of 1200 pieces.' This one was sold full for an average price, US\$26.55

Next we have three Drioli minis, all of which sold for considerably more than they would in New Zealand. All have their labels, all are full and all were made



in 1970. The Bagpiper is 127mm (5") high and is part of a set of 6. It sold for US\$20.49. The Elephant is 114mm (4.5") high. It sold for US\$26.25. The African Dancer is 140mm (5.5") high and is also part of a set of six. It sold for US\$20.49.

Below is a miniature of top racehorse 'Secretariat.' It stands 140mm (5.5") tall and this one is empty. It has no



label but the seller believed it was made by "Lionstone." It sold for an unbelievable US\$141.48 !!!!!

This wooden crate of 24 plastic Coca Cola bottles was made in Brazil in the 1950's.

Both the crate and bottles are in excellent condition. It has twice gone up for sale, and twice failed to sell. I suspect because of an, unrealistic, US\$150 reserve price.



'Going to the Fire' was made by "Mount Hope" in 1986 and is another real gem. It is 190mm (7.5") long x 127mm (5") high. It had a minimum bid of US\$49.99 and sold for that.

The car, below on the right, was made in 1969 and is from Garnier. It is a 1913 Fiat 500. It sold for US\$49.99



To the left we have an old Italian Acquavite, together with a close up of the label. It is a very pale green bottle

with a cork cap and lead seal. Nice but not very exciting you may think – until you learn that it sold for a whopping US\$125.50! The Italians LOVE their own older bottles.



Last but not least I have a very topical mini to show you. Yacht America is the original United States Yacht that won the Americas Cup in a race against a British boat on the waters of The Solent (off the Isle of Wight, England) in 1851. The US successfully defended the cup many times until they lost it to Australia in 1983 – the longest time any sporting cup had been held by one team. The US got it back four years later only to lose it again to New Zealand in 1995. New Zealand became the first nation, other than the US, to successfully defend the cup in 2000. As I write this racing is going on in the Hauraki Gulf (Auckland) for the Louis Vuitton Cup, which also decides which boat is to be the 2003 challenger. The cup hopefuls this time come from the US, Italy, France, Great Britain, Switzerland and Sweden. Ironically, all 9 challenger teams have one or more New Zealanders in them.



This bottle was made by "Famous Firsts" in 1978 and was filled with Brandy sauce. It measures about 152mm (6") long x 140mm (5.5") high. It would make a great 'cross-over' piece for any collector who was also a sailing enthusiast. It sold for only US\$14.99 as bidding was restricted to the US.

Wasn't there some great bottles this time?

David Smith

AS SEEN ON EBAY – TRACTOR SPECIAL

We showed the Ford Tractor in issue 60 (it sold for US\$30 then, US\$16.51 now). The whole set of 8 of these tractors has been for sale individually on Ebay. These tractors were made by Pacesetter in 1983 and were filled with vodka. I would have loved to have bid on these but the seller was not prepared to post them outside of the US. There were two of the first one for sale.



"International" US\$34.99 & US\$22.17



"Pacesetter" 4x4 US\$35.00



"Allis Chalmers" US\$138.00!



"Pacesetter" US\$27.25



"International" 2x2 US\$36



"Case" US\$52.77



"Steiger" US\$40.75

David Smith

ODD SPOT

FROM NEW SCIENTIST MAGAZINE

Q If you remove the foil from a bottle of still wine, then hit the bottom of the bottle against something firm such as tree trunk or the corner of a bar, the cork will slowly work its way out of the bottle. How does this happen?

A1 Each time the bottle hits the tree a compression wave travels along the glass. This wave exerts a force on the glass and it decelerates. So, shortly after the base has hit the tree, the whole bottle has stopped moving. This includes the cork. A similar compression wave travels through the wine, starting near the base of the bottle and moving towards the neck. As the wave travels down the neck of the bottle, its amplitude increases as the cross section area of the wine decreases. Eventually, the wave reaches the cork and tries to stop it moving towards the tree. However, because compression waves travel faster through solids (the glass) than through liquids (the wine), the cork has already stopped moving. So the energy in the compression wave is used to push the cork out of the bottle. The method works best if the bottle is on its side, so there are no air bubbles between the cork and bottle base. If you hold the bottle upside down you may end up with wine all over the floor.

A2 I once saw a spectacular demonstration of the force of a such a wave in water. In a martial arts demonstration the expert gripped the open top of a wine bottle full of water between his thumb and forefinger and then by slapping his other hand onto the top of the bottle he knocked the bottom of the bottle off.

A3 May I suggest that anyone who wants to try this wraps the bottle securely in several layers of towelling or similar, since on the one occasion I tried it, I finished up needing six stitches in my right forefinger and had to spend time picking up broken glass from my lawn!

DATE, TIME & PLACE

January 19 th	12.30pm	Barbecue at Steuart Goodman's, 21 Horopito Road, Waikanae
February 15/16 th	Anytime	AGM and Weekend away at Patea. (AGM after lunch on 16 th)

Other meetings for 2003 will be decided at the AGM and we will write to members.

As we have no secretary, the person who is holding the meeting should phone or email all the local members a week in advance to remind them.

I still have no notification of meetings in the north of the North Island. It's fun meeting other collectors and seeing their collections. How about YOU holding a meeting?



The Italian Club is making you an offer that you can't refuse....



They have organised a three day weekend Show, Swapmeet and Auction at the Hotel d'Orange d'Alcantra (shown above) in Francavilla di Scicilia (Sicily). There is also a full programme of other activities including a visit to the Giuffrida Distillery, liqueur tasting and a gala dinner.

It is being held from Friday 5th to Sunday 7th September 2003. Contact Giuseppe Savoca, c/o Hotel d'Orange d'Alcantra, Via dei Mulini 16, 98034 Francavilla di Sicilia, Italy. Email: savoca@minibottles.it More information at www.minibottles.it



CLUB WEB SITE <http://minibottles.artshost.com/>

The site has colour photos of all the bottles that have appeared in miNiZ issues 57-63